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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

THE NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION LINE

PROJECT DRAFT EIS

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HAVERHILL, NEW HAMPSHIRE

MARCH 20, 2011

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## 1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## 2 REMARKS BY BRIAN MILLS

3 MODERATOR: First person people on my list,  
4 Rick Ladd, New Hampshire Representative, I've  
5 got -- I'm not going to give the whole name so I  
6 apologize. Chief Nancy from the Abenacki  
7 Nation, Richard Samson, David Dobbins. David  
8 here? Come on up. Rick, you'll be the first  
9 speaker.

10 SPEAKER: Thank you. For the record, my  
11 name is Rick Ladd. I am the representative for  
12 Grafton County 5. I'm also selectboard member  
13 here in Haverhill. I'm going to skip the first  
14 page here seeing there's so many people who want  
15 to speak. We're dealing with in the House down  
16 in Concord right now with House bills 469, 468.  
17 For your information they're been provided out  
18 of committees. They will be reheard on Tuesday  
19 of this next week. Those who would like to be  
20 in Concord to rehear those, that deals with  
21 eminent domain, it deals with the impact study,  
22 it also deals with the rates of distributing  
23 electricity from this possible line to other

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1 distributors in the state. So I will skip over  
2 that and go to page 2 here.

3 It is imperative that the Department of  
4 Energy view New Hampshire as more than a conduit  
5 of energy for the grid. New Hampshire will not  
6 stand back and watch our socioeconomic and  
7 environmental way of life vanish. North Country  
8 is one of the last wilderness areas in New  
9 England that provides recreation, mental health  
10 opportunity for those that live in the area or  
11 even south of us in the rest of New England.

12 Several years ago the Haverhill town went  
13 in and investigated our town master plan and we  
14 rewrote it. The first objective and  
15 overwhelming response from residents is to  
16 preserve the rural atmosphere and scenic beauty  
17 of Haverhill. I don't believe another intrusive  
18 high voltage transmission line meshes with that  
19 community's goal.

20 Let's take a moment and look at need and  
21 benefit. Obviously, New Hampshire does not need  
22 this conduit. We already have and do export  
23 electricity and has been stated in Concord by

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1 utility lobbyists, we have enough electricity  
2 for the next five years to export and beyond  
3 then. What are the project benefits to the  
4 Upper Valley? In reading the Preliminary  
5 Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Proposed Northern  
6 Pass Transmission Project Report as disseminated  
7 to towns in December, the privately sponsored  
8 project says the value will be added to the  
9 taxable property base in over 30 communities in  
10 the state. It further states the project will  
11 result in greater household earnings. I won't  
12 state that. I'm trying to save time. This is  
13 it simply poor, sloppy, I have a bridge to sell  
14 you, type research. It is obvious that the  
15 report did not consider towns in the North  
16 Country. It may benefit Franklin but certainly  
17 not area in this area. Within the town of  
18 Haverhill there's 78 impacted properties. The  
19 land in these properties total 7.9 square miles.  
20 There's 52.4 square miles in Haverhill. 15  
21 percent of our land will be impacted. There's  
22 no question that the town will suffer the loss  
23 of revenues and from devaluated property.

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1           Going on down, I'd like to look at some of  
2           the other impacts from this transmission line.  
3           Has DOE truly looked at the devastating social,  
4           economic, health and environmental impacts?  
5           What about impact to the North Haverhill  
6           reservoir here? The aquifer which is going to  
7           be clearcutted on top which feeds Haverhill  
8           Corner. The value of our properties is also  
9           going to be devastated.

10           Following the alternative line further  
11           south, I want to address the wisdom or the lack  
12           thereof of the proposed line crossing between  
13           Upper and Lower Baker ponds. That's where the  
14           Appalachian Trail crosses. It's also where Camp  
15           Pemigewasset is, the oldest boys' camp in North  
16           America. The view is going to be looking down  
17           the lake now at a 135 foot goliath at the very  
18           end. Will you send your child to that camp, pay  
19           those dollars for the an opportunity to look at  
20           a transmission line? I don't think so.

21           And lastly, I'd like to address the issue  
22           of security. There is no security in a line  
23           that comes out of Quebec, out of Canada, there's

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1 no guaranteed these transmission lines will stay  
2 up when we have these the frost and the ice on  
3 these lines. We've seen it happen in Quebec,  
4 we've seen it happen in New Hampshire and we  
5 also have no way of ensuring the line stays  
6 secure. I had much more to offer right here.  
7 It's in written testimony. They will have it  
8 and it will be available to the public if so  
9 desired. Thank you very much.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you, Rick, for your  
11 comments. A brief reminder. I was hoping I  
12 wouldn't have to do this so early. Please watch  
13 that time. I'm going to discuss and this is one  
14 of the things I usually bring up. We're  
15 starting to time when people give their name  
16 address, zip code. So that's kind of a code  
17 thing. So in the meetings yesterday, once I  
18 gave that information, and I left it out of this  
19 one so I apologize for that, but once I gave  
20 that idea, then people started giving a preamble  
21 before they gave their name, address and zip  
22 code so no preambles. If the first things that  
23 you can say are your name, address and zip code,

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1 it would be greatly appreciated by myself and  
2 also the stenographer. The floor is yours.

3 SPEAKER: I'm Chief Nancy Millette Doucet  
4 of the Koasekabenaki of the Koas, and that's  
5 03785. Many, many years ago there was an very  
6 important agreement made. After making the  
7 earth, the Creator made man and woman. The  
8 agreement was that if man was a respectful  
9 steward of this land that Mother Earth would  
10 give him everything he needed to survive. Man  
11 was to keep in mind when taking anything from  
12 this earth to leave enough so that the earth  
13 could naturally replenish itself for the next 7  
14 generations. For thousands of years there was a  
15 balance in this agreement. Then Bigger Better &  
16 Greedy came into existence. The rivers and the  
17 air became polluted as Bigger and Better dropped  
18 toxins into the world. Greedy was very happy as  
19 Bigger and Better plumped up the bottom line.  
20 Mother Earth and Father Sky started to choke as  
21 we now see with global warming and the  
22 destruction around the world. Just last week  
23 Japan was rocked and now sits 8 feet from where

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1           it was on its foundation.

2           All we have to do is go to the southern  
3           part of the state and see what's happened to the  
4           farmlands. Over time, small community farmers  
5           who fed their families and community from their  
6           lovingly tilled fields have had to give in to  
7           Bigger and Better. Today those fields hold  
8           smoking industries and Greedy thrives while the  
9           people in the communities struggle for decent  
10          living, clean air and water. That is in most  
11          places across the globe but not here in northern  
12          New Hampshire. We still keep our agreement as  
13          good stewards of this land. We are thankful  
14          when we look at the beautiful mountains that we  
15          still, they are still free without the chains of  
16          power lines embracing them. We smile as we  
17          drive through our countryside seeing the tall  
18          corn fields as they wave to us as we pass.  
19          Because this is northern New Hampshire, and  
20          northern New Hampshire is God's country. And we  
21          want to keep that way for the next 7  
22          generations. Thank you.

23                MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,

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1 Chief Nancy. Next speaker, Richard Samson.

2 SPEAKER: Richard Samson, 804 Piper Hill  
3 Road, Stewartstown, New Hampshire. 03576. Good  
4 afternoon, Mr. Mills. The Army Corps of  
5 Engineers, Tom from the United States Forest  
6 Service, Senator Shaheen's representative, the  
7 Honorable Senator Kelly Ayotte and  
8 Representative Rick Ladd. Also to Tom, Chris  
9 and you, Mr. Moderator. This will be my last  
10 speech, I assure you.

11 I would like to extend a very warm welcome  
12 to you for coming into their house today. Most  
13 importantly, welcome to everyone else that is  
14 here today to express your views and opinions on  
15 this most important and unAmerican issue ever to  
16 confront us. This is the fourth scoping hearing  
17 that I have attended and have had only two  
18 people weakly support this preposterous billion  
19 dollar for profit scheme. Over 2,427 people  
20 including this crowd here today and 200 speakers  
21 have addressed this issue.

22 My wife of 47 years and I have raised our  
23 three children and have lived in our state here

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1 by choice all of our lives. We live in  
2 Colebrook in an economically depressed area and  
3 state by our own free will. We serve our  
4 country, we work here, and exist here, if you  
5 will, again, by choice. We are not Democrat nor  
6 Republican, Independent, Conservative or  
7 Liberal, but all, and I emphasize all, in this  
8 room are American. I would ask everyone here  
9 today to respect the speakers and their opinions  
10 and to think on these issues brought forth here  
11 today. I respectfully ask that you, Mr. Mills,  
12 the Department of Energy and fellow agencies  
13 restore our confidence in the American system  
14 that we the people have our constitutional  
15 rights returned to us, that you respectfully  
16 listen to our requests, concerns and objections  
17 and reject this application as very incomplete.

18 I also respectfully request that the  
19 information gathered at all of the scoping  
20 hearings be retained but that a new schedule of  
21 hearings be held with sufficient notice, a  
22 completed application from Northern Pass, and  
23 advanced information such as your publication

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1           DOE, NEPA and You, a guide to Public  
2           Participation in these processes be made  
3           available to the public beforehand if this  
4           project is ever to be considered again. I go on  
5           record as fully supporting the filing that was  
6           hand-delivered to you on March 17th in 2011 at  
7           the hearing in Whitefield, New Hampshire, by Mr.  
8           and Mrs. James G. and Alexandra M. Dannis.

9           There are two things that you do not mess  
10          with. One is a man's family and two is a man's  
11          land, but I might add a third and may I, And  
12          this is directed expressly to Northern Pass.  
13          And that is do not mess with our neighbors' and  
14          our residents' land. New Hampshire does not  
15          want, New Hampshire does not need, so why  
16          Northern Pass. Just someone's greed.

17          Again, I respectfully ask that you make the  
18          right decision based on our inalienable rights  
19          guaranteed in our Constitution. Thank you very  
20          much.

21          MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
22          Richard. Next speaker. David Dobbins. On  
23          deck, sorry about that folks. Fred Brownson,

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1 Dick Eckwall, Tom Thomson. The moderator  
2 accepts cough drops but does not get persuaded  
3 by cough drops.

4 Before David starts, we have Ray Burton and  
5 Senator Jeannie Forrest. Next speaker, David  
6 Dobbins.

7 SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Dave  
8 Dobbins. I live at 167 Gunstock Hill Road in  
9 the town of Gilford, New Hampshire. I've spent  
10 a bit of time with the folks over this past  
11 week, and I just want to use this opportunity to  
12 sort of sum up what I've heard. This is the  
13 final scoping meeting and I've attended every  
14 one of them including this one.

15 You might ask why. Same reason you folks  
16 are here. This is a bad deal for New Hampshire  
17 and a bad deal for our country, and I'm happy to  
18 be opposed to it.

19 To the DOE, you have heard an overwhelming  
20 number of compelling areas that need to be  
21 studied as part of the EIS process for this  
22 proposed project. You have heard hundreds of  
23 emotional pleas from New Hampshire residents

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1 about the severe and irreversible damage that  
2 the proposed project would have on their lives,  
3 their health and their property. You have heard  
4 that the very character of this entire state and  
5 unique scenic splendor and way of life would be  
6 forever altered in very negative ways. You have  
7 heard and you already know that the independent  
8 operator of the New England grid had not  
9 requested this additional power for reasons of  
10 need of reliability or to relieve congestion.

11 ISO-New England and the New Hampshire  
12 Public Utilities Commission have identified this  
13 proposed project as purely voluntary on the part  
14 of the parties involved. This proposal should  
15 be declared frivolous and its Presidential  
16 permit should be denied without further study.

17 Just before I leave I would like to  
18 introduce a product that myself and some other  
19 investors are making available. This is  
20 something that's going to be available to all  
21 the residents along any of the proposed primary  
22 or alternate routes of this Northern Pass.  
23 We're calling it the New Hampshire card. It's

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1 good at all locations wherever Visa and  
2 Mastercard are accepted worldwide. Here's a  
3 preview of our marketing campaign. Cost of a  
4 huge unsightly, unneeded and unwanted 180-mile  
5 long transmission corridor through New Hampshire  
6 known as the Northern Pass, \$1.1 billion. Cost  
7 of directing American energy expenditures to a  
8 foreign country through the Northern Pass, 550  
9 to \$1 billion per year. Enjoying the scenic  
10 splendor and quality of life within New  
11 Hampshire without the Northern Pass? Priceless.  
12 Thank you.

13 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
14 David. We're going to take a brief pause just  
15 to get some more chairs in this room. If you're  
16 young and athletic, don't grab one. There's  
17 also a chair over in the third row which will  
18 soon be the fourth row.

19 Our next speaker, Fred Brownson. Do I have  
20 a Dick Eckwall? How about Gary Danielson? Go  
21 ahead.

22 SPEAKER: Fred Brownson, 251 Cape Moonshine  
23 Road, Wentworth, New Hampshire, 03282. I'm here

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1           today to make a plea for a landmark EIS,  
2           Environmental Impact Statement. Many before me  
3           have spoken to a multitude of adverse Northern  
4           Pass impacts on the forests, farms, wildlife  
5           habitat, culture, homes, wealth, health, jobs,  
6           towns and general well-being of the citizens of  
7           New Hampshire. This mosaic of New Hampshire  
8           issues creates a monumental undertaking for DOE  
9           to examine each impact in its time and in its  
10          place. Moving off the sacred soil of New  
11          Hampshire, we hear about regional, national and  
12          global issues of comparable magnitude and  
13          complexity. Each past, present and future  
14          electric transmission line crossing the Canadian  
15          border has and will continue the deforestation  
16          of millions of Canadian acres with its impact on  
17          wildlife, native communities, and net emissions  
18          of global greenhouse gases. The deforested  
19          areas will never again absorb carbon and will be  
20          decaying slash and stumps which emit carbon and  
21          probably methane. It will permanently impact  
22          our national balance of payments. It will  
23          permanently impact our ability to protect the

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1 New England electric grid from terrorist attacks  
2 on Canadian transmission towers which serve the  
3 New England border crossings. It will allow  
4 Hydro Quebec to be a dominating bidder in  
5 supplying power needs to New England. With  
6 extremely low variable costs, Hydro Quebec will  
7 drive producers of green renewable energy out of  
8 business and make it nearly impossible for  
9 developers of new facilities to obtain the  
10 required financing. So long as Hydro Quebec is  
11 permitted new border crossings, this threat will  
12 never go away.

