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THE NORTHERN PASS EIS  
  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING  
GRAPPONE CONFERENCE CENTER  
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 23, 2013

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1           MODERATOR: Thank you, Brian. Next up,  
2           elected officials. Before that actually, Travis  
3           Beck? Ladies and gentlemen, this is Travis  
4           Beck. He will help you understand where you are  
5           in your presentation. First speaker, State  
6           Senator Andrew Hosmer.

7           ANDREW HOSMER: Thank you very much. My  
8           name is Andrew Hosmer. I'm State Senator from  
9           District 7 which is 8 towns and two cities, one  
10          of those cities being the city of Franklin which  
11          as you indicated earlier and most people know is  
12          the place where if this project's approved, the  
13          converter station will be built. I'm here  
14          representing and speaking on behalf of the city  
15          of Franklin and what this project means to the  
16          city of Franklin. I want to let you know that I  
17          commend all of you for your service here as well  
18          as the process that we're going through right  
19          now because I do believe that at the end of this  
20          process, we can find a way to solve the problems  
21          that are now confronting this project and  
22          certainly of great concern to Granite Staters.

23                 Franklin is a city that has been certainly

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1           beleaguered over the past few decades with the  
2           closure of mills, the depreciation of tax value  
3           in the city, but it's also a place that's  
4           beautiful. Its citizens are proud and hard  
5           working and I know that the ones that I speak  
6           with are hopeful that the future will hold  
7           economic opportunity for them as well as for  
8           future generations.

9           The citizens of Franklin that I speak with  
10          understand that compromise is essential in this  
11          process. Not one person I've spoken to wants  
12          the project to proceed at the expense of another  
13          town or at the expense of Granite Staters,  
14          particularly our neighbors in the North Country.  
15          They are acutely aware of others concerns and  
16          they want this project to be sensitive to  
17          others. They also know that initially this  
18          project had a very poor introduction in this  
19          state. It was a poor route, it was a poor plan  
20          and I know that they appreciate the fact that  
21          the project is going to be corrected in many  
22          respects.

23                 They are anxious that this project proceed

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1 and that they have an opportunity to build the  
2 converter station in Franklin. What it means to  
3 the city of Franklin, the economic impact is  
4 almost \$400 million, 500 jobs and a 69 percent  
5 increase in their tax base.

6 In conclusion, New Hampshire must pursue  
7 long-term energy strategies that balance the  
8 interests of its citizens, lowers the cost of  
9 energy and helps create a vibrant economic  
10 atmosphere. This project allows citizens of  
11 Franklin to look into the future and know that  
12 the city they love has a future filled with  
13 opportunity. Thank you very much again.

14 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
15 Andrew. State Representative Neal Kurk.

16 NEAL KURK: Thank you very much for the  
17 opportunity to present information to you. I'm  
18 a State Representative representing the town of  
19 Weare and the town of Deering. I would ask that  
20 as you consider the Environmental Impact  
21 Statement you consider it as broadly as possible  
22 including the social consequences and the social  
23 costs to this. I'm speaking about the visual

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1 impact of a project of this nature on the people  
2 of this state who are as much part of the  
3 environment as about anything else there is.

4 One of the things that a lot of us would  
5 like to see is a complete detailed analysis done  
6 of the cost of burying the entire length of the  
7 line. I think the opposition to this project  
8 would disappear if the entire line were buried  
9 because it's the effect on us as we sit on our  
10 porches and look at 135 to 150 foot towers that  
11 were not there before and the affect on tourism  
12 that this will have that is of great concern to  
13 us. So if you folks can do an environment an  
14 impact study that has a very broad reaching  
15 Cost-Benefit-Analysis, it would be much  
16 appreciated. Thank you.

17 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
18 Neal. Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce. J.  
19 Christopher Williams.

20 CHRIS WILLIAMS: My name is Chris Williams.  
21 I serve as the President and CEO of the Greater  
22 Nashua Chamber of Commerce representing roughly  
23 600 companies in and around the greater Nashua

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1 area in southern New Hampshire. I'm here to  
2 speak in favor of this project and would share a  
3 few points with you that I think are relevant to  
4 your considerations as you consider whether or  
5 not to allow this to cross over our national  
6 borders.

7 I spend a lot of time on a daily basis  
8 trying to recruit new companies to New  
9 Hampshire. There are always three questions  
10 that they ask me. They want to know about  
11 health care costs in our state. They want to  
12 know about workforce opportunities. Can they  
13 find educated workers. Number 3, they want to  
14 know about energy costs.

15 When you consider the different industries  
16 that come into New Hampshire, the question of  
17 energy cost goes to the very top of the list of  
18 questions they ask me when they are a  
19 manufacturing company. Manufacturers need to  
20 know that especially because of the amount of  
21 product and service that they produce and the  
22 energy that's required in order to produce those  
23 products.

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1           The reason that's important to me and to  
2           everyone else in this room is because  
3           manufacturing is the top industry in the State  
4           of New Hampshire. When you look at economic  
5           output in our state, that is the single industry  
6           that more than any other drives the economic  
7           output for the State of New Hampshire. If we  
8           are to provide ourselves a long-term sustainable  
9           diversity of energy sources, this Northern Pass  
10          project will allow us to have success in that  
11          sort of an exploration. Manufacturers cannot  
12          just simply rely on energy sources for the next  
13          2 or 3 months or the next 2 to 3 years. They  
14          have to know there's going to be a diversity of  
15          energy sources, affordable energy sources, for  
16          20 and 30 years out. This project allows us to  
17          look 20 to 30 years old. Not just 2 or 3 years.

18                 This project will bring roughly 1200  
19                 megawatts which I believe is three times the  
20                 amount of energy output by the nuclear plant  
21                 that is closing down the Yankee plant over in  
22                 Vermont. That's a significant amount of energy  
23                 and that will go right into the New England grid

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1 which then comes back to us. Again, not 2 or 3  
2 years out but 10, 20, 30 years down the road.

3 Right now, natural gas is a great thing.  
4 It's cheap, there seems to be lot of it, and for  
5 the foreseeable future, many of our  
6 manufacturers and companies in this area can  
7 rely upon that. But who's to say what's going  
8 to happen 20 to 30 years out. That is why this  
9 project is important to me and important to  
10 manufacturers all across the state.

11 I'll spend my last few seconds addressing  
12 many friends in this room who are wearing orange  
13 shirts coming from the northern part of the  
14 state who have a very different opinion on this.  
15 I share their sensitivity and my friends and  
16 colleagues in businesses in southern New  
17 Hampshire share their sensitivity to the  
18 environmental impact on this. We also recognize  
19 sound public policy requires putting all the  
20 opinions on the table and synthesizing  
21 everything so we can have a compromise that  
22 helps all of us make sure we have a foreseeable  
23 economic future so please keep that in mind.

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1 Thank you for your time here tonight. I  
2 appreciate it.

3 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.  
4 I've got 5 chairs up front here that is the on  
5 deck circle so what I'll do is I will call the  
6 first speaker and five others. Come up, grab  
7 the seat, once everybody is seated the speaker  
8 can start. So the first speaker is John Burke,  
9 and then the five on deck and please sit first  
10 in line over so that everybody can execute.  
11 Marco Lacasse, and I apologize if I butcher your  
12 name. I did take a remedial North Country name  
13 calling class but I don't know how well I did.  
14 You guys can let me know at the end. Jonathan  
15 Holmes, Thomas Connor, Jonathan Mitchell, Chuck  
16 Poulicakos.

17 JOHN BURT: Thank you, Board. For the  
18 record, I am Representative John Burt and I  
19 represent the town of Goffstown. I support  
20 Northern Pass and let me tell you why. For 18  
21 years I ran a business out of Barnet, Vermont.  
22 I was a tree arborist, I loved that business,  
23 made a good living, but every day I left, guess

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1           what I looked at. I looked at that huge power  
2           line over in Monroe, New Hampshire that goes  
3           through Goffstown where I currently live and  
4           goes to Massachusetts. It's run by National  
5           Grid, it comes from Hydro-Quebec and this power  
6           line is monstrous. I hope you look it up. My  
7           children and I, we used to go walking under  
8           there all the time. To be honest, I thought the  
9           thing looked pretty cool the way it slothed up  
10          through the mountain. I really did and when I  
11          hear opposition that it's ugly, it's not. I  
12          thought it was pretty cool looking. So we used  
13          to go there all the time and walk and hunt and  
14          the snowmobilers would have a lot of fun in the  
15          winter and it didn't hurt property values. Not  
16          one bit.

