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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

THE NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LINE

PROJECT DRAFT EIS

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY

SILVER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PLYMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03264

MARCH 18, 2011

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1 MODERATOR: Our first speaker is going to
2 be John Ratigan. On deck, I'm going to give 7
3 names. If you haven't heard this part already,
4 you came in a little later, the plan for tonight
5 is that you go all the way over to this right
6 wall, down the aisle to the first row. And then
7 when you're done speaking, you exit by going up
8 the row where the microphone is. So the 7
9 speakers that are on that on deck list, Tom
10 Thomson, Ralph Kirshner, Jack Saunders, Peter
11 Martin, Linda Brownson, Blair Folts. Ready when
12 you are.

13 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is John
14 Ratigan and I represent the Plymouth Board of
15 Selectmen, its legal counsel. For starters I'd
16 like to welcome the representatives of the
17 Federal government here this hearing.
18 Appreciate the opportunity to cohost with the
19 Plymouth State University this listening
20 session.

21 I think it would be an understatement to
22 say that in the 20 or so years that Paul Freitas
23 as the Town Administrator has been with the town

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1 this is probably the issue of which the
2 Selectmen have heard the most constituent and
3 response compared to any other issue that has
4 arisen in town. They have heard from an
5 enormous number of constituents about this issue
6 and the overwhelming majority have encouraged
7 the Selectmen in which they've adopted this
8 unanimous position of the currently seated
9 Selectmen. Their initial position would be they
10 would prefer not to have a Northern Pass project
11 in the state of New Hampshire. They believe
12 that the route in Vermont which is another
13 alternate route we believe that could bear
14 investigation is a superior route.

15 If there is to be a route in New Hampshire,
16 they are uncompromisingly opposed to the
17 alternate route, the route that would skirt the
18 western part of the White Mountains and kind of
19 start out west of Berlin and kind of go west and
20 run around toward the western side of Plymouth.
21 They feel very strongly that the visual,
22 economic and environmental impacts of that route
23 would have a tremendously adverse impact on the

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1 town of Plymouth. For those who may not be
2 aware, recently Plymouth is a neighbor to a wind
3 farm which is being sited largely in Groton for
4 which views of this wind farm will largely is
5 being visited on residents of Plymouth. There
6 are strong feelings in town for those who have a
7 view of that wind farm, and they would not like
8 to see repetition of those types of visual
9 impacts arising from the alternate Northern Pass
10 route that is under consideration. Those
11 conclude the comments from the Board of
12 Selectmen. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER: My name is Tom Thomson. I am a
14 tree farmer from Orford, and I am here
15 representing my family, the Thomson family tree
16 farm, and I would first like to, this is nothing
17 to do with you folks up here, but I'd like to
18 turn to the landowners that are here tonight
19 because I think I'm representing them and
20 others.

21 First, I'd like to thank Senator Shaheen
22 and Senator Ayotte for requesting both this
23 hearing and the hearing on Sunday in Haverhill,

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1 New Hampshire. A lot of people here tonight
2 appreciate that. I'd like to just focus on a
3 few things. You're going to hear a whole lot
4 about the 150-foot right-of-way coming through
5 Pittsburg through the center of the State of New
6 Hampshire. I want to address a few issues about
7 real estate and those issues about eminent
8 domain and then what may happen in 2012.

9 The real estate issue is near and dear to
10 my heart because I started early on in my life
11 at 11 years old purchasing land, and many of you
12 have done the same thing and chosen to invest
13 your family assets into that land. Many of you
14 have owned the land, it's been in your family
15 for generations, and you have given up much to
16 maintain that land and work it. I have a very
17 real problem with a foreign company coming into
18 the State of New Hampshire and possibly taking
19 my land or your land through eminent domain to
20 use New Hampshire as a conduit to produce a
21 commodity that goes south, Massachusetts,
22 Connecticut and on, and the profits go back to
23 Quebec. Those are my family assets, and I don't

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1 think that any individuals that chose to put
2 their family assets into their stock market
3 would like me or anyone else here to mess with
4 their financial portfolio. Eminent domain will
5 be discussed because that is one of the biggest
6 issues in the Northern Pass.

7 Finally, I would like to say I appreciate
8 Tom Wagner being up on the stage representing
9 the National Forest, but I have a concern, and I
10 know he understands where I'm coming from on
11 this, that why isn't there a private forest land
12 engineer or farmer sitting on that stage
13 representing us here in New Hampshire.

14 Ladies and gentlemen, whatever you think
15 about the Northern Pass, one thing is for sure,
16 and you can bet on this. In 2012 this will be a
17 huge campaign issue for every elected official
18 in the State of New Hampshire, and for every
19 Presidential candidate that walks into the state
20 for the first in the nation primary, I will give
21 you some good advice. Do your homework. Learn
22 about this Northern Pass because you will be
23 asked and we the people will vote in 2012.

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1 Thank you.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
3 Tom. Also since I wasn't here at the first
4 transition, thank you for your comments, John.
5 Next speaker, Ralph Kirshner.

6 SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Ralph
7 Kirshner. I'm the chairman of the Conservation
8 Commission, live at 742 Straits Road, New
9 Hampton, New Hampshire, 03256. I have a brief
10 statement on behalf of the Commission, and then
11 I'd like to make some personal comments. Our
12 Commission has voted to oppose the Northern Pass
13 project based on the lack of information
14 concerning impacts on fish, birds and other
15 fauna, siltation and other effects from
16 construction and effects on existing scenic and
17 conservation easements in New Hampton.

18 My personal comments concern three main
19 points. First, the EIS has to include the
20 environmental impacts of power generated at both
21 ends of this line. This is an interconnect, the
22 agreement that the utilities have with Hydro
23 Quebec require generating 1200 megawatts in New

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1 England to replace the 1200 megawatts we would
2 be sending them. If people aren't familiar with
3 that, it's because it's buried on page 26 of 172
4 page Northeast Utilities Annual Report.

5 Second, I'd ask that the EIS examine the
6 alternative of upgrading the current DC
7 interconnect with Hydro Quebec which comes down
8 from Moore Dam to Massachusetts. That is not
9 owned by the NU and NStar which are the Northern
10 Pass companies. It's owned by NEPOOL, but it
11 would avoid some of the problems.

12 And third, Hydro Quebec's reliability
13 isn't. We saw that in the ice storm of 1998.
14 Roughly half their power comes from the James
15 Bay Project which is a thousand miles north of
16 here and any interference with that single line
17 coming down from that project knocks out all of
18 Hydro Quebec's system and therefore us. The
19 James Bay Project which people don't know, if
20 people don't know about it, destroyed a
21 watershed of size of New England AND is
22 continuing to destroy it. They've just added
23 another river, Rupert River, to it which is

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1 going to add more mercury contamination to the
2 food web.

3 We have basically what I would call a
4 master green scam in calling this green power.
5 It isn't. And certainly the power that we have
6 to generate to go north would be coming from
7 either fossil fuels or nuclear power. From a
8 NEPOOL, roughly 12 percent of NEPOOL's power
9 comes from hydro or renewables but that's
10 already maxed out so we are going to have to
11 produce power, polluting power in New England to
12 send back. And I question whether we really
13 want to trade Boston essentially for generating
14 power from Seabrook by adding fuel rods to their
15 pools which as we've seen in Japan can be rather
16 vulnerable environmentally. If there's anybody
17 here who's a Yankee question, that was a
18 rhetorical question. Okay. I'll let it go.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
20 Ralph. Our next speaker is John Saunders.
21 If I can also have Dominick Marocco, Anthony
22 Fitzherbert, Raymond D'Amante and Pamela Martin.
23 And before John starts to speak, I'm going to

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1 apologize that I made him come all the way down
2 to that first row. I'm going to announce that
3 if there are other speakers, I do not want them
4 to be intimidated by having to come all the way
5 down those steps to the first row. And when I
6 call your name, grab Christopher Laurence in the
7 green and blue or Ellen Russell, let them know
8 and then we will bring the microphone to the
9 aisle where you are seated. I would still
10 prefer that you wait outside the aisle and stand
11 up, but we'll work with that as it happens.
12 Thank you.

13 Jack, the floor is yours.

14 SPEAKER: Okay. My name is Jack Saunders.
15 I live at 24 Fairway Drive, Holderness. I'm
16 against the project as proposed. But I'm open
17 to change my mind if the project is rerouted
18 and/or redesigned to protect New Hampshire's
19 beauty and quality of life.

20 Here's my statement. New Hampshire
21 citizens have an obligation to preserve New
22 Hampshire's natural beauty and high quality of
23 life afforded by Mother Nature which we must

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1 protect. That doesn't have to mean declaring
2 war against Northern Pass project as currently
3 proposed which does pose a serious threat to us.
4 Since the prime objectives of this project do
5 make important contributions to New Hampshire
6 and its people, especially in the south, and to
7 New England states and the country at large,
8 including the following. Low cost renewable
9 energy, 2, to reduce carbon footprint, 3,
10 interim and long-term jobs and 4, increased tax
11 base. I propose we team up with the coalition
12 to modify the routing and this initial design of
13 the transmission lines to eliminate its negative
14 impact on the environment and quality of life of
15 the people while still making the project
16 profitable.

17 The following will be a win-win deal for
18 both parties in my view. Number one, bury or
19 drown (submerge) the transmission lines. Though
20 this is obviously more costly than the proposed
21 high towers that would like blight the beauty of
22 New Hampshire, the added cost could be the
23 partially offset by using superconductive wires

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1 underground where the electrical energy line
2 losses can be reduced significantly. I've heard
3 statements of 12 to 25 percent compared to tower
4 supported wires and ambient air. The other
5 vital benefit of burying the wires conducting
6 300,000 or more volts of DC current which
7 creates enormous magnetic fields that ionize the
8 air causing health problems is that this serious
9 prospect would be eliminated. Of course, the
10 avoiding the blight to New Hampshire's scenic
11 beauty will help preserve and grow our largest
12 industry, tourism.

13 Number two, choose a route through existing
14 right of ways to the extent practical to avoid
15 eminent domain taking. Three, minimize tree
16 cutting in New Hampshire and replant where it's
17 unavoidable to cut off carbon footprint and
18 compensate for the damage that I understand was
19 done when Hydro Quebec dammed some of Canada's
20 rivers to produce this energy.

21 4, though one other negative aspect of the
22 current design is the inability of New Hampshire
23 residents to tap into the energy in these DC

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1 lines between Canada and Derry, New Hampshire,
2 because AC conversion facilities like the one
3 planned for Franklin are very expensive, it may
4 be a blessing in disguise relative to our
5 emerging green energy industry which will
6 continue to make New Hampshire an energy
7 exporting state because it won't have to compete
8 with the Quebec Hydro subsidizing low cost
9 energy.

10 MODERATOR: Your time is about up.

11 SPEAKER: Okay. Finally, even if the DOE
12 decides to grant the permit, as DOE pointed out,
13 this project can be stopped by New Hampshire
14 state by denying, by the New Hampshire Siting
15 Committee denying a routing permit.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your
17 comments. Our next speaker, Peter Martin. Also
18 going to announce if you have written comments
19 leave them at the edge of the stage when you're
20 done talking. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER: My name is Peter Martin. I live
22 in Plymouth. 280 Old Hebron Road, 03264. The
23 Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the

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1 United States impose limitations on the exercise
2 of eminent domain. The taking must be for
3 public use.

4 In 2006, New Hampshire lawmakers rewrote
5 state law to allow takings only for public use.
6 It reads, "No part of a person's property shall
7 be taken by eminent domain and transferred
8 directly or indirectly to another person if the
9 taking is for the purpose of private development
10 or other private use of the property." The
11 Northern Pass corporation has applied to the New
12 Hampshire PUC to be considered a public utility.
13 Why? Obviously it is for the purpose of taking
14 private property by eminent domain for their
15 private use. Without that power, this proposed
16 project cannot be built. But Northern Pass is a
17 private for profit entity consisting of a fully
18 owned arm of the a government, Northeast
19 Utilities and NSTAR. They have stated plainly
20 that this is a private power line project. This
21 debate is about two things. First, it is about
22 whether a private corporation, any private
23 corporation, has the right to take another's

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1 private company for their own profit. And
2 second, it is about economics or, as the Romans
3 put it, Que Bono, who benefits?

4 PSNH representatives have stated that the
5 route of this project is "not written in stone."
6 They want to "sit with us at our kitchen tables"
7 and discuss this with us. What they want to
8 discuss is which of us gets hurt and how they
9 can profit. But whichever way the lines goes,
10 some of us will suffer a loss, but Northern Pass
11 will make a profit. PSNH representatives have
12 admitted that New Hampshire does not need the
13 power but New England does. Well, as far as I
14 know, New England is not a political entity and,
15 therefore, is not obliged to contribute its
16 landscape and damage its economy for the needs
17 of any other state. But if Hydro Quebec has
18 power to sell and other states need the power,
19 it is reasonable for them to want to transmit
20 it. That, we are constantly told, is why they
21 need power lines. However, there are
22 alternatives to overhead power lines that would
23 not harm the environment, the economy or require

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1 the taking of private property. Modern
2 technology now makes it possible to bury the
3 HVDC lines or use submarine cables to transmit
4 power for great distances under the ocean or
5 rivers and lakes.

6 Lastly, I want to state my definition
7 NIMBY. For those who use that epitaph to brand
8 anyone who fights this ill-advised proposal. A
9 NIMBY is someone who won't meekly agree to let a
10 profit motivated corporation destroy or devalue
11 or steal their private property. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
13 Peter. Our next speaker, Linda Brownson.

14 SPEAKER: Linda Brownson at 251 Cape
15 Moonshine in Wentworth. 03282. Good evening,
16 everyone. Couple nights ago in Lincoln I was
17 speaking for wildlife and I'd like to continue
18 doing that tonight along another vein. Last
19 time I spoke about our global responsibility for
20 being the home of the greatest concentration of
21 breeding neotropical birds in the lower 48
22 states. The New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan
23 has identified the critical areas in our county

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1 here, in Grafton County which I just brought
2 some pictures. I know you can't see, but you
3 can see the pink areas are the critical areas of
4 wildlife habitat in our county. The highest
5 ranked habitat in New Hampshire. The proposed
6 Northern Pass transmission line penetrates
7 deeply into these critical habitats, and the
8 Wildlife Action Plan was designed to help us
9 protect the species that are needed to conserve
10 the steps that are needed to conserve these
11 wildlife and keep them from becoming endangered
12 and threatened. Moreover, there are additional
13 issues that are concerning the avian flights
14 that follow north/south rivers in New Hampshire.
15 We have many of these such rivers. And the
16 migratory birds, not just neotropical birds, but
17 all migratory birds use these at pathways as
18 migratory corridors, so to speak. We have
19 several, and this proposed transmission line
20 will cross many of them. Sometimes more than
21 one. We have the Pemigewasset, the Merrimack
22 and many small streams. Because of the danger
23 of line strikes, electrocution and other hazards

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1 I consulted with the Director of the U.S. Fish &
2 Wildlife Service today who told me that
3 routinely they would recommend the line be
4 buried in such habitat areas. The DOE needs to
5 study the effects of large transmission lines
6 across rivers, streams, wetland areas and ridges
7 as well.

8 In addition, I believe that the study
9 that's conducted should include ecological
10 impacts north of our border in Canada because
11 they are global impacts concerning greenhouse
12 gas emissions and draining wetlands and so on.
13 I don't know if DOE does that, but if they
14 don't, I think they should. Just because
15 they're right over the border doesn't mean they
16 don't affect us and other people as well. All
17 of these impacts can be avoided by not building
18 a new line or at least taking a serious look at
19 upgrading the existing line that already
20 dissects our state rather than constructing a
21 new line. If the utilities do not own it and I
22 understand that they don't, perhaps they can
23 become a partner, buy it or something, rather

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1 than building another line. Thank you.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
3 Linda. Our next speaker Blair Folts.

4 SPEAKER: Yes, I'm Blair Folts from the
5 Green Mountain Conservation Group. We're a
6 six-town watershed organization located in the
7 Ossipee watershed on the eastern, on the central
8 part of New Hampshire. 03882. I'm here tonight
9 to speak on behalf the Green Mountain
10 Conservation Group and are opposing the proposal
11 by Northern Pass. There's been a lot of
12 conversation about NIMBY and we're here to talk
13 about NIABY which is not in any backyard. Our
14 state is small, it's narrow and this is going to
15 have huge environmental impacts, cultural
16 impacts and historic impacts. If a private
17 company were to come to you guys today and say
18 hey, we'd like to build a new interstate because
19 we need to move people from Quebec to
20 Massachusetts, would you even consider it? I
21 mean, interstate? Of course you wouldn't
22 consider that interstate. So I think the simple
23 solution is you need to really do a feasibility

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1 study on collocating either on the existing
2 towers or even some kind of conduit through
3 those so we want you to really look at that, and
4 we have three points environmentally that we'd
5 like you to look at as well.