13 What's my point? My point is this work  
14 cannot be effectively completed by DOE within  
15 the present timetable no matter what resources  
16 they may be able to marshall. I plead with the  
17 DOE staff, our U.S. Senator, Representatives,  
18 and Governor to weigh in to extend the deadline  
19 for completion by at least one year and to  
20 assure all necessary and qualified independent  
21 consulting resources are engaged. I make this  
22 plea with the understanding that the costs of  
23 the EIS are borne by the applicant, Northern

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1 Pass.

2 DOE is confronted with a unique opportunity  
3 in time to produce a landmark EIS. The Northern  
4 Pass EIS must be a model for each future  
5 Presidential permit application for a Canadian  
6 border crossing by electric transmission lines.  
7 Alternatively, if this EIS is prepared without  
8 sufficient time and resources, you can bet that  
9 even greater time and resources will be required  
10 for its defense as each vulnerable element is  
11 analyzed and challenged. I have personal  
12 experience with an EIS battle involving a major  
13 urban development where HUD prepared the EIS.  
14 HUD completed their work, approved the project,  
15 they missed one single scoping item. This item  
16 was picked up by a small neighborhood group in  
17 opposition to the project. The group litigated  
18 the matter and eventually received a court  
19 decision that the EIS was inadequate. The  
20 project died.

21 MODERATOR: It's my pleasure to announce  
22 that Congressman Bass has arrived. Next speaker  
23 Mr. Tom Thomson. Next up on deck, Nancy Burton.

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1           SPEAKER: Thank you. My name is Tom  
2 Thomson. 173 Strawberry Hill Road, Orford, New  
3 Hampshire, 03777. I am here today representing  
4 the Thomson family tree farm which my wife and I  
5 own of 2800 acres. I would first like to thank  
6 both our senators, U.S. Senators Shaheen and  
7 Kelly Ayotte for setting up the two hearings,  
8 one in Plymouth and one here today. In those  
9 two hearings, there have been nearly a thousand  
10 people that have turned out to speak loud and  
11 clear to our government on this issue. I'd also  
12 like to thank Congressman Bass for coming today  
13 and Senator Kelly Ayotte taking both of your  
14 important time away from your families to hear  
15 us. Senator Jeannie Forrester and, of course,  
16 Counselor Ray Burton.

17           I am here today to fully disclose to you  
18 and I have before that I own property in both  
19 the primary and the secondary routes of the  
20 Northern Pass. I'm going to speak about real  
21 estate issues. The Northern Pass has impacted  
22 from the day they printed the maps of the  
23 Northern Pass, both primary and secondary

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1 routes, your real estate now is devalued  
2 significantly, some say from 20 to 25 percent  
3 and could be more, and we already know what the  
4 recession has done to our real estate values.

5 But you also need to understand this. If  
6 you want to sell or you need to sell, now you  
7 must disclose the Northern Pass whether you are  
8 impacted by it directly or you are within the  
9 viewshed, and you know what that will do to the  
10 value. My prediction is that you will see many  
11 of these small towns that are impacted, people  
12 today will start going in for abatements on  
13 those properties and they can do so.

14 The Department of Energy and the nation as  
15 a whole has failed the United States citizens on  
16 energy independence in this nation. We are now  
17 68 percent dependent on foreign oil. When my  
18 father was Governor, it was 24 percent. If we  
19 continue down this road, and we know what's  
20 happening in the Middle East, we could be  
21 brought to our knees. We need to have energy  
22 within inside our boundaries in the United  
23 States. We have the resources, we do not have

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1 the will. By doing so, we will create good jobs  
2 and those jobs will create, the dollars will  
3 stay within the local communities, just exactly  
4 as it does within the wood energy. New  
5 Hampshire is the second most heavily forested  
6 state in the United States, and if the Northern  
7 Pass goes through, those wood energies will  
8 disappear other than the two that PSNH either  
9 control or are buying power from.

10 How many of you here today approve of a  
11 foreign company, the Northern Pass, Hydro  
12 Quebec, coming and taking your lands through  
13 eminent domain? Can I see a show of hands? How  
14 many here approve that? Let the record show to  
15 the Department of Energy not one hand was shown.  
16 This, ladies and gentlemen, will be a campaign  
17 issue for 2012. My prediction for every elected  
18 official in this state and the Presidential  
19 candidates who are coming in to the first in the  
20 nation primary, do your homework on this issue,  
21 the Northern Pass. It will be a huge campaign  
22 issue, and you will be asked by us where you  
23 stand on that issue, and we the people will vote

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1 in 2012. Thank you.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
3 Tom. Next speaker, Gary Danielson. Next up,  
4 Laura Saffo, Lynn Wheeler, Michael Ransmeier.

5 SPEAKER: Gary Danielson. 1 Ansley Road,  
6 Piermont, New Hampshire, 03779. First, let me  
7 say that I agree completely with Tom and the  
8 previous speakers and that I am in complete  
9 disagreement with the entire project going  
10 forward in any manner. However, there are three  
11 critical questions that need to be answered  
12 regarding Northern Pass and the impact it would  
13 have on our physical environment. One, is the  
14 impact so great that it should not be built at  
15 all? I think the answer there is yes. If it is  
16 built, where should it be built to do the least  
17 damage, and if it is built, how should it be  
18 built to do the least damage. I'm going to  
19 focus on if it is built at all where it should  
20 be built.

21 The proposed alternate route through  
22 Piermont, Haverhill, Orford and the other  
23 communities is one which encompasses land with

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1 outstanding natural and environmental heritage  
2 and beauty and is crucial to wildlife  
3 habitation, much of which is ranked by the New  
4 Hampshire Fish & Game department in their New  
5 Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan as either Tier 1,  
6 highest ranked habitat in New Hampshire or Tier  
7 2, highest ranked habitat in the biological  
8 region. The construction and maintenance of  
9 power lines through the proposed alternate route  
10 would destroy these crucial habitat areas  
11 forever. However, if Northern Pass colocates  
12 within the existing power line right-of-way,  
13 that issue would be avoided or greatly minimized  
14 even if some widening of the existing corridor  
15 was required.

16 My question is a simple one. Since the  
17 transmission lines for Northern Pass and those  
18 for the existing transmission like would  
19 originate in the same substation in Quebec and  
20 terminate a mere four miles apart in Franklin,  
21 New Hampshire, crossly paralleling each other a  
22 great deal of the way, why would the primary  
23 route not use the current right of way. I

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1 understand that VELCO, Vermont Electric Power  
 2 Company, has already agreed to collocate for that  
 3 portion of the line that would go through  
 4 Vermont. Has there been any discussion, formal  
 5 or informal, between officials from Northern  
 6 Pass or any of its affiliates and officials from  
 7 National Grid or any of its affiliates that  
 8 could allow Northern Pass to collocate within the  
 9 existing power transmission right-of-way to a  
 10 point 4 miles from the Franklin terminal. If  
 11 so, what has been the outcome of those  
 12 discussions, and if not, why has Department of  
 13 Energy not mandated them.

14 If Northern Pass is approved at all,  
 15 collocation would allow that this project to go  
 16 forward without being embroiled in inevitable  
 17 legal challenges while preserving the natural  
 18 beauty and highly ranked habitat areas in  
 19 Piermont, Haverhill, Orford and other  
 20 communities. And to quote from the Appalachian  
 21 Mountain Club's Motion to Intervene in  
 22 opposition to Northern Pass, greatly diminish  
 23 the adverse impacts to these very important

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1 natural resources in New Hampshire whose  
2 economic value to the state and its citizens is  
3 irreplaceable. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
5 Gary. Nancy Burton.

6 SPEAKER: Thank you very much. It's a real  
7 great pleasure to be here. I'm Nancy Burton,  
8 2600 Mt. Moosilauke Highway, East Haverhill, New  
9 Hampshire. 03780. Today I drove up from  
10 Connecticut where, unfortunately, I spend most  
11 of my time and the word travels all the way down  
12 there, and I'm here today to say that speaking  
13 for everyone I know in Connecticut and myself  
14 and my family, we don't want this. We don't  
15 need it. And if you have \$1.1 billion to invest  
16 we'd like to see you come to Connecticut and put  
17 up some solar power and wind power and turbine  
18 power in the ocean.

19 It was almost 200 years ago that a Scotsman  
20 by the name of Alexander Wilson who's now  
21 remembered as the father of American ornithology  
22 came up to these parts to explore and look for  
23 birds. He found himself in Haverhill, New

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1 Hampshire, and took the time to head over to  
2 Black Mountain, spent the day climbing Black  
3 Mountain, wrote about it, and what he said was  
4 in all his travels in Scotland and everywhere in  
5 the eastern part of the United States up to that  
6 point, the view from here was the most beautiful  
7 that he had ever seen in his entire life.

8 Many, many times I've been at the top of  
9 Black Mountain and as I look down, I'm always  
10 struck by the hideous scar of the existing power  
11 line that is so ugly, and it happens that my  
12 great great grandparents once farmed for sheep  
13 in the very area that I can see the power line  
14 cutting across that area. And when my little  
15 granddaughter comes up here to visit, I will be  
16 nervous about taking her to visit the site of  
17 her great great great great grandparents' home  
18 where they lived so happily. I know that if  
19 that application were before us today, it would  
20 not be allowed. It is just simply wrong.

21 The impetus today is to not have mega power  
22 lines but to go for local power. Put up your  
23 own windmill in your own backyard. Power lines

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1 such as this high powered line are very  
2 susceptible to damage, and we don't even need  
3 terrorism, but, obviously, they are big targets  
4 for terrorism because if you interrupt,  
5 intercept the electricity grid you can bring the  
6 public down, and windmills in your backyard  
7 don't meltdown.

8 Since this is an environmental scoping  
9 session, I would like to make sure that you come  
10 forward with proof that over generations, the  
11 electromagnetism from this power line will not  
12 harm human health. I'd like to see a complete  
13 analysis of the alternative of burying this  
14 power line, and I would like to also see a full  
15 analysis of the impact on the fisheries that  
16 have been so close to extinction if they are not  
17 on the verge of extinction as a result of these  
18 dams that have interfered with the flow of water  
19 and the course of nature. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.  
21 Nancy. Next speaker, Lara Saffo. Also like to  
22 invite up Steve Spafford.

23 SPEAKER: (Lara Saffo who noted to Brian

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1 Mills during a break that she is also Grafton  
2 County Attorney, an elected official, but  
3 speaking personally.) Thank you everybody for  
4 coming here on such an important issue. I'm  
5 adopting part of a comment made in Lincoln, New  
6 Hampshire, and expanding on it because I believe  
7 it is a vital point. While the Northern Pass  
8 project found the time to send a number of  
9 brochures to residents such as this one, they  
10 did not take the time to notify landowners whose  
11 land they proposed taking by eminent domain in  
12 their submission in October of 2010. One lovely  
13 brochure, this one, lists the estimated annual  
14 local property tax benefits. They make it look  
15 like our towns will fiscally benefit from this  
16 project, but note the fine print which states,  
17 "Any potential reductions or increases in other  
18 property values as a result of the addition of  
19 NPT are not covered in this report," and I read  
20 that directly from this brochure. The  
21 proverbial fine print. That is a rather  
22 significant thing to leave out in the estimated  
23 annual local property tax payment column and

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1 does not bode well for good future relations  
2 with the people responsible for this project.

3 Our local property tax payments will  
4 decline overall if these 135 foot towers slash  
5 through or town. Shame on them for stating  
6 otherwise. How can they not take into account  
7 the dramatic decline in property values for all  
8 the neighbors of these property lines. Do they  
9 honestly think the neighbors' property will  
10 maintain their value? People who want to move  
11 from living next to tall electrical lines will  
12 not be able to sell their houses, for most of us  
13 our primary investment. Our tax base will  
14 plummet. And how are they valuing the property  
15 they are now destroying? Cash value? Does that  
16 take into account the multiple generations of  
17 families who've farmed the land and lived on the  
18 land? Does it take into account the 35 years  
19 that my father and mother managed the land the  
20 power companies are now proposing ruining. My  
21 parents chose to purchase and conserve land.  
22 They managed land for woodlands, wildlife,  
23 recreational uses and educational uses. Their

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1 property is truly incredible and now open to the  
2 public through the Upper Valley Stewardship  
3 Center. Leaving this conserved land was my  
4 father's legacy to his grandchildren, to  
5 students and to this community. How dare they  
6 take away as if those 35 years of effort and his  
7 legacy can being summed up in a cash value of  
8 this land. The land is priceless. The economic  
9 impact goes beyond the land itself to numerous  
10 jobs. As to health effects, people in this room  
11 may want to know my father died of mesothelioma.  
12 Asbestos. After years of being a marathon  
13 runner and organic farmer, the large companies  
14 chose to ignore the warnings signs of asbestos,  
15 and the end result was many people such as my  
16 father developed mesothelioma. Please. We  
17 cannot make the same mistake with EMS, the  
18 electromagnetic fields.

19 One last final or irony. I feel also  
20 obligated to tell people that the power lines  
21 will be literally adjacent to my father's grave.  
22 He's buried on the border of his fields, the  
23 fields he loved and the fields that we chose to

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1 bury him next to. That is the exact field they  
2 want to take to erect these power lines. That  
3 is the exact field. So instead of overlooking  
4 his property, he'll be overlooking these power  
5 lines which he would have fought. How dare they  
6 do this, how dare they take this away from our  
7 family and this community. This land is not for  
8 sale. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
10 Lara. Our next speaker, Lynn Wheeler. I'd like  
11 to also invite up Denys Draper.

12 SPEAKER: Good afternoon. Lynn Wheeler,  
13 631 Swiftwater Road, Woodsville, 03785. Thank  
14 you for coming to Haverhill and enjoying our  
15 beautiful views. What is the project all about?  
16 Money. And the need for Hydro Quebec to have a  
17 market to export its product. Electricity is  
18 the sole reason for the project. While  
19 Northeast Utilities needs electricity, Hydro  
20 Quebec stands to make a profit of one billion  
21 per year with when his project is up and  
22 running. If you have PSNH power and they give  
23 you back 100 percent of their share you will get

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1           97 cents per month on your bill. That's  
2 nothing.

3           We've also been told that our area will get  
4 jobs and tax revenue out of this project. I  
5 checked on a project of Northeast Utilities that  
6 was just completed in southern Connecticut. In  
7 one town the entire project was put up in three  
8 days using helicopters and off-site  
9 construction. That means no need for local  
10 labor or benefit to our restaurants, hotels or  
11 grocery stores that we've been told. These are  
12 professional work crews that do this regularly  
13 and do not have the need of local labor.