17                 When I was over there, a lot of people  
18                 supported that power line. I never heard  
19                 anybody complain about it. It's right for New  
20                 Hampshire. We're in this together. We have  
21                 clean energy up in Canada that's willing to come  
22                 down through here. If that power line was not  
23                 built, what would they build instead? Coal?

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1 Boston would have needed some type of power. It  
2 would have had to come down here. So luckily, I  
3 don't know how many years that thing's been  
4 there, but it's been a long time, they brought  
5 it down.

6 I want to talk about wind. I oppose wind.  
7 Wind is the ugliest thing I've ever seen on top  
8 of a mountain. Let me explain that there's  
9 groups here that jumped in bed with the wind  
10 power companies up in Groton and Balsams.  
11 They're harmful to the environment, they cost  
12 the taxpayers a tremendous amount of money, a  
13 ton of money, and guess who's going to pay to  
14 take them down? The taxpayers. They're harmful  
15 to humans, birds. There's a bunch of animals  
16 sitting on the bottom just waiting for the birds  
17 to fly and eat them up. So why are we building  
18 these wind towers. I say we shouldn't. This  
19 Hydro-Quebec power is clean, it's already built,  
20 it doesn't cost the taxpayers anything, lower  
21 New England needs it so I hope you support this  
22 project and allow the transmission to go across  
23 the country border. Thank you for your time and

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1 have a good night.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
3 John. Apologize that I didn't catch you were a  
4 State Representative. I have a situation where  
5 I've got a card from a city of Concord City  
6 Councilor, but what I'm going to do is I'm going  
7 to go to my original list so can Robert Werner  
8 come down? I'll cover you next after Jonathan  
9 Mitchell. So I have called out Marco Lacasse,  
10 Jonathan Holmes, Thomas Connor, Chuck  
11 Poulicakos. I'm going to call David Proulx,  
12 Michael Bennett, Denis Beaudoin.

13 JONATHAN MITCHELL: Thank you for the  
14 opportunity to speak. I'll be very brief. My  
15 name is Jonathan Mitchell. I'm Training  
16 Director for the IBEW in Concord. I run the  
17 apprenticeship training program and I have 50  
18 apprentices that would give their eye teeth to  
19 work this job, and it is a good paying job and  
20 what I mean by that is good pay, health care and  
21 means to retire, not your typical fast-track job  
22 to Health and Human Services.

23 The second reason is as simple as the

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1 first. You know, at a time when the focus is on  
2 renewable energies and getting off our  
3 dependency on foreign oil, I think this is the  
4 responsible thing to do and I'd really like to  
5 see New Hampshire lead by example. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
7 Jonathan. Robert Werner?

8 ROB WERNER: Thank you very much. My name  
9 is Rob Werner, and I represent Ward 5 on the  
10 City Council here in Concord. I also chair the  
11 Energy and Environment Committee for the city of  
12 Concord, and I'm going to refer to a letter that  
13 our City Manager Tom Aspell had sent to  
14 Mr. Mills back in June expressing a number of  
15 concerns. I also want the community to be  
16 aware, I think many are at this point, that we  
17 as a City Council last week or two weeks ago  
18 actually voted to pursue intervenor status as a  
19 city which we expect to gain that status in  
20 early October, and that is very important  
21 because of the impact that this project has on  
22 the city of Concord and I think it's only  
23 recently that residents have become aware of the

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1 significant impact on the city of Concord.

2 You're in receipt of Mr. Aspell's letter  
3 but I just wanted to emphasize that the Planning  
4 Commission, the Conservation Commission and the  
5 City has some serious concerns. One of them is  
6 that one of the things that we would very much  
7 like you to consider is burying the lines at  
8 least for the length of the project within the  
9 city of Concord. We would like a complete  
10 analysis of the economic impact and  
11 environmental impact upon the city of Concord,  
12 and again, I think that this is extremely  
13 important to our residents. We want to make  
14 sure what the impact is on our property values.  
15 We're concerned about some of the heights of the  
16 towers, we cite the AMC report that indicates  
17 that the city of Concord has particularly high  
18 exposure in this project. So we would ask that  
19 you do everything you can to minimize the impact  
20 on the city of Concord and its residents and  
21 particularly in residential neighborhoods.  
22 Thank you very much.

23 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,

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1 Robert. Next speaker, Mike Bennett.

2 MIKE BENNETT: About twelve years ago I  
3 came up to a critical juncture in my life where  
4 I decided to veer off the college route and  
5 incur a lot of debt and join an apprenticeship  
6 program, and that was with the IBEW and to  
7 become an electrician, and my apprenticeship was  
8 what you would call paid for for all the past  
9 members actually paid for my training and my  
10 schooling and so I talk to a lot of people in  
11 this day and age that, you know, friends from  
12 college who've suffered through the recession  
13 and the economic downturn and they incurred a  
14 lot of debt that they don't know how they can  
15 pay off, and if they're lucky to have a job  
16 there's still lot of struggle to get by and  
17 bills. I think that this project creates a  
18 whole lot of opportunity for people. Creates a  
19 lot of opportunity for people to join a trade  
20 and get a skill where they can work not only in  
21 New Hampshire but they can take that skill and  
22 work almost anywhere in the world with it. And  
23 it comes at a very low cost to them because I'll

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1 actually be the person that's paying for their  
2 apprenticeship. So when we sit here and we talk  
3 about opportunities and everything else and if  
4 America really still is the land of opportunity  
5 because kids like me, you know, even adults, you  
6 know, we're born to build, men and women. We  
7 need that outlet and that creative energy and it  
8 needs a job to be put to good use and that's it.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
10 Mike. Our next speaker, Denis Beaudoin. Before  
11 you start, let me read a few names. David  
12 Desmarais, David Dobbins, John Yanovitch, Sean  
13 Narkon. The floor is yours.

14 DENIS BEAUDOIN: Good evening, gentlemen.  
15 Thank you. My name is Denis Beaudoin. I live  
16 in Pittsfield, New Hampshire. I'm the President  
17 of the electricians' union based here in  
18 Concord, New Hampshire. Part of my duties are  
19 to refer our electricians to various job sites  
20 throughout New Hampshire when required. We  
21 currently have approximately 50 percent of our  
22 workforce working or seeking work 500 miles away  
23 or more from their homes and family. These are

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1 electricians with motorcycles, these are  
2 electricians with snowmobiles, these are  
3 electricians with campers, fishing poles,  
4 hunting gear. They spend a lot of their time  
5 and money in the North Country doing these  
6 activities when they are working home making a  
7 decent wage. The Northern Pass would give this  
8 to them, the ability to be with their families  
9 and spend time and money supporting the local  
10 economy in the northern country. Thank you very  
11 much for your time.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comment,  
13 Denis. Dave Dobbins. I'm going to call Scott  
14 Lamont, Tiler Eaton, Jason Lauze, Jason Bentley.  
15 David.

16 DAVE DOBBINS: Good evening. My name is  
17 Dave Dobbins, and I'm a resident of Gilford, New  
18 Hampshire. Our town is not on any proposed  
19 primary or alternate route of the Northern Pass  
20 project, but before I go on I'd like to on  
21 behalf of all the opposition folks that are here  
22 tonight really thank you all for that great  
23 display of orange trucks out in the parking lot.

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1 Thank you.