6 The negative impact on conserved lands,
7 we're also a land trust and work with a lot of
8 state organizations. There are thousands of
9 acres of protected lands from the northernmost
10 area of the proposed project in Columbia through
11 central New Hampshire to Deerfield. The
12 conserved lands whether they're protected by
13 conservation easements or a land trust or other
14 organization have been conserved with federal,
15 state, local and private money for the intent of
16 preserving them for perpetuity. The
17 conservation value of the property must be
18 upheld. Condemning property that donors thought
19 would be protected in perpetuity would do real
20 damage to the future success of land
21 conservation across the country. It's really
22 going to send a bad message so it's something we
23 really hope you consider.

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1 The negative impact on New Hampshire
2 working forests is something you also need to
3 look at. New Hampshire has struggled with the
4 loss of the paper industry throughout the past
5 decade. With the loss of this industry, working
6 forests have been put at risk to liquidation
7 lobbying, subdivision and the loss of
8 sustainable temper management.

9 The Northern Pass will harm efforts to
10 promote sustainable forestry. There will be no
11 forest management plan as part of the proposal,
12 and instead, there will be a wide clearcut path
13 that will need be to maintained with herbicides
14 and pesticides. Furthermore, clearcutting this
15 land will flood the local wood market and hurt
16 business owners, wood lot owners and local
17 loggers.

18 And my final point which I don't think
19 there's been much discussion about is the
20 cultural and historic aspects of our state. The
21 landscape and the wilderness of the White
22 Mountain National Forest that is the heart of
23 New Hampshire has historically lured artists,

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1 writers, philosophers, rusticators and explorers
2 to the North Country. They venture to New
3 Hampshire to seek something bigger, something
4 sublime, like open empty space, wildness, beauty
5 and remoteness. Visitors came here and come
6 here to find an undisturbed world, a world where
7 the Old Man in the Mountain beckoned to the sky
8 to remind us that there is something bigger than
9 us. Thomas Cole who was a painter and a writer
10 in the 1830s wrote, "In the mountains of New
11 Hampshire there is a union of the picturesque,
12 the sublime and the magnificent. There are the
13 bare peaks of granite, broken and desolate,
14 cradling the clouds, while the valleys and broad
15 bases of the mountain rest under the shade of
16 noble and varied forests, and the traveler who
17 passes on his way to the White Mountains cannot
18 but acknowledge that although in some regions of
19 the globe nature has wrought on a more
20 stupendous scale, yet she has nowhere so
21 completely married together grandeur and
22 loveliness. There he sees the sublime melting
23 into the beautiful, the savage tempered by the

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1 magnificent.

2 We have lost the Old Man in the Mountain.
3 It fell down. Do we want to replace our icon
4 that has been our state emblem for so many
5 decades with towers? I don't think so. Please
6 listen to this. Thank you.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
8 Blair. Our next speaker, Dominick Marocco.
9 Dominick, before you start I'd like to invite up
10 Fred Brownson, Martha Richards, David Dobbins.
11 And Darlene King Jennings. Thank you very much.
12 Dominick, the floor is yours.

13 SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Dominick
14 Marocco. I'm a resident of the town of
15 Plymouth. My address is One Silver Lane, New
16 Hampshire, and the zip is 03264. I'm standing
17 to speak not as an individual but as the Chair
18 of the Plymouth Conservation Commission and as a
19 representative of the Conservation Commission
20 represent the town of Plymouth also since we're
21 an extension of the Selectboard.

22 The specific aspect of this plan that I
23 want to deal with is the alternate route that

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1 swings west of the National Forest and then
2 swings south and east through the town of
3 Plymouth. As the town of Plymouth Conservation
4 Commission, naturally that's what would be our
5 focus. When you examine the maps that Northern
6 Pass project makes available, you have them in
7 your hand, I assume, if you picked them up out
8 there, you can see as the route passes through
9 the town of Plymouth if this is the route that's
10 selected, you'll notice that there are some
11 lands that stand out as rather lightly shaded.
12 Those lands represent for the town of Plymouth
13 the primary conservation lands of this town.
14 Now, we do have some parcels elsewhere in the
15 town but this is the area where our primary
16 conservation lands are located.

17 When you examine those lands you'll notice
18 that the route passes along Old Hebron Road
19 right through the area of catch basin lands and
20 the lands shown there are Plymouth Mountain,
21 joining it is the Farber preserve and then
22 further over you'll see the natural area. There
23 is just one conservation easement that's missing

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1 which is the Texas Hill ski trails. It's a more
2 recent one. At any rate, the path comes right
3 through those lands along scenic, which by the
4 way, Old Hebron Road is a New Hampshire scenic
5 highway so right along that highway and through
6 or conservation lands, but the situation is even
7 more complicated than that. You won't find this
8 map, you might be able to see some of it from
9 where you're sitting, but when you look at the
10 map it does show those conservation areas. It
11 turns out that there are other areas right next
12 to those that are being proposed as additional
13 conservation lands. And when you look at the
14 route taken by the power lines, if the alternate
15 route is selected, comes right through them.
16 Exactly through our conservation lands. Men and
17 women with chainsaws, bulldozers, they're going
18 to go right through those lands and destroy
19 them.

20 Another point that was made a moment ago,
21 when you go to the website of the State of New
22 Hampshire where it has designated wildlife
23 habitat, you'll find maps that show for the

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1 entire state highest ranked habitat in New
2 Hampshire for wildlife. When you come to the
3 town of Plymouth, you'll see that the highest
4 ranked habitat is right exactly where the power
5 lines will traverse through the town. So if the
6 alternate route is selected and the line comes
7 through the town of Plymouth, it will destroy
8 our natural habitat in the town, and, therefore,
9 we are absolutely opposed to the passage of the
10 alternate route power line through the town of
11 Plymouth. It makes no sense. Whoever did this
12 could not have devised a more environmentally
13 destructive path for that power line. Thank
14 you.

15 MODERATOR: My apologies for interrupting
16 the clapping. Thank you for your comments,
17 Dominick. Our next speaker, Anthony
18 Fitzherbert.

19 SPEAKER: I'm Tony Fitzherbert. 46 Weston
20 Wood Circle, Campton. 03223. Thank you very
21 much for affording us the opportunity to share
22 our Northern Pass concerns. The
23 ill-conceived --

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1 MODERATOR: Hold on one second. Dean,
2 reset the time. That microphone tends to work
3 best when it's three inches from your mouth so--

4 SPEAKER: The ill-conceived granite gash, a
5 term from a recent Union Leader column slashing
6 through the scenic heart of New Hampshire
7 compares to the Trojan horse described in
8 Virgil's poem, The Iliad. The mythological
9 wooden gift horse, its abdominal cavity filled
10 with armed Greek warriors, was wheeled into Troy
11 by other Greek fighters who then fled, allowing
12 the soldiers within to overwhelm Troy's
13 residents and demolish the ancient City.

14 Similarly, the so-called benefits of
15 Northern Pass held by colorful and costly
16 brochures of smiling, careful people working and
17 playing are a Trojan horse being figuratively
18 wheeled into New Hampshire by Hydro Quebec,
19 Northstar and Public Service of New Hampshire.
20 Within this gift horse are hidden economic and
21 environmental traps which can reportedly
22 threaten our physical health, can turn some of
23 our quaint villages into eye scores and devalue

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1 our properties which abut both its preferred and
2 alternate routes.

3 Most of the problems to our residents are
4 not addressed in the colorful Northern Pass
5 literature, although a few concerns are treated
6 as myths. My first concern is the possible
7 threat to the health of us who live or work in
8 close proximity to the high voltage lines and
9 their grotesquely ugly support towers. My wife
10 and I live within 300 feet of the preferred
11 route. It is reported and never was denied by
12 Public Service of New Hampshire representatives
13 at meetings that young children spending 4 or
14 more hours a day within 500 feet of high tension
15 wires double the risk of contracting leukemia,
16 and adults dramatically increase the risk of
17 other catastrophic decises such as malignancies
18 on the brain. We are looking at a potential
19 electromagnetic aerial Love Canal, a former
20 canal in Niagara Falls, New York. This waterway
21 became a festering lethal soup of discarded
22 toxic liquid industrial waste for about 50 years
23 before being filled in. In the mid 1970s when

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1 the canal route was evacuated to build a new
2 elementary school, nearby residents began to
3 suffer from a potpourri of diseases and newborns
4 came into the world inflicted with a variety of
5 birth defects. If Albert Einstein emerged from
6 his grave to swear that absolutely no health
7 hazards will result from the lines, nobody here
8 in the North Country would believe them which
9 means that the property of us those living near
10 the proposed routes would continue to be
11 worthless. We do not want to experience the
12 accuracy of reports of catastrophic health
13 issues stemming from the planned transmission
14 lines. A question for the DOE to consider is
15 what medical evidence exists that exposure to
16 these high tension wires and supporting towers
17 does not contribute to increases in leukemia,
18 cancers and other diseases.

19 Wednesday's Concord Monitor contained a
20 quote from a Franklin woman who stated that
21 anyone who opposes the Northern Pass is a
22 selfish New Hampshire resident. In this case,
23 I'm honored to be considered selfish. Actually,

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1 her term should be protective New Hampshire
2 residents defending our hard-earned properties,
3 our beautiful towns and villages, our health,
4 the rugged mountains, abundant wildlife, quieted
5 shaded trail system and pristine forests which
6 we have been gifted with tourism and our live
7 free or die way of life. Thank you very, very
8 much.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your
10 comments, Tony. Just know it's tough for me to
11 stop people. Raymond, would you like to come
12 up? Raymond D'Amante. Before you start,
13 Raymond, I'd like to remind if everybody could
14 shift down two seats. Michael O'Leary, Ann
15 Xavier. Ready when you are.

16 SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Raymond
17 D'Amante. I'm an attorney in Concord, New
18 Hampshire. My address is 9 Triangle Park Drive,
19 zip code's 03301. My offices are by the
20 Steeplegate Mall. I live in Concord and in
21 Lincoln and represent several formal intervenors
22 in central and northern New Hampshire as well as
23 many other clients on this route. The overall

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1 disadvantages of the placement of the
2 transmission line in New Hampshire are
3 overwhelming, and I'd like to quickly identify a
4 list of issues that I'm asking the DOE to study.

5 The first one I'd like to call the myth of
6 real estate tax benefits. We need to look at
7 the net real estate impacts. After tax
8 abatements reduction in values and so forth I'm
9 going to submit that you'll find that there's
10 actually net reduction in tax benefits to the
11 communities and those who are not impacted and
12 have their value of their property diminished
13 will find they have to pick up the difference in
14 taxes.

15 Another myth is the positive job creation.
16 Once again you need to look, please, at the job
17 impact. The scar through the heart of New
18 Hampshire will irreparably damage the aesthetic
19 beauty of New Hampshire and negatively impact
20 our one million dollar tourist Geiger industry,
21 great losses of job and otherwise. We will have
22 net job loss.

23 The viewshed is a major component. Both

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1 tax revenue and tourism and the it will be
2 irreparably harmed. The prior speaker spoke of
3 health risks. People's perception is that there
4 are health risks and those concerns are real.
5 That will also impact property values. The
6 negative impacts of the Hydro Quebec project on
7 clean power locally generated in New Hampshire
8 should also be studied and how many jobs will be
9 lost and how much tax base lost there.

10 There is no demand in New Hampshire for
11 this electricity. New Hampshire is a net
12 exporter of electricity. Other impacts that we
13 need to look think about: environmental,
14 social, cultural, historical, ecological,
15 conservation, economic. All of these should be
16 studied. Wildlife corridors with dangerous
17 species, wetlands, character of our communities,
18 way of life, the aesthetics. The impact on
19 tourism and recreation as I've said. In
20 addition, we need an independent economic study
21 of the impacts overall in New Hampshire.

22 There is an alternative. There is an
23 alternative and that alternative is an existing

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1 right-of-way through Vermont. Monday night at
2 the hearing in Pembroke we learned that Vermont
3 actually wants the line, and I think we should
4 work hard to get it for them. There goes my
5 three minutes. The DOE should consider the
6 comparative disadvantages of New Hampshire
7 versus Vermont. If Vermont wants it there, it
8 is an existing right-of-way, I'd love to have
9 you study that as an alternative and even
10 including bypassing Deerfield and going straight
11 to southern New Hampshire.

12 This proposal really is not about bringing
13 electric power to the northeast. It is
14 primarily about profitability for Hydro Quebec.
15 There are alternatives. To Northern Pass I
16 would say and to Hydro Quebec, please listen to
17 and work with the citizens of New Hampshire.
18 Hear our voice. Concerns of the New Hampshire
19 citizens are real and substantive. The line is
20 a threat to New Hampshire's North Country, a
21 real threat to our way of life. Please take
22 that into consideration. Look broadly. I know
23 others will address burial so I won't go into

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1 that, but there are alternatives. Let's utilize
2 them.

3 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
4 Raymond. Apologize for my rude interruption of
5 the clapping. Thank you for your comments. Our
6 next speaker, Pamela Martin.

7 SPEAKER: Pamela Martin, 280 Old Hebron
8 Road in Plymouth, New Hampshire. 03264. When
9 the Northern Pass people came to Plymouth to
10 explain the project, we asked them to consider
11 burying the lines or taking it by submarine
12 cable down the Connecticut River, and they
13 responded that it couldn't be done, they never
14 heard of such a thing, it was too expensive. So
15 when I went home that night I Googled it and lo
16 and behold, there are many examples of
17 transmission lines that have been buried or put
18 down through waterways through cable.

19 One of the examples I came up with was
20 called Basslink which is an example of an HVDC
21 link crossing the Bass Straits from Australia
22 mainland to the northern Tasmania. That was one
23 example. And there was another example of

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1 something called Murraylink which is the world's
2 largest underground power link. The Murraylink
3 220 megawatt connector between the river land in
4 South Australia and Victoria is an 180 kilometer
5 underground high voltage power link. It is
6 considered to be the world's largest underground
7 transmission system. And this was done by, the
8 order was placed by Murraylink Transmission
9 Company which is a subsidiary of -- can anyone
10 guess? Hydro Quebec. So I guess they have
11 heard of it after all.

12 Then I looked up Hydro Quebec's webpage and
13 there was this other thing about see how
14 underground systems work. Remember when you
15 used to sit on your front porch on a beautiful
16 summer's evening. Today people like to relax
17 and entertain in the backyard. Imagine your
18 backyard, your street, your entire neighborhood
19 without utility poles or overhead lines. Well,
20 I can imagine that because that's what I have
21 right now.

22 So there are possibilities -- personally,
23 I'm opposed to the entire project, but there are

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1 alternatives and I would ask the DOE to study
2 burial down old railbeds or submarine cables.
3 And, finally, I'd like to say that myself and
4 several others have been collecting letters of
5 which we are going to deliver next week to the
6 governor. We have over 2000 letters right now
7 and maybe, I don't know, maybe 2500 as of
8 tonight. These letters come from all over the
9 state, north, south, east and west. They are
10 signed by Democrats, Republicans and
11 Independents of all income brackets and all
12 ages, and they are proof that this is it not a
13 NIMBY issue. There are many of the same, but
14 there's not enough benefits to make this worth
15 our while, and we are going to ask the Governor
16 to please, to make sure he understands that we
17 do not want Northern Pass. Thank you very much.

18 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
19 Pamela. Next speaker, Fred Brownson.

20 SPEAKER: Thank you. Good evening. I'm
21 Fred Brownson. 251 Cape Moonshine Road,
22 Wentworth, New Hampshire. 03282. In Lincoln I
23 spoke to the impact enabling effect of the U.S.

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1 gluttony for cheap hydropower from Quebec upon
2 the taking of millions of acres of carbon
3 absorbing timber out of the Canadian forests and
4 replacing it with rotting debris that is
5 emitting carbon. I believe that the guys and
6 the gals doing the EIS will be taking a close
7 look at that. I'd like to add tonight one other
8 issue. This one a national as opposed to a
9 global issue that should be in this statement
10 and carefully examined. Tower after tower is
11 coming across our border bringing cheap
12 hydropower from Quebec. It takes out forests,
13 but it also compromises our national security.
14 There's a time to stop it and now is the time
15 and a landmark Environmental Impact Statement
16 for this project that denies it not only on the
17 local grounds that we've talked with but on the
18 global and national grounds can have an enormous
19 impact on future crossings and the increase in
20 the very detrimental impacts.

21 Since the first attack on the world trade
22 center, I've had several opportunities to talk
23 with clients and associates about their concern.

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1 They have responsibilities for buildings and
2 tunnels and other major pieces of infrastructure
3 including public utility transmission lines.
4 They are concerned about bombs going into
5 tunnels and over bridges and into the basements
6 of buildings, about dirty nuclear devices that
7 might be brought into a highly populated New
8 York, about containers that might carry nuclear
9 devices into the harbors in Miami and New Jersey
10 and New York, but I think I can say with
11 confidence that their single largest concern was
12 the vulnerability of our electric grids, and,
13 particularly, the electric grid in the Northeast
14 to attacks against the transmission lines by
15 terrorists.