14           As to tax revenue, how much do you think  
15 your property will be worth if you have towers  
16 that are equal to an 11-story building in your  
17 backyard or line of sight. If you speak to  
18 realtors or assessors in other areas that are  
19 being affected by this, there are figures that  
20 speak to a reduction of from 50 to 100 percent  
21 of value, and this depends on how close you are  
22 to the lines and how it affects your view. Your  
23 property may be completely unmarketable.

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1 Abatements in our town would reduce our entire  
2 tax base to such levels that any increase from  
3 utility taxes would not come even close to  
4 closing that shortfall. If you're struggling to  
5 pay your taxes now, think how high the tax rate  
6 would need to be to close that gap. Right now  
7 we have a 350 foot right-of-way. The proposed  
8 right-of-way will be 1320 feet. I've had many  
9 people around town ask me why it needs to be  
10 that wide. I didn't have a very good answer for  
11 them. I kind of stumbled over it. I did some  
12 further research and found out that you only  
13 need 262 feet to put up an HVDC power line.  
14 Think about that. 262 versus 1320. Would that  
15 mean five rows of towers in our town?

16 Just a couple of things I would like DOE to  
17 answer. Corona discharge is the creation of  
18 ions in the air by a strong electric field and  
19 one effect of that is toxic components such as  
20 oxide of nitrogen and ozone. Please address  
21 that in your further research. I'd also like to  
22 address fiber warfare. Corporate companies need  
23 to monitor their own lines. There's already

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1           been issues in Quebec. I'd like to see how that  
2           is going to be taken care of in this country.  
3           And the ice buildup has been addressed. Yes,  
4           1.8 inches on a line will bring it down. What's  
5           going to happen when those lines are down and in  
6           our area.

7           Thank you very much. I hope you do address  
8           these issues. And I hope no one in this room  
9           has to be interrupted by 130 foot towers. Thank  
10          you.

11          MODERATOR: Thank you, Lynn, for your  
12          comments. Next speaker, Michael Ransmeier.  
13          Next up, Tom Steketee.

14          SPEAKER: I'm Mike Ransmeier, and I live at  
15          1325 Jockey Hill Road in Landaff. I'm one of  
16          two Landaff Selectmen here today. Errol Peters  
17          is here as well. Landaff has a population of  
18          about 370 people and at town meeting it voted  
19          unanimously to oppose this project and  
20          appropriated \$4,000 to be spent if necessary in  
21          that effort.

22          I would also want to be sure that the  
23          Department of Energy personnel know that perhaps

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1 35 towns voted on this issue at their town  
2 meeting this year. I believe that Franklin  
3 approved it, and every other town has voted  
4 overwhelmingly and in many cases unanimously  
5 again this project.

6 Tom Thomson spoke about the issue and  
7 others have spoken about the impact on property  
8 values. I'm an attorney. I have some clients  
9 in Landaff. Two sisters whose elderly mother is  
10 in an assisted living facility and very much is  
11 in need of cash. They have a large farm in  
12 Landaff, and it's been on the market. They need  
13 the proceeds from its sale to help pay for their  
14 mother's expenses. Lo and behold the alternate  
15 right-of-way for this project which goes right  
16 across Landaff goes across this family's land.  
17 As Tom pointed out, this has to be disclosed to  
18 potential buyers. They very nearly had a buyer  
19 this fall. The buyer heard about the alternate  
20 right-of-way and disappeared. This family is  
21 being held hostage to this project for who knows  
22 how long until hopefully the Department of  
23 Energy decides that this application should

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1 simply be rejected.

2 I'm going to speak briefly about the  
3 international aspect of this project. Over the  
4 life of the project 50 billion dollars are going  
5 to go up to the Province of Quebec. Quebec is  
6 the province in Canada which very nearly seceded  
7 some time ago. It has the highest taxes in the  
8 western hemisphere. I say that based on clients  
9 and acquaintances who are from Quebec. And they  
10 have their linguistic issues with English that  
11 are sufficiently strong that they took Montreal  
12 which used to be the number one financial center  
13 in Canada and drove their English-speaking  
14 businesses to Toronto. Montreal is now a  
15 distant third as I understand it behind Toronto  
16 and Vancouver. These are the people who would  
17 be making the decisions about pricing  
18 electricity for New England if this project goes  
19 through. People have already commented  
20 how the thrust of this project would be to  
21 undercut efforts to develop New Hampshire's  
22 energy independence with small renewable power  
23 generation. So again, it's going to leave us in

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1 the position very comparable to that of OPEC,  
2 our country's dependence on OPEC for oil so this  
3 is simply a very bad idea for all of us and I  
4 encourage the Department of Energy to reject the  
5 application.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
7 Michael. Next speaker, Steve Spafford.

8 SPEAKER: Yes, otherwise known as Slim in  
9 the area that I live in in Groton. I want to  
10 thank you for coming up here. I know you were  
11 told you had to come up here. And you're saying  
12 what are we doing up here with all these frost  
13 heaves and mud season? What's going on here.  
14 Maybe this isn't the prettiest place in the  
15 world this time of year to some people, but it  
16 is to us, and we have a whole sacrifice here.  
17 Everybody sitting here is going through a  
18 sacrifice today because we could all be sitting  
19 around the sugar shacks today having a little  
20 snow, but we're having a good time this time of  
21 year, the locals anyway. Natives.

22 I want to -- eminent domain. We have in  
23 the town of Groton now a power line goes through

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1 and there's three sets of span going through,  
2 three towers. Hey, take three lines up through.  
3 For those people that think that they're  
4 actually going to buy all the land by eminent  
5 domain that isn't what happened there. What  
6 happened there was the people still own and they  
7 lease the land from the owners and the town does  
8 tax those towers. That's true. But there's a  
9 big problem there which was brought down, I  
10 haven't heard it this afternoon yet, about  
11 spray. Yes, they do spray to keep the  
12 vegetation down from hitting the line. In 1975  
13 the Planning Board in our town had somebody on  
14 it that managed to get an ordinance passed at  
15 town meeting stating no spray on the power  
16 lines. Everybody forget would it over time  
17 until last year when we somebody came across it.  
18 It wasn't me. It was one of the Selectmen, and  
19 he said hey, you know, we've got to put this on  
20 the agenda again and see if the town still feels  
21 the same way about it. And we did. Last year  
22 at town meeting, we had the owner of the power  
23 lines' forester they sent him up and he pleaded

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1           that please, please, let me spray. It's too  
2           expensive for us to go out with hand labor and  
3           cut. Well, we voted him down. We said you go  
4           out with labor and cut. So at least there's  
5           some jobs there on the existing power line.  
6           Keep those points in mind, please.

7           Groton, LLC, Groton Wind, LLC is what we're  
8           worried about right now. Our Selectmen and our  
9           elected officials including myself, our Planning  
10          Board in my town is elected. We have all voted  
11          and we are in full support of Groton Wind which  
12          is going to put up a 48 megawatt, 24-tower wind  
13          farm in our town. The alternate route goes  
14          directly up over Tenney Mountain, up over  
15          Fletcher Mountain, right through there. That  
16          will negate and stop that thing and we are  
17          shaking in our boots right now because we really  
18          want that power from the, that project to  
19          proceed. And we're scared to death right now  
20          that it will get knocked out by this project,  
21          Northern Pass. So please keep those comments in  
22          mind when I say that. We really feel strongly  
23          about that.

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1           Also there was in the *Union Leader* the  
2           other day, the PUC is asking for another hearing  
3           on the incentives. I don't understand why the  
4           Feds or FERC is it allowed to give incentives  
5           for this project. Monetary. 12-point  
6           something, I believe, percent the way the *Union*  
7           *Leader* wrote it up. I'm not sure why -- as it  
8           was pointed out before, this is a \$1.1 million  
9           project. Why they can't afford to do it without  
10          incentives from our Feds working against us. I  
11          elected people at the federal level to represent  
12          me, and I'm going to ask them to also find that  
13          out. Why that was and I hope that PUC does push  
14          to have you people have a rehearing on that  
15          issue. Thank you very much.

16                 MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Steve.  
17                 Next speaker, Denys Draper. I'd also like to  
18                 call up Kelley Monahan, Carol Currier.

19                 SPEAKER: My name is Denys Draper. I live  
20                 at 139 Beaver Meadow Road in Easton, 03580. And  
21                 do not be confused. It is not Franconia. It is  
22                 Eaton. We share a post office.

23                 I am the tax collector in the town of

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1 Easton, and I'm here to tell you that not only  
2 will you not get any more money, they don't pay  
3 the same rate as you do. Utilities have a  
4 separate tax rate from anybody else in your  
5 town. The Northern Pass project in its present  
6 form will negatively affect our property values  
7 thus affecting our taxes in an area of this  
8 state that has already taken a disproportionate  
9 hit. We've lost our paper mills, we've lost  
10 Ethan Allen, and many of the people who supplied  
11 them. Anyone who can conceive of this project  
12 and allow these towers to blight the beauty of  
13 the North Country is either greedy, selfish,  
14 don't care and don't think with the brain that  
15 God gave to a pea. Most likely, it's an  
16 arrogant combination of all three.

17 The thing that bothers me most is a gut  
18 level feeling that PSNH and its partners are not  
19 being transparent, and most likely are feeding  
20 us half-truths and excellent fiction. Why are  
21 we allowing this alteration of the real facts or  
22 the spin they put on them. PSNH is nothing but  
23 arrogant and greedy. Some, including some of

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1           our legislators, think the project is going  
2           forward no matter what. If that's the truth,  
3           these energy mongers are committed to destroying  
4           us from within. If that's their intention,  
5           we're all here to say you don't destroy us from  
6           within. If for some reason this gets passed,  
7           and I certainly hope it doesn't, remember you  
8           have, every single one of you, something called  
9           a ballot and with it comes a pencil, and  
10          everyone from the Governor to the Executive  
11          Council to the Congressional delegation to the  
12          President of the United States can be pushed  
13          away. And if they can't come out and take an  
14          informed stand, then we need to say sorry,  
15          you're not informed enough to represent us.

16                 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
17                 Denys. Next speaker, Tom Steketee.

18                 SPEAKER: I'm Tom Steketee, Selectman in  
19                 the Town of Orford, and I'm here to let everyone  
20                 know that we at Town Meeting this year  
21                 unanimously passed a resolution in opposition --  
22                 not loud enough? Is this better? The Town of  
23                 Orford unanimously passed a resolution opposing

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1 the Northern Pass project, and to that end the  
2 following day taking their lead the Selectboard  
3 went on record, and we sent letters out to all  
4 our elected officials, some of whom are here  
5 today, opposing this resolution unanimously, and  
6 that's all I want to say.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you, Tom. Next speaker,  
8 Kelley Monahan. I'm going to call up Linda  
9 Lauer and Peter Flynn.

10 SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Kelley  
11 Monahan. I live 37 Grimes Hill Road in Orford,  
12 New Hampshire, 03777. I own 8.6 acres of the  
13 western side of Echo Hill overlooking the  
14 Connecticut River and the Palisade of Sawyer  
15 Mountain. I spoke in Lincoln Wednesday in my  
16 capacity as your Grafton County Register of  
17 Deeds. I spoke about taxes and land value and  
18 New Hampshire's self-sufficient nature. Today  
19 I'll speak from a different perspective, that of  
20 a person who has spent 46 years in interacting  
21 and observing and working with the plant and  
22 animal kingdoms. Starting as a  
23 five-year-old flower child germinating my first

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1           bean seed in kindergarten all the way through a  
2           career in horticulture to the last 13 years  
3           spent building a wildlife habitat on my organic  
4           farm, I have found myself most comfortable in  
5           nature. Much has already been said in  
6           consideration for our bird kingdom. I would  
7           like to cover the other Bs: butterflies, bats  
8           and bees. As a member of the Xerces Society, a  
9           nonprofit organization committed to the  
10          protection of the pollinators of our planet, I  
11          would respectfully request that the DOE complete  
12          a full study into the effects of the intensity  
13          of this electricity on the navigational ability  
14          of these flying creatures. Any skilled pilot  
15          notes how to avoid areas that disrupt their  
16          radar and navigational instruments. I've  
17          included a German study that suggests a link  
18          between the honeybee population and  
19          electromagnetic fields. This concept is just  
20          beginning to be explored.

21                I respectfully request of the DOE to make a  
22          complete study of the possible crop loss from  
23          reduced pollination on agricultural land that is

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1           within one mile of the corridor of the proposed  
2           ROW. The crops I would like studied are apples,  
3           pears, blueberries, strawberries, pumpkins,  
4           tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, all varies of  
5           squashes and gourds. These crops depend on  
6           pollinators. I respectfully request of the DOE  
7           to make a complete study of impact that the  
8           electrical pollution of these towers would have  
9           on our fragile and declining bat population.  
10          One bat can eat half its weight in mosquitos per  
11          night. I respectfully request the DOE to make a  
12          complete study of the effects of hummingbirds  
13          and migratory paths that could be disrupted by  
14          the proposed towers. I respectfully request of  
15          the DOE to make a complete study of the  
16          potential mortality of the peregrine falcon and  
17          American Bald Eagle when using these ROWs in  
18          flight.

19                 In closing, I respectfully point out to the  
20                 DOE that this project has already been shown to  
21                 be unfit for New Hampshire and that the request  
22                 for the Presidential permit needed to cross the  
23                 border be denied.

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1           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
2           Kelly. I know that Cynthia Foster, the  
3           stenographer, greatly appreciated your written  
4           comments after zipping through that as quickly  
5           as you did.

6           Next speaker, Carol Currier. I'd also like  
7           to call up Carl Cassel.

8           SPEAKER: My name is Carol Currier, 70  
9           Cedar Lane, Ashland, 03217. I own property in  
10          Ashland on the Pemi River, exit 24 of I 93.  
11          This land has been in my family for 66 years.  
12          The proposed line will cross not only my front  
13          yard but also the Pemi River between Ashland and  
14          Bridgewater which is a beautiful wild and scenic  
15          river used for recreation and fishing. This  
16          line would also be crossing over the aquifer  
17          that is the town of Ashland's water supply.  
18          Concern for health hazards should be noted as  
19          well as scarring the environment and landscape.  
20          This line will be viewed from Route 3 and also I  
21          93. Please consider these issues and putting an  
22          end to this project and preserve our beautiful  
23          state. Thank you.

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1           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
2 Carol. Next speaker, Linda Lauer.