2 Just about two and a half years ago I was  
3 grateful for the opportunity to speak at a  
4 Department of Energy scoping hearing held just a  
5 few miles from here in the town of Pembroke and  
6 I wasn't alone. Hundreds of New Hampshire  
7 citizens attended that meeting and many of them  
8 spoke out as I had against the project. There  
9 were 6 other scoping hearings held within the  
10 days immediately following that Pembroke  
11 meeting. All had very similar results.  
12 Hundreds of citizens attended each meeting and  
13 hundreds rose in opposition to the project at  
14 every meeting, and the reasons given during all  
15 of those meetings covered just about every  
16 aspect you could imagine including it's nothing  
17 more than a private commercial venture between  
18 an out-of-state utility and a foreign energy  
19 supplier. It's not required for electric system  
20 reliability or capacity. It was not and still  
21 has not been requested by ISO-New England. It  
22 would have to have devastating effects on the  
23 natural environment of our state. It would have

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1 serious negative impacts on the state tourism.  
2 It offers only a promise of temporary jobs, a  
3 handful of full-time. It would have serious  
4 negative impacts on property values, commercial  
5 and residential, all along its 180 plus miles of  
6 corridor. It could have serious health  
7 implications for people and wildlife. Also that  
8 our treasured White Mountain National Forest was  
9 never intended to be used for such a private,  
10 for-profit electric line corridor. In fact, the  
11 existing electric line was intended to be  
12 temporary and intended for local distribution,  
13 not a pass-through, and there's a litany of  
14 other reasons why so many people were against  
15 this. I'll provide them with a written  
16 statement, a lot more, but I think everybody  
17 gets the idea. There's devastating impacts from  
18 this.

19 All of the reasons that I just stated and  
20 more that's listed in my written testimony still  
21 apply to this proposed project. This amended  
22 application does nothing to eliminate its harm  
23 to the State of New Hampshire. No amount of

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1 radio spots, television ads, glossy brochures,  
2 cozy news agency relationships or paid lobbyists  
3 will convince New Hampshire residents like me  
4 that the only option we have to make New England  
5 better positioned from an energy perspective is  
6 to sacrifice our land, its people and our unique  
7 and treasured sense of place. I respectfully  
8 ask that the Department of Energy compare every  
9 concern about this proposed project that the  
10 public is bringing to your attention against the  
11 fact that this is nothing more than a private,  
12 for-profit venture and exercise the no build  
13 option and deny this amended Presidential  
14 Permit. Thank you.

15 MODERATOR: People seem like they like  
16 David. Scott Lamont. I'm going to call a few  
17 more names, too. Jason Lauze. You can come up.  
18 Jason Bentley, Thomas Halpin, Steve Autenreith.

19 SCOTT LAMONT: My name is Scott Lamont of  
20 Bedford, New Hampshire. I spent the last 20  
21 years in the transmission construction industry  
22 working on a variety of transmission projects  
23 around the country. I appreciate the

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1 opportunity to comment on the Northern Pass loop  
2 proposal and would encourage the Department of  
3 Energy to approve the proposed route. I believe  
4 the proposed route provides the least  
5 environmentally impactful proposal due to its  
6 use of existing electrical corridors.

7 Development of new right-of-ways requires  
8 extensive alteration of the environment and  
9 landscape. A number of environmental laws in  
10 New Hampshire such as the Shoreland Protection  
11 Act requires that new development be placed  
12 within the footprint of existing development.  
13 This type of policy is a widely accepted  
14 approach aimed at minimizing the impact of  
15 development, and the Northern Pass proposal is  
16 consistent with this approach.

17 The same premise holds true for the  
18 development of underground transmission.  
19 Underground transmission is an effective  
20 technology for dealing with areas of short  
21 distances and unique situations. However,  
22 suggesting that hundreds of miles of  
23 transmission line be buried will involve

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1 significant environmental disturbance and  
2 alteration, sensitive environmental areas that  
3 can be spanned with overhead lines and avoid our  
4 likely disturbed and altered by underground  
5 construction. Finally, I think that it's  
6 important that the federal and state governments  
7 recognize the massive economic benefits that  
8 follow projects like this. As has been the  
9 experience around the country, widespread job  
10 creation, new investments and spending within  
11 the local economy and long term tax benefits all  
12 result from these projects. Thank you for your  
13 consideration of my comments, and I would  
14 encourage the Department of Energy to approve  
15 the route that's proposed by Northern Pass.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
17 Scott. Tiler Eaton.

18 TILER EATON: Hi. My name is Tiler Eaton  
19 and I'm from Nottingham, New Hampshire and I was  
20 born and raised in the State of New Hampshire.  
21 I am in favor of Northern Pass. I keep  
22 continuously hearing the construction jobs are  
23 not real. My entire family has made a living

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1 off being a construction worker or construction  
2 linemen. We've built power lines, I've been  
3 doing it for close to 30 years. I represent the  
4 IBEW, and there's many projects that have come  
5 out the IBEW has not supported, but we support  
6 this one 100 percent. It's clean energy, it's a  
7 good job, it's a good project, and it will  
8 benefit New Hampshire residents directly. Thank  
9 you.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
11 Tiler. Jason Lauze?

12 JASON LAUZE: My name is Jason Lauze. I'm  
13 from Farmington, New Hampshire. I'm here  
14 representing the IBEW Local 104. I'm in support  
15 of the Northern Pass project. I am a lineman.  
16 I've been in the trade for about 6 or 7 years.  
17 At this point in my career I run the  
18 apprenticeship, essentially for all of New  
19 England, and the biggest reason that I support  
20 the project is because I've had the opportunity,  
21 probably in the last year or so I've had the  
22 opportunity to interview probably 120 or so New  
23 Hampshire residents. We interview probably 10

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1 or so a month. I've had the opportunity only to  
2 put probably less than half of them to work and  
3 I would say half of that so in and around the 20  
4 or 30 actually worked within the State of New  
5 Hampshire. I know that a lot of people that  
6 oppose the project, they refer to the jobs that  
7 are being created as temporary jobs and I would  
8 say that within reason maybe they are temporary,  
9 but the positions that we fill, they don't  
10 provide temporary training and they don't  
11 provide temporary career paths. They provide  
12 the people of New Hampshire with permanent  
13 career fields that pay well, they have good  
14 benefits and they provide for the future of our  
15 state, and they're very important.

16 Beyond that, the boost that the local  
17 economies gets from projects like this, I've had  
18 the opportunity to work on similar projects  
19 throughout New England and the boost to the  
20 smaller businesses in the area is enormous. So  
21 I think a lot of different areas within the  
22 State of New Hampshire stand to benefit from the  
23 project itself. So essentially for those

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1 reasons, I support the Northern Pass project.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
3 Jason. Next speaker Jason Bentley.

4 JASON BENTLEY: Good evening. My name is  
5 Jason Bentley from Newmarket, New Hampshire. I  
6 am currently a journeyman lineman for Local 104.  
7 I support the Northern Pass for many reasons.  
8 Clean energy, of course, very important to me.  
9 Also as a journeyman lineman I've had to work  
10 out of state for the past twelve years and I  
11 look forward for me and all of the New Hampshire  
12 brothers that we have that have to work out of  
13 state and travel away from their families, we  
14 all look forward to working in New Hampshire for  
15 a period of three years. Even if it's not  
16 forever, we would like the opportunity to come  
17 home and be near our families for once in a  
18 while. It would be really nice. Therefore, I  
19 support the Northern Pass. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
21 Jason. Our next speaker will be Steve  
22 Autenreith. But before he starts, I'm going to  
23 call a few more times. Will Stewart, Bob Baker,

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1 Ruth Niven, Taras Kucman.

2 STEVE AUTENREITH: Good evening. I'm Steve  
3 Autenreith, VP with 3 Phase Line Construction.  
4 We are a utility contractor based in Farmington,  
5 New Hampshire. I live in Dover, New Hampshire.  
6 We partner with the IBEW in our construction  
7 projects, and for the sake of time I'd reiterate  
8 what the last few speakers mentioned. These are  
9 good jobs. This is a good project. We welcome  
10 an opportunity to keep our local IBEW linemen  
11 employed locally. Not only is it a benefit to  
12 them, it's also a benefit in the aggregate. We  
13 spend, as a construction company we spend lots  
14 of money on hotels, travel, other subcontractors  
15 in the area, suppliers. The aggregate is very  
16 large on a project like this. I appreciate your  
17 time.