16 We're extending with every new transmission
17 line that comes down through a thousand miles of
18 Canadian wilderness the number of points of
19 attack that can be brought against the New
20 England grid by a handful of terrorist teams
21 that march into the woods unseen with a backpack
22 of explosives and simultaneously take out a
23 significant number of towers that would bring

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1 down the power to New England. Imagine that
2 they do it in the middle of a really, really
3 cold spell in New England when houses would
4 freeze without power, industry would be down,
5 might even collapse the entire grid. So the
6 examination of the vulnerability of the Canadian
7 portion of the delivery of hydroelectric power
8 to the northeastern grid should be a very
9 important part of the environmental impact
10 study. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
12 Fred. Our next speaker, Martha Richards.

13 SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm Martha
14 Richards from Holderness, 133 Sargent Road,
15 03245. I'd first like to thank Mr. Mills for
16 responding to our request to hold a scoping
17 session in Plymouth. This area like all the
18 others will also be severely impacted if this
19 abhorrent project goes through, and it is only
20 fair for our citizens to be heard, too. We
21 don't want it, and it is not needed. This
22 abominable Northern Pass transmission project
23 has galvanized our New Hampshire citizens like I

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1 have never seen before. It crosses all
2 political boundaries, all socioeconomic groups,
3 all religions. You've heard from hundreds by
4 now and what brings us together is our passion
5 to protect our beautiful state from top to
6 bottom. It is impressive, isn't it, what has
7 turned out? Even with the supposed promise of
8 tax windfalls our struggling towns are willing
9 to forego that impact to keep the lifestyle and
10 preserve their scenic and touristed vistas.

11 I have a different idea and not having come
12 from a corporate background I will sound naive
13 and like Pollyanna, but we need to fix
14 ourselves. It's not about the electric power or
15 visual pollution or something in our backyards.
16 It's about our insatiable need for growth, for
17 powering all our toys that we can't seem to live
18 without. We're always wanting. Always
19 reaching. Maybe this time instead Hydro Quebec
20 and all its pals could reach for a new
21 environmentalism that can coincide with profits
22 for themselves and their stockholders. Maybe
23 they could move out into new directions by

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1 unleashing their imaginations and offer good
2 science, good engineering, and good relations as
3 they promote conservation, develop new
4 alternative technologies, use and share their
5 profits by weatherizing our drafty homes and
6 become the poster child for developing energy
7 conservation. Maybe corporations don't do that.
8 But Hydro Quebec could change that.

9 By now you can see the fervor and the
10 passion we all feel as right against might will
11 prevail. I feel it in my heart. And no matter
12 how long this process takes, we will fight it to
13 our last breath. This misguided and
14 greed-filled project is just wrong for New
15 Hampshire.

16 MODERATOR: Our next speaker will be David
17 Dobbins. Thank you for your comments, Martha.

18 SPEAKER: I keep looking at the list of
19 people, realizing how long it is. But thank you
20 very much, Martha. David Dobbins, our next
21 speaker. I want to invite up Ann Schneider and
22 Chris Roukes, Katie Rose and Thomas Mullen.

23 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Dave

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1 Dobbins. I live at 167 Gunstock Hill Road in
2 Gilford, New Hampshire. 03249. Though we're
3 not impacted directly by any of these proposed
4 alternate routes I and many others in my area
5 simply think this is a bad deal for the State of
6 New Hampshire and it's the wrong direction for
7 the United States of America to go as we attempt
8 to pursue our imperative to become energy
9 independent for our national security and our
10 national economy.

11 You know, the good folks at the Northern
12 Pass route have been using the tag line called a
13 unique opportunity in time. And I'd like to go
14 along with that here for a moment and say, you
15 know, this is a unique opportunity in time for
16 all of us, and there are some specific unique
17 opportunities in time that I'd like to touch on.

18 This is a time that the developers of this
19 project could consider taking the investment
20 that each will be making in the Northern Pass
21 and put it into real renewable energy projects
22 here in New Hampshire and throughout New
23 England. I would ask that the DOE study the

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1 impact that such an investment would provide in
2 terms of true renewable production, real
3 American jobs and the resulting quality of life
4 for all New England residents.

5 This is also a time for the DOE to bring
6 this process to an end. I ask the DOE to
7 examine, this is a recent document called a
8 Request for Rehearing of the New Hampshire
9 Public Utilities Commission dated March 14th of
10 2011. I have a copy I'm submitting for the
11 record. And in addition to issues over the
12 percentage of investment returns or concerns
13 over financial risks, the New Hampshire PUC
14 knows the following. And this is a direct quote
15 and please pay attention to this. "That NPT
16 line project has not been identified by ISO-New
17 England -- that's the operator of the regional
18 grid we keep hearing about -- as one required to
19 meet the reliability need. No ISO-New England
20 stakeholder process has been conducted to date
21 with respect to this project, either to assess
22 potential impact of the regional grid or to
23 identify specific reliability needs or specific

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1 congestion concerns and the parties to the
2 TSA -- that's the transmission service agreement
3 between the Northern Pass and Hydro Quebec --
4 are not required to build the proposed new
5 transmission capacity to meet their obligation
6 to serve."

7 I hope you got what that means. In
8 addition to the fact that New Hampshire already
9 exports excess electricity, this power is not
10 needed in the New England grid for any reason.
11 For that information alone, I ask the DOE deny
12 the Presidential permit for this project and do
13 so without expending any additional resources on
14 it. Why should taxpayers fund a federal study
15 of a voluntary project proposed by private for
16 profit corporations? Right now I think we can
17 make use of the real special opportunity in
18 time, and that would be if no one has asked them
19 yet directly, I'm here on behalf of New
20 Hampshire citizens to directly ask Public
21 Service of New Hampshire to end this project
22 right now and to take all the fear and certainty
23 and tension off of the thousands of New

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1 Hampshire citizens that are bearing as we await
2 this impending doom. Thank you.

3 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
4 Dave. Our next speaker, Darlene King Jennings.

5 SPEAKER: My name is Darlene King Jennings.
6 I'm from 57 King Road in Campton, New Hampshire,
7 03223, and I am opposed to the Northern Pass.
8 This is not only a northern and central New
9 Hampshire issue, it is an issue for the entire
10 State of New Hampshire. Having a bachelor of
11 science degree in sociology, the study of how
12 people behave within society I know that you can
13 bend data to say almost anything you wish and
14 that's exactly what the study that is on the
15 Northern Pass website in regards to real estate
16 values does. In order to accurately judge what
17 value will do in real estate, you will need
18 before and after data. That data is available.
19 They just didn't use it. They went all the way
20 to Arizona to find someone to say what they
21 wanted to say. So much for hiring in New
22 Hampshire.

23 As a real estate person for 34 years, I can

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1 tell you that every market is different. I know
2 buyers' mentality in central New Hampshire. I
3 don't need to have data in front of me to tell
4 me what the effect these towers will have on
5 tourism or on the real estate. It will be
6 catastrophic. But you need to because you do
7 not have the years of having been told by buyers
8 that the main reason for their impending
9 purchase is the moment they crest the knoll
10 between Campton and Plymouth when the mountains
11 come into view their blood pressure drops
12 immediately. It is the hours that they spend
13 here that sustains them at their primary home
14 during the week. So after 50 years of living
15 here I feel the same way. Real estate sales
16 have already fallen apart all over the place and
17 contracts have already reduced in value. I
18 would like to ask the DOE contractors to require
19 that a full assessment of the effect on the
20 value of real estate be completed as part of the
21 scoping of this project. I ask that the effects
22 on jobs, business, rooms and meals, real estate
23 transfer, real estate transfer tax, effects on

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1 taxes to towns, county and State of New
2 Hampshire and on New Hampshire's current 65
3 power producing facilities all be part of this
4 study. Thank you.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
6 Darlene. Our next speaker, is Michael O'Leary.
7 Prior to you starting, can I ask you a question?

8 SPEAKER: Sure can.

9 MODERATOR: Will you be able to see Dean,
10 this goes for any other last speakers. Can you
11 see where the signs where Dean is sitting?

12 SPEAKER: Yes.

13 MODERATOR: Okay. Just want to make sure.

14 SPEAKER: No problem. I'll be very brief.

15 MODERATOR: Thank you. It's kind of not
16 specific to you. I just want to make sure.

17 SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is Michael
18 O'Leary. I'm a resident of Holderness, 11
19 Grapevine Cove Road, 03245. Thanks for the
20 opportunity to comment.

21 We all know that there is often added cost
22 to both doing things right and doing the right
23 thing. This project is wrong for New Hampshire

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1 and wrong for all of the citizens of the United
2 States. I don't know the entire law and scope
3 of the environmental impact study, but I would
4 strongly suggest that the study does not stop
5 nor start at the international border. Hydro
6 Quebec has disfigured 13 out of 16 of their
7 major rivers and has plans to continue with the
8 destruction of the remaining three. They've
9 flooded hundreds and thousands of acres of
10 productive forest, they've destroyed wildlife
11 habitat and they've displaced indigenous people,
12 all in the name of cheap power. This is
13 disingenuous to call this renewable power. When
14 we as a nation purchase this power we are
15 validating what Hydro Quebec has done and
16 encouraging them to destroy more of our rural
17 environment. In a time when more than 400
18 existing jobs are in jeopardy, at and supporting
19 existing renewable generating plants in the
20 state and four existing renewable fueled
21 generating plants are threatened with closure, I
22 would hope that all economic impacts are
23 studied. Northern Pass LLC should not be

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1 allowed to pick an arbitrary reduction on
2 regional power prices and the positive economic
3 impact that reduction would have unless they're
4 willing to guarantee the price reduction. We
5 live in a state that is over 80 percent forested
6 and are blessed with a growth to harvest ratio
7 of more than 2 to 1. In the short term, biomass
8 may be a bit more expensive but if the true
9 economic impact is measured, it is unlikely that
10 this economic engine is more expensive than
11 Hydro Quebec's power. Purchasing power with an
12 in-state resource and with in-state people is
13 the right thing for New Hampshire. What is the
14 cost of the environmental destruction of our
15 land and that of Canada.

16 New Hampshire does not have an obligation
17 to be the conduit that brings all the power to
18 southern New England. Several renewable
19 generating projects have been proposed in
20 Massachusetts and Connecticut and not been
21 realized because of either public opposition or
22 because, again, people think the price might be
23 a touch too high. We should not sit back and

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1 watch our landscape get destroyed when southern
2 states have many other viable options, both
3 renewable and conventional, and those sources
4 should be studied for their in-country economic
5 benefits as well. Thanks.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your
7 comments, Michael. Our next speaker. Ann
8 Xavier.

9 SPEAKER: My name is Ann Xavier. I live at
10 653 Texas Hill Road, 03264. I'm opposed to the
11 Northern Pass project. My home is in the direct
12 path of the preferred alternate route. In 1763,
13 Captain Jonathan Cummings and a few men came
14 from Hollis, New Hampshire, and founded the town
15 of Plymouth. He was a lieutenant in the company
16 of New Hampshire Rangers in the Revolutionary
17 War. In 1778 he built the house that I live in
18 now. He raised his ten children here. Many
19 families have lived here. This house has been
20 continuously occupied for 233 years. We have
21 invested over a hundred thousand dollars in
22 improvements and renovations to this property.
23 If these towers are allowed to be built over our

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1 heads no one will ever want to buy this
2 property. This historical location will be
3 spoiled permanently. We would never have
4 purchased this home if we had known at that time
5 that there was even a chance of these towers
6 being built. And we would suffer extreme
7 financial hardship as others who would plan to
8 one day sell their property.

9 We have a dug well. The water table is
10 very high. The building of the Northern Pass
11 towers would result in pollution of the ground
12 water. If the towers were built on my property
13 the chemicals used to keep the vegetation from
14 growing under these towers would also pollute my
15 well. The hills behind our home drain across
16 the street to the base of Plymouth Mountain.
17 This area has many streams and waterfalls that
18 empty into Reed Brock, Clay Brook, Glove Hollow
19 Brook and the Pemigewasset River.

20 Plymouth Mountain is home to many animals.
21 Many we have seen. I've included a list of
22 those that we have seen on our three acres. The
23 mountain is surrounded by conservation and

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1 undeveloped land. Undoubtedly threatened
2 species and perhaps endangered species live
3 here. The building of these towers would
4 disturb and change important habitat and
5 contaminate the vital streams and ponds.

6 I'm also submitting papers written by the
7 World Health Organization. The health risk and
8 dangers of spillage of electromagnetic lines is
9 still being researched. They recommend staying
10 far away from electric lines. There is a small
11 increased risk of childhood leukemia with
12 exposure to low frequency magnetic fields. My
13 two-year-old grandson lives with us. To quote
14 this paper, the focus of international research
15 is the investigation of possible links between
16 cancer and electromagnetic fields and power
17 lines and radio frequencies. Both of my sisters
18 have had cancer. My oldest sister died from it.
19 These lines should never be located anywhere
20 near people. What would result if research
21 indicates a positive link between cancer and
22 power lines. I am suggesting no build. The
23 jobs that would be created, I know people who

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1 need jobs and they are not qualified to build
2 towers nor would they want to. When this
3 project is over so are the jobs it created. In
4 its wake would be ugly, property devaluing,
5 cancer-causing monster towers. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
7 Thank you for your comments, Ann. Our next
8 speaker, Annie Schneider.

9 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Annie Schneider,
10 and I live at 259 Old Hebron Road in Plymouth.
11 New Hampshire. 03264. Generally, I like to
12 kind of go off the cup and give my big fat
13 opinion so this is going to be a little blend of
14 the two because I tried to be organized. It's
15 not working for me.

16 I'm going to call on the Department of
17 Energy during this environmental study to
18 provide us with an environment of truth,
19 justice, openness, transparency and logic. We
20 have been thrown into a logic-free zone. I
21 would really like to second the amendment, but I
22 know I'm off on protocol of Dave Dobbins'
23 suggestion that we end this here and now for

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1 many reasons.

2 The specific reason I'm suggesting honesty
3 and openness and truth and logic is because to
4 this point the people in New Hampshire have been
5 dismissed and treated with arrogant disregard by
6 the very nature of this project and by those who
7 have been proposing it. It's been covert,
8 there's been lack of truth, omission of facts
9 omission of locations, negative impacts and
10 motives. We've been cited studies that are
11 inapplicable. The misrepresentation of this
12 product as green, the lobbying of our present
13 legislators to introduce and pass legislation
14 that will aid them in having access to eminent
15 domain. To the Department of Energy, I request
16 you to study the initiation of this project,
17 whether the project is in fact needed, people
18 have spoken to that already tonight. If you
19 were to listen to a representative of PSNH, we
20 brought this on because all they're doing is
21 giving us what we've asked for. And apparently
22 we've asked for them to look ahead and watch out
23 for our future and make sure the power is there.

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1 I'm going to go out on a limb here. I know
2 that if I'm looking to lose a couple pounds, I'm
3 not looking to get cancer. So please don't read
4 into what we're asking for. To the
5 Department of Energy, I would like you to
6 address the product itself as to truth in
7 marketing. I am calling for clear and extensive
8 transparent study to show the impact on the
9 environment that the development of Hydro Quebec
10 has caused. How would current rules and
11 standards apply to a like project if proposed in
12 the United States. I know that Hydro Quebec
13 would be both illegal and criminal and on they
14 go. Seven million acres were forever impacted.
15 Now they'd like to impact more down here.
16 Please do not wrap it in cellophane and call it
17 green. How does this satisfy the criteria in
18 the United States for green and renewable
19 energy? I request from the Department of Energy
20 a comprehensive study including current and long
21 range projections on the possible impacts to our
22 local, independent, diverse, green renewable
23 power sources and all related businesses and

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1 Michael O'Leary spoke to that.

2 By the way, Bridgewater power plant employs
3 19 people. Eighteen of them own homes in this
4 area, and they are seriously threatened by this.
5 Not just them, but the power plant itself. When
6 those are no longer being used, they will go off
7 the tax rolls for towns across New Hampshire.

8 Now that I brought up tax rolls --

9 MODERATOR: I do have to remind you that
10 you got the wrapup sign.

11 SPEAKER: Okay. Then I'm going to wrap up.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 SPEAKER: A ten year old would never sign
14 up for such a deal. Leave it to adults to spend
15 millions of dollars we don't have to say no to
16 something that we don't want, don't need and
17 will actually ruin our precious commodity. Hold
18 on to that which is good.