3           SPEAKER: Linda Lauer. I live at 143  
4 Riverbend Road in Bath. 03740. I'm the  
5 Emergency Management Direct of the Town of Bath,  
6 and in the interest of full disclosure I'll tell  
7 you I'm also a member of the Conservation  
8 Commission. We're a small town. We wear many  
9 hats.

10           I have concerns about a very small area of  
11 the proposed route, but I think it's indicative  
12 of a much larger problem, and that's a lack of  
13 thorough planning going into this project. The  
14 proposed alternative route that goes across 112  
15 is right alongside the Wild Ammonoosuc River.  
16 It's in an area of very steep slopes, an area  
17 with very unstable soils and historically we  
18 have landslides in that area so obviously  
19 there's not been a lot of planning going into  
20 the location of that particular site. When that  
21 area does have a landslide it limits our ability  
22 to provide Emergency Services to the town of  
23 Swiftwater. That's the only paved road that

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1 goes out there so we have to divert all the  
2 emergency vehicles out on dirt roads. In  
3 addition, when we do have land slides their  
4 area, it causes pollution of the Wild Ammonoosuc  
5 River, and the soil going into the river is one  
6 thing, but we've already heard about the  
7 spraying that take place on the right-of-way  
8 after the fact, and when those herbicides go  
9 down into the Wild Ammonoosuc River, we're  
10 endangering our trout population, and exposing  
11 all of our southern visitors that come up to pan  
12 for gold to all the herbicides. So, again,  
13 I very much question the thoroughness of the  
14 route planning process that's gone into the  
15 Northern Pass up to this point. It appears at  
16 least on a preliminary view to be a route that  
17 has been the cheapest, not the one that is least  
18 disruptive to the North Country. Thank you.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
20 Linda. Next speaker, Peter Flynn.

21 SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Peter  
22 Flynn. I live at 69 Wheeler Road in Hollis, New  
23 Hampshire. I own property off Briar Hill that

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1 most of you know as the Kindred Forest area with  
2 my wife and two sons. This land is kept in a  
3 trust, it is in a trust now and is intended to  
4 be used by my sons and their sons and the sons  
5 after them. What I've done is I've written a  
6 letter to the Governor, and I suggest that  
7 everyone in the room if they could please write  
8 letters to all the legislators and of course the  
9 Congress people that are here today. I was just  
10 going to read that letter to voice my opinion.

11 I am strongly against this project moving  
12 forward. As a landowner in the path of one of  
13 the alternate routes, it will adversely affect  
14 the physical environment, wetlands and wildlife.  
15 It undermines all of the work of probably the  
16 last 50 or 60 years of Ducks Unlimited, the  
17 Nature Conservancy, the Society for the  
18 Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the Audubon  
19 Society and any other land stewardship  
20 organization. It adversely affects the timber  
21 rights, the mineral rights, the land use, the  
22 right of passage, wildlife management, open  
23 space stewardship and, of course, our land

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1 values. This project will most certainly  
2 negatively impact the social, economic, and  
3 overall well-being of the residents in the area  
4 being disrupted and this also includes the  
5 visitors to New Hampshire which a large portion  
6 of our economy is based on. After reviewing the  
7 information that's been provided by PSNH and DOE  
8 I believe there is no upside and there's no  
9 value generated for the people or the wildlife  
10 in the State of New Hampshire. Please do  
11 everything within your power to prevent this  
12 project from being approved. Respectfully,  
13 Peter Flynn.

14 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
15 Peter. Our next speaker and the last one before  
16 I'm granting a break is Carl Cassel.

17 SPEAKER: Last but not least, I guess. My  
18 name is Carl Cassel. I live at 274 Dame Hill  
19 Road in Orford. I'm a member of the  
20 Conservation Commission, and I am here basically  
21 representing the Conservation Commission in our  
22 opposition. We are opposed to the project in  
23 general, but we're also specifically opposed to

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1 the section of the alternate route that goes  
2 through Orford. There's a two-mile aspect of it  
3 that goes through the town of Orford to the  
4 southeast corner of town. We are requesting  
5 impact studies which is I think what we're here  
6 for on a few areas on impacts of the area  
7 through Orford.

8 One is the wildlife habitat and water  
9 resources. The proposed line cuts through land  
10 with the high natural resources value as we've  
11 indicated in our recently completed natural  
12 resource inventory. There are four natural  
13 resources overlapping or co-occurring in this  
14 area. They include Tier 1 wildlife habitat from  
15 the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan, FEMA  
16 flat floodplain and the aquifer as mapped by  
17 USGS. We are concerned that this line may  
18 impact threatened and endangered species,  
19 special status species and related sensitive  
20 resources and the water resources of the area.  
21 Accordingly, we request a study of the impact on  
22 these resources. Probably will be done anyhow,  
23 but we're specifically hitting those issue.

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1           On water quality the line passes between  
2           and near two pristine water bodies, up Upper  
3           Baker Pond and Lower Baker Pond. The results of  
4           our commission's water testing show that both  
5           bodies of water are pristine, they're beautiful,  
6           and we'd like to keep them that way. The route  
7           also passes through the wetlands that form part  
8           of the watershed of the Baker River. We are  
9           concerned about adverse impact on these  
10          important water resources and request that these  
11          impacts be studied.

12          The economic, recreational and public  
13          health and safety issues with the, again, the  
14          proposed alternate route through Orford passes  
15          directly through the property of three camps,  
16          children's camps: Camp Moosilauke, Camp  
17          Merriwood and Camp Pemigewasset. Pemigewasset  
18          is primarily in Wentworth, but there is also  
19          some property is cutting through the property in  
20          Orford. This raises concerns about adverse  
21          impact to recreational resources, public health  
22          and safety, primarily to children. And for  
23          these reasons, again, we ask for the adverse to

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1 consider the adverse impact on the recreational  
2 resources, public health and safety and the  
3 economy because of the camps.

4 The other factor that has been mentioned  
5 numerous times today is the visual and  
6 recreational resources. The impact of the  
7 proposed line on the visual and recreational  
8 resources of the area is very significant. The  
9 line would become a prominent feature on the  
10 view from the North Peak of Mt. Cube, an outlook  
11 just a quarter of a mile off the Appalachian  
12 Trail and other areas. Therefore, that's about  
13 what we've got to say. Thank you very much for  
14 your attention.

15 MODERATOR: Carl, thank you for your  
16 comments. Before we actually break, I'm going  
17 to call up the next four people who will be  
18 speaking after the break. Michelle Vaughn, Tim  
19 Donelon, Pamela Martin, Susan Brown. And you're  
20 free to take a ten to 15-minute break. It will  
21 be 15, but I'll start calling you back at 10.

22 RECESS TAKEN

23 MODERATOR: Our next speakers are Michelle

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1 Vaughn, Tim Donelon, Pamela Martin, Susan Brown.  
2 Michelle, when you're ready.

3 SPEAKER: My name is Michelle Vaughn. I'm  
4 from 2524 New Hampshire Route 175 in Thornton.  
5 Zip code is 03285. First let me just put this  
6 on. (Puts on felt moose antlers) I'm  
7 representing today all the moose that live in  
8 New Hampshire. They wish for me to tell you,  
9 the DOE, that they adamantly are opposed to the  
10 Northern Pass, too. They do not want their  
11 trails or their homes destroyed by the Northern  
12 Pass and eminent domain is not an option. They  
13 request that the DOE take no action and deny the  
14 Northern Pass the Presidential permit.

15 Now, I'd like to also discuss today about  
16 our beloved maple syrup industry which Steve  
17 touched on. Each year the New Hampshire maple  
18 industry produces close to 90,000 gallons of  
19 maple syrup. Maple sugaring time in New  
20 Hampshire runs from mid February to mid April  
21 which is now. There are five registered sugar  
22 houses in Coos County, 16 in Grafton County, 7  
23 in Carroll County, 10 in Sullivan County, 19 in

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1 Merrimack County of which one is located in  
2 Franklin, 3 in Belknap County, 2 in Stafford  
3 County, 12 in Hillsborough County, 5 in  
4 Rockingham County of which one is located in  
5 Deerfield and then 7 to Cheshire County. This  
6 doesn't include all the "hobby" sugar houses in  
7 New Hampshire. Many of these are located on the  
8 preferred and alternate routes and since  
9 Northern Pass nor PSNH has disclosed all of the  
10 alternate routes I include all counties as  
11 possibly threatened and affected by the Northern  
12 Pass transmission line.

13 This weekend is a celebration of our maple  
14 syrup heritage. Sugar houses all over the State  
15 of New Hampshire are opening their doors to the  
16 public, sharing their maple syrup and other New  
17 Hampshire made products. In fact, due to these  
18 scoping meetings we have all missed out in  
19 sharing in the festivities.

20 My concern is not only for the protection  
21 of the maple trees but also the land and water  
22 so these trees can grow. It takes quite a large  
23 quantity of sap, 40 gallons to be exact, to make

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1 one gallon of maple syrup. Also the maple trees  
2 themselves may be 30 to 40 years old before  
3 reaching the appropriate size to tap.

4 I'm concerned that the herbicides and  
5 pesticides used to defoliate the right-of-way  
6 corridors will contaminate the water table and  
7 be absorbed into the roots of the maple trees.  
8 I request the DOE conduct a study on the  
9 contamination factor, for if the maple trees are  
10 compromised no one can ingest tainted maple  
11 syrup. Also I'm concerned with the overall  
12 health of the trees and that the Northern Pass  
13 threatens the quality of the maples' life cycle.  
14 What will happen to our beloved maple sugar  
15 industry and what will happen to the many  
16 farmers and local syrup makers who depend on  
17 these trees that provide permanent jobs and a  
18 way of life that is cherished and passed down to  
19 the next generation?

20 I think the stress and pressure that the  
21 Northern Pass has caused the citizens of New  
22 Hampshire is disgusting and disrespectful. The  
23 Northern Pass should never have been allowed to

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1 stress or threaten us. This has gone on too  
2 long.

3 This is it the final scoping meeting. Not  
4 including today, the attendance totals have been  
5 2260 with at least 250 speakers, and I wonder  
6 what's happening today. We have learned from  
7 conservationists, those in the forest industry,  
8 environmentalists, biomass workers, electrical  
9 engineers, state representatives, singers  
10 singing, farmers, dairy farmers, landowners,  
11 homeowners, photographers, parents,  
12 grandparents, teachers, the young and the old.  
13 They have given the DOE many considerations to  
14 study, concerns and alternative ideas. There is  
15 a common thread by all the speakers. Can you  
16 guess what it is? I know it's a tough question.  
17 But that common thread is that we are all  
18 opposed to the Northern Pass. So please listen  
19 to the collective voice and that now includes  
20 moose. The collective voice is loud and strong.  
21 No Northern Pass. I request again the DOE  
22 denies the Presidential permit for the Northern  
23 Pass. Thank you very much to the DOE.

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1           This is from Wikipedia about Hydro Quebec,  
2           the 1989 geomagnetic storm, the ice storm of  
3           1998 and some other concerns that are affiliated  
4           with their towers.

5           MODERATOR: By the way, I forgot to  
6           announce it, but speakers still have only three  
7           minutes. Our next speaker, Tim Donelon. I'd  
8           also like to call up Richard Walling.

9           SPEAKER: Good afternoon, everybody. My  
10          name is Tim Donelon. 151 Foster Hill Road, town  
11          of Bath, 03740. I've worked in the electric  
12          utility industry a little over 30 years and the  
13          last 21 years in hydroelectric generation. I'm  
14          not here to talk about the pro and cons of hydro  
15          power. I'm here because I'm opposed to the  
16          Northern Pass transmission line project. The  
17          Department of Energy is here today soliciting  
18          comments for the Draft Environmental Impact  
19          Statement, and one of the areas where they're  
20          seeking comment on is alternative solutions, and  
21          I'd like to propose an alternative solution for  
22          comment.

23                 Little bit of background. There's an

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1           entity in Holyoke, Mass., called the ISO or the  
2           Independent System Operator. Their role is to  
3           make sure that the lights stay on here in New  
4           England. They do this by making sure there's  
5           enough generation online or available in reserve  
6           to cover the low fluctuations each day, but just  
7           as importantly, they're responsible for the  
8           integrity of the bulk transmission system and  
9           that's all the high voltage power lines.

10           The reason I mention the ISO is because  
11           they have New England divided into eight  
12           different load zones and depending on which zone  
13           you live in determines what you pay for power.  
14           New Hampshire is one zone all by itself because  
15           although we consume 9 percent of New England's  
16           energy, we actually generate 13 percent of the  
17           total. We have way more generation that we  
18           consume in this state. Mass., on the other  
19           hand, and I'm not picking on the good state of  
20           Mass. or the good people from the state of  
21           Mass., but Massachusetts is divided into three  
22           different load zones which drives up their power  
23           costs. Why? Because of transmission line

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1 congestion and inadequate supplies of generation  
2 and transmission in Massachusetts and southern  
3 New England.

4 So here's the alternate solution. The  
5 folks that consume the power must take  
6 responsibility for their usage. They must begin  
7 to site generate facilities and transmission  
8 lines in their zones to alleviate these high  
9 congestion costs, and bringing in 1200 megawatts  
10 from another country doesn't address the problem  
11 in southern New England. It's only a temporary  
12 solution.

13 One final closing thought. If you look at  
14 a map of the town of Bath or the town of  
15 Haverhill or the towns south and east of us,  
16 we've got a huge right-of-way that bisects those  
17 towns. That right-of-way has two 230,000 volt  
18 AC lines and one 450,000 volt DC line. The DC  
19 line alone is capable of importing 2000  
20 megawatts from Canada so this huge transmission  
21 corridor supplies southern New England and now  
22 they want to blast another right-of-way, another  
23 huge right-of-way through our pristine state to

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1 supply southern New England with even more  
2 foreign power. Sorry, but it's time for the  
3 folks in southern New England to bite the bullet  
4 and take responsibility for their high power  
5 consumption.

6 I ask the DOE to deny this Band-Aid  
7 approach and send a message to Northeast  
8 Utilities and NSTAR that there are other  
9 alternatives to supplying power to southern New  
10 England, and it must start with those residents  
11 and utilities taking responsibility.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
13 Tim. Next speaker Pamela Martin. I'd also like  
14 to call up Terrence Sobecki.