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

20 WILL STEWART: Good evening. For the  
21 record, my name is Will Stewart. I'm Vice  
22 President of Economic Development Advocacy for  
23 the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and

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1 I'm here tonight in support of the Northern Pass  
2 project. The nearly 1000 members of the Greater  
3 Manchester Chamber of Commerce often express  
4 energy concerns. It's one of their main  
5 concerns for the future and we believe that  
6 Northern Pass is the largest most significant  
7 opportunity our state has to address the energy  
8 costs, energy diversity and price stability. We  
9 also believe that this project will advance two  
10 of our organization's strategic goals, promoting  
11 regional economic development and promoting a  
12 sound infrastructure. Northern Pass will  
13 replace costlier and dirtier sources for energy  
14 on which we currently rely. Likewise, price  
15 volatility is key concern right now,  
16 particularly to businesses whose operations are  
17 sensitive to the fluctuation of energy prices.  
18 For all of these reasons, we are pleased to see  
19 the Northern Pass project move forward and now  
20 is the time to let the permitting process work.  
21 We ask our elected officials, public and other  
22 state boards to come together, participate in  
23 the process and together we believe the outcome

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1 will be a great solution for New Hampshire that  
2 provides very significant energy and economic  
3 benefits. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Next speak, Bob Baker. Next on  
5 deck. Jane Difley.

6 BOB BAKER: Good evening. Nice to see you,  
7 Mr. Mills. Nice to see you, Mr. Wagner and  
8 others. Welcome back to New Hampshire. I hope  
9 you enjoy your stay this week. My name is Bob  
10 Baker. I live on Meriden Hill Road in Columbia,  
11 New Hampshire. I'm a country lawyer, and I love  
12 the state and its people. My concerns about the  
13 negative impacts of this proposed project are  
14 numerous, running from the tremendously adverse  
15 impact that this project would have on New  
16 Hampshire's scenic environment and beautiful  
17 landscapes to the degradation of critical  
18 wetlands and fragmentation of forests and  
19 grasslands. I will leave the issues concerning  
20 wetlands, fragmentation and wildlife to others  
21 who are far more qualified than I, but those are  
22 genuine serious concerns that I know you will  
23 study.

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1           We must keep in mind first and foremost  
2           that this project is not necessary to keep the  
3           lights on. It's a nice-to-have project at best  
4           if you ignore all the environmental impacts that  
5           it will have on this state and this region.  
6           Northern Pass is for profit. It's a proposal  
7           made by Hydro-Quebec and Northeast Utilities  
8           that is first and foremost for the benefits of  
9           shareholders and the government of Quebec. It  
10          has certainly not been proposed to protect New  
11          England, New Hampshire, its people, its  
12          landscapes. We are a pass-through for this  
13          power to go to southern New England to be used  
14          if ever needed, if ever needed, for the purposes  
15          of the investors and shareholders of the  
16          project. It will help the Canadian job market  
17          for sure, but it will have an adverse impact on  
18          the many permanent jobs here in New England  
19          where we are engaged in the development of  
20          renewable power in many, many different orders.

21                 New Hampshire and its elected officials and  
22                 citizens must protect its precious assets.

23                 Number one, if built Northern Pass would

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1           incredibly damage the visible environment. One  
2           1249 HVDC structures, 319 new high voltage AC  
3           structures, 747 replacement structures of the  
4           existing line running 147 miles to Franklin and  
5           then another 40 to Deerfield. That is an  
6           impact.

7           Number 2, this project would only add to  
8           the vulnerability of our grid. We are extending  
9           and amplifying an already unreliable partner in  
10          Quebec who has caused some damage to our system  
11          recently. More on that will come after FERC  
12          studies the interruption of power in early July.

13          And finally, this could not be additional  
14          imported power. It simply is nonessential.  
15          There's an absence of meaningful alternatives in  
16          the Northern Pass proposal. Undergrounding,  
17          using the existing 2000 megawatt line coming  
18          down from Quebec. I understand from many  
19          reports that 600 megawatts of that is not being  
20          used and ISO-New England is studying that.  
21          There are many other alternatives that are  
22          missing here including the very important issue  
23          of undergrounding. Thank you very much.

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1           MODERATOR:  Crowd seems to like Bob, too.  
2           Ruth Niven?

3           RUTH NIVEN:  My name is Ruth Niven.  I live  
4           in Franklin, New Hampshire.  I was born there,  
5           and some day far in the future I will die there.  
6           I am against the Northern Pass.  It is ugly,  
7           unnecessary and outdated.  You ask that we not  
8           repeat a lot of the same information and I know  
9           that many of the people that follow me will give  
10          you all the facts and figures that you need.  On  
11          March of 2011 there was a public scoping hearing  
12          at the Franklin Opera House.  I spoke, I used  
13          the image and I'm going to quote myself because  
14          it's quite a beautiful image, of a trout  
15          swimming around in a brook or a cold New  
16          Hampshire lake looking for something because  
17          it's hungry, and it sees that big fat fly right  
18          in front of its mouth and snatches at it and  
19          realizes too late that there's a hook there.  I  
20          guess you can tell where I'm going with this.  
21          The trout is the city of Franklin.  I like  
22          living in Franklin.  It's a great little city.  
23          There's a lot going for it, but we don't need to

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1 profit at any one else's expense. The bait that  
2 our city officials are snatching at is the  
3 promises that the Northern Pass project is  
4 making.

5 This is a direct quote from northernpass.us  
6 website. Based on the proposed route, NPT will  
7 invest approximately, wow, 390.1 million in  
8 Franklin providing an estimated \$7,368,832  
9 annually in profit taxes. Pretty tasty bait.  
10 July of this year the Caledonian Record of  
11 St. Johnsbury, Vermont, reported Public Service  
12 of New Hampshire has filed 32 individual tax  
13 abatement appeals against 31 municipalities in  
14 the New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals.  
15 That bait isn't permanent. This is not a catch  
16 and release project. This project will gut New  
17 Hampshire from Deerfield to Pittsburg.

18 MODERATOR: Thank you, Ruth Niven. Thomas  
19 Kucman. Before you start, Christopher  
20 Courchesne. Are you here? Great. Arielle Wolf  
21 and Silas Tracy, David Deen.

22 TARAS KUCMAN: Good evening. My name is  
23 Taras Kucman, and I come before you as a

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1 property owner living on the PSNH right-of-way  
2 here in Concord. I'd like to share with you  
3 what's going to happen to me, my family, my  
4 neighborhood and everybody living in the city of  
5 Concord on the western side of the right-of-way.  
6 Right now I've been living there for 17 years,  
7 and I've had 55 foot towers 100 feet in from the  
8 boundary of my right-of-way. What this project  
9 will do is it will take those 55-foot towers and  
10 move them 45 feet closer to my home. Forty-five  
11 feet closer to anybody living on the western  
12 side of the right-of-way. That wouldn't be a  
13 problem because even if they fell down they  
14 would fall even with the boundary of the  
15 right-of-way but these towers are going to go up  
16 by an additional 30 feet. When that happens,  
17 should anything happen, when that tower or those  
18 lines fall down they will fall down on my deck.  
19 I used to have 30 feet between myself and the  
20 boundary, but that will hit my deck. If I  
21 consider the fact that this threat's always been  
22 there, I didn't bargain for that. I know that  
23 if this materializes, my insurance premiums are

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1           likely to go up, not down, and if I'm lucky, my  
2           insurance policy won't be cancelled. This is  
3           more than what I bargained for when I moved into  
4           this property. How absurd. In 17 years that  
5           we've lived there the electrical demands have  
6           risen to a point where New Hampshire is now  
7           producing 250 percent of what it needs. ISO is  
8           projecting that New Hampshire demands will  
9           remain flat through 2022. For the foreseeable  
10          future, New Hampshire will continue to be an  
11          electricity exporter. My wife and I expected  
12          for the demands to increase over time and the  
13          quality of life of the citizens is inextricably  
14          tied to electricity, but towers are not the only  
15          means of delivering electricity.

16                 Whenever Northern Pass representatives are  
17          asked why not bury the lines, their knee-jerk  
18          reaction is it's cost prohibitive or it costs  
19          ten times what it costs to put up towers.  
20          Enough already. We have Northeast Energy Link  
21          in Maine burying lines cost effectively. We  
22          have Lake Champlain burying transmission lines  
23          cost effectively servicing New York. The

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1 world's recognizing that the wisdom in burying  
2 lines is the way to go. I ask them to call  
3 their competitors. See how other companies are  
4 minimizing the costs and make it cost effective.  
5 I do have more. I would like to finish at a  
6 later time. Thank you.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
8 Taras. Jane Difley?