19 MODERATOR: Anyone in the crowd have a
20 screwdriver? Is there a handyman in the house?
21 It's almost time for a break. I haven't called
22 anyone else because we have three speakers in
23 line and I plan to have a break, but I did want

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1 to address -- as moderator, that gives me the
2 opportunity to do this. We've now had two
3 speakers mention that maybe this meeting should
4 end now, but they have both gotten the
5 opportunity to speak their three minutes. So I
6 do know that in line over there I've got two
7 people to speak and one that's going to sing
8 probably a little more so I would seek
9 permission on that and also to keep --

10 AUDIENCE: Point of order. Point of order.
11 I challenge the Moderator on the statement that
12 he said that there was a request to end this
13 meeting now. My understanding was the request
14 is to end this project now. Not the meeting.

15 MODERATOR: The Moderator was only
16 addressing the question to end these meetings
17 now. I don't believe that anyone, although I'm
18 going to look over to my left to confirm this,
19 no one on that table has the ability to end this
20 process.

21 AUDIENCE: End the project now.

22 AUDIENCE: Say no.

23 MODERATOR: Hold on. This is my job. I

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1 will ask you at this point in time because I
2 would, although this isn't a proceedings where
3 we are going to make motions and whatnot, if you
4 do outburst one more time, I will ask the police
5 or whoever these armed or at least badged
6 officers are to escort you out.

7 Now, I believe I've already talked too
8 much. So I'm going to let the next speaker up.
9 But I am going to seek your permission to allow
10 Katie Rose to go longer than 3 minutes. Is that
11 all right? Thank you. Next speaker, Chris
12 Roukes.

13 SPEAKER: My name is Chris Roukes. I'm
14 from Holderness, New Hampshire, 23 Hob Nob Lane,
15 03245. The biomass power plant with the effect
16 of 1200 megawatts of, quote, unquote,
17 competitively priced power on the short and long
18 term of biomass power plants has received a lot
19 less attention than a lot of the other major
20 issues, yet I believe it has the potential of
21 having a very large effect on the state as a
22 whole. Very little has been said about the
23 domino effect that will occur if biomass plants

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1 are put out of business. Since the demise of
2 the North Country pulp mills in 2000 and 2001,
3 biomass power plants have been the primary if
4 not the only major market for low quality wood
5 in New Hampshire. Low quality wood is the
6 damaged and low value trees which forest
7 landowners must harvest and remove to grow high
8 quality saw timber. Thus, a ready market for
9 low quality wood is essential for good forestry
10 in New Hampshire. The logging industry depends
11 on a steady, good low quality wood market.

12 Meanwhile commercial forest lands owners
13 must make a profit on their investment and
14 private landowners must be able to pay the taxes
15 and other expenses incurred by that land
16 ownership. Both generally depend on logging to
17 generate those funds. When problems like a poor
18 low quality wood product plague the wood forest
19 industry, forest land owners are generally
20 forced to sell their land and when they sell it
21 is for purposes which are more profitable,
22 generally development, and this forest land is
23 permanently removed from the forest inventory.

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1 Currently the rate of forest land
2 conversion to development is about 17,000 acres
3 per year. That's about the size of the town of
4 Ashland and Bristol combined. Such rates of
5 conversion can have great effects on watershed
6 protection, wildlife habitat and general forest
7 health. Stabilizing these rates of conversion
8 requires a strong biomass power industry.

9 Though other forces in the industry may
10 force the demise of some plants before the
11 projected completion of Northern Pass, Northern
12 pass may well eliminate survivors and stifle any
13 new investment in biomass power generation.
14 Thus I ask the DOE investigate carefully
15 Northern Pass's effect on the short and
16 long-term viability of the state's independently
17 owned biomass power plants and the ensuing
18 environmental and economic domino effect on
19 in-state forestry, forest land ownership, and
20 forest land conversion.

21 Finally, by virtue of the fact that
22 Northern Pass may well put the surviving
23 independent plants out of business, by virtue of

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1 the fact that PSNH owns the largest player in
2 the current New Hampshire biomass market, the
3 Schiller plant in Portsmouth, and since the
4 contract PSNH is negotiating with the Laidlaw
5 plant in Berlin will allow PSNH to control the
6 plant for the foreseeable future, Northern Pass
7 would mean that PSNH would have a monopoly,
8 almost complete control of the biomass market in
9 New Hampshire. Therefore, I request that the
10 DOE carefully investigate this possibility and
11 the effect it would have on the short and
12 long-term biomass market in the state. Thank
13 you.

14 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comment,
15 Chris. Your next speaker, Thomas Mullen.

16 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Could
17 we ask for the second microphone down here for a
18 moment, please?

19 MODERATOR: On its way.

20 SPEAKER: Katie and I are going to pull a
21 little switch on you. Won't take any longer
22 then we were going to anyway. Give us a little
23 more juice up there? Testing 1, 2, 3, 4, is

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1 that coming through up there? Can you hear me
2 all right? Don't count this against me now.

3 I'll try to make sure you can hear me, all
4 right? First of all, I was going to come here
5 tonight, I do a lot of real estate development
6 work and I'm a developer up at the Owls Nest
7 Resort and Golf Club. So I was here to moan and
8 groan about Owls Nest and tell you what a
9 terrible thing the Northern Pass is for Owls
10 Nest and it is. It's terrible beyond
11 description and I believe it's going to put us
12 out of business if they're allowed to go where
13 they would like to go.

14 But, you know, today I was driving around
15 and I drove around through Owls Nest and drove
16 around a little bit north of Owls Nest and then
17 a little bit south of Owls Nest, and as I drove
18 down by The Sticks -- you all know where the
19 Sticks is there in Campton? Great restaurant.
20 I drove down through the Six Flags mobile home
21 park, and I realized as I went down through
22 there that there were no less than 20 mobile
23 homes under where the new power line is going to

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1 go, under it, directly under it. Not beside it,
2 but under it. As I drove around a little bit
3 more, I realized that there were over 100 mobile
4 homes at the Six Flags park that are going to be
5 within a hundred feet of these proposed towers.
6 What in Lord's name are these people going to
7 do? Where are they going to go? And who is
8 going to help them go wherever they would have
9 to go if these towers came through? It is a
10 horrific thing to think about what would happen
11 to those people. I hope if it ever happens that
12 we'll all come together as a community and help
13 them out.

14 I have the pleasure of having the second
15 part of my discussion take place with the
16 assistance of the newest recording star in the
17 White Mountains, Katie Rose. I'm going to
18 welcome Katie Rose. Come on up, Katie. Katie
19 and I are going to do a kumbaya protest song,
20 and I think you all have some samples of it out
21 there and we have never done this before so this
22 is unrehearsed so bear with us if you will. All
23 right. This is done to the melody of Oh,

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1 Christmas Tree.

2 No Northern Pass, we will stop the Northern
3 Pass. No Northern Pass, no Northern Pass, we
4 will stop the Northern Pass. Northern Pass
5 would like our land, they don't seem to
6 understand. No Northern Pass, no Northern Pass,
7 we will stop the Northern Pass.

8 Northern Pass has told its lies by jobs and
9 taxes no one buys. No Northern Pass, no
10 Northern Pass, we will stop the Northern Pass.
11 They think we should all have the power, coming
12 south on great big towers. No Northern Pass, no
13 Northern Pass, we will stop the Northern Pass,

14 This power's far from clean and green,
15 there's something wrong with this whole scene,
16 no Northern Pass, no Northern Pass, we will stop
17 the Northern Pass. Take this to some other
18 route, we're opposed, the issue's moot, No
19 Northern Pass, No Northern Pass, we will stop
20 the Northern Pass.

21 We won't sell our precious views, that's
22 too much for us to lose. No Northern Pass, no
23 Northern Pass, we will stop the Northern Pass.

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1 Here us loud and here us clear. Northern Pass,
2 you're out of here. No Northern Pass, No
3 Northern Pass, we will stop the Northern Pass.
4 No Northern Pass, no Northern Pass, we will stop
5 the Northern Pass.

6 MODERATOR: Hold on a second. Hold on a
7 second. Thank you for your comments, Thomas. I
8 do have to state that I'm tempted to give a
9 rabble rousing penalty on that, purely because
10 Christmas may never be the same for me.

11 MODERATOR: Our next pseudo-speaker, Katie
12 Rose.

13 SPEAKER: Thank you. I'm Katie Rose. I
14 was born and raised in the North Country. I
15 reside in Whitefield and I'm so proud to sing
16 this homemade song.

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

23 But something came out of the darkness,

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

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

9 Ads and propaganda lettered with
10 half-truths and lies. Anyone else might have
11 been fooled but country folk 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 free
16 or die. This is the message that we send. Live
17 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
22 and having kids of their own they'll be thinking
23 back to you and me and the spirit that kept them

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1 free.

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

6 MODERATOR: Is that the loudest you guys
7 can clap? I think you guys have earned your
8 ten-minute break. So I'll be calling you back
9 at 8:15.

10 Next speakers, Anne Hunnewell, Shelagh
11 Connelly, Omer Ahern, Jr., Bob Tureson, Steve
12 Rand.

13 RECESS TAKEN

14 MODERATOR: I'm going to get started. Our
15 next speaker is Anne Hunnewell. I have a
16 Shelagh Connelly that I invited up who I don't
17 believe is yet here. Omer Ahern. There you go.
18 Take your spot. Steve Rand. Jennie Foster.
19 And Anne, when you're ready.

20 SPEAKER: Well, that's quite an act to
21 follow, Katie Rose, but I'll do my best. Anne
22 Hunnewell. 95 Heritage Hill Road, Holderness,
23 New Hampshire, 03245. I expected that we would

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1 hear more about the impact, the negative impact
2 on the Northern Pass that it would have on New
3 Hampshire economy and land values. However, I
4 would like to speak about its negative impact on
5 our state, on the beauty of our state.

6 One has only to visit the Carl Derup Art
7 Gallery which is located next door in the
8 Plymouth State University Draper Maynard
9 building to realize how gorgeous our state is.
10 The current exhibition of White Mountain truly
11 beautiful and awe inspiring. For over 150 years
12 people have come to the North Country to enjoy
13 its beauty and tranquility. Even today people
14 weary of the frenzy and blight of urban living
15 come to the North Country seeking these very
16 qualities.

17 One hundred years ago this very year
18 Congress created the White Mountain National
19 Forest because of the beauty of the mountains
20 and the necessity to maintain a preserve of
21 wilderness as a legacy to future generations.
22 These mountains are part of our national
23 identity. Who does not know of the majestic

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1 Mount Washington. Why would we even think of
2 desecrating our beautiful country with ugly
3 metal stanchions? We would never place them
4 across Niagara Falls, we would never place them
5 across the Grand Canyon. Our North Country is
6 our Grand Canyon. Our national wonder. We
7 should never violate it by huge manmade
8 structures. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
10 Anne. Our next speaker, Shelagh Connelly.

11 SPEAKER: Shelagh Connelly, Holderness, New
12 Hampshire. I represent the Board of Selectmen
13 for the Town of Holderness 03245. The Board of
14 Selectmen of the town of Holderness would like
15 to register for the public record the following
16 information relative to the proposed Northern
17 Pass project in New Hampshire.

18 On March 9, 2011 at the Holderness Central
19 School approximately 130 registered centered
20 voters of the town gathered for the annual town
21 meeting. The following warrant article was
22 presented for discussion and a vote. "To see if
23 the town will vote to register and disseminate

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1 to all concerned its objection, opposition and
2 commitment to stop the construction of any
3 portion of the 1200 megawatt high voltage direct
4 current transmission line in the Town of
5 Holderness as presently proposed by Northeast
6 Utilities, NStar and Hydro Quebec since such a
7 huge scar constructed and erected through and
8 above our Town's treasured residential and
9 scenic private properties will cause inestimable
10 damage to the orderly economic development of
11 the Town, its economy and the health and
12 well-being of its residents; or to take any
13 other action relative thereto.

14 This article was discussed and no one spoke
15 in opposition to the article and it passed by a
16 unanimous standing vote of 129 to 0. It is
17 clear that there was no support for the Northern
18 Pass project from the 2011 town meeting voters.

19 On March 14th, 2011 at a regular meeting of
20 the Holderness Board of Selectmen the board
21 members discussed the results of the town
22 meeting vote on the Northern Pass project and
23 any potential benefits of the project. The

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1 Board concluded that the significant negative
2 impact to the affected Holderness property
3 owners, the community at large and our fellow
4 New Hampshire communities from Pittsburg to
5 Deerfield and voted unanimously to oppose the
6 Northern Pass project and to use all means
7 available to them to communicate this position
8 to all concerned.

9 We, the members of the Holderness Board of
10 Selectmen, respectfully request the Department
11 of Energy recommend denial of the Presidential
12 permit for the Northern Pass project as
13 proposed. Respectfully submitted. Thank you.

14 MODERATOR: Our next speaker. Omer Ahern,
15 Jr.

16 SPEAKER: Mr. Moderator, I want to
17 apologize for my uncharacteristic outburst
18 earlier this evening. When I called Brian Mills
19 and asked him for the scoping section here
20 tonight in Plymouth, he asked me why do we need
21 to have another scoping session in New
22 Hampshire, why can't you just send your written
23 comments in to us? And I said well, that's not

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1 the New Hampshire way. New Hampshirites make
2 their voices known and their concerns known
3 usually through a town meeting, and at a town
4 meeting it is not unusual for a member of the
5 meeting to make a point of order when they feel
6 the moderator is out of order, but I did not
7 mean any disrespect so forgive me.

8 My name is it Omer C. Ahern, Jr. I'm from
9 Plymouth, New Hampshire. 97 Cummingsville Road.
10 I am a tree farmer where my certified tree farm
11 is on Cummingsville Road. I want to thank the
12 Department of Energy folks for coming here
13 tonight and having a scoping session, and I want
14 to thank all of you folks for showing up.
15 There's a few less of us here and what I want to
16 urge you all is in the future as this thing goes
17 through, goes forward, don't let them separate
18 you. This room should still be packed. We need
19 to stick together if we're going to overcome
20 this challenge that we're being faced with in
21 New Hampshire. Stay together.

22 The Ahern family has been farming in
23 Grafton County since 1897. I'm a fourth

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1 generation person working on the land here in
2 Grafton County. I'm also a Grafton County
3 Commissioner from District 3, but I do not speak
4 for the Grafton County Commission in any way
5 this evening. I'm speaking only for myself.

6 I am against this project as proposed
7 because as proposed it will ruin our great
8 Granite State. Also opposed to the first
9 alternative. New Hampshire as we've heard
10 tonight does not need this electricity. This
11 project will adversely affect existing local
12 jobs involved with locally New Hampshire
13 generated electricity. This project will
14 adversely affect local New Hampshire initiatives
15 to promote local energy independence such as
16 microhydroelectric generation and biomass.

17 I'm concerned about and specifically
18 request the agency to fully address the national
19 security issues that were addressed earlier this
20 evening. I'm very concerned about the rural
21 nature of this project and how easily the
22 project as completed could be compromised and
23 leave our country in dire straits.

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1 If this project is ultimately allowed to
2 proceed, I would ask the agency to put into
3 effect what I'm about to suggest. This
4 uninvited, unusual, foreign proposal from far
5 away, I believe, requires an unusual measure as
6 the good folks of northern New Hampshire did not
7 request this project. I request that this
8 agency require Hydro Quebec, a foreign entity,
9 and Northern Pass Transmission, LLC, and any
10 other entities involved with this project to
11 establish a fund of money to reimburse any
12 landowners who will be directly affected by the
13 project in terms of providing, reimbursing them
14 for some of their legal fees, at least 2 or 3
15 hours of legal advice because the Northern Pass
16 folks have their bevy of attorneys. I think
17 historically New Hampshire landowners have taken
18 a hit whenever they've been asked to put
19 easements and rights of way over their property
20 for electric projects, and I ask that the agency
21 request that Hydro Quebec provide a fund so that
22 the landowners could get some help so we can
23 have a level playing field. Thank you again.

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1 Live free or die.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
3 Omer. For the record the Moderator still
4 believes that he was not out of order. Our next
5 speaker, Steve Rand.

6 SPEAKER: Thank you. I'm going to have to
7 turn the volume up to try to match Omer. That's
8 not easy. My name is Steve Rand. I live in
9 Plymouth at 120 Highland Street, 03264, and I
10 understand that the DOE and the Northern Pass
11 folks have been looking for alternatives and I
12 have one right here. An alternative. I have to
13 tell you that I robbed this idea from the folks
14 over in New York who are undertaking and
15 considering a project known as the Champlain
16 Hudson River Express which proposes to deliver a
17 thousand megawatts of power from the Canadian
18 grid, just like ours, to New York City by the
19 year 2015, just like ours.

20 Unlike our project, though, all of their
21 line is buried. A total of 355 miles. Most of
22 it is buried under water to boot. But it is
23 actually buried in the water but under the earth

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1 below the water, but 73 miles of that is buried
2 beside railroad beds around, skirting Albany.
3 So railroad beds. What an idea. Railroad beds.