15 SPEAKER: I'm Pamela Martin, 280 Old Hebron  
16 Road, Plymouth, New Hampshire, 03264. Recent  
17 events this week in Japan with the earthquake  
18 and tsunami and this past year with the oil  
19 catastrophe in the Gulf, also hydro-fracking  
20 going on in Pennsylvania and Alabama causing  
21 earthquakes and destroying people's wells and  
22 also mountain top removal in West Virginia and  
23 Kentucky, I've become more aware of how we are

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1           literately destroying our world trying to find  
2           ever increasing amounts and always cheaper  
3           energy. Every form of energy has a price you  
4           must pay. Sometimes you pay for it up front.  
5           Sometimes you pay for it later when you have to  
6           clean up the terrible mess you've made.

7           When Hydro Quebec began its project in  
8           northern Quebec in 1971, there were no societal  
9           or environmental impact studies like this  
10          scoping hearing we're having today required  
11          under Quebec or Canadian laws. No consideration  
12          was ever given to the societal impact a project  
13          would have on the original inhabitants of the  
14          area who were hunters and fishermen, no  
15          consideration was given to the devastation that  
16          would be created when a million acres of boreal  
17          forest was flooded, forests that helped clean  
18          carbon from the environment. No consideration  
19          was given to the fact that 10,000 caribou were  
20          drowned when their migratory path was flooded.  
21          No one worried about the methane that would be  
22          released into the atmosphere when the trees and  
23          other vegetation were submerged in water and

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1 left to rot. No one worried about the fish  
2 spawning areas that were destroyed, the wildlife  
3 migratory paths that were destroyed, villages  
4 uprooted, rivers that ran backwards and on and  
5 on. No one studied it and the besides the Cree  
6 who were the indigenous people, very few people  
7 protested. The Quebec government which owns  
8 Hydro Quebec wanted cheap energy and they wanted  
9 money that they would get from selling it,  
10 especially to Americans. Today, Hydro Quebec  
11 has profits in the billions of dollars and they  
12 want more.

13 Today if this project came before a scoping  
14 hearing like this, they would be laughed out of  
15 the room or jeered out of the room. This  
16 project would never get off the ground. The  
17 fact that we're even discussing bringing this  
18 monstrous creation into our state, slicing it  
19 down the middle of New Hampshire, destroying the  
20 beauty of our state so that, maybe and maybe  
21 not, they could have cheaper energy and provide  
22 a few temporary jobs for three years.

23 Japan has 22 hydroelectric dams. During

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1 the recent earthquake, several of them had to be  
2 taken off line because of damage and one broke,  
3 washing out the houses below it. Large scale  
4 reservoir hydroelectric projects cause  
5 earthquakes because so much water is compounded  
6 in one place it permeates rock and goes down  
7 into the earth and can cause seismic activity.  
8 No only will hydroelectric reservoirs cause  
9 earthquakes, they cause damage when they break.

10 If Hydro Quebec becomes our primary source  
11 of electricity, what happens if there is an  
12 earthquake in Quebec and it's taken off line or  
13 the dam breaks. What happens if there's a  
14 drought like there was last summer and there  
15 wasn't enough water flowing through the rivers?  
16 What happens if the rivers freeze like they did  
17 last winter and Quebec customers were told to  
18 cut back on their energy usage.

19 I'll tell you what happens. We won't have  
20 enough electricity and our rates will soar like  
21 they have in Quebec where rates have gone up 8  
22 times in the last 7 years, and then who would we  
23 complain to? The foreign government of Quebec?

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1 Thank you very much.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
3 Pamela. Next speaker, Susan Brown.

4 SPEAKER: My name is Susan Brown. I live  
5 at 1260 Dartmouth College Highway, North  
6 Haverhill, New Hampshire, 03774. I'm appalled  
7 at the prospect of a quarter of a mile wide  
8 right-of-way through two thirds of New Hampshire  
9 including the White Mountain National Forest in  
10 order to provide electricity to Massachusetts  
11 and Connecticut. That's wider than the  
12 Haverhill Common is long. That's huge. New  
13 Hampshire will not benefit in any way from the  
14 project as contemplated. As a matter of fact,  
15 property values will be seriously compromised  
16 and so, therefore, will the tax base. There are  
17 other ways to do it. Underground, out to sea,  
18 wind and solar farms. Do not devastate the  
19 North Country.

20 And a question. A huge right-of-way  
21 already exists. Why can't they use that one?  
22 More towers? Underground? Some sort of  
23 pipeline on the ground? I am totally opposed to

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1           this ill-conceived project. And I want to thank  
2           Ray Burton for keeping us on the map. Thanks,  
3           Ray.

4           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
5           Susan. Next speaker, Richard Walling. I'd also  
6           like to invite up Peter Martin, Lisy Meyers.

7           SPEAKER: My name is Richard Walling. I  
8           live at 323 Monroe Road, Bath, New Hampshire,  
9           03740. I represent the town of Bath, New  
10          Hampshire, on the Riverbend Subcommittee of the  
11          Connecticut River Joint Commissions and the  
12          Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee.  
13          Chair of the former and vice chair of the  
14          latter. Each of these committees provide local  
15          voice in matters that affect the uses and  
16          potential of these rivers and their watersheds.  
17          Of particular concern are the potential adverse  
18          impacts of the proposed Northern Pass project on  
19          aquifers, surface water, wildlife, wildlife  
20          habitat, and maybe here is the place to ask the  
21          question what about the substantial monetary  
22          investment by state and federal governments in  
23          the conservation of wildlife projects and

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1 commitments made for future projects? The  
2 proposed Northern Pass will certainly have a  
3 negative impact on many of these.

4 Back to the potential adverse impacts on  
5 local property values, local infrastructure,  
6 cultural resources, the social web of the North  
7 Country, the tourist industry, the economic  
8 engine of the area, these and myriad other  
9 potentially adverse impacts must be thoroughly  
10 studied and mitigation of these proposed.

11 The proposed alternate route passes through  
12 the town of Bath. I'll also note that our Bath  
13 town master plan, one of the primary goals  
14 included, some of the primary goals include  
15 maintaining scenic and rural nature of the town  
16 of Bath. At a recent town meeting, Bath like  
17 many other towns unanimously approved a warrant  
18 article opposing the Northern Pass and obligated  
19 money to that effort.

20 I recently attended an information  
21 presentation by NHPS and Northern Pass. As I  
22 understand it, the proposed project will not  
23 qualify as renewable energy into the regional

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1 energy initiative, no locally generated power  
2 will be able to feed into the line and no power  
3 will be available locally from the DC line. If  
4 this project must proceed a buried line should  
5 be the preferred alternative. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
7 Richard. Next speaker, Terrence Sobecki.

8 SPEAKER: Terrence Sobecki. I live at 148  
9 Court Street in Haverhill, 03765. I happened to  
10 read the other day in some comments I think it  
11 was from one of the proponents of this project  
12 that they were claiming potential CO2 emission  
13 reduction benefits for a project like this. In  
14 my day job I happen to do research on carbon  
15 cycling and carbon storage and terrestrial  
16 ecosystems. My point of view and my specific  
17 reasons for commenting on the EIS scoping is  
18 that I hope a realistic assessment is taken of  
19 that, not the hype that we see with the global  
20 climate change literature. The biggest impact  
21 in my view is the reduction in "woody biomass."  
22 The technical term for woody biomass is trees.  
23 That's where your carbon gets stored from the

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1 atmosphere and by removing that during the  
2 clearing of the right-of-way your net impact is  
3 to release more CO2 into the atmosphere. So I  
4 just hope that a good carbon accounting if  
5 carbon accounting is done as part of the EIS for  
6 this project that they take a good hard look at  
7 it. I think the impacts on this project are  
8 going to be local. They're on landowner  
9 property rights, they're on the land values and  
10 they're on the esthetic character of the  
11 landscape and at the very least, probably some  
12 excess carbon being released into the system  
13 because of the reduction in forest land  
14 associated with the corridor right-of-ways.  
15 Thank you.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
17 Terrence. Next speaker Peter Martin. I'd also  
18 like to call up Carl Schmidt.

19 SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Pete  
20 Martin. I live at 280 Old Hebron Road in  
21 Plymouth. Why is it that the Northern Pass  
22 representatives keep insisting that they can't  
23 consider any alternatives to their madcap plan

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1 to deface New Hampshire? It must be obvious to  
2 them by now that they won't be able to sell  
3 their plan to our citizens. Equally obvious is  
4 that continuing to insist on the plan will only  
5 make them hated, if they're not already.

6 To answer that question we must remember  
7 that the only motivation of large corporations  
8 is the bottom line. Their actions are not  
9 motivated by environmental or societal concerns  
10 but by money. Always. Since Hydro Quebec knows  
11 how to transmit HVDC power via land burial and  
12 submarine cables, and, in fact, has engineered  
13 and installed lines employing both methods,  
14 there just be a reason why they claim it can't  
15 be done on this proposed project. As usual,  
16 follow the money.

17 It is apparent that if Northern Pass used  
18 submarine cable to run the power from Quebec to  
19 southern New England or New York, they would  
20 actually save money by taking the power directly  
21 to their market. And while I have no proof, I  
22 believe I can answer the question with some  
23 measure of certainty. Although PSNH

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1           representatives tell us that using the power of  
2           eminent domain, the taking of private property,  
3           is their last choice in acquiring rights of way,  
4           it is in fact the first choice, for they know  
5           that without that power they would never get the  
6           rights of way. But if they once get the  
7           right-of-way they will have a power corridor  
8           that can be and will be cheaply expanded  
9           whenever they find new markets. So one line of  
10          towers becomes two, and then three or more,  
11          turning our state into an industrial power  
12          corridor.

13                 Don't believe any denials of this for the  
14          Northern Pass proposal itself is predicated on  
15          expanding existing rights-of-way throughout our  
16          state. Those rights-of-way will be widened and  
17          in many places a new line of towers will rise  
18          beside the ones already in place. So even  
19          though overhead power lines are yesterday's  
20          technology and destructive to our environment,  
21          economy and property values, they are  
22          advantageous to Hydro Quebec because they can be  
23          expanded cheaply. It is always about money.

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1           It is time to end this charade. New  
2           Hampshire does not need the power. New England  
3           does not need this power. It is past time for  
4           our political leader to say to Hydro Quebec, do  
5           the right thing or don't do it at all. I  
6           respectfully request that the DOE study the need  
7           for this project, the environmental and economic  
8           impact of a multi-power line corridor on our  
9           state's environment, property values and  
10          cultural heritage. Thank you.

11           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
12          Peter. Next speaker, Lisy Meyers.

13           SPEAKER: Yes. My name is Lisy Meyers. I  
14          live at 194 Kimball Lane in North Haverhill.  
15          Zip code, 03774.

16           I live in North Haverhill on 115 acres of  
17          beautiful woods. We do not have a utility pole.  
18          We do not use your power. By now you have been  
19          up and down the state with your Scoping Meetings  
20          and have witnessed the immense opposition to  
21          your project. You have already heard from  
22          residents, landowners, business owners, real  
23          estate agents, schools, medical people,

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1 environmental groups, forest managers and  
2 legislators overwhelmingly against the HVDC  
3 proposed by your giant energy triumvirate. What  
4 more do you have to hear to make you realize  
5 that this is not the place for your  
6 shareholders' investment.

7 Everyone here already knows what your  
8 project entails and what it would do to our  
9 land, our state economy, and our future. Many  
10 of us have been able to follow the conversation  
11 online and to date people who represent or  
12 promote the HVDC have not offered anything to  
13 justify the destruction and degradation of an  
14 entire state. This is a state whose identity is  
15 exemplified by its wilderness, forest, wildlife  
16 and natural scenic beauty. The steel towers and  
17 miles of power line you think you are bringing  
18 here do not fit this picture. They don't belong  
19 anywhere in this state.

20 We don't want your preferred route. We  
21 don't want your alternate route. We don't want  
22 you expanding your existing route so that you  
23 can ride the backs of New Hampshire residents

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1 all the way to Massachusetts. If you got your  
2 way, it would only be the beginning of more  
3 towers, and more lines chris-crossing the state  
4 as you decide to branch off here and there.  
5 Also the fact that this would be an  
6 international project means that it could end up  
7 in the hands of another country not as friendly  
8 as Canada and that country could impose their  
9 own way of running things in our state.

10 To sum it up, residents of New Hampshire do  
11 not want any more discussions, alternatives,  
12 enticements or payoffs. No good can come to New  
13 Hampshire from this overblown, greedy power  
14 grab. With all due respect, we want you to pack  
15 it up and take it somewhere else.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your  
17 comments, Lisy. Next speaker, Carl Schmidt.  
18 I'd also like to call up Ed O'Brien, James  
19 Seidel, Ron Willoughby.

20 SPEAKER: My name is Carl Schmidt, and I  
21 live at 569 NH Route 10 in Orford, 03777. I'm a  
22 member of the Orford Conservation Commission.  
23 I've been specifically asked to speak today by

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1 the owners of three children's camps that would  
2 be adversely impacted by Northern Pass. Camp  
3 Moosilauke which was established on Upper Baker  
4 Pond in Orford in 1904, Camp Pemigewasset which  
5 was established on Lower Baker Pond in Wentworth  
6 in 1908 and Camp Merriwood established on Upper  
7 Baker Pond in Orford in 1949. I will briefly  
8 summarize statements by the owners of these long  
9 established camps expressing their deep concern  
10 regarding Northern Pass. I request that their  
11 [full statements](#) be included on the record of  
12 today's hearing.

13 Each summer these camps bring to the area  
14 well over 800 campers and staff, plus many  
15 visiting parents and other relatives. With them  
16 come not only a direct and immediate financial  
17 benefit to the economy of the towns in the  
18 region through the support of local jobs,  
19 businesses, motels, campgrounds and restaurants,  
20 but also the long-term benefits for years and  
21 years afterwards from the return of many of  
22 these visitors to the region and elsewhere in  
23 New Hampshire for vacations and recreation

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1 because of their positive experience here amid  
2 the natural beauty of the area. The camps are  
3 deeply concerned that if the alternate power  
4 line is constructed which would cut directly  
5 through the lands of all three of these camps,  
6 it would cause irreparable harm and serious  
7 long-term negative impact on the environment, on  
8 their operations, and on the area's economy.

9 These camps own significant amounts of  
10 undisturbed woodlands and lakefront. They  
11 believe the towns of Orford and Wentworth would  
12 suffer from a loss of a part of that tax base as  
13 the value of the land for residential or  
14 recreational use would be drastically depressed  
15 by the sight of what they describe as an ugly  
16 scarring of this pristine and natural area.  
17 They emphasize that these camps in operation on  
18 their quiet mountain ponds for so many years  
19 have been a safe summer haven for thousands of  
20 young men and women who have come from all parts  
21 of the country to New Hampshire to enjoy the  
22 natural surroundings and peace and tranquility  
23 of the area.