9 JANE DIFLEY: My name is Jane Difley and  
10 I'm the President/Forester of the Society for  
11 the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. We  
12 were founded more than a century ago to  
13 perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire through  
14 their wise use and their complete reservation in  
15 places of special scenic beauty. Today, New  
16 Hampshire can still claim to have many such  
17 places. The Forest Society filed as an  
18 intervenor in opposition to the original  
19 Northern Pass application and we remain opposed  
20 to the Northern Pass application as amended. I  
21 testified at the Department of Energy original  
22 scoping hearings and the Forest Society filed  
23 detailed scoping comments on June 14th, 2011.

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1 We stand by our original Environmental Impact  
2 Statement recommendations. Tonight we would  
3 like to additionally suggest that DOE thoroughly  
4 study multiple alternatives that would  
5 completely bury the Northern Pass transmission  
6 line. We believe that since the applicant has  
7 neglected to do any comprehensive analysis of  
8 burial alternatives the DOE must do it for them  
9 in order to ensure that any decisions that are  
10 made do not unnecessarily harm our natural  
11 environment. The National Environmental Policy  
12 Act requires no less. We would also ask you to  
13 include engineering studies that document the  
14 true cost of using the latest technologies to  
15 completely bury the transmission line in at  
16 least two different corridors. NEPA also  
17 requires that the EIS study the no-build  
18 alternative. We believe the DOE should examine  
19 whether the societal investment of \$1.4 billion  
20 could be better spent on energy conservation  
21 measures and forms of homegrown electricity  
22 generation closer to consumers in southern New  
23 England than James Bay. We further believe that

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1 before the review process begins, DOE should  
2 voluntarily create a process to allow for public  
3 input on the alternatives you choose to study as  
4 part of the Northern Pass EIS. In our view DOE  
5 can build public trust and confidence in a  
6 completed EIS by asking the public whether you  
7 are studying the right alternatives before you  
8 begin. As Governor Maggie Hassan noted, the  
9 Northern Pass project as proposed is all cost  
10 and few if any savings for the people of New  
11 Hampshire. In its inadequate analysis, Northern  
12 Pass fails to account for the cost of damaging  
13 New Hampshire landscapes including the White  
14 Mountain National Forest, other conserved lands  
15 and private properties. Northern Pass has  
16 claimed that it is too expensive to bury its  
17 transmission line. On the contrary. We  
18 maintain that for New Hampshire, it is far too  
19 expensive not to bury it. If the additional  
20 electricity that Hydro-Quebec proposes to export  
21 to New Hampshire is ever needed for the public's  
22 benefit, a conclusion we believe Northern Pass  
23 has failed to establish, then the project should

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1           only be built if it is buried in its entirety.  
2           New Hampshire and New England deserve no less.  
3           To this end, DOE should thoroughly assess every  
4           burial alternative that exists. Thank you.

5           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
6           Jane. Christophe? Do I have a David Deen, Fred  
7           Brownson, Pamela Martin, Mark McCulloch. The  
8           floor is yours.

9           CHRISTOPHE COURCHESNE: Thank you. My name  
10          is Christophe Courchesne. I'm an attorney with  
11          the Conservation Law Foundation. CLF is an  
12          intervener and has been engaged in this process  
13          from the very beginning. We will be filing  
14          additional written comments before the close of  
15          the scoping comment period. The project's  
16          amended Presidential Permit application remains  
17          legally incomplete and does little to address  
18          the project's many environmental and economic  
19          failings. In a filing last week CLF, the  
20          Appalachian Mountain Club and the Forest Society  
21          urged DOE to reject the application. In its  
22          current form, the project is wrong for New  
23          Hampshire and for the region as a whole. My

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1           brief comments tonight will focus on the NEPA  
2           process which to date in our view, we are sorry  
3           to say, has been opaque, devoid of creativity  
4           and collaboration, reflexively dismissal of  
5           stakeholder input and more deferential to the  
6           developer than to the public. In the face of a  
7           developer bent on its preferred proposal and  
8           only that proposal, it is essential that DOE and  
9           the other cooperating agencies begin fulfilling  
10          their responsibility under federal law as  
11          stewards of the public interest. In particular,  
12          DOE should now reconsider a series of requests  
13          that would have strengthened the process to date  
14          and still could. Number one, CLF and others  
15          have asked DOE to commit to publish and accept  
16          public input on DOE's plan for the draft EIS,  
17          including the list of alternatives that will be  
18          studied in depth. Likewise, New Hampshire's  
19          Congressional delegation has asked that all  
20          technical reports and studies on the project be  
21          made public as soon as possible, whether  
22          produced by Northern Pass or DOE's own team, yet  
23          DOE refuses to take these doable steps. To

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1 date, for a process this important to New  
2 Hampshire, it should be and can be an open book,  
3 not a black box. Two, CLF surfaced unequivocal  
4 evidence last year that Northern Pass has had an  
5 extraordinary and unfair influence on what is  
6 supposed to be an impartial NEPA process. Many  
7 stakeholders sought a fresh start with a new  
8 contractor team untainted by conflict yet DOE  
9 has retained the current team and the tilted  
10 arrangement for preparation of the EIS. At a  
11 minimum, DOE should deny Northern Pass any  
12 further seat at the table where decisions on the  
13 EIS are made. Three, CLF and other stakeholders  
14 asked DOE to coordinate a comprehensive regional  
15 study of our needs for new energy imports from  
16 Canada and the most innovative and least  
17 damaging ways for transmitting the power. This  
18 study could have been completed long ago. We  
19 asked for it more than two years ago. The  
20 regional study still should be done before DOE  
21 spends one more day considering Northern Pass in  
22 a vacuum. In part because DOE failed to take  
23 steps like these, public cynicism about this

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1 process is high and its legitimacy and overall  
2 legality are in serious jeopardy. Addressing  
3 these three subjects would help promote the  
4 comprehensive, rigorous and open review that the  
5 law requires and the people of New Hampshire  
6 deserve. Thank you for your time.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
8 Christophe. As Moderator, you know I sometimes  
9 make some changes on my own so I don't often  
10 allow two people to go, but this is a mother and  
11 child so I invite Arielle Wolf and Silas Tracy  
12 but do note that they are only getting 3  
13 minutes.

14 ARIELLE WOLF: Thank you for allowing me  
15 time to speak this evening. For the record, my  
16 name is Arielle Wolf. I am a New Hampshire  
17 landowner and I reside in Derry, New Hampshire.  
18 I am also a New Hampshire business owner. I own  
19 multiple stores spanning Plaistow, Freemont,  
20 Raymond, Hampton, Hampton Beach and Exeter. I  
21 am not a die-hard environmentalist. I am,  
22 however, a mother to two great kids and I'm also  
23 a sister to a union lineman. I am college

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1           educated and I have lived in the state for  
2           almost my entire life. I feel these facts are  
3           important so you can understand that I have  
4           knowledge on both sides of this argument and a  
5           personal investment in my state and its  
6           well-being. I am asking you to consider what  
7           you have before us today. A transmission  
8           project that is for profit, not for necessity.  
9           This project clearly has no long-term benefit to  
10          our state, those of us who live here, work here  
11          and raise our children here. If we allow this  
12          Northern Pass project what's to stop other  
13          corporations and utility companies from ripping  
14          our beautiful state apart with visual scars such  
15          as these proposed transmission towers. I ask  
16          you, for example, to take a look at what the  
17          Northern Pass is actually proposing.  
18          Transmission towers hitting heights of 140 feet  
19          from Pittsburg to Deerfield. This is going to  
20          affect our entire state. As a small business  
21          owner, I know the importance of tourism on our  
22          state's economy. My seacoast location stores  
23          rely heavily on tourism, same as many other

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1 businesses in New Hampshire who stand to be put  
2 out of business by the visual impact of  
3 structures like these proposed transmission  
4 towers. If we allow this project and these  
5 towers to be put in our state the negative  
6 impact it will have to our state's tourism  
7 industry is going to be detriment and you will  
8 see many businesses and towns dry up and die as  
9 a result of crashed economy due to lack of  
10 people coming to New Hampshire to vacation and  
11 explore its scenic beauty. I want to make one  
12 thing perfectly clear. I will never see these  
13 towers from my stores or my home, but I still  
14 stand here before you tonight, I stand here  
15 before you speaking on behalf of everyone who  
16 can't be here tonight, everyone who loves this  
17 state and chooses to live here for its unspoiled  
18 beauty. I speak on behalf of our children who  
19 are going to inherit the consequences or the  
20 benefits of the decisions that we make. This  
21 Northern Pass project is bad for New Hampshire  
22 as a whole. It will rip our state in half and  
23 will affect all of us for years to come and I

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1 hope you consider this.