4 So I looked at this map, the State of New
5 Hampshire provided to us through the Department
6 of Transportation of railroad beds in New
7 Hampshire, and you know what you discover there
8 is there are existing railroad beds all the way
9 from Colebrook all the way down to Concord and
10 beyond. Now some of them are not actually, are
11 not actually currently being used. Some of them
12 have been abandoned and some of them are
13 discontinued, but the great quantity of them are
14 owned by guess who? The State of New Hampshire.
15 State of New Hampshire. So these are in fact
16 what I would consider to be existing public
17 infrastructure, and wouldn't it make sense for
18 us to use existing public infrastructure to bury
19 lines below the earth where we don't have the
20 problems of electromagnetism that are associated
21 with the ones above. We won't have all the
22 problems we've heard tonight, visual blight, and
23 we won't have disturbed wetlands like putting

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1 these things through wetlands because we've
2 already done that work. And existing railroad
3 beds are actually somewhat flat, somewhat
4 straight, and somewhat easy to dig in. So I
5 think it's a real good possibility and I think
6 we ought to study the heck out of it. I think
7 we ought to study it at least until the rest of
8 it goes away. But by chance it should actually
9 pass muster, and it is a good idea and the next
10 question of course is going to be what's the
11 cost of this project.

12 I can only tell you that in New York, over
13 355 miles, their project will cost \$1.9 billion.
14 That's their projection. Our project over 180
15 miles will cost \$1.1 billion. If you work it
16 out per mile, their project is actually cheaper
17 than ours and it's buried. So there's something
18 wrong with what we're being told about burying
19 lines. There is new technology I think is part
20 of the answer. So I would like, I hope you'll
21 agree that this whole idea bears looking into,
22 and I hope the DOE and the State of New
23 Hampshire get together and figure out if this

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1 can be done.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Please
3 our next speaker, is Jennie Foster. You can
4 hold on. I'm also going to invite up Janice
5 Thompson, Tom Muller, Michele Vaughn, Fred
6 Fauver, Joe Brown. Also before we start, I just
7 want to comment that I did receive a packet from
8 a gentleman who did not want to speak and was
9 leaving at the time. His name is Chuck Swanson.
10 Looks like Plymouth, New Hampshire. And he was
11 an electrical engineer who had done some work on
12 underwater cabling, and he did submit papers
13 into the record. The floor is yours.

14 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I
15 would like to propose that we put Steve Rand in
16 charge of that study. For the record, my name
17 is Jeanie Forrester, and I live at 78 Tracy Way
18 in Meredith, New Hampshire. 03253. I am also
19 your State Senator for District 2 representing
20 four towns in Belknap County and 27 in Grafton
21 County. I have been attending these meetings.
22 This is the first Scoping Meeting I've been to,
23 but I've been to a lot of PSNH meetings, and I

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1 have to tell you I have not heard from one
2 constituent who supports this project. Of the
3 31 communities that I represent, 19 could be
4 potentially impacted by this project. I believe
5 this is a private project, this is a private
6 project, a taking of private land, it's an
7 eminent domain issue, and I don't believe that
8 we should -- actually, I attended a meeting with
9 the Governor and I was just telling Mark about
10 this earlier. Some folks from Colebrook came up
11 and made some really compelling presentations to
12 the Governor, and at the end they asked him how
13 he felt about this project and what he said was
14 I don't believe the Federal government should be
15 forcing property owners to do something they
16 don't want to do. And I think that's where
17 we're at. And I just wanted to stand up here
18 and tell you that I support you in this. I want
19 to help all however I can. I did cosponsor
20 legislature, 648, House Bill 648. You may have
21 heard it. It has to do with eminent domain. It
22 was retained in the House last week. I just
23 learned the other day that it is coming back up

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1 before our House Science, Energy & Technology
2 Committee this Tuesday at 10:15 at the
3 Legislative Office Building, and I would
4 encourage you to attend this meeting. They need
5 to hear from you. Although you won't be allowed
6 to speak, they need to see the numbers. The
7 numbers are important so if you can make it down
8 to Concord I encourage you to come. Thank you
9 very much.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your
11 comments, Jeanie. Our next speaker, Janice
12 Thompson.

13 SPEAKER: I'm Janice Thompson, 20 Pond
14 Brook Road, Wentworth, New Hampshire. I have a
15 question for Northern Pass, and I've asked it
16 over and over and over. No one seems to be able
17 to answer it. If you go after your proposed
18 route and your alternate route and both of them
19 fail, then will you go after the existing power
20 line which runs down from Canada into New
21 Hampshire at the present time? Is there anyone
22 up there that can answer that question for me?
23 Some people have said maybe, we're not planning

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1 to now, but. I'd like it to be in the minutes
2 of this meeting that I asked the question so
3 that in the future because I wanted to know
4 would it require another, would we have to start
5 all over with all of this stuff if you took
6 another power line or would you just stick it in
7 there and say there we are. We have to accept
8 it. Because it would affect in my town a
9 prehistoric site, a historic site and my
10 neighbor's house so it is important to know and
11 no one has the answer. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR: Thank for your comments and
13 your question. And the important thing is that
14 in this meeting they are comments. No one
15 currently will be answering questions. But now
16 that it's in the record I'm sure it will be
17 addressed. Thank you. Our next speaker, Tom
18 Muller. You will be able to speak a second time
19 later. Michele Vaughn then is our next speaker,
20 and I'm going to call up Andrew Hancock, William
21 LaFontaine, Scott Grey, Neil Irvine.

22 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Michele Vaughn.
23 I live on 2524 New Hampshire Route 175 in

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1 Thornton. Zip code is 03285. I am concerned as
2 are all opposed to the Northern Pass with
3 devastating impacts by the Northern Pass on
4 property values, the environment, the town's tax
5 base, tourism and recreation, et cetera, et
6 cetera. I am suggesting that the DOE do a
7 thorough analysis of this, and I have an idea
8 how to do this. If we set up weather balloons
9 all along the preferred and alternate routes and
10 direct them up in the air to 135 feet high but
11 also allow for the concrete pads below what
12 would be underneath the 135 foot towers, and
13 then after those balloons are put up, I'm
14 willing and perhaps some other citizens, too, to
15 escort the DOE surveyors every step of the way
16 along town roads and on Highway 93, by hiking
17 the mountains, and oh, I also have several
18 kayaks that we could use and go down all of the
19 affected rivers.

20 This will give an accurate idea of the
21 impact this will have on the property values,
22 tourism and the environment. Tourism is New
23 Hampshire's number one industry and there are

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1 actually several kayak rentals in the Grafton
2 County alone and these depend on tourists and
3 repeat customers. People travel from all over
4 and kayak New Hampshire's rivers, lakes and
5 ponds. Some people decide to extend their
6 visits just to incorporate kayaking. The reason
7 they do so is because when you're floating down
8 the river you lose all sense of where you are.
9 You're one with nature. Tourists will not want
10 to spend time and money for a tour of the
11 towers. Mountain bikers and hiking will also be
12 affected. Who wants to exert themselves hiking
13 a mountain, reaching the summit only to see
14 towers, not scenic vistas. I hope the DOE
15 considers this idea to get a real visual scope
16 of the negative effect Northern Pass will have
17 on all of New Hampshire. And I'd like to echo
18 Dave Robbins and Annie Schneider and say let's
19 stop the Northern Pass project now.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
21 Our next speaker, Fred Fauver?

22 SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you. My name is Fred
23 Fauver. I live in Pownal, Maine. 783 Lawrence

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1 Road. I grew up here in Plymouth and Rumney and
2 I'm a property owner in Wentworth and Orford,
3 and our family home is still here in Plymouth up
4 on Old Hebron Road. You've heard many other
5 speakers tonight from that part of the town.
6 I've been pondering for several days whether I
7 should come over and speak here. It's all been
8 said, it seems. Many times over even. And what
9 could I add?

10 Well, we've all heard all the reasons why
11 the construction of this transmission line will
12 be harmful for the environment of New Hampshire.
13 We've all heard clear and convincing analysis
14 demonstrating this project will not provide any
15 lasting economic benefit to the state and very
16 little, if any, economic benefit short-term.
17 Quite to the contrary. We've heard a multitude
18 of ways in which this project will seriously
19 harm the state's economy. Lots of other
20 arguments against it.

21 None of the arguments in support of this
22 project has convinced me that this project will
23 do anything at all to improve the lives of the

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1 citizens of this town or of the state. The
2 folks who proposed it seem to be saying well, we
3 suspect there will be an increase in demand. We
4 don't really know where. We aren't sure how
5 much and we can't predict when. So let's spend
6 a lot of money right now on this thing, trash
7 New Hampshire's landscape, trash New Hampshire's
8 economy, kind of keep our fingers crossed and
9 well, that's one hell of a fine business plan, I
10 think.

11 While there's no doubt that there will be
12 an increase in the energy demand in the future
13 in this part of the country, building a
14 transmission line from some other country is not
15 the best way to meet that demand. A
16 transmission line is a 19th century tool. This
17 is the 21st century, and we have a 21st century
18 challenge and 21st century tools already exist
19 that can help meet this challenge. More of
20 these tools are on the drafting tables right now
21 and still more have not even been conceived of.

22 Most of these new tools can be applied to,
23 for example, generation at the point of demand.

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1 A flexible, adaptable solution to meet any need
2 for more energy at any particular location at
3 any particular time. You build it when and if
4 you need it. You build it exactly where you
5 need it. You build it at a scale that meets the
6 need, and you get to use the best technology
7 that's available at the time. It's the future,
8 it's flexible, adaptable, independent of foreign
9 sources.

10 As Charles Darwin pointed out an organism
11 has to have the ability to adapt to changing
12 conditions in order to be successful, and we
13 want this organism called New Hampshire and the
14 USA to be successful. The project under
15 consideration does not move us towards future
16 success. It is not flexible, it is not
17 adaptable, it is not official, reliable. It
18 perpetuates dependence on foreign energy
19 sources. It ties us down to the past.

20 Please stamp this dinosaur dead on arrival.
21 Do not resuscitate or whatever else you have to
22 stamp on it. Let's move out of the 19th century
23 and into the 21st. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your
2 comments, Fred. Our next speaker, Joe Brown.

3 SPEAKER: Thank you, sir. Due to the many
4 brilliant comments earlier today I will remove
5 some of my speech and just cover two. The
6 Department of Energy was founded during the
7 Carter administration, I believe for the
8 self-sufficiency of energy for the United
9 States. Relying on Canada does not fulfill that
10 mandate. Two words. Cape Wind. It's already
11 approved in November. 130 wind turbines.
12 There's a lot more Cape Wind projects on the
13 maps. And if you look at a map for the wind
14 potential around Massachusetts, you'll find
15 about 100 linear miles from Long Island up to
16 Portsmouth where the maps end by about ten miles
17 wide, at least, of optimal wind energy to
18 harvest.

19 It seems to me that Canada mistimed this a
20 little bit about by 20 years. Cape Wind is
21 going to be available in a very short-term.
22 They're building it. Not only has Cape Wind got
23 130 wind terminals going in, there's follow-on

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1 projects for a lot more. I suspect that a
2 thousand square miles of optimal wind that's
3 really green, truly green, we're going to have a
4 call go up to Montreal and say hey, folks, we've
5 got some extra energy down here in
6 Massachusetts. Need some?

7 Now my comment to the audience. You may
8 think that this is a monolithic crowd and today
9 tonight and in this place it is. That's great.
10 But I was down in Franklin last Tuesday. If
11 anybody was at Franklin with me on Tuesday, they
12 heard -- thank you. At least one. Few more.
13 They heard the town mayor and the City Manager
14 and the Police Chief and former City managers
15 and town mayors and future mayors, anybody else
16 who wanted to get up and talk about their tax
17 base, and I have to say that Northern Pass
18 management was very cagey in making Franklin
19 which is one of the poorest towns in the state
20 the location for their power grid, their
21 substation. So they got at least, this Board
22 got at least one night of positive feedback for
23 Northern Pass.

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1 Now, Northern Pass has its supporters. You
2 may find a lot of people in the State
3 legislature that want Northern Pass. The people
4 from Franklin certainly are lobbying for it, but
5 there's probably a lot of legislators and state
6 senators from the southern part of the state who
7 also think it's a great deal. They could care
8 less about your views.

9 So here's my plan for you. You have to
10 inundate everybody you can find down there that
11 you elected into office, and you've got to write
12 them letters and you've got to e-mail them,
13 you've got to get them on the phone. You're got
14 to stand in front of their desk and you've got
15 to stand on top of their desk and yell at their
16 face. And if you can't get your representatives
17 to support you up here, you've got to get to the
18 leadership in the House and the leadership in
19 the Senate and say look, there's something going
20 on up there.

21 You don't need the power down in southern
22 New Hampshire. Massachusetts has got their own
23 power potential. It's a strategic thing. I

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1 want America to have their own energy. I don't
2 want to rely on Canada.

3 MODERATOR: You're currently 30 seconds
4 over.

5 SPEAKER: Very good, sir. Thank you for
6 listening.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
8 Joe. Our next speaker, Andrew Hancock. I'd
9 also like to invite up Gordon Rowley, A. John
10 Franz, Roman -- apologize. The handwriting
11 wasn't that great for me. Sywenky?

12 SPEAKER: (Andrew Hancock) Appreciate the
13 opportunity to speak. Few things I would like,
14 first, my first request is that something needs
15 to be clarified. The line voltage of this line
16 coming down is, all the PR paperwork that
17 they're passing around is stating that it's 1200
18 megawatts and it's going to be DC power and so
19 forth and so on. What I'm interested in is what
20 happens when you convert that to AC.

21 The documentation available on one of the
22 Hydro Quebec's websites states that it is 410
23 kV. The largest transmission line that we use

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1 in New Hampshire for our own purposes is 345 kV.
2 That's 345,000 volts, okay? And if the
3 literature on the Hydro Quebec website is right,
4 they're going to be bringing down 410,000 volts,
5 not 345,000. Capacity of this line is much
6 bigger. So I'd like that clarified because I've
7 asked the question to Public Service a few
8 times, and they talk about yeah, it's going to
9 be a 345 kV line once it gets into the grid down
10 here. That's not my question. My question is
11 what are these people going to have coming
12 through their backyard. According to Hydro
13 Quebec, it's 410,000 if you convert it to AC.
14 Is that clear? If it's not, I can talk to you
15 later. I'll put it in writing.

16 Right now people have been saying it's a 25
17 percent overcapacity in the state of New
18 Hampshire. We make 25 percent more than what we
19 use. Right now there's four power plants that
20 are just about going out of business with about
21 400 people looking to lose their jobs while all
22 the time Public Service is negotiating with
23 Laidlaw for a 50 or 60 kW plant in Berlin. Just

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1 doesn't make a lot of sense to shut four plants
2 down, build one new one plus get this power into
3 the grid that they think we need.

4 I'd like to talk briefly about the tax
5 impact. Everybody that owns land adjacent to
6 these lines I'm sure is going to be going for
7 abatements. So are the people who live in the
8 neighborhoods because if your neighbor has one
9 of these lines going on their house it's going
10 to affect your property. I would suggest that
11 the 22 million dollars in taxes that they say
12 they're going to kick in every year would be
13 wiped out easily by the value of the abatements.
14 That needs to be looked at. Wasn't done in the
15 economic study that they did.

16 I'd also like you to include four things in
17 the study that have been addressed. I'll
18 summarize them quickly. I'd like to see the ISO
19 review done just like everybody else, every
20 other business has to do it. I'd like to see
21 the economic study redone to include all the
22 impacts such as tax abatements. Public Service
23 admitted they didn't include those, and I'd like

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1 to have the environmental study include the
2 environmental impacts north of the border. It's
3 ridiculous to just say that they don't exist.

4 We don't need this thing. We don't need
5 the power, and it's evident if the gentleman is
6 correct who said that that 1200 megawatts has to
7 be available to go both ways, that's even more
8 evidence that we don't need that power here
9 because there's not an additional 1200 megawatt
10 in capacity plan anywhere in the northeast, if
11 you follow what I'm saying, to be able to go the
12 other way. I'd just like to see this stopped,
13 the sooner the better. Thank you.

14 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
15 Andrew. I have one announcement. A number of
16 attendees had asked for a map of Thornton, and
17 we were told that we didn't think we had that
18 map. The map has been located in a stack of
19 other maps, and Ellen in the back has those maps
20 if anyone would like them. Our next speaker,
21 William LaFontaine.

22 SPEAKER: (William LaFontaine) Thank you,
23 Mr. Moderator. Ladies and gentlemen, this is

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1 indeed epitome of democracy we see here tonight,
2 and I thank you for all coming out. The
3 economist J.W. Smith has a trenchant of truth to
4 tell us. An enormous share of our wealth had
5 been stolen. That theft began with the
6 monopolization of land by especially a few
7 wealthy elites. They then quickly moved on to
8 the monopolization of technology and labor. At
9 first people fought back against the thieves,
10 but initial conquests gave way to laws
11 structured to protect the rights of these
12 thieves. The final step was the erasure of this
13 history from our social memory paired with the
14 concomitant mythology that condones the theft of
15 the commons declaring any suggestion of a more
16 equitable arrangement infeasible, ineffectual or
17 impossible. We now accept monopolization as
18 normal and thus it harms the world's poor to
19 workers in the industrial world and ultimately
20 to the planet are rendered invisible.