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1           The camps specifically request, therefore,  
2           that the Department of Energy study the impact  
3           of Northern Pass project not only on them but  
4           also on the many New Hampshire youth camps that  
5           would be affected, including the important role  
6           they play in local economies and the negative  
7           impact on the natural camp experience of so  
8           many. This, therefore, is not just a local  
9           issue. It is a New Hampshire conservation issue  
10          of the largest magnitude.

11          Secondly, and speaking now as one of the  
12          Governor's appointed members of the New  
13          Hampshire State Historical Resources Council and  
14          also as the President of the Orford Historical  
15          Society, I request that the scope of the  
16          Department of Energy's investigation include a  
17          study under the criterion "Cultural and Historic  
18          Resources" of the potential adverse impact of  
19          the Northern Pass proposal on the scores of  
20          historic camp buildings including log structures  
21          over 100 years old that continue to be in active  
22          use at Camps Moosilauke, Merriwood and  
23          Pemigewasset.

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1 All of New Hampshire's communities involved  
2 in Northern Pass proposal should be aware that  
3 Section 106 of the National Historic  
4 Preservation Act, federal law, provides for the  
5 protection of historic buildings, other historic  
6 resources and the context and cultural landscape  
7 in which they are located that may be adversely  
8 impacted by a project that involves federal  
9 funds or in the case of Northern Pass a federal  
10 license or per pit.

11 Section 106 criteria for addressing adverse  
12 impact include change in the character of the  
13 property's setting, introduction of incompatible  
14 visual elements, potential for deterioration due  
15 to lessening of the properties' value. Once  
16 such adverse effects have been identified, the  
17 goal of Section 106 of this federal law is to  
18 seek alternatives and modification to the  
19 project that will avoid, minimize and mitigate  
20 those adverse effects. I therefore request that  
21 the Department of Energy's Environmental Impact  
22 Assessment include a comprehensive review of  
23 Section 106 criteria with regard to Camp

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1 Moosilauke, Merriwood and, Pemigewasset and we  
2 would be glad to provide additional information  
3 if that is requested. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Carl, thank you very much for  
5 your comments. As stated many times, the  
6 Moderator hates to cut people off but sometimes  
7 has to. Ed O'Brien. Next speaker.

8 SPEAKER: Ed O'Brien, 139 Beaver Hill Road,  
9 Easton, New Hampshire, 03580.

10 MODERATOR: Ed, would you like to speak  
11 from a chair?

12 SPEAKER: No, I'm fine. I'm here to, I'm  
13 definitely opposed to the Northern Pass and  
14 especially opposed to it the way it's been  
15 written. New Hampshire enjoys the best,  
16 northern New England, even, enjoys the best of  
17 beauty for people and its own residents to see  
18 and enjoy. To have these towers to come into  
19 our state to cut the property value, to cut the  
20 people's way of living, is not right. And right  
21 now paper mills have ceased to operate. Tourism  
22 is our major business. People come here from  
23 all over the world, not just United States, but

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1 all over the world to see our scenic beauty and  
2 they don't want to look at a bunch of towers.  
3 I'm the first one to say if they persist to  
4 bring power in from Quebec, they should put it  
5 underground, and they should be made to bury the  
6 cables and there is ways to bury the cables.  
7 There's railroad rights of way that are there  
8 that they could use and bury the cables. Pay  
9 the State of New Hampshire rent for the  
10 right-of-ways or put the tracks back which  
11 should be there after they finish. But anyway,  
12 that's just my feeling. I certainly don't want  
13 the towers because we don't need the towers.  
14 Thank you very much.

15 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
16 Ed. Next speaker, James Seidel. I'd like to  
17 call up John Amex, Michael Gilmore.

18 MODERATOR: My name is James Seidel. I'm  
19 from Lyman, New Hampshire, 03585. I'm a retired  
20 Natural Resource Conservation Service person.  
21 If you take the 180 mile length of the proposed  
22 Northern Pass right-of-way, multiply it by the  
23 1320 feet proposed width, you come up with

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1 28,800 acres. That's 28,800 acres impacted and  
2 taken from New Hampshire. That's 23,175 acres  
3 of forest land alone, not to mention prime  
4 farmland that we all need so that we can eat  
5 upon which food is grown. My desire is the  
6 Department of Energy does an extensive and  
7 thorough study of threatened and endangered  
8 species, special status species, wetlands  
9 impacted, prime farm lands impacted and consult  
10 the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan. This  
11 taking will result in further forest  
12 fragmentation which will have deleterious  
13 effects on the forest and wildlife. I implore  
14 DOE to consult the local land conservation  
15 trusts who may have easements on these lands for  
16 proposed taking.

17 If existing Public Service of New Hampshire  
18 power contracts with our four existing biomass  
19 boilers in Alexandria, Bethlehem, Bridgewater  
20 and Tamworth are not renewed, as proposed by  
21 Public Service, 400 people will be put out of  
22 jobs. Plus the loss of a quality soil  
23 amendment. Folks, that's 20 years of

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1 sustainable energy not continued. Forest health  
2 will suffer because a lot of low grade wood will  
3 cease to be harvested. That's what ends up in  
4 these power plants.

5 I think that when all the evidence is  
6 presented, this 180-mile, 28,000-acre electric  
7 power toll road without any on and off ramps  
8 will not be allowed.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comment,  
10 James. Next speaker, Ron Willoughby.

11 SPEAKER: My name is Ron Willoughby, and I  
12 live on Lime Kiln Road right here in Haverhill.  
13 03774.

14 Several of the points that I was going to  
15 make have already been addressed by other  
16 speakers so I'm modifying my comments as best I  
17 can. A couple of people have brought up the  
18 fact that rather than running the power line  
19 through a separate line or a separate  
20 right-of-way that what we should do is to use  
21 the existing National Grid right-of-way. I  
22 really don't think that it is in our best  
23 interest, and I say our meaning those who are

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1           opposed to this, I don't think it's in our best  
2           interest to fragment the opposition, and I say  
3           this because I happen to own land that currently  
4           is bisected by the National Grid line. So I  
5           already have a million volts going through my  
6           property. I'm really not looking for any more.  
7           And I can tell you this, that in the damp  
8           weather if I go out there and stand under that  
9           power line, it's either humming or it's  
10          crackling. Now, I don't know what kind of an  
11          effect that has on me or the wildlife or other  
12          people that may go under it, but I can't imagine  
13          that it's good. So what I would request from  
14          DOE is that there be a comprehensive study done  
15          on the health effects of this number of volts  
16          that would be going over our heads, and I also  
17          would request that that be done by an  
18          independent nonpartisan agency. Too often these  
19          studies are done by the people that are involved  
20          in it, and, quite honestly, I would question the  
21          validity of the study.

22                 Secondly, I would like to know and I'm  
23                 throwing this out to anyone and everyone,

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1           whether it's legislators at all three levels or  
2           whomever, I would like to know what we can do to  
3           stop this. I don't know if eminent domain is  
4           going to be used or not. I certainly hope it is  
5           not. I know that Rick Ladd has introduced a  
6           bill to crimp that a little bit and as he  
7           already indicated that's coming up again on  
8           Tuesday. So I would hope that someone out there  
9           would know how it can be stopped and that all of  
10          us and all the people in the other communities  
11          that are opposed to it could be informed of that  
12          method.

13                 As far as property values go, there's no  
14          question that it is going to affect them  
15          adversely. I would like to know how much. And  
16          I don't see why it would be too difficult to use  
17          other states, if necessary, the existing power  
18          lines that are here, but there has to be a way  
19          to quantify and qualify just how much those  
20          property values are going to be decreased, and  
21          certainly that's something that all of us are  
22          going to be concerned about. And I guess those  
23          would be the major points.

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1           I can say one more thing about the National  
2 Grid line and that is that maintenance is not  
3 good. There are exposed ground wires. I've  
4 complained for years, and I'm talking 20 or 30  
5 feet at a time. They are on the surface, they  
6 could be picked up by equipment or machines that  
7 happen to go over it. Whether it poses a threat  
8 to disrupt the grounding, I don't know, but I  
9 can tell you that they really are not very good  
10 at maintaining the lines. I've tried to get  
11 money for improvement of the road. That  
12 supposedly exists in their budget, but it  
13 certainly hasn't come my way. So in short, as  
14 you can tell, I'm not really in favor of it and  
15 hopefully it won't go through. Thank you.

16           MODERATOR: Thank you, Ron, for your  
17 comments. Our next speaker, formerly identified  
18 as John Amex, is really John Amy. Welcome,  
19 John.

20           SPEAKER: I'm John Amy from Pittsburg. 81  
21 Tabor Road, Pittsburg, New Hampshire, 03592.  
22 Over here is my friend Rick Samson, and this is  
23 my place, and my story is about my place. I'll

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1 try to stay within my time limit, but I'm here  
2 because you are an alternate route and this is  
3 the alternate route that could affect my place.  
4 It's not on my land, but this is Indian Stream  
5 Valley and across here is Quebec. And this is  
6 the approximate location of the second alternate  
7 route as the power line comes in from Quebec.  
8 This is my home right here. My second home and  
9 dairy operation, my brother's home, another  
10 brother's home, workshop here, 1600 acres of  
11 easement land, most of which is a certified tree  
12 farm. You can set that down, Richard. That's  
13 kind of you.

14 And I'm going to abbreviate my comments  
15 because a few people here that heard them  
16 yesterday and I don't want to bore you to death,  
17 but thank you, Mr. Mills for coming to New  
18 Hampshire to hear our story. Written comments  
19 alone would never explain the whole situation  
20 that we are facing. My remarks will touch on  
21 some of the social and economic issues regarding  
22 this project. This is a lot more than a power  
23 line that we don't want, don't need and don't

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1 expect to continue. The people are coming  
2 together from Pittsburg to Concord, from all  
3 ages, walks of life, political persuasions.  
4 We've had enough and we are defending what is  
5 ours. All of us here today from a sense of  
6 place in our lives. Younger folks are just  
7 learning, some of us may be new to New  
8 Hampshire, but I'm proud and privileged to have  
9 lived in the same place, Indian Stream Valley,  
10 for 61 years, and my family has been there since  
11 1890 when my great grandmother moved there from  
12 Clarksville. I have a feel for the valley that  
13 is very strong and valuable. I can know things  
14 that others cannot just because I've always been  
15 there working the land, watching the seasons  
16 come and go and come back again. I can tell you  
17 with no hesitation, that there's no space at my  
18 place for Northern Pass. My place extends far  
19 beyond Tabor Road in Pittsburg to all of New  
20 Hampshire. It is my opinion that 90 percent of  
21 the new right-of-way for this project will have  
22 to be taken by eminent domain. It will turn  
23 into a political bloodbath in New Hampshire. It

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1 will tear friends and families apart. It will  
2 turn neighbor against neighbor. This is wrong  
3 for New Hampshire. There is no way that  
4 landowners can adequately be compensated for all  
5 that they are going to lose when timberland,  
6 Christmas tree farms, maple orchards are taken  
7 out of production in perpetuity. There's no way  
8 of calculating that. There's no way to  
9 calculate the value of the way of life.

10 No place in the country is the right of  
11 private property closest to the hearts of the  
12 people than in New Hampshire. We are here today  
13 fighting to maintain that right. We will not  
14 yield to Northern Pass. Not now, not ever. The  
15 power of the people will prevail. For all of  
16 the above reasons and more, I urge the  
17 Department of Energy to deny the Presidential  
18 permit. Thank you.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
20 John. Next speaker will be Michael Gilmore.  
21 Can I also have Paul Ingbretson, Bob Lang, from  
22 the Piermont Selectboard and Hawk Metheny. When  
23 you're ready.

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1           SPEAKER: Good afternoon, everybody. My  
2 name is Michael Gilmore. I'm here with my wife  
3 Jacqueline and daughter Amanda. We are from  
4 North Conway, New Hampshire, 03860. And I can  
5 guarantee each and every one of you that on a  
6 clear day from our house to North Conway there  
7 is no way we can see a 135-foot tower on  
8 Northern Pass. However, it is still in my  
9 backyard; be it here, be it in Keene, be in its  
10 Portsmouth or be up in Pittsburg. It is still  
11 my backyard if it's in New Hampshire.

12           I've heard it said that one percent of the  
13 population is active and does something, 9  
14 percent watches and listens, and 90 percent wake  
15 up and say what happened. I think that's where  
16 we are again today. I want to address two  
17 points today. I'll definitely go over my time  
18 so I'll need both sessions.

19           I want to directly discuss the border  
20 crossing necessity directed to Mr. Mills of the  
21 energy department. The second part will deal  
22 with the transmission line and Northeast  
23 Utilities. Maybe some things you haven't

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1 thought about. Believe me, think about them.

2 In 1968 I moved up here from the West  
3 Hartford/Hartford area. Yes, home to Northeast  
4 Utilities. Good company. We'll talk about that  
5 later.

6 I haven't had much time to research this  
7 due to my involvement in another issue here in  
8 New Hampshire. However, in the few days that I  
9 had what I did come across was very, very, very  
10 interesting maps which everybody can find. I  
11 think they're pretty obvious. This is a section  
12 of them. If it were color-coded, you'd be able  
13 to see that we are PSNH, Northern Utilities, to  
14 our right is Central Maine Power in Maine, to  
15 our left is Green Mountain Power in Vermont.  
16 Farther on is National Grid in New York.  
17 Western Mass. is Northeast Utilities as is  
18 Connecticut and as we are. Connecticut has got  
19 a problem, and we also have NSTAR which I  
20 believe has been taken out over by Northeast  
21 Utilities, too.

22 The purpose of this line has nothing  
23 whatsoever to do with power in New Hampshire.

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1 It has nothing whatsoever to do with helping our  
2 neighbors. We have adequate border crossings in  
3 Maine, we have them in Vermont, we have multiple  
4 ones in New York. Less than ten years ago the  
5 DOE was sitting at another hearing discussing  
6 the export of power from the Mohawk Electric and  
7 other New York facilities to Canada. How far  
8 we've come in less than ten years.

9 Northeast Utilities has got a problem.  
10 They need to deliver power in southern New  
11 Hampshire. They are surrounded by competition.  
12 Look at your power bill. Look at all the  
13 details in there. One of the biggest items is  
14 transmission cost. For them to get power they  
15 have to go through Central Maine Power, they  
16 have to go through Green Mountain or God forbid,  
17 they have to go through National Grid who has  
18 blocked them from being able to deliver power.