2 My son, Silas Tracy, is going to read  
3 something to you real quick. This is off of the  
4 United States Mint Coins and Metals Program  
5 website. In 2013 they released a White Mountain  
6 National Forest quarter.

7 SILAS TRACY: The White Mountain National  
8 Forest quarter is the first of 2013 and the 16th  
9 overall in the American the Beautiful Quarters  
10 Program. The White Mountain National Forest,  
11 located in both New Hampshire and Maine,  
12 provides unique and strikingly beautiful  
13 landscapes and is one of America's most visited  
14 National Forest for its wide array of  
15 recreational opportunities and rich natural  
16 resources. The White Mountain National Forest  
17 includes unique features such as Mt. Washington,  
18 the highest peak north of the Smokey Mountains  
19 and east of the Mississippi. It was first  
20 established as a national site on May 16, 1918.

21 ARIELLE WOLF: This is the quarter and it  
22 does not have any towers running through it.

23 MODERATOR: Thank you, Arielle. Thank you,

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1 Silas, for your comments. I'm noticing that  
2 it's 7:45 right now. Instead of a break we're  
3 going to go through the three names or actually  
4 four names that I had listed and called and then  
5 we'll take our break. David Deen. Fred  
6 Brownson.

7 FRED BROWNSON: Good evening and thank you  
8 for the opportunity to speak. I must say as a  
9 resident of Wentworth, New Hampshire, I am  
10 self-employed, I am not on the payroll or  
11 otherwise paid by anybody that has or company  
12 that has a financial stake in this project. The  
13 citizens of New Hampshire and New England are  
14 totally dependent on the New England electric  
15 grid for their security and livelihood.  
16 Catastrophic failure of this grid would have a  
17 devastating impact on the environment upon which  
18 we depend. I will now pause for 15 seconds of  
19 my three minutes to give each of you the time to  
20 ponder your circumstances if you were without  
21 electricity and thus also without communication  
22 and transportation for, say, one month in the  
23 dead of winter in New Hampshire. Threats that

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1 can cause catastrophic failure of the New  
2 England grid may include droughts and the  
3 related forest fires, ice storms, cyber attacks,  
4 physical terrorist attacks, geomagnetic events  
5 such as solar flares, coronal mass ejections and  
6 electromagnetic pulse, dependency on foreign  
7 politics and security, and, of course, a perfect  
8 storm in which is embedded more than one of  
9 these events. Our citizens need to know the  
10 impact of Northern Pass on the risk of  
11 catastrophic failure of the most critical  
12 element of the environment in which we live.  
13 That is, the New England electric grid.  
14 However, we are totally unable to undertake the  
15 extraordinarily complicated research required to  
16 evaluate this risk. An important part of the  
17 work must be undertaken under the security veil  
18 that can be lifted only by DOE, DOD and the  
19 White House. The best we can do is to drive  
20 home the importance of this issue. In the face  
21 of steadily growing evidence that the answer to  
22 improving the security and reliability of our  
23 electric grid lies in the more decentralized

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1 generation of electricity from renewables, I am  
2 astonished to find our government's seriously  
3 considering increased reliance on large scale  
4 hydropower from Canada. For example, witness  
5 the recent moves in Connecticut and Vermont in  
6 this direction and the fact that New Hampshire  
7 is forced to fight a foreign proposal to drive a  
8 DC transmission corridor from Canada through the  
9 heart of this state. I am further astonished by  
10 the lack of attention to this issue in our  
11 public media which is in times past undertaken  
12 investigative journalism to reveal evidence  
13 needed by the public in matters of this nature.  
14 Tonight I am submitting one in a series of short  
15 papers that barely scratch the surface on  
16 various elements of this research challenge we  
17 are putting to DOE, DOD and the White House.  
18 The remaining papers will be submitted before  
19 the deadline for scoping comments. We hope they  
20 will be useful to the public media and to our  
21 congressional delegation, both of whom can add  
22 strength to our voice in this critical matter.  
23 Thank you.

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1           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
2 Fred. Next speaker Pamela Martin. The floor is  
3 yours.

4           PAMELA MARTIN: I'd like to tell you why  
5 Northern Pass is not clean, green or renewable.  
6 To produce hydro power, Hydro-Quebec had to  
7 drown huge regions of northern Quebec,  
8 destroying over 7 million acres of boreal  
9 forests, thereby decreasing the amount of CO2  
10 that would have been absorbed if the forests  
11 were left undisturbed. By drowning vegetation  
12 to create the reservoirs, heavy metals have  
13 moved from the substrate and from the atmosphere  
14 into the reservoirs. These metals get into the  
15 food chain and bioaccumulate in animals. There  
16 is a toxic amount of methyl mercury, five times  
17 normal, and the fish are unsafe to eat. Rotting  
18 organic material can lead to the release of huge  
19 amounts of the greenhouse gases methane and CO2.  
20 Thorough cleaning of the area before flooding  
21 can reduce these greenhouse gases but this was  
22 not done at Hydro-Quebec. The physical, thermal  
23 and chemical changes which flowing water

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1 undergoes when it is impounded can seriously  
2 contaminate the reservoir. Water stored for  
3 many months behind a dam can be lethal to most  
4 life in the reservoir and in the river for miles  
5 below the dam. Hydro-Quebec has dammed all but  
6 two of Quebec's 17 major rivers, affecting  
7 wildlife habitat, fish migration, destruction of  
8 shoreline and shoreline habitat, loss of wetland  
9 productivity and the livelihood of the  
10 indigenous people of the area. Dams are the  
11 main reason why fully one fifth of the world's  
12 freshwater fish are either endangered or  
13 extinct. The entire ecosystem of Northern  
14 Quebec is in a state of emergency. The Society  
15 for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests,  
16 Conservation Law Foundation, Appalachian  
17 Mountain Club, Conservation New Hampshire,  
18 Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Environment  
19 Connecticut, Environmental Council of Rhode  
20 Island, Clean Water Action, New England Clean  
21 Water Energy, Vermont National Resources  
22 Council, Pew Environmental Group and Alliance  
23 Romaine have all come out in opposition to

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1 industrial hydroelectricity. The Innu community  
2 of Quebec has filed several lawsuits against  
3 Hydro-Quebec for total devastation of culture  
4 and way of life. Raphael Picard, chief of the  
5 Pessamit Innu council, says that Hydro-Quebec  
6 violates the rights of aboriginal people and  
7 rapes their land. In addition to industrial  
8 hydro, 26 percent of the energy which  
9 Hydro-Quebec exports is made up of a mixture of  
10 fossil fuels such as coal, oil, gas and nuclear.  
11 Now is the time to focus upon energy  
12 conservation and environmentally safe energy  
13 production techniques. The UN Conference on  
14 Population and Development says Governments,  
15 this means you, must take measures to protect  
16 natural resources and ecosystems which  
17 indigenous people depend upon for survival,  
18 well-being and development. Hydro-Quebec has no  
19 morality. Hydro-Quebec doesn't care about the  
20 environment of Quebec or New Hampshire.  
21 Hydro-Quebec has run over the people of Quebec,  
22 the Innu people and their land and now their  
23 plan is to run over us. The United States

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1 should not purchase electricity from a foreign  
2 government when the production of that energy  
3 causes destruction of the environment and  
4 genocide of the people. If Hydro-Quebec cares  
5 so little for the environment of Canada and for  
6 the welfare of their own people do you really  
7 think they could care less about the people or  
8 the environment of New Hampshire? Hydro-Quebec  
9 has shown a callous disregard and contempt for  
10 their environment and indigenous people. If  
11 Hydro-Quebec isn't clean, green or renewable  
12 where it is produced, then it is not clean,  
13 green or renewable when it gets to the United  
14 States border. No Northern Pass.