21 From the Whole Earth Catalog, I remember
22 from the '60s a quote that said in the history
23 of the world it will be written that we murdered

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1 the earth. Also I have a quote from Derrick
2 Jensen's book End Game which I think is most
3 poignant. Those in power have made it so we
4 have to pay simply to exist on the planet.
5 Those in power will repress us, no matter what
6 we do or don't do, and if we do anything, they
7 will ratchet it up. What is our solution?
8 Probably the most common chosen solution which
9 is no solution at all is to never upset those in
10 power. That is, to use tactics deemed
11 acceptable to those in power. The main
12 advantage of pursuing this nonoption is you get
13 to feel good about yourself for fighting the
14 good fight against the system of exploitation
15 while not exactly putting at risk the benefits
16 you gain from this same system.

17 Isn't this precisely the purpose of this
18 public hearing? They're humoring us with a
19 semblance of airing of our opinions, but you
20 will indeed proceed anyway, sirs. If we resist
21 to the point of defiance, the police will be
22 called in to disperse the group or arrest the
23 offenders. This is not democracy. This is

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1 fascism. We do not err because the truth is
2 difficult to see. It is visible at a glance.
3 We err because this is more comfortable which
4 was said by Alexander Solzhenitsyn. And that's
5 what we're looking for. More comfort.

6 However, if we do not take our circumstance
7 of unsustainability, Mother Nature will do it
8 for us without pity. I guarantee it. Future
9 generations will look back at us and say what
10 were you thinking? Why didn't you see the
11 truth? Why did you use it all up so now there
12 is little left for us, our children or our
13 children's children to enjoy what was once had
14 in abundance. Why.

15 Before we spend megabucks contributing to
16 the unsustainability of civilization and you may
17 think hydropower is perfectly sustainable but
18 it's not. It will require a generation of
19 fossil fuel base that is rapidly disappearing to
20 manufacture and sustain the infrastructure of
21 the grid. In fact, this is needed even for
22 solar or wind power so we're in quite a fix,
23 aren't we?

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1 In Germany, they have subsidized the banks
2 to, well, they have not exactly subsidized but I
3 did some research on this and found that the
4 banks in Germany are giving low interest loans
5 to the citizens for solar power.

6 MODERATOR: Sorry. I have to cut you off.

7 SPEAKER: May I say in summary we are
8 living in a playground of idiotic mistakes.
9 Global as well as economic capitalism revolves
10 around four impossible factors supporting
11 unsustainability. Constantly expanding base of
12 cheap resources, constantly expanding markets, a
13 need for constantly expanding labor and a need
14 and this is what the Northern Pass about
15 constantly expanding cheap energy. It is also
16 intermingled with the above constantly expanding
17 consumption. These factors are about to cause
18 corporate profits to decline. This cannot and
19 should not be sustained as a local nor global
20 model. In our comfort of denial, we don't like
21 to think about these things. You will proceed
22 under it nonetheless and propagate an
23 unsustainable paradigm. Welcome to the end of

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1 the world.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments. I
3 apologize that I had to interrupt you, but I'm
4 just trying to keep to time. I'm going to
5 invite up Peter Fauver. Gretchen Draper. Next
6 speaker, Scott Grey. And there are about, I
7 would say about 17 left on my current list.

8 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Scott
9 Grey. 69 Sargent Road, Holderness, New
10 Hampshire, 03245. Andy Hancock is my neighbor,
11 and I'm the one who owns the power line. So
12 last October when the announcement about this
13 came out, I believe my property value went down
14 a hundred thousand dollars. I am now underwater
15 on my mortgage. The only good thing is I'm not
16 financed by a local bank so nobody's going to
17 come as long as I keep making the payments. If
18 the high power line goes through and goes
19 through my property, it's very possible that my
20 property will become unsalable because my house
21 is 250 feet from the existing power line, and it
22 will be about 350 feet from the new one. I am
23 like lots of other people who are going to be

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1 impacted, and we'll be collateral damage. If
2 this goes through, some people get hurt.

3 I think probably the most constructive
4 suggestion that we could make to DOE is to
5 consider the possibility that if Vermont really
6 wants the power line to come down through the
7 Northeast Kingdom like it does from the same
8 switching station right now and switches over
9 near St. Johnsbury and goes to Littleton, New
10 Hampshire, to pick up the power from Moore Dam
11 and then cuts back up and goes down the western
12 side. If this power line were to come down from
13 the same switching station in Canada and where
14 it goes over the Connecticut River dropped down
15 in the Connecticut River and be submerged, it
16 could go all the way to Connecticut, avoid New
17 Hampshire completely and the power could be
18 converted some place south of New Hampshire,
19 easily go into the grid, and we would not have
20 any reason for this meeting because everything
21 would be done, and there would be no objections
22 and everybody would be happy except the Northern
23 Pass people. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
2 Scott. Next speaker, Neil Irvine.

3 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. You
4 have a chart to present to the panel.

5 MODERATOR: I have delivered that as
6 requested.

7 SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Moderator,
8 members of the panel, thank you for the
9 opportunity to speak this evening. One of the
10 many questions that must be considered is do we
11 need the energy that would be transmitted over
12 this line. Consider that New Hampshire has an
13 energy surplus producing 40 percent more than we
14 consume as clearly illustrated in the attached
15 chart of New Hampshire energy consumption over
16 the past 50 years and that New England as a
17 whole has an energy surplus of 18 percent. The
18 math clearly illustrates that the energy need
19 lies elsewhere, and I submit that the solution
20 should be sought within those states that
21 consume more than they produce without
22 decimating the quality of life or natural beauty
23 of our neighbors. So no, we do not need this

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1 project in New Hampshire.

2 Additionally, I refer you to page 3 of the
3 2009 - 2013 strategic plan published by Hydro
4 Quebec in which their stated objective is to
5 increase generating capacity and increase
6 exports. One way for Hydro Quebec to ensure an
7 increase in their exports to displace our local
8 New England energy producers. The promise of
9 1000 temporary jobs during the construction
10 phase instead of real full-time employment
11 opportunities is no benefit, no matter how it's
12 packaged.

13 Hydro Quebec has no allegiance to the
14 people of New Hampshire. Their responsibility
15 lies solely to the bottom line and to their
16 investors. While we wait for Congress to
17 develop a real long-term energy plan for the
18 country, I would submit that supplanting a
19 dependency on foreign oil for a dependency on
20 foreign electricity is a flawed policy. So
21 again, no, we do not need this project in New
22 Hampshire. I humbly submit that the Department
23 of Energy reject the application and deny the

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1 Presidential permit. Thank you.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
3 Neil. Our next speaker, Gordon Rowley.

4 SPEAKER: Gordon Rowley, 4 Merrill Road,
5 Campton, 03223. After participating in a public
6 committee hearing of the New Hampshire House in
7 Concord, New Hampshire, on March 9th of this
8 year, it came clearly stated that no community
9 in the several proposed routes by Northeast
10 Utilities is in favor of this proposed project
11 with the possible exception of Franklin, New
12 Hampshire. After conducting our annual City
13 meetings within the state, almost every
14 community voted in favor of an article that
15 voiced opposition to this project as presented
16 by Northeast Utilities. These collective
17 articles are the voice of the people. We, the
18 people, have spoken and you, sirs and ma'am,
19 should listen. You will hear many views about
20 this project and multiple reasons against and
21 some in favor of Northern Pass. While all
22 points have a place, the most important is the
23 wishes of the public that will be affected by

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1 this project. We, those affected by the
2 installation of these towers, do not want them.
3 This is more than a "not in my backyard"
4 syndrome. This is a scar on the land. This
5 land is some of the most beautiful land in the
6 United States. It is the land that millions
7 travel through for tourist activities and the
8 comfort of nature. This is the land that
9 thousands have worked to preserve for our
10 children and their children. This is not about
11 electrical power or the type of power or the
12 need of power outside this state. It is about a
13 project that will scar the land for many years
14 to come. It is about a special land that must
15 be protected. If this power is needed outside
16 the State of New Hampshire, an alternate
17 solution is required. Such a solution should be
18 of a nature that our environment is protected
19 and the humans who inhabit the affected area are
20 not harmed. Thank you for your time.

21 MODERATOR: Thank you, George, for your
22 comments. Next speaker, A. John Franz. Maybe
23 not. Do we have a John Franz? If you're here,

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1 let me know. Our next speaker then will be
2 Roman Sywenkj and I'd like to call up Frank
3 Miller, Kevin Saba, Barry Draper.

4 SPEAKER: Roman Sywenkyj. 57 Mill Brook
5 Road, Thornton, New Hampshire. 03285. New zip
6 code recently. I'm totally opposed to the
7 preferred route of the Northern Pass especially
8 as concerns the White Mountains, the White
9 Mountain National Forest. When you leave a town
10 and drive into the White Mountain National
11 Forest, you suddenly, it's a big change and it
12 takes a while to realize what that change is,
13 and you realize there are absolutely no
14 transmission wires. No transmission wires
15 visible, and I'm sure Tom Wagner can address
16 that issue. They're buried some place because
17 the homes in the areas do have electricity. I
18 don't think they run generators.

19 On a personal level, tourism in central and
20 northern New Hampshire is a part of business
21 here. I know because I have been coming here,
22 after coming here since about the age of 20 as a
23 tourist, I decided to settle here six years ago

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1 in the town of Thornton. I used some of my
2 401(k) money to purchase three properties,
3 relatively modest properties, and I built my
4 retirement home on one of them. My retirement
5 home is not too far from the transmission lines
6 or the proposed transmission lines.

7 My grandson now, my daughter also decided
8 to settle here, I have a grandson in the
9 Thornton Central School. The transmission lines
10 will be running approximately 800 yards or less,
11 the playground probably less, in back of the
12 school. I have not seen any maps that show me
13 businesses, schools, playgrounds. I have to go
14 to Google Earth to figure out how far the school
15 was from the transmission lines.

16 All three of my properties I bought will be
17 somewhat affected by the transmission lines.
18 I'm sure there are many more stories like mine
19 that could be heard from many people. Thank
20 you.

21 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
22 Our next speaker. Peter Fauver. And just to
23 clarify, he did not speak previously. That was

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1 a Fred Fauver.

2 SPEAKER: We are related, I'll have you
3 know. You pronounced his last name similar to
4 mine. My name is Peter Fauver. I am a
5 landowner in this town, and I live in Freedom,
6 New Hampshire, 03336. I'm speaking today,
7 tonight, not only for myself but for a
8 95-year-old man, 90-year-old woman who are my
9 parents who own 600 acres of land in this town.
10 They, I believe, are one of the largest private
11 landowners in the town. I think their property
12 was referenced by the head of the Conservation
13 Commission.

14 This is land which they've been acquiring
15 for half a century. It has views up through the
16 White Mountains up into Franconias, up into the
17 Waterville range. It is beautiful land. They
18 have chosen not to develop it, but to conserve
19 it. They have managed it, and it's been their
20 desire to maintain this in perpetuity. The
21 alternate route as proposed by Northern Pass
22 would gut this property. It would tear the
23 heart and soul right out of it. It would

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1 destroy the environment that surrounds the land,
2 it would destroy the natural features which have
3 been so precious to them but more precious to
4 the town of Plymouth. It would destroy any
5 value from a distance where there's so many
6 buildable areas, and I ask for one thing that
7 the DOE consider a study which will consider and
8 take into consideration the visual views which
9 are lost and the visual value of property which
10 is decreased because of Northern Pass.

11 It is not just those properties which are
12 nearby. It is those that look off in the
13 distance, five, ten, 15 miles away which are
14 significantly affected. It is a large swath,
15 not just a focused swath, and I ask DOE in their
16 work to undertake a study of that.

17 Secondly, from a policy standpoint, from a
18 policy decision, policy standpoint, there is a
19 policy decision to be considered. Is it good
20 national and environmental policy to permit the
21 crossing of an international boundary
22 disfiguring one state such as you would do it
23 would happen in New Hampshire when the primary

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1 beneficiary, both financial and otherwise, are
2 in another state which are southern New England
3 and New Hampshire would be a conduit for this
4 process, and our benefits would be limited if
5 any. I think it's not good policy. And I ask
6 that policy be looked at very carefully and
7 become a part of the decision. Thank you.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your
9 comments, Peter. Our next speaker, Gretchen
10 Draper. Next invited up, James Puglisi, Robert
11 Giuda, Clare Mowbray. When you're ready.

12 SPEAKER: All right. My name is Gretchen
13 Draper. Live at 423 Blake Hill Road in New
14 Hampton, 03256. I'm going to be actively
15 involved and impacted by this right-of-way, that
16 right of way. I have Percy Mountain behind me
17 with its largely protected land. The land
18 slopes down. There's our house that we built in
19 1977. About quarter of mile from that there's
20 an existing right-of-way which is proposed to be
21 widened, blasted, drilled. It's one of those
22 places that has huge inclines so we'll be
23 looking at the larger pylons and lines if this

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1 project goes through.

2 Now, I've been really impressed by all this
3 sincerity here, the great songs that they sang,
4 but I have not been impressed at all by the
5 corporations who are supposedly bringing us
6 information; that being NStar, Northeast
7 Utilities, Hydro Quebec and our very own Public
8 Service, and that's why it's so important that
9 we're here to talk to the United States
10 Department of Energy which is above that private
11 corporation. So I have some very specific
12 things for you folks to look at because I don't
13 think I'm going to get any good answers from the
14 Public Service of New Hampshire.

15 So I believe that we need a very in-depth
16 and historical review and public disclosure of
17 environmental history of all these corporations
18 that are going to come in and build this
19 project, so they think. I want to know about
20 the environmental accidents, I want to know
21 about oil spills which NStar does in Watertown,
22 Mass. I want to know about the fines paid, and
23 I want to know about the corporate culture. I

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1 want to know if they've made any changes to the
2 philosophy in their company. I also hope this,
3 well, I don't hope, I want this environmental
4 concern to go up into Hydro Quebec. There's a
5 very interesting award winning documentary
6 called *Chercher le courant*, and it's all about
7 Hydro Quebec projects on the Romaine River.
8 This is the water that's going to come down to
9 create the power that comes through New
10 Hampshire, and it's not clean and it's not
11 green.

12 I also request an investigation of the
13 impact that's going to happen to my little
14 section of the right of way; mainly for noise,
15 for herbicides that will be used in the
16 maintenance. What happens when they blast and
17 they drill? I have a dug well like someone else
18 here tonight. I don't expect that I'm going to
19 be able to continue this.

20 All right. I also, I work with learning
21 disabled kids and kids with serious health
22 problems so I'm very concerned about the health
23 risks of the electromagnetic lines. I would

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1 like that thoroughly looked at. The only
2 reports I can find from the companies at large
3 were written in 1999. I want something
4 definitely that talks about current brain
5 research.

6 And I finally want, I really want the
7 Department of Energy to do a thorough assessment
8 to include the no action alternative to this
9 draft proposal. No action means get rid of it.
10 It's not a good project. We are not a wasteland
11 for these private corporations. This is
12 multi-national corporations.

13 I travel a lot. I've been to Peru,
14 Ecuador, Costa Rica. I've seen what big
15 corporations do to rain forests. Well, we've
16 got our own rain forest here, and it's our
17 own -- it will be a slash and burn, and I don't
18 think that that's what we want to leave as our
19 legacy, and I think we need to stand up and say
20 no to it right now. Thank you.

21 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
22 Gretchen. Our next speaker, Frank Miller.
23 Kevin Saba? Who are you?

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1 SPEAKER: I'm Barry Draper.

2 MODERATOR: Yes, you're after him.

3 SPEAKER: (Barry Draper) You had me after
4 Gretchen Draper who happens to be my wife, and
5 it's really a difficult act to follow so I'll be
6 glad to go after this man.

7 SPEAKER: (Kevin Saba) Thanks a lot.

8 MODERATOR: I apologize for any confusion.

9 SPEAKER: (Kevin Saba) It's interesting
10 when you take a look at the room like this as
11 large as this filled the way it was earlier. I
12 wonder whether or not when you look at the
13 political realities whether you're really in
14 sort of a mode of coming up with an alternative
15 because it's pretty clear that going overland
16 above ground does not have a whole lot of
17 support in a state that doesn't get a lot of
18 benefit so I don't know who's here that's a
19 politician or a represents a politician, but I
20 know that if my boss were going to support this
21 thing, I'd be looking for another job right now.
22 I mean it.