19 We do not need another border crossing. We  
20 have plenty of spigots from Quebec down here to  
21 New England. This is not for the benefit  
22 neither of the state or I believe for New  
23 England. Please deny this permit. We don't

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1 need it. New England doesn't need it. America  
2 does not need it. I'll try to discuss the  
3 transmission lines and some facts and figures  
4 about Northeast Utilities afterwards. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you, Michael. Next  
7 speaker. Paul Ingbretson? Do I have Bob Lang?

8 SPEAKER: My name is Paul Ingbretson. I'm  
9 the representative for Haverhill along with Rick  
10 Ladd and also for Warren, Piermont and Benton.  
11 We're relatively seriously hit by this line  
12 going through. Particularly seriously hit if  
13 it's a quarter of a mile wide as we hear. I  
14 came today not planning to speak. I was just  
15 planning to listen, and I want to thank you all  
16 for coming and informing me. I represent you  
17 and I commit myself to aggressively representing  
18 you in this matter. I also want to thank you  
19 for coming and bringing this opportunity to us,  
20 but I want to say I'm disappointed that I got a  
21 note that this was, that I could sign up to  
22 speak. It came in my mail the day after I would  
23 have had to sign up so I hope that changes with

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1           whoever is responsible, and I don't mean to pick  
2           on you, but I think this is really important  
3           that we need to make sure that people are noted  
4           in a good time. Letter hit the mail on  
5           Wednesday and I got it on Friday and it's  
6           Saturday morning.

7           We hear a lot at the state level about  
8           compelling interest, and I understand, we all  
9           understand it. Our laws are, you know, people  
10          who love liberty don't really like that part.  
11          We're always have to do something for our  
12          neighbors, for the community at large. On the  
13          other hand I'm not seeing that there's a whole  
14          lot of compelling interest on this part, and I  
15          frankly think that it's time for the information  
16          to be really well brought forward to be, the  
17          research to be really well done, to be  
18          independently done, to be solid and convincing,  
19          and then to be done in the most modest possible  
20          way if it's comes to fruition and actually is  
21          something that turns out we want.

22          I'm certainly for my part waiting to be  
23          convinced. I think you guys have the fairly

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1           decent job on your hands to do so, not just to  
2           me but to many of us. I have a lot of fear that  
3           Haverhill is about to be used, and I don't say  
4           that in a spirit of cruelty or anything, but it  
5           appears we're about to be used and I have, a few  
6           seconds ago I expressed those concerns to our  
7           Congressman and our Senator, and I said, will  
8           you assure me that we will not be used here.  
9           And they said yes, we will assure you that you  
10          will not be used. You know they're at that  
11          level, but I urge you to do the same thing, to  
12          make calls, to do whatever it takes to make sure  
13          that we don't just simply become, as someone  
14          said, a corridor for somebody else's benefit.  
15          At least to the extent we are that it be done  
16          with the most minimal damage to our neighbors,  
17          some of whom have farmlands, residential homes,  
18          cemeteries. I have retired people have called  
19          me and others. There are people in the logging  
20          industry have been calling me. I'm getting  
21          plenty of information and background so I'm  
22          hoping you guys are listening, and I thank you  
23          very much for giving us this opportunity to

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1 present this to you. Thank you very much.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
3 Paul. Next speaker is Hawk Metheny. Next  
4 person up to the chairs is Bonnie Hall.

5 SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Hawk  
6 Metheny. I serve as the New England Regional  
7 Director with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.  
8 Our office is in White River Junction, Vermont,  
9 05001. I did speak the other night in Lincoln,  
10 but I thought I'd speak to you all here this  
11 afternoon and let you know what our comments  
12 were to DOE or at least try and summarize them a  
13 bit since the AT has been mentioned a couple  
14 times this afternoon.

15 We work in cooperation with federal and  
16 state agencies and 31 trail clubs in the  
17 maintenance, management and protection of the  
18 Appalachian Trail. The trail is a 2181 mile  
19 National Scenic Trail that runs from Georgia to  
20 Maine as designated by Congress in the 1968  
21 National Scenic Trails Act. Here in New  
22 Hampshire, the trail runs from about 160 miles  
23 from Hanover to Gorham and passes through towns

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1 on this side of the state of Hanover, Lyme,  
2 Orford, Piermont, Warren, Benton, Woodstock,  
3 Easton, Lincoln and Franconia. Regrettably it  
4 doesn't pass through Haverhill but nearby towns.

5 Because the trail runs in a more or less  
6 southwest and northeast alignment across the  
7 state and Northern Pass has been proposed to run  
8 almost due south from the north, it would have  
9 to cross the Appalachian Trail. You can't avoid  
10 it unless they put thousand-foot high powers up  
11 above it so we are concerned about the impact  
12 this project would have on the AT and the  
13 experience it provides to the many thousands of  
14 visitors who use the trail here in New  
15 Hampshire.

16 Specifically, we had asked DOE to address  
17 the physical impacts of the crossing itself,  
18 just the disturbance to the land base and the  
19 soil and the natural resources along with the  
20 experiential impact of hiking under a large  
21 transmission line. Equally important, we're  
22 concerned about the viewshed impacts that this  
23 transmission line would have from many of the

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1 surrounding peaks here through this side of the  
2 state, specifically from Smarts Mountain, Mt.  
3 Cube, Mt. Moosilauke, South Kinsman, North  
4 Kinsman, Mt. Liberty, Little Haystack, Lincoln,  
5 Lafayette and Mt. Garfield.

6 One thing that's not realized by everyone  
7 is although the trail is technically only 24  
8 inches wide, there is a thousand foot wide land  
9 base that protects the AT and the experience  
10 that people have on it, approximately 500 feet  
11 either side of the treadway, and that land is  
12 managed by the federal government. Here in New  
13 Hampshire, the land was transferred from the  
14 National Park Service to the White Mountain  
15 National Forest so even in the alternate route  
16 where the route is avoiding the Proclamation  
17 Boundary of the White Mountain National Forest  
18 it would cross the AT on this thousand-foot wide  
19 strip so the special use permit is still  
20 required and it's also required that the full  
21 EIS is done as if it was done on interior  
22 National Forest land, just a clarification.

23 I just wanted to let you all know we were

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1 here. We're engaged. If anybody has any  
2 questions about our involvement or impacts on  
3 the Appalachian Trail, I'll be happy to take  
4 those questions when we wrap up. Thank you.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
6 Hawk. Next speaker, Bonnie Hall, and I'll let  
7 you guys know that she's the last preregistered  
8 speaker.

9 SPEAKER: Hi, can you hear me? Okay.  
10 Well, I'm a little concerned because my address  
11 is 7 Avery Farm Road, Woodstock, New Hampshire.  
12 And I live on Tripoli Road so if you've ever  
13 gone up 91 you can see my little cape there from  
14 the freeway and you will know that the power  
15 lines are between my home and the freeway, and  
16 I'm not sure what this means for us. Either we  
17 will lose our home or we will lose our view and  
18 that will really affect our retirement. So  
19 anyway, that's my story.

20 But what I'm more concerned about is the  
21 big picture of why is this country even  
22 considering becoming more dependent on foreign  
23 energy. That's my huge concern. I mean, my

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1 life will go on whether my house is taken or I  
2 have to drive under these lines to get anywhere,  
3 but I'm really concerned about our future and  
4 becoming so dependent on foreign energy. That's  
5 pretty much all I have to say. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you all very much. As  
7 stated earlier, once I'm done with that  
8 preregistered list of speakers I will open the  
9 floor to people who have not had an opportunity  
10 to speak yet, didn't register or preregister,  
11 but in sitting in the audience today they've  
12 heard something that they want to speak about or  
13 they didn't have some of the thoughts that were  
14 in their mind addressed by other speakers. So  
15 I'll open up the floor right now. One, come on  
16 up. Any other hands of people who want to speak  
17 who have not yet spoken? Come on up. No need  
18 to be shy. Looks like I've got three. Or two.

19 So the key part during this session since  
20 we don't have any information whatsoever, be  
21 very clear on your name, address, zip code. If  
22 you could look right at her, that will probably  
23 be helpful as well. Thank you very much.

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1           SPEAKER: My name is Andrea Bryant. I live  
2 at 633 Swazey Lane, Bethlehem, 03574. This  
3 brings back flashes of things that we've dealt  
4 with in Bethlehem because we have a landfill,  
5 and all the concerns that are expressed here  
6 have been expressed over the years, about 18 to  
7 20 of them, worried about the view. Mt.  
8 Washington is seen from Bethlehem, and it does  
9 scar the view. We are concerned about the  
10 health. Bethlehem has spent over a million  
11 dollars trying to fight the expansion of the  
12 landfill, but it continues to happen so I think  
13 that all the things that people have said, it's  
14 a Vermont-based company that has taken over our  
15 town. It has split the town. It's real. It  
16 can happen. These greedy corporations, they're  
17 not honest neighbors. They want, as people have  
18 said, the money. So I think that if this is  
19 passed, that similar plight is going to happen  
20 to the entire State of New Hampshire. People  
21 are going to be split. Our tax rates will not  
22 change. They will get hurt. So I ask that you  
23 find all the rules and regulations possible

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1 because I know that there are things that you  
2 have to follow, but find them in order to deny  
3 this permit.

4 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.  
5 Next speaker?

6 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Jacci Gilmore.  
7 I've been listening. I live up in North Conway,  
8 New Hampshire, 03860. I've been listening to  
9 all of you with an open mind and an open heart,  
10 although the Northern Pass does not directly  
11 affect us. I'm living in an area where I drive  
12 out my driveway and look up north to see the  
13 majesty of Mt. Washington. I don't need to go  
14 to Europe for that. But listening to everything  
15 said here today brought to mind an opportunity I  
16 had to fly over Virginia, and I looked down and  
17 I'm wondering, what the heck is that light green  
18 swath. That's a perpetual scar on our nation's  
19 land. That was Sherman's March to keep this  
20 country together. These towers would leave a  
21 permanent scar on our state, and I don't want to  
22 see that here. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER: Good afternoon. My name is Wayne

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1 Fortier, 14 Elm Street, Woodsville, New  
2 Hampshire. I'm the Selectman of Haverhill. And  
3 I have to go by what Mr. Gilmore said about  
4 Haverhill's official stance is that the  
5 Selectboard took a resolution sponsored and  
6 suggested by Rick Ladd that we ask the  
7 Department of Energy to take a very serious look  
8 at all the aspects involved in this project. At  
9 our town meeting, Mr. Mills, the town made a  
10 resolution to do the very same thing. To look  
11 at the comprehensive and all the details  
12 involved in a serious study and come up with  
13 recommendation perhaps to whatever it felt fit  
14 to either allow that permit or not.

15 Now, here today we've heard several  
16 residents of Haverhill say that they oppose  
17 this project so I think that Haverhill residents  
18 as a whole fall in that number 9, Mr. Gilmore.  
19 They're very cautious. They want to see what is  
20 here, but one of the aspects that I've listened  
21 to all afternoon came from Lara Saffo and her  
22 parents who left a 35-year legacy to not only  
23 her family but that land is now open for people

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1 to enjoy. And you can multiply that 180 miles  
2 worth of the person in Colebrook up at Indian  
3 Stream. It's the same thing.

4 I think people are generally distrustful of  
5 government at the national level, but here  
6 they're asking you to take a very, very serious  
7 look at this issue and to consider those aspects  
8 that they brought forward. If we lose this  
9 battle, say, in Lara Saffo's 35-year legacy of  
10 the land that John Wolter left for his family  
11 and every resident and anybody who wants to go  
12 up on it, then where are we? That is  
13 significant. It is very significant.

14 I would say this in closing. Mother Nature  
15 took away our national symbol of the great stone  
16 face a number of years ago. We had nothing to  
17 do with that. We do have something to do with  
18 this, and I ask you to consider that most  
19 seriously. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: One more? That's what we're  
21 here for.

22 SPEAKER: My name is Susan Schibanoff. 162  
23 Loop Road, Easton, 03580. I'll give you the

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1 spelling in a minute.

2 I'm what's called an impacted landowner.  
3 If you've ever heard an impacted wisdom tooth,  
4 you know how that feels, and you know what you  
5 need to do. You need to extract that problem.  
6 So let's extract the Northern Pass. I work with  
7 a group called Bury the Northern Pass, and I'm  
8 the self-appointed bean counter of these  
9 hearings. DOE is also doing it, of course. In  
10 the seven meetings to date, 2,560 people have  
11 attended. There have been over 300 speakers. I  
12 may be about the 305th. By my count, maybe 15  
13 of those speakers, roughly 5 percent, have had  
14 something positive to say about Northern Pass.  
15 Those speakers were all in Franklin.  
16 Understandably. I've been to six of the seven  
17 meetings. I was sorry not to make Colebrook,  
18 but that would have been the 6th in a row and I  
19 have a little patina here. I figured I needed a  
20 day off, but I have never heard in New  
21 Hampshire, and I've lived here for 40 years, I  
22 have never heard an outpouring like this one.  
23 New Hampshire has spoken and what it has said is

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1 no Northern Pass. Thank you.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
3 Susan. Another one? Let's just check to make  
4 sure. Anyone else? Hasn't spoken yet and would  
5 like to speak? Going, going, gone.

6 We're now going to open up to speakers who  
7 have already spoken and would like to speak  
8 again. We have one. Is it Michael?

9 SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

10 MODERATOR: This is what Michael alluded to  
11 when he was talking.

12 SPEAKER: (Michael Gilmore) I tried to be  
13 honest about it. I think I failed to give you  
14 my address. 1644 West Side Road. North Conway.  
15 03860.

16 MODERATOR: Before you start, if there's  
17 anyone else who's already spoken and would like  
18 to speak again, move on up.

19 SPEAKER: (Michael Gilmore) Let's step on  
20 to the second part which is what most people  
21 have been talking about which is Northern Pass.  
22 I think I'll upset you first and then hopefully  
23 please you second. Number one, this has nothing

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1 to do with today. Northern Pass is not about  
2 cutting land today to get power down. It looks  
3 that way. It's been laid out to be that way.  
4 You've got kids? Anyone here got kids? Give  
5 them a map. Tell them to draw two lines.  
6 Extend the Northern Pass down, keep going.  
7 You'll come out by Keene into Massachusetts.  
8 Land owned by Northeast Utilities. They will  
9 have a complete corridor all the way from Quebec  
10 to southern New England. They don't have to pay  
11 anybody else for transmission costs anymore.  
12 Think of the future, not today.