15 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
16 Pamela. Now, this is the time when I would  
17 usually introduce Katie Rose, but she's not on  
18 today's list. So I bring you Mark McCulloch and  
19 also before you guys get a break I'm going to do  
20 a little Public Service announcement. For those  
21 who had taken a form to put written comments, if  
22 you want to return those, please do it at one of  
23 the sign-in tables. Mark, the floor is yours.

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1           MARK MCCULLOCK: Thank you. My name is  
2           Mark McCulloch. My wife Chelsea and I own a  
3           home and maple sugaring business in Stratford,  
4           New Hampshire. We have lived there for the past  
5           26 years and plan on living there for the rest  
6           of our lives, but the last three years have been  
7           a living hell, not only for us but for 32  
8           connected towns and 99 percent of their  
9           communities. Why, may you ask? Because  
10          Northeast Utilities from Connecticut, parent  
11          company of PSNH, their greedy Canadian partner  
12          Hydro-Quebec and their very misleading  
13          environmentally and socially destructive project  
14          called the Northern Pass. This project had a  
15          primary route with no existing right-of-way that  
16          was going to split our property in two and  
17          destroy 40 plus miles of our neighbors'  
18          properties to the north and another 140 miles to  
19          the south including the White Mountain National  
20          Forest. Northern Pass learned quickly that they  
21          had a fight on their hands and one that money  
22          was not going to easily resolve. So they sent  
23          11 hired lobbyists to our state's capital and 7

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1 more to Washington, DC, to influence our  
2 politicians to not allow our state's eminent  
3 domain how to be changed by thousands of  
4 concerned New Hampshire citizens opposed to this  
5 project. I stand here today and say thank you  
6 from the bottom of my heart, Representative  
7 Larry Rappaport, and all the New Hampshire  
8 elected officials for submitting and supporting  
9 the principle beliefs of House Bill 648 against  
10 eminent domain as it pertains to this kind of  
11 private, for-profit-based project. You'll go  
12 down in political history as New Hampshire's  
13 heroes. The Northern Pass route has now changed  
14 because of your efforts and is no longer  
15 directly affecting our home or land. I do  
16 believe in our state's motto, live free or die,  
17 and as a very last resort, I thought I might  
18 have to sacrifice everything for everything my  
19 wife and I have worked so hard for. I'm so glad  
20 it did not come to this. Now, let's protect the  
21 rest of New Hampshire.

22 There are two documentaries on DVD that  
23 every single person in New England should watch.

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1           They're called Seeking the Current by some  
2           Canadian friends opposed to Hydro-Quebec and  
3           Northern Trespass produced some very dear  
4           friends of thousands of people opposed to this  
5           project. Their names are Jan Marvel and  
6           Michelle Vaughn and would you please stand up?  
7           These two women worked for two and a half years  
8           on this with full-time jobs, no vacations and  
9           sacrificed more than we can imagine in order to  
10          educate New Hampshire about this destructive  
11          project. Now, would every other person who is  
12          opposed to this project tonight please proudly  
13          stand with them. Come on. Stand up.

14                 I would like to say based on all the folks  
15          wearing orange tonight and watching both of  
16          these DVDs it is quite clear that it is time for  
17          Northern Pass LLC to go home. There are many  
18          greener energy alternatives than Northern Pass  
19          that I would like to discuss, but my 3  
20          DOE minutes are gone. Thank you.

21                 MODERATOR: Mark, thank you for your  
22          comments. We are going to break but before  
23          breaking, I'm going to give statistics now.

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1 We've gone about an hour and we've gone through  
2 about 20 names. That's not counting people that  
3 we skipped so three minutes each, 60 minutes,  
4 makes sense. My list currently has 58  
5 additional names on it. So that means we're  
6 here for another two hours at least and that's  
7 with people sticking on the 3-minute time slot  
8 so I will remind you it's three minutes. The  
9 thing that I want to point out is that and we  
10 had this rule last time. I didn't cover it in  
11 the ground rules this time, but the purpose is  
12 to give your comments and we appreciate all the  
13 comments but there should be no requests for  
14 standing up, because again, respect everybody's  
15 opinion, I not only see orange, I see some blue,  
16 I see some green, and there's at least one  
17 person here that's wearing a tie so -- two  
18 people with a tie. So again, we're going to  
19 take a 15-minute break. I've got 8 o'clock  
20 right now. We will start again at 8:15. Thank  
21 you.

22 (Recess taken)

23 MODERATOR: Robert Clegg, Jim Cannon,

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1 Sherry Gould, Bob Letourneau, Rob Werner. Going  
2 to call one more. Hawk Metheny. I think my Rob  
3 Werner is a repeat. Next speaker, Robert Clegg.  
4 The floor is yours.

5 ROBERT CLEGG: Thank you. My name is  
6 Robert Clegg, and I live in Hudson. In addition  
7 to a career working in construction and  
8 development, I've also served in New Hampshire  
9 House of Representatives and was elected to the  
10 New Hampshire Senate where I served as a  
11 majority leader. I am pleased to speak in full  
12 support of the Northern Pass project as  
13 proposed. First, I think it's important that  
14 the Department of Energy recognize that this  
15 project is fully supported by the New  
16 Hampshire's energy policy and climate change  
17 policies. As you're probably aware the New  
18 Hampshire climate change action plan describes  
19 in detail the need for importing Canadian  
20 hydroelectric power and fully encourages this  
21 development to move forward. This action  
22 received broad support from various interests  
23 including corporations and environmental groups

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1 such as the Society for the Protection of New  
2 Hampshire Forests. Knowing that groups like the  
3 Society for the Protection of New Hampshire  
4 Forests played such an important role in setting  
5 the stage for the Northern Pass to be brought  
6 forward should provide great assurance to many  
7 citizens of the environmental benefits this  
8 project will bring to our state. As we all  
9 know, energy development has impacts. However,  
10 the proposed Northern Pass does a great job of  
11 minimizing those impacts. Northern Pass  
12 utilizes existing rights-of-way where property  
13 rights are already established. These  
14 rights-of-way are already cleared and maintained  
15 and currently hosts multiple power lines. To  
16 simplify, Northern Pass proposes to recycle an  
17 existing transmission right-of-way for the new  
18 line. This is exactly what good development  
19 should propose. To suggest that this project  
20 should clearcut new rights-of-way, dig up a  
21 trench to environmentally sensitive areas is  
22 simply environmentally irresponsible in my  
23 opinion. Frankly, it's disappointing to hear

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1 people propose such devastating approaches.  
2 Compare the Northern Pass's proposal to recent  
3 wind power projects such as the Groton Wind.  
4 While the Society for the Protection of New  
5 Hampshire Forests played an important role in  
6 development of both Groton Wind and Northern  
7 Pass the similarities end here. As we have seen  
8 wind development involves massive excavation of  
9 our State's mountaintops and placing 400-foot  
10 towers on the peaks of mountain to produce  
11 intermittent energy. In many cases these towers  
12 can be seen up to 40 miles away. I would  
13 encourage the DOE to approve the Northern Pass  
14 project and its use of existing rights-of-way in  
15 industrial forest land for its route. This is  
16 exactly the kind of thoughtful development New  
17 Hampshire and the federal government should  
18 encourage and support. Thank you.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
20 Robert. Jim Cannon. I'm going to also call  
21 Marc Brown, Larry Breckenridge.