23 What we need to do if we believe that

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1 there's a solution here is to find an
2 alternative, and I wonder whether or not we've
3 looked at something as simple as burying this
4 thing on the breakdown lane of 93 where you can
5 get access to it with all of your equipment.
6 It's right there. Federal permits have to be
7 easier to get than state permits which I don't
8 think you're going to be able to get on this
9 one. So I offer 93 as an alternative proposal
10 to figure out whether there's a way to do it
11 because I'm really having a difficult time
12 understanding politically how this thing gets
13 through the state. And I'm a regular guy, but I
14 happen to have done half a dozen presidential
15 compaigns, been Deputy National Political in
16 one, have been in 24 states, hundreds of cities
17 and towns and I have to tell you I've never seen
18 a Friday night audience as packed as you've got
19 here, and there are hundreds of people behind
20 you. Politically, I think you've got a real
21 problem and I'd be looking for an alternative.

22 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
23 Kevin. Are you Barry Draper?

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1 SPEAKER: Yes, I am. Barry Draper. The
2 other half of Gretchen. That doesn't sound
3 good. I am Barry Draper from New Hampton, New
4 Hampshire, 03256. I have just returned from my
5 one-person photography exhibit called "Nature
6 Under our Noses" that was hosted by the UASD,
7 the largest public university in the Dominican
8 Republic. My photographs were taken near my
9 home in central New Hampshire, and as a science
10 teacher and photographer I am asked to present
11 workshops on the natural world to students and
12 general audiences.

13 I have lived in my hand-built house in New
14 Hampton, New Hampshire, since 1977. Over the
15 past 30 years I have personally observed and
16 recorded the following Endangered Indicator
17 Species all within one half mile of the proposed
18 right-of-way expansion for Northern Pass. The
19 Endangered Indicator Species that I've seen has
20 been Blandings turtle, nesting wood turtles,
21 leopard frog, smooth green snake, nesting
22 osprey, nesting eagles, mountain lions. Two
23 sightings in the same location within an 8-year

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1 period. I'm afraid you are not going to catch
2 this in the next year looking for that. I would
3 like you to talk with me about these.

4 I have also witnessed a major decline in
5 the number of migrating yellow spotted
6 salamanders over the past nine years. Part of
7 the reason for that decline is from the logging
8 that is done on the edges of this existing power
9 line. I'm sure there will be more, and I won't
10 go into those, but that was a problem.

11 On March 15th, 2011, I flew from Bristol,
12 New Hampshire, to Indian Stream in Pittsburgh in
13 a small plane. I'm getting a wicked headache.
14 Uh-oh. We followed the preferred route of the
15 Northern Pass. My fears of this devastation and
16 the environmental impact of this project have
17 been confirmed and solidified. The Northern
18 Pass transmission lines will permanently sever
19 habitats that are not fragmented at this time.
20 It proposes to take land that is under permanent
21 protection.

22 I thoroughly reject that Northern Pass
23 proposal. I request a new thorough and rigorous

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1 review of the Endangered Indicator Species along
2 the path of this project, and, more importantly,
3 the impact on the habitat, migration and
4 ultimate survival of these populations. Thank
5 you very much.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Barry, for
7 your comments. Our next speaker, James Puglisi.
8 I also want to invite up Richard Hage, Sallie
9 Fellows, Gisela Estes.

10 SPEAKER: I'm James Puglisi. I live at 223
11 Bell Road in Plymouth, New Hampshire, and I'm an
12 electrical contractor so I have more than a
13 passing interest in managing electrons. My
14 directions is toward Mr. Mills and the DOE. In
15 the proposal for the Northern Pass, they have to
16 have an alternate, and the way I look at that
17 distribution from my point of view as an
18 electrical contractor is that it's basically the
19 same pipeline, and all that has been done is
20 that they've made these little roundabouts all
21 in private land that does not impact any public
22 land which would also mean that they would not
23 have to go through a lot of processes of

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1 meetings, regulatory things with multiple
2 agencies in order to shorten the process of
3 moving power north to south or however it's
4 going to go. So what I'm looking at, basically,
5 is if you look at that map of all those, they're
6 betting on or hedging on, in my opinion, of
7 taking it by eminent domain which is a little
8 uncomfortable.

9 Also I don't think it's a true alternative.
10 Multiple people here tonight have talked about
11 alternate means of subterranean, all sorts of
12 other things. My feeling is Canada has a ton of
13 power. If they want it in the United States,
14 they've got to bring it to the United States the
15 way the United States wants it brought to the
16 United States and one way they can do it is run
17 it through Canada. Go east. Go through the
18 Provinces, go through the Maritimes, give them
19 permission to come into the coast of Maine
20 somewhere, subterranean lines. Wherever they
21 want the power, bring it in. It's going to cost
22 more financially, but the cost here is
23 tremendous. The environment, way of life.

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1 Mr. Fauver here, I know where he lives. I'm the
2 postman. It's absolutely gorgeous land. It is
3 a crime of immense nature to put that type of
4 power line here. It's also a power line that's
5 so out of scale for this area. I know our power
6 lines and distribution. This thing is way out
7 of scale. Okay? This thing it's a tragedy in
8 the making.

9 We've already seen a major tragedy going on
10 in Japan. We don't need one in New Hampshire.
11 This is a wrong decision. I think the DOE only
12 has one point of entry to the United States.
13 That's not an alternate. That's one point of
14 entry. I think you should not allow that to
15 happen. That's my comment. Thank you.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
17 James. Our next speaker. Robert Giuda. Am I
18 close?

19 SPEAKER: Thank you. Bob Giuda from
20 Warren. That's the town with the Redstone
21 missile, and we've kept the Russians away for 50
22 years. I'd like to say that all of this is as a
23 result of living on a farm that has transmission

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1 lines across it, but I can't make that
2 scientific.

3 I speak in strong opposition to this. I
4 have served my state and my country, both as a
5 military officer and a Selectman, as a
6 moderator, as a state representative, as deputy
7 majority leader of the New Hampshire House. I
8 in fact had the honor of being prime and sole
9 sponsor of Section 12 A of the New Hampshire
10 Constitution, the result of a decision in which
11 public entities took private properties and
12 turned them over to other private entities for
13 the purpose of gain, either in tax base or in
14 employment or their friends, the contractors.
15 That's a critical decision where Justice Souter
16 was vilified but actually gave to the states the
17 right to make the determination as to who and
18 how would we take private property for public
19 use. The issue of need arises. Scientifically
20 proven now there is no need, either within New
21 Hampshire which produces a 50 percent surplus of
22 the power we use or now with the ISO study
23 within the regional grid. There's no need.

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1 Secondly, I think that your travels around
2 our state would indicate to you that there's no
3 desire. There's a very strong opposition from
4 the population of this state to keep that which
5 has made us great ours and not sacrifice it for
6 commercial good. Specifically addressed, by the
7 way, in the constitution and regulations that
8 were put in place by the Senate as part of that
9 Constitutional amendment. Who benefits?
10 Certainly not New Hampshire. Certainly not our
11 environment, not our businesses, not our
12 property owners. Boston is south. Canada
13 north. Money goes north, the power goes south,
14 we carry the burden on our businesses that's
15 already struggling, our economy which is
16 perilously weak and on the backs of our property
17 owners.

18 This project violates not only the desire
19 and the constitutionality, it violates the
20 intended spirit of what New Hampshire is about.
21 Of what people come here for both as tourists, 9
22 million a year, to the White Mountain National
23 Forest, and as people that come here to live. I

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1 would ask you in your deliberations to consider
2 the need. There is none. Consider our country
3 and what's happening with money going to Canada
4 for power being used for the south that's not
5 necessary. Consider your responsibility as
6 Department of Energy to find ways to rid
7 ourselves of the dependency on foreign energy
8 sources. It's right in your mission. I do
9 believe that you'll do the job, and I thank you
10 for offering the opportunity to speak.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
12 Robert. Our next speaker, Clare Mowbray.

13 SPEAKER: Hi. I am Clare Mowbray. I live
14 at 135 Shepard Hill Road in Holderness, New
15 Hampshire, 03245. I'm opposed to this. I think
16 it's a dinosaur aspect of all of this, but one
17 of the things that hasn't really been addressed
18 yet and I think that needs to be addressed by
19 the commission is the effect of herbicides on
20 the right of ways. In 1989 I spent a year when
21 we were living in Sandwich, New Hampshire,
22 trying to research and present to the people
23 some of the dire aspects of herbicide poisoning

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1 from herbicide spraying underneath all these
2 power lines, and I think there are so many
3 environmental hazards, not only to people and to
4 animals. You have organic farmers where farms
5 are affected by spraying. The herbicides go
6 into the ground water, into the wells, into our
7 river systems and this is a huge, huge problem.
8 I mean, I've got one tenth of the research that
9 I did that year. It's a very small thing
10 compared to all these other things that have
11 been presented by people tonight that all in
12 total represent a reason why this is not a sane
13 alternative to supposedly needing more energy.
14 I agree with people who previously said perhaps
15 we need to cut down on the idea of always using
16 more and more energy.

17 I invite people if anyone is ever
18 interested to get some of this information from
19 me. I live in Holderness. The name is Mowbray,
20 and I think this needs to be really researched.
21 And what are they planning to do under these
22 huge towers? How are they planning to clear the
23 land? The land has to be kept clear. What

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1 particular type of herbicides are going to be
2 used? This is all very important stuff. Thank
3 you very much.

4 MODERATOR: Thank you, Clare, for your
5 comments. Our next speaker, Richard Hage.

6 SPEAKER: Thank you. Dick Hage, 35 Smith
7 Street, Plymouth, 03264. I'm opposed for many
8 reasons. Here are some. Any transmission
9 design that in any way jeopardizes the health of
10 livestock, wildlife and humans is simply
11 unacceptable. New Hampshire, Massachusetts and
12 Connecticut have both the capacity and the
13 economic and job development needs to create our
14 own sources of energy in locally based safer and
15 sustainable ways. A conduit through New
16 Hampshire which robs New Hampshire of similar
17 economic and job development opportunities and
18 sends Massachusetts and Connecticut profit
19 resources to Quebec is very bad state and U.S.
20 policy, and I love Canada. No project that
21 increases land erosion so significantly
22 interrupts wildlife and flora habitat and
23 diminishes our forest's ability to absorb carbon

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1 should ever be allowed. We have a climate
2 problem. Super voltage transmission that
3 threatens or children's health such as with the
4 adjacent Profile School site is sinful. 90 to
5 135 foot towers adjacent to businesses and
6 recreation and tourist attractions such as the
7 proposed Owls Nest site is economically
8 irreversibly negative.

9 Tourism is a major economic driver for New
10 Hampshire. Skyscraping towers will at best
11 engender erector set nostalgia. No citizen of
12 this country should ever have his or her land
13 devalued or stolen by eminent domain.

14 We are a people who deeply cherish our
15 land. We take backyard and mountaintop photos,
16 and we send them to our distant friends and
17 relatives with captions that speak of God's
18 country. I want the quality of my
19 grandchildren's lives to be as good as mine.

20 Finally, for our local residents who may
21 not know, if NP comes to fruition the view we so
22 love looking east to the Holderness Ridge will
23 be littered every 800 feet north to south along

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1 its entire span. For 36 years I've traveled 93
2 north. The highlight is my favorite 6-mile view
3 from Ashland's Windsock Hill. You know the
4 feeling as our beloved Pemi Baker Valley comes
5 into view, but I will already have passed mile
6 after mile of distracting towers. I pray that
7 tomorrow as I peer into our valley this enormous
8 scar will not render her a mere memory. Thank
9 you.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
11 Richard. Our next speaker is Sallie Fellows.

12 SPEAKER: Sallie Fellows. I live on Mt.
13 Prospect Road in Holderness, New Hampshire,
14 03245. I'm going to talk about just one issue.
15 Location. The United States Department of
16 Energy is responsible for identifying areas of
17 the country where consumers are adversely
18 affected by transmission capacity constraints
19 and congestion. There are two such areas known
20 as National Interest Electric Transmission
21 Corridors. One is in the southwest, the other
22 is in the northeast. It includes all of New
23 Jersey, parts of New York, and parts of New York

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1 that stretch from New York City to the Canadian
2 border. It does not include any of the New
3 England states. This means that the U.S.
4 Department of Energy believes that there is a
5 serious need for transmission lines in New York
6 but not in New Hampshire.

7 So please address these questions in the
8 Environmental Impact Statement. Why through New
9 Hampshire? Why not via the designated corridor
10 to reach Connecticut via New Jersey? If the
11 route must be in New Hampshire, then why to
12 Franklin and then Deerfield? Where could you
13 locate a converter station so that the route to
14 reach it would have the smallest negative
15 impact? Thank you.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your time. You
17 can clap a little more if you'd like. I
18 apologize for interrupting it. Thank you for
19 your comments, Sallie. Our next speaker, the
20 last one on my preregistered list, Gisela Estes.

21 SPEAKER: My name is Gisela Estes. I live
22 in Plymouth at One Maple Street, 03264, and I'm
23 proud to be a New Hampshire resident. I've

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1 lived in this state now for 45 years, but you
2 can tell I was not born here. I came over here
3 from Germany. And the reason I'm speaking today
4 is because maybe I can give you some things that
5 they do in Germany that could be copied here.

6 I am against this Northern Pass project for
7 all the reasons that you have already heard so I
8 won't repeat any, but every time I travel to
9 Germany I am just so amazed about all the solar
10 panels that people have on their homes, on their
11 garages, in their back yards. Some bigger, some
12 are smaller, but they're just everywhere.
13 They're millions of little power plants.

14 We don't need this power from Hydro Quebec.
15 That is not green power. And I urge the
16 Department of Energy to look into truly green
17 power like these voltaic cells that are built
18 with the help of banks, of companies, so that
19 local people can afford them, and the power that
20 is not used is being fed back into the grid and
21 can be used by those people who need more. And
22 if these would be built in this country, and the
23 research for making them better and for being

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1 able to store the energy better, that would
2 generate clean jobs for this country which we
3 need.

4 And furthermore, you might think that we
5 might not have enough sun in New Hampshire to
6 have these voltaic panels. Germany lies as far
7 north as James Bay. This is kind of strange
8 that it's exactly the same, as far north as the
9 Quebec power that comes here and they have
10 enough sun. They get a lot of rain just like we
11 do. They have enough sun. If they can do it.
12 We can do it, too.

13 MODERATOR: Gisela, thank you for your
14 comments.

15 SPEAKER: It's Gisela.

16 MODERATOR: My German is worse than my New
17 Hampshire. As I promised so very long ago, I
18 would have a period of time after the registered
19 speakers had spoken to take anyone who had been
20 sitting in the room and thinking, "My comments
21 haven't been heard yet". So I'm now going to go
22 up to people who have not yet spoken and I've
23 got row 1 and row 6 if people would want to come

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1 down and fill up in there, and I'll take you in
2 the position that you are seated in that row.
3 This is people who have not spoken yet at this
4 meeting. Fill row one first and then overflow
5 to six if we need to.

6 AUDIENCE: Before everybody leaves I would
7 like to thank the people from DOE for coming up
8 here. I think they deserve a round of applause.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you. I was told I
10 skipped over a Sharon Penney, and I did not do
11 that on purpose. So Sharon Penney will speak
12 prior to us addressing the people in row 1.

13 SPEAKER: My name is Sharon Penney. I am
14 the Municipal Planner for the town of Plymouth.
15 6 Post Office Square, Plymouth, New Hampshire,
16 03264. I'm a resident of Franconia and I am a
17 six-generation native of Coos County. I'm here
18 in two capacities. First of all, as a municipal
19 planner. The town of Plymouth as Attorney
20 Ratigan mentioned earlier has applied for and
21 been granted official Intervenor status in this
22 process which means that the wonderful town
23 meeting votes and everything that our neighbors

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1 have made speak to their passion for the town of
2 Plymouth has legal standing and status for this
3 process, and the Board of Selectmen as
4 representatives of the town are very concerned
5 about the alternate route and the multiple and
6 myriad layers of impacts, not only to Plymouth
7 but to our friends and neighbors all around us.

8 We have one specific question that we would
9 like to address to the group here and appreciate
10 you coming and staying up so late. This is
11 probably like the Planning Board meeting from
12 hell, but it's very important, and we're awfully
13 glad you're here.

14 The town of Plymouth would also like to
15 also get an answer at some point. This is for
16 the record because this has not been addressed,
17 and it has been asked at least once if not
18 several times before. They would like an answer
19 to the question that if there are future plans
20 to use these proposed towers to run alternating
21 or AC current, what's going to happen because
22 that definitely speaks to any alternative
23 methodologies in getting current through such as

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1 burial and this and that, and that's apparently
2 from what I understand has been circumvented.

3 I'm going to cut to the chase here real
4 quick because I know we're tired and there's
5 been a lot more eloquent speakers than I who
6 have spoken a lot more thoroughly, but this book
7 I have in my hand is the New Hampshire RSAs as
8 they apply to land use planning which in this
9 state is our Bible for how we comport ourselves
10 and how we function in democracy which as we
11 know is really the best process even though it's
12 not necessarily always pretty.