13 How about the line going over to the, am I  
14 going the right way? Probably this way. Go  
15 east to Franklin where the power station is  
16 going to be. Continue that line going. Where  
17 is it going? Boston? You're right. Why?  
18 NSTAR, Northeast Utilities. I guarantee you  
19 that before you know it, the next proposal  
20 you're going to hear if Northern Pass goes  
21 through is they're going to want to extend the  
22 DC line straight down to Mass. And they're  
23 going to want to get more stuff going to the

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1 east into the Boston area. And what is New  
2 Hampshire get out of it? Do we get revenue? Do  
3 we get a better view? Anybody paid us off? You  
4 have landowners in here? Please, show of hands.  
5 You're all going to be stupid if you sell your  
6 land. I told you I was going to upset you.  
7 Lease it. Don't let it go. Because right now  
8 we're in the worst recession we've had in God  
9 only knows when. Real estate as you know is in  
10 the toilet. Actually it's below that, it's in  
11 the cesspool. It's all the way down.

12 Why is Northeast Utilities doing this?  
13 Number one legal responsibility they have is to  
14 their shareholders. Number two and everything  
15 else behind is to obey the laws in doing  
16 business as they do. I have nothing against  
17 Northeast Utilities. Good company. Good  
18 corporation. They're doing what's good for  
19 Northeast Utilities. They're taking advantage  
20 of a low real estate market now and buying up a  
21 corridor to get themselves from being landlocked  
22 by other energy providers. This is their  
23 highway to heaven. This is their way of getting

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1 a free route.

2 Number two. I also stumbled across, I  
3 believe its Champlain Hudson. Is that going  
4 forward or is that in limbo?

5 MR. MILLS: It's an ongoing project.

6 SPEAKER: Anybody know about that? Any  
7 hands here? Five, ten percent. Okay. 30  
8 seconds. You know what that is? That's five  
9 inches. That's how big the cable is that  
10 they're going to use on this project, two of  
11 them. They need 25 feet of right-of-way to put  
12 those cables underwater, under land. Right down  
13 Lake Champlain, right down the Hudson River  
14 Valley. There's a few land diverges due to  
15 ecological problems. Why can it be done here?  
16 Why do we need -- who said 1300 feet? Think of  
17 the future, not today. What they're trying to  
18 do is buy up land el cheapo. Why? To establish  
19 a roadway to heaven. 350 foot towers? How big  
20 are these things? 1300. I don't know. Someone  
21 give me a number. 135. Do we need to be that  
22 high? No. If you only need 25 feet when  
23 they're underground why do we need that high?

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1           Because those high towers once they get the  
2           permit, how many more lines can they hang on it?  
3           How much expansion can they do? I hear a man  
4           say two. I don't know. I'm an engineer, but  
5           I'll be honest with you, high power is not my  
6           forte. I deal with small things as in silicon  
7           in computers. However I do think logically.  
8           This stinks. For whatever other reason you  
9           want, I hope I've pleased you, okay? Thank you.

10           MODERATOR: Next speaker, David Dobbins?

11           SPEAKER: I'm going next because I'm very  
12           short.

13           MODERATOR: Okay.

14           SPEAKER: My name is Michelle Vaughn.  
15           Route 175 in Thornton. So quickly I just wanted  
16           to say because this is my last chance speaking  
17           before the DOE and I just want to say that how I  
18           feel about this whole process is similar if you  
19           compare it to bullies in a school yard. Bullies  
20           often go to others and try to take something  
21           from them.

22           MODERATOR: Can we have some quiet, please?

23           SPEAKER: I'm going to try speaking loud

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1 enough. So the only thing I can think of is  
2 that Northern Pass is like bullies in a school  
3 yard and they try to take something from someone  
4 that's not theirs, and the stress that it has on  
5 the ones that are being preyed upon and those  
6 being preyed upon look to teachers and others  
7 and in power to stand up and stop the bullies  
8 and put them in their place. And we feel that  
9 same way in this situation. We're looking for  
10 ones that can say we hear you, and we're going  
11 to take care of you, citizens of New Hampshire,  
12 and stop the Northern Pass. That's all.

13 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.  
14 David?

15 SPEAKER: I'm delighted to be up here again  
16 and angry at the same time. I'm angry as I  
17 think a lot of people are. I've had the great  
18 privilege of speaking in front of thousands now  
19 of New Hampshire citizens, and they're angry. I  
20 was going to come up here and talk a lot about  
21 that anger, and then I decided that that may not  
22 be the most productive thing for me to talk  
23 about. I wanted to make a couple of notes. One

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1 is I love having electricity. You know, it's  
2 become an essential part of this way of life,  
3 this culture that we're living in right now,  
4 every single one of us. And I'm hoping that  
5 once this fabricated story, this actual  
6 nightmare, when this can be put aside and is  
7 over, we could actually have an intelligent,  
8 meaningful discussion on whether or not New  
9 Hampshire or New England does need more  
10 electrical power and how best to go and obtain  
11 that. I look forward to that.

12 Right now, though, what you said, Michelle,  
13 is what I want to address. We are looking for  
14 leadership on this issue. And from my point of  
15 view, we're looking at it in four different  
16 areas. The DOE. You can show great leadership  
17 by taking back with you everything that you've  
18 heard in assessing the very merits of this  
19 project itself on that level only and don't  
20 spend months and millions of taxpayer dollars on  
21 studies. Deny it on its merit. That would be  
22 leadership to us in this country when we're  
23 beyond our capability of paying money for things

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1           that we don't need done.

2           Leadership. We need leadership from PSNH  
3           and the folks at Northeast Utilities and their  
4           corporate partners. They could show leadership.  
5           You could actually gain back some integrity and  
6           respect. You could actually say you know what?  
7           This is a bad idea. I think we've made a  
8           mistake. New Hampshire people, we could  
9           actually forgive you if you do that now before  
10          you harm our state and harm all the citizens  
11          that live in it. Who hasn't made a mistake?  
12          Who hasn't needed forgiveness? And we need  
13          leadership from our political people, especially  
14          right here in New Hampshire. New Hampshire has  
15          the third largest legislative body in the world  
16          behind the United States Congress and the  
17          British House of Commons. We've got, well, you  
18          know, we have an excess of 400 people right --  
19          we're very well represented, and you know what  
20          we've had so far? We've had a very small number  
21          of people who have shown courage. Courage to  
22          stand up, courage to take a stand and not wait  
23          until the political winds blow certain

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1 directions and we find out where the majorities  
2 all lay on this thing. People like Ray Burton,  
3 Senator Forrester and some others that I don't  
4 know personally, but we've had a small number,  
5 and we thank you, and we're grateful for you,  
6 but we need a lot more. And lastly, we need  
7 leadership from our citizenry. This is the  
8 first time in my life, I'm 55 years old, first  
9 time in my life I've actually got involved in  
10 something, and I'm not proud of that. I wish I  
11 had. Because our society has changed in ways  
12 don't particularly like, but I don't say  
13 anything about it. Thank you for all of you who  
14 have given your voice. Tell everybody you know  
15 to lend their voice to it, too. Thank you.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
17 David. What appears to be our last speaker. Is  
18 that correct? Hold on. No.

19 SPEAKER: (Denys Draper) 100 years ago one  
20 of the most illustrious citizens of New  
21 Hampshire's North Country was very friendly with  
22 the President of the United States together with  
23 Congress, people who wanted to preserve the

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1 things that we have. In fact, we had a state  
2 park named after this gentleman. The Weeks Act  
3 was passed which helped to create the National  
4 Park Service. We've lost sight of Governor  
5 Weeks in all of this foolishness that DOE and  
6 all the others have brought to us. So instead  
7 of celebrating a wonderful, wonderful legacy in  
8 northern New Hampshire, we're sitting here.  
9 Please do not pass that Presidential permit.

10 And one other question for you is maybe you  
11 can ask, if it is called a Presidential permit,  
12 does the President of the United States have to  
13 sign it?

14 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.

15 SPEAKER: My name is Melanie Simo Muchow.  
16 My husband and I live at 244 Cressy Road in  
17 Bradford, New Hampshire, which isn't that far  
18 away. I didn't plan to speak, but I've been  
19 listening very closely to wonderful talks today,  
20 impassioned talks, and I'd just like to make,  
21 just a small observation and an admission that I  
22 don't know enough to put the pieces together but  
23 I keep thinking of 135 foot towers and why so

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1 tall. For instance, we drove up here by  
2 Interstate 89 towards West Lebanon, and we saw a  
3 right-of-way, and we looked at towers, electric  
4 transmission line towers that looked to be  
5 perhaps 40, maybe 50 feet high, and we casually  
6 said I wonder why they want to put towers 135  
7 feet. That's one piece of it.

8 My husband and I are day hikers along the  
9 Appalachian Trail and very happy to hear that  
10 the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is represented  
11 here today. We run into thru-hikers who  
12 invariably tell us if they've come from, if not  
13 Springer Mountain, they've come from Delaware or  
14 New Jersey or somewhere. And they say oh, we  
15 couldn't wait to get to the White Mountains.  
16 That to them is even beyond Mt. Katahdin, that's  
17 their high point. They've told us, many of them  
18 have. So we just try to listen. We can't go  
19 more than a day at a time.

20 Now I'd like to admit that I've been trying  
21 to piece together bits of information on  
22 electromagnetic fields. I'm not a scientist,  
23 but I have a feeling that high voltage

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1 transmission lines are ultimately a threat to  
2 all of us, and I understand that the Department  
3 of Energy in the 1990s undertook a five-year  
4 study through the Department of Energy and the  
5 National Academy of Sciences to try to  
6 understand what are the impacts of  
7 electromagnetic fields. And so far what I've  
8 found by working at Dartmouth is that nothing is  
9 terribly conclusive, but I'd like to read to you  
10 two sentences perhaps from the Handbook of  
11 Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields,  
12 third edition, published in 2007. This is the  
13 most recent information I've found. It has to  
14 do with walking under rights of way, under  
15 transmission lines. High power. It says the  
16 strongest field can be found where the lines are  
17 closest to the ground. And this usually occurs  
18 midway between two towers. Here field strengths  
19 of up to five kilovolts per meter can be found.

20 Now, there are guidelines I have to explain  
21 from the Internal Commission on Nonionizing  
22 Radiation Protection so there is some  
23 international commission out there. And they

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1           limit public exposure to five kilovolts per  
2           meter and there is no time averaging for low  
3           frequency fields which people would normally  
4           experience. But, therefore, people walking  
5           under high voltage power lines may on some  
6           occasions be exposed in excess of existing  
7           international guidelines. I have to wrap up.  
8           All I'm trying to say is there are pieces of  
9           information that haven't yet been brought  
10          together. But if the 135 foot tower is up  
11          there, presumably over time they want several  
12          lines, and as they drop down maybe there's a  
13          place where they can say, okay, no one will  
14          reach this, but how many lines. I don't know.  
15          But I feel that it's important that the  
16          Department of Energy pursue this along with all  
17          the other things that have been said today about  
18          protecting our precious New Hampshire  
19          environment. Thank you very much.

20                 MODERATOR: Next speaker?

21                 SPEAKER: Richard McDaniels from 3425  
22          Dartmouth College Highway in North Haverhill. I  
23          own 375 acres in the Town of Haverhill. I was a

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1 former dairy farmer. We do have a 125-acre  
2 piece in Center Haverhill was our heifer pasture  
3 through which the existing power line goes  
4 through. I just want to remind people that this  
5 wider one proposed hopefully will not have the  
6 former landowners go through the grief that we  
7 have gone through over the years. I don't know  
8 how many times they left the gates open up  
9 there, the heifers run 2 to 3 miles away. Took  
10 hours to get them back. Another time lightning  
11 struck one of the towers. Killed two heifers.  
12 That was an act of God. That was no fault of  
13 the power company. They later put in ground  
14 wires that went from tower to tower, buried  
15 wires so each tower was connected. They  
16 replaced a bunch of braces because the towers  
17 originally were set on piers underground and the  
18 pieces finally eroded badly enough so they had  
19 to be replaced. Well, one of those towers was  
20 there that they did not pack the soil back in.  
21 We had one of the heifers up there get hung up  
22 in it. It took me a year and a half to finally  
23 get them to cough up for it and the only reason

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1 they did was because I spoke about that at a  
2 hearing when they were planning to put in the DC  
3 right-of-way.

4 Other little things. We heard about  
5 spraying. The spray truck which was not a spray  
6 truck it was a modified log skidder, it went  
7 through our pasture. They didn't spray anything  
8 there because everything had been mowed clean,  
9 but they reloaded the thing, they backed the dam  
10 skidder into French Pond to get the water. You  
11 know what that means.

12 The other little thing is just a reminder  
13 that we don't need extra power in New Hampshire.  
14 Thank you.

15 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.

16 SPEAKER: (Jacci Gilmore) I'm going to make  
17 this really quick. It's been a discussion in  
18 our home for the past few years. Why are we  
19 even entertaining hydroelectric? There's a  
20 natural gas pipeline coming down from Quebec  
21 through northern New Hampshire, comes into  
22 Berlin, goes out to Portland, Maine. Why do we  
23 have to put all our eggs in an electric basket

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1 and not utilize the vast natural gas resources  
2 that North America has, and we're sitting on it.  
3 It's a cleaner energy. There's no need to rape  
4 our beautiful landscape here. There's no need  
5 for this. And I vehemently oppose any kind of  
6 structure that will deface and take away from  
7 the beauty of our state. Thank you.

8 MODERATOR: Any others? Brian, would you  
9 like to give some closing comments?

10 MR. MILLS: I want to thank everybody in  
11 New Hampshire for 7 days of very interesting  
12 comments and a wonderful time, and thank you all  
13 for participating in our Environmental Impact  
14 Statement Scoping Process. Thank you.

15 HEARING ADJOURNED AT 4:26 P.M.  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cynthia Foster, Licensed Court Reporter for the State of New Hampshire, hereby certify that on March 20, 2011, I took public comment at the Northern Pass Transmission Line Project Draft EIS Public Scoping Meeting at Plymouth, New Hampshire;

That the foregoing testimony was taken by me in Shorthand and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me, and pages 2 through 119, inclusive, comprise a full, true and correct transcription of my verbatim stenographic notes of the public comment;

Dated at West Lebanon, New Hampshire, this 25th day of March, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Foster, LCR

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