13 And people have said this several times
14 before in many different ways tonight but these
15 books are what your planning boards use and
16 zoning boards use to determine who gets to do
17 what and why and how it affects everyone else.
18 And repeatedly, over and over again, it says
19 that any projects must look to regulations that
20 enhance the public safety, health and general
21 welfare of everyone at large and that we must
22 encourage the appropriate and wise use of land.

23 And I think as I said earlier this has been

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1 spoken to many times but that puts it in a
2 nutshell. Quite frankly, if this were a
3 Planning Board project, I would probably call up
4 the applicant and say why bother. It does not
5 meet the criteria, it is not the highest and
6 best use of the land nor for the people, and
7 it's basically illogical and the antithesis of
8 thoughtful planning. So there you have it.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
10 Moderator apologizes for having missed you. My
11 understanding was that when John Ratigan spoke
12 he took your spot.

13 First speaker. Again, importantly, name,
14 address, zip code.

15 SPEAKER: My name is Quentin Mack. I'm at
16 19 Route 25 A in Wentworth, New Hampshire.
17 03282. I agree with all the speakers that have
18 spoken against this project this evening. I did
19 register to speak but somehow I must have filled
20 it out wrong out on the front desk. But I think
21 it's important enough. There's a very small
22 point as Alternative B that hasn't been brought
23 up yet. I'm a registered professional forester

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1 in the state of New Hampshire, and I represent
2 three of the four landowners in Orford and
3 Wentworth where Alternative B snakes its way
4 through the properties to avoid all conservation
5 easements. My clients, because they have chosen
6 not to place conservation easements, are being
7 penalized by choosing their land as your conduit
8 this portion of corridor B. It isn't the most
9 efficient route or the one with the least
10 environmental impact, rather it was chosen
11 purely for the political reasons that you felt
12 you would avoid group conflict. Besides
13 corridor B in this area is paralleling the
14 megaline we already have that traverses our town
15 and state. You can give all the excuses that
16 you want of why you're not colocating on this
17 corridor, but in the end the real reason is that
18 the corridor is owned by a competitor, and you'd
19 have to share the profits.

20 But back to whom I'm representing. The
21 first is my son, Kevin Mack, who owns an
22 125-acre wood lot. We purchased that wood lot
23 in 1972. For 39 years we've been managing the

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1 land for multiple use by sustained yield. It is
2 a certified tree farm and is currently actively
3 enjoyed by three generations. You proposed to
4 bisect it. You cannot pay me enough to repair
5 that damage.

6 The next landowner is Perriman (sp?)
7 Incorporated. They own a boys camp and a girls
8 camp that teach over 600 children per year.
9 That's Camp Moosilauke and Camp Merriwell. They
10 fear for their very existence because of this
11 power line going over the top of their property.
12 I'm really surprised that the two fathers didn't
13 mention that Camp Pemigewasset is under this
14 power line, too.

15 Lastly, I work with Bob and Sandy Green who
16 own about 7,000 acres in Orford and Wentworth,
17 and they're managing the land for public
18 recreation, wildlife, water, forest and the
19 forest products by sustainable methods. I
20 didn't hear power line location anywhere in
21 those objectives. Those landowners may not have
22 placed conservation easements on their property,
23 but it doesn't mean they still don't love the

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1 land, and I promise you they will fight Northern
2 Pass until the entire program is dead. Thank
3 you.

4 MODERATOR: Quentin, thank you for your
5 comments, and I do apologize because your sheet
6 was up here in a pile that was perceived to be
7 duplicate so I apologize to you.

8 SPEAKER: You know another Quentin Mack?

9 MODERATOR: No, I just dug through the pile
10 so -- you're next.

11 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Lauren
12 McLaughlin. I live on Davis Road in Plymouth,
13 New Hampshire, 03264. My concern is that I've
14 heard a lot about herbicides. First, I'm not
15 for Northern Pass, but I'd also like to know a
16 little bit more about the maintenance that's
17 intended to be involved if we don't get our way
18 and the power lines go up, specifically with ice
19 storms. 2008 we were out of power for ten days
20 in southern New Hampshire when we were down
21 there. PSNH allowed us, one of 80 houses, to go
22 without power, when the line of transmission
23 went down. I'd like to know who is going to be

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1 maintaining that, how the trucks are going to
2 get to these maintenance points, who is going to
3 fund the road damage that's created by more and
4 more trucks going up and down to maintain those
5 power lines. Is that going to be Canada, is
6 that going to be Mass.? Because the power is
7 going to Massachusetts. Then underground, if it
8 goes underground how does that impact traffic
9 flow on already jammed roads? Is there going to
10 be to additional lane options, things like that?
11 And also tourists being affected going to ski
12 hills or on snowmobile trails if those lines
13 fall down on the ground. I know no one probably
14 can answer those questions tonight, but if they
15 could be addressed in some sort of document for
16 other people to read that that would be great.
17 Thank you.

18 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
19 Next speaker?

20 SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Kenneth
21 Stone, and I'm a resident of Bristol, Wellington
22 Village Drive. I'm also a small business owner
23 up on Tenney Mountain Highway in Plymouth. I

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1 first got transferred by a big corporation to
2 central New Hampshire 30 years ago and my wife
3 and I as young people immediately fell in love
4 with this state. Unfortunately, I got
5 transferred out but managed to stay in the New
6 England area and basically been a weekend
7 resident for many decades and want to move back
8 up here on a full-time basis.

9 I'm going to scrap the prepared remarks
10 because so many others have so eloquently stated
11 the factual points about this case. I'm going
12 to give you a perspective of a person that's
13 been a Chief Financial Officer and a Senior
14 Financial Executive in major Fortune 500
15 companies, and I can tell you with absolute
16 certainty that big corporations make their
17 decisions based on what is going to increase
18 their share value, their return on investment,
19 their earnings per share and cash flow. That is
20 the reality of corporate America. That is what
21 the companies that are involved in this process
22 are seeking to do. This is merely part of the
23 process that they legally have to go through.

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1 And what I am, therefore, going to do opposed to
2 discussing my impact on tourism and all the
3 other negative aspects that are going to come
4 from this if it gets passed is appeal to the
5 representatives of our legislation and to the
6 Department of Energy to do what is right for
7 people of New Hampshire in this part of the
8 state in particular. They live here for the
9 quality of the life. That's the reason I moved
10 back and always maintained a relationship here.
11 It's about hiking in the mountains, it's about
12 having clean air, it's about having small
13 businesses that rely totally on tourism. This
14 is only going to serve southern New England and
15 perhaps anybody else down in the New York area
16 who is going to live off the grid. It does
17 nothing, absolutely nothing, to benefit the
18 residents of central and northern New Hampshire.
19 Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Ken. Next
21 speaker?

22 SPEAKER: My name is Margaret Mumford. I
23 live in Plymouth. 03264. I didn't bring

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1 written remarks because I didn't anticipate
2 getting up to speak. I'm a local yokel. I grew
3 up here, moved away, moved back. And I am very
4 much opposed to Northern Pass on environmental
5 and economic bases, but I would like to speak
6 for the many families that I've heard the names
7 that I know those names, and there are many
8 towns around here that are approaching their
9 250th anniversary and there are many, many
10 generations of people here who are here because
11 they love the land. And some of those families
12 are land poor and the folks would do anything to
13 hold over their land over all the generations,
14 and there are more than two people in this room
15 who are direct descendents of the first white
16 settlers of this region. There are deep, deep
17 roots here. This is not just economic, we like
18 it here. They're deep roots and people care
19 very much. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your
21 comments. Next speaker?

22 SPEAKER: My name is Michael Leon. I live
23 at 3243 U.S. Route 3, in Thornton, New

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1 Hampshire. Just two quick points I want to
2 inquire of the Department of Energy. I spent
3 most of the day reading the 33-page Presidential
4 permit request from Northern Pass. And reading
5 it on page 20, I won't bore anybody with reading
6 the whole page, but there's a statement that
7 says the quantitative data we're told for all of
8 the potential routes. These data were used to
9 evaluate the remaining alternatives through the
10 application of a mathematical comparison of the
11 routes to identify the routes with the least
12 overall social and environmental impact. My
13 question, I'd like to see those mathematical
14 results. Coming from PSNH, I would assume it's
15 monetary value. That's my first point.

16 My second point which Steve Rand actually
17 stole my thunder because I did some research on
18 Champlain Hudson Power Express also, and there
19 is another new line coming in also. It's called
20 Maine Express, and it's a thousand megawatt high
21 voltage, basically buried in the water, in the
22 ocean, to supply Boston with their power. Now,
23 the Champlain Hudson Power Express, it's

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1 actually going to be a 200 megawatt line. A
2 thousand of those megawatts are going to supply
3 New York and a thousand are going to supply
4 Connecticut so we're told that this has got to
5 come through our state, PSNH is saying this, to
6 supply Boston and to supply Connecticut with
7 power. We're already burying lines going down
8 there. These are underwater projects. So going
9 on the underwater aspect, I'm kind of a math
10 freak, what I did was I calculated the distance
11 from Pittsburg to Hanover on the Connecticut
12 River. 132 miles. I'm proposing that I'd like
13 you guys to obviously have PSNH show the
14 feasibility of why they can't put it in the
15 Connecticut River. It's 132 miles from
16 Pittsburg to Hanover. It's 40 miles east to
17 Franklin. I calculated the cost from the
18 Champlain Hudson Power Express and they come up
19 to be \$9 million a mile is what it cost them for
20 four lines. Two for New York and two for
21 Connecticut. PSNH's cost is \$6.7 million per
22 line. Adding the 40 extra miles from Pittsburg
23 to Franklin over to Deerfield is 212 miles.

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1 Now, I use the high end, \$9 million so PSNH is
2 telling us it would cost 1.2 billion to do it.
3 With the new calculations, if they buried this
4 in the water and if they buried this on the land
5 going from Hanover to Franklin, it would cost
6 them 1.9 billion. It's only an increase of .7
7 billion. They're recouping their 1.2 billion
8 within one year. So it's going to take them an
9 extra 7 or 8 months to recuperate the
10 difference. That's all I have to say.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
12 Michael. Next speaker, please.

13 SPEAKER: Sara Haslett. 165 Cape Moonshine
14 Road, Wentworth. 03266? Question mark. I
15 wasn't planning on speaking, but I speak
16 nonviolent communication, and I kept hearing
17 people say there's no -- people don't want this.
18 I heard that a million times, but I also heard
19 people say we don't need this. And there is no
20 need for this. And I just don't understand how
21 the DOE can oppose the U.S. Forest Service whose
22 mission is to serve the land and its people with
23 this problematic plan of raping the land and

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1 seeing people suffering from disasters that the
2 earth is bringing forth, and we don't need any
3 more human-wrought disasters and tomorrow is the
4 anniversary of Ned Ludd's uprising and he's the
5 one who threw the monkey wrench in the printing
6 press so I just want you all to keep that in
7 mind to have courage in these dark times. Thank
8 you.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
10 Sara. Next speaker?

11 SPEAKER: Thank you. Larry Mauchly. 6
12 Smith Street, Plymouth, New Hampshire. 03264.
13 Just to offer up a solution for DOE as far as
14 local power, and there is no one solution but
15 just part of many solutions. I noticed last
16 time I was down to visit my mom in New Jersey
17 they had solar panels just about on every
18 telephone pole, and I mean, if you think about
19 it, it works out perfect. It's power where it's
20 needed right at everyone's house right down the
21 road, and I don't know how many millions of
22 poles there are across the country but that
23 seems pretty viable. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Larry.
2 Row number one is empty. I will remind everyone
3 that is it is 8 minutes after 10. Do we have
4 anyone who has already spoken that would like to
5 come forward? Any others?

6 SPEAKER: Tom Mullen. M U L L E N. From
7 Campton. I was reminded by an attorney that I
8 did not give some important information from the
9 DOE so I'll try to do that as quickly as I can.

10 First of all, I do a lot of business with
11 banks, and when I go to see banks, they tell me,
12 well, we'd like to see a feasibility analysis.
13 We'd like to have an understanding as to whether
14 or not you can do what you say you're going to
15 do for what you say you can do it for and
16 whether there's a market out there. And I can't
17 get dollar one from any of those lenders until I
18 do that, until I prove that. Something is out
19 of whack with this whole process. Here we have
20 a company, frankly, in my opinion doing a land
21 grab in order to try to move a project forward
22 much faster than it has a right to go without
23 having demonstrated any need whatsoever for the

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1 project. I think the first thing that the DOE
2 should require as part of this process and
3 wherever it goes from here is that a full-blown
4 economic analysis cost/benefit analysis is done
5 for this project. It is no less than or no more
6 than any firm would have to do attempting to run
7 a project like this through a state like New
8 Hampshire.

9 Secondly, the applicant should have to pay
10 for that work to be done. When I want it done,
11 my bank says well, you've got to find an
12 appraiser, but we're going to hire him and
13 you're going to pay us and we'll pay the
14 appraiser so we get a fair report from the
15 appraiser. The Owls Nest Resort & Golf Club,
16 somebody else mentioned it earlier, thank you,
17 is a pretty good-size project up the road in
18 Campton and Thornton. We're the largest
19 employers in either of those two towns. We have
20 75 employees. That goes up to 125 in the
21 summer. This is the project that when it's done
22 would have 750 plus or minus full-time jobs,
23 would ultimately have about 580 single family

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1 homes and condominium units, three nine-hole
2 golf courses. This is a project that would have
3 collectively and enterprise a value of \$850
4 million. That project has been stopped dead in
5 its tracks by what's going on, and we were just
6 about to ramp up the funding through the EB-5
7 visa program which has done well. We're dead in
8 the water without that.

9 I want to do one more little quick thing.
10 I'd like to address Tom Wagner who sat up here
11 tonight and listened to all of this and has a
12 quizzical look on his face as he sits there
13 wondering where is this going from here.
14 There's a very interesting process in the U.S.
15 Forest Service. They make decisions in that
16 government agency from the bottom up, if I'm not
17 mistaken. Is that correct? So this gentleman
18 right here, this very professional man, who has
19 lived in this town for quite a number of years
20 now, he's the one that has to make the decision
21 for the White Mountain National Forest, and he
22 has to make that decision through a process
23 called Decisions by Advantages. Am I right on

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1 that? And I may be wrong about this, but I
2 think basically what that means is he's got to
3 make a decision about this project and whether
4 it gets access to the White Mountain National
5 Forest based on whether there are real
6 advantages to this project being allowed to go
7 through as opposed to the advantages that would
8 accrue if it wasn't allowed to go through.

9 Now, I'm not trying to put words in your
10 mouth, Tom. I know you've had an exceedingly
11 difficult situation, and we've generally left
12 you alone, haven't we? Through this process?
13 Pretty much? At any rate, let's give them a lot
14 of support. A decision as important as this
15 right here in Campton, New Hampshire, made by
16 this man. Very important. Try to give the
17 Forest Service all the input you can. I know
18 they're interested in hearing from you more than
19 just at this meeting if I'm not mistaken. Fair
20 comment?

21 MR. WAGNER: The public process is what you
22 want to work on.

23 SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

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1 MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Thomas.
2 Thomas will be our last speaker, unless anybody
3 has a problem with that. I'd like to have a
4 round of applause for all the speakers. Thank
5 you. I'd also like to have a round of applause
6 for Plymouth State University who gave us the
7 use of these facilities tonight.

8 I would remind you to continue to follow
9 the process by website, www.northernpasseis.us.
10 There also appears to be a number of Facebook
11 locations and things like that. I would, we've
12 got dates still remaining. Tomorrow and Sunday
13 in Colebrook and Haverhill. Two more days.
14 I'll get it right. I want to thank you all for
15 your hospitality.

16 I want you to know that the Moderator's
17 thoughts and prayers go out to Barry and
18 Gretchen Draper. I don't know how many you
19 noticed, but it appeared that Barry fell ill
20 after speaking and was taken to the emergency
21 room. And that officially adjourns tonight's
22 meeting.

23 AUDIENCE: How about a round of applause

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for all the people that are sitting up here
tonight?

HEARING ENDED AT 10:15 P.M.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I, Cynthia Foster, Licensed Court Reporter
4 for the State of New Hampshire, hereby certify
5 that on March 18, 2011, I took public comment at
6 the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project
7 Draft EIS Public Scoping Meeting at Plymouth,
8 New Hampshire;

9 That the foregoing testimony was taken by
10 me in Shorthand and thereafter reduced to
11 typewriting by me, and pages 2 through 149,
12 inclusive, comprise a full, true and correct
13 transcription of my verbatim stenographic notes
14 of the public comment;

15 Dated at West Lebanon, New Hampshire, this
16 21st day of March, 2011.

17
18
19 _____
20 Cynthia Foster, LCR
21
22
23

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