22 JIM CANNON: For the record, my name is Jim  
23 Cannon. I live in Deerfield, New Hampshire, and

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1 by the way Deerfield voted, 70 percent of the  
2 citizens of Deerfield voted against Northern  
3 Pass. But interestingly enough, I was in favor  
4 of Northern Pass when I first heard about it.  
5 You know, clean energy, lower prices, who  
6 wouldn't be in favor of that. But because it's  
7 in my town I started to look a little deeper and  
8 also because of my background which is an  
9 economics and 40 years in high tech. Tendency  
10 to dive into things a little bit deeper than  
11 maybe the average person because I had to do  
12 that to survive in the business I'm in, and I  
13 currently run a software business out of  
14 Portsmouth, and it's not in the energy business.  
15 I mentioned my background only because of  
16 talking points I'm going to bring up in a few  
17 minutes.

18 I went to the website and I see that the  
19 issue of the permit will be consistent with the  
20 public interest, and I said well, what is that  
21 and you were kind enough to list three criteria  
22 on it, and I'd like to keep my talking points to  
23 those three criteria. The first criteria you

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1 mentioned is the environmental impact and is  
2 there a reasonable alternative. I was going to  
3 talk about the dams that they were putting up in  
4 Canada and the environmental impact on that, but  
5 the previous speaker, I believe Pamela did an  
6 excellent job so I won't waste anybody's time  
7 reissuing that, but I urge my fellow citizens to  
8 really look at what they're doing in Canada and  
9 this is not clean energy, and it's a big lie.  
10 So having said that, are there other  
11 alternatives? As an executive in the high tech  
12 industry, you build strategic plans, multi-year  
13 plans. I believe Hydro-Quebec believed that oil  
14 and coal were the only options. They did not  
15 see natural gas as an alternative. Natural gas  
16 is cheap. You talk about high expensive  
17 electricity, natural gas will take care of it.  
18 Instead of one big power plant with multiple  
19 dams in Canada we have multiple gas-fired  
20 generation plants would create far more jobs  
21 here in the state than the jobs up in Canada  
22 versus three-year temporary jobs.

23 Decision criteria number 2, on electric

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1 liability. One source of power, one place to  
2 knock out versus a decentralist system that the  
3 gas power generators would provide. Much more  
4 sounder. Lastly, a monopoly who has no  
5 stockholders and can price to anything that they  
6 want. The high tech industry has been  
7 devastated by international competition where  
8 it's subsidized by governments. This is a  
9 government-owned provider of electricity. That  
10 will kill investment in American alternative  
11 energy. I'm already seeing and I know guys in  
12 MIT who cannot get money for alternative  
13 investments. For the sake of American jobs I  
14 hope you deny the permit and end this  
15 foolishness now.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you four your comments,  
17 Jim. Sherry Gould. Also call up Sister Denise  
18 Turcotte.

19 SHERRY GOULD: Hi. For the sake of the  
20 stenographer, I just wanted to say that I've  
21 submitted my comments in writing. My first line  
22 will be an Abenaki, the original language of New  
23 Hampshire. Don't try to spell it.

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1           My name is Sherry Gould. I was born in  
2 Peterborough and I live in Warner, New  
3 Hampshire. I am the Chair of the New Hampshire  
4 Commission on Native American Affairs. The  
5 Commission was formed in 2010 by the New  
6 Hampshire legislature under RSA 21 K 24 in part  
7 to review and study local, state and federal  
8 issues that are common to Native Americans and  
9 persons of Native American descent who are  
10 residing in New Hampshire.

11           I'm here to speak regarding the cultural  
12 and historic resource part of the EIS.  
13 Resources impacted by the project. The July  
14 2010 amended application states that the initial  
15 siting was based on GIS data that was reviewed.  
16 On page 28 and on page 31 I quote, to date  
17 evaluation of the new portions of the proposed  
18 route has been based primarily on a desktop  
19 analysis of the existing natural and cultural  
20 resource data. The route for this project goes  
21 through the heart of Abenaki country and I'll  
22 say I'm glad all of our new neighbors really  
23 like the heart of this state as well but it is

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1 the heart of Abenaki country. The New Hampshire  
2 Commission on Native American Affairs has  
3 requested to be joined as an interested  
4 stakeholder and our request has never been  
5 acknowledged. The New Hampshire Commission on  
6 Native American Affairs works with four  
7 state-recognized Abenaki tribes and two federal  
8 Abenaki tribes, the Abenaki alliance and the  
9 Abenaki nation. None of these tribes have been  
10 enjoined as interested stakeholders. It is a  
11 mistake to believe that the use of archeological  
12 GIS data can replace the knowledge and  
13 participation of Abenaki people in a project of  
14 this magnitude that could disrupt village sites  
15 and burial locations of our people. It is also  
16 a mistake to turn to tribes outside the Abenaki  
17 homeland to sign off on matters that impact  
18 Abenaki country. I urge you to bring the  
19 Abenaki voice to the table in the EIS. Thank  
20 you.

21 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
22 Sherry. Bob Letourneau. I'm going to call up  
23 to the on deck list Aubrey Davis.

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1           BOB LETOURNEAU: Good evening. Thank you  
2           for the opportunity to be able to speak to you  
3           this evening. My name is Bob Letourneau from  
4           Derry, New Hampshire. I am a former legislator  
5           and small businessman. I had the honor of  
6           serving in both the New Hampshire house and the  
7           New Hampshire Senate. During my time in the  
8           legislature, the issue of energy was a key issue  
9           of debate and policy development. I took a very  
10          active role in many of these debates in efforts  
11          to develop energy policy. I sponsored bills for  
12          energy projects in the North Country. Many of  
13          these issues we discussed five to ten years ago  
14          such as new energy sources and generation we are  
15          still debating today.

16                 Given this experience I am pleased to offer  
17          my full support for the Northern Pass. There  
18          are many reasons why the project should receive  
19          the full support of the Department of Energy and  
20          the federal agencies; primarily, the tremendous  
21          benefit this project will bring to our state  
22          economy, both from jobs it will create and low  
23          cost renewable energy it will deliver. Just as

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1 important is the low impact this developer will  
2 have on our state.

3 As proposed, this project relies on 140  
4 miles of existing transmission rights-of-way.  
5 As a major consideration for me is that these  
6 areas where the necessary property rights have  
7 been purchased from landowners. While many here  
8 may not be happy with the decision they made,  
9 that decision was made by a past landowner, the  
10 fact is that these property rights were sold and  
11 these rights allow for the development of  
12 electric transmission lines. In terms of  
13 environmental impacts, it is also important that  
14 these existing rights of way have already been  
15 cleared and maintained for transmission  
16 development and already have power lines on  
17 them. Another 25 miles of proposed development  
18 will take place on industrial forest land.  
19 Again, this land is held to support projects  
20 just like Northern Pass. To suggest that this  
21 proposed development should be forced to develop  
22 new rights-of-way is simply illogical. There's  
23 no question that the future of New Hampshire

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1 will need additional energy and power to support  
2 the needs of our citizens. I urge the federal  
3 government to approve this proposal, and this is  
4 a proposal that is well thought-out, has minimum  
5 negative impacts on our state and will bring  
6 tremendous benefits to our state for decades to  
7 come. Again, I thank you for allowing me to  
8 speak.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
10 Bob. Hank Metheny and going to call up Mark  
11 Duchesne. Hank Metheny? Marc Brown.

12 MARC BROWN: Thank you. My name is Marc  
13 Brown. I'm the Executive Director of the New  
14 England Ratepayers Association. It's a  
15 nonprofit social welfare organization which  
16 advocates for the rights of ratepayers  
17 throughout New England. As a group dedicated to  
18 protecting individual and business ratepayers  
19 from policies that result in higher electricity  
20 rates, it is incumbent upon us to take a broad  
21 view of generation and transmission projects as  
22 part of the calculus of the region's energy  
23 policies. While New England has enjoyed low

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1 natural gas prices over the last few years,  
2 there's no guarantee that prices will remain at  
3 or near the historical lows we have recently  
4 experienced. We are exceedingly reliant on  
5 natural gas for electricity generation with more  
6 than half of our generation derived from natural  
7 gas. Unfortunately, New England suffers from  
8 constricted natural gas pipeline capacity which  
9 is magnified by the fact that most of the firm  
10 supply for natural gas capacity is allocated to  
11 local distribution companies for home heating  
12 fuel. This results in New England electricity  
13 ratepayers being held hostage to the volatility  
14 of the natural gas markets. Public policy in  
15 the region has made it highly unlikely that New  
16 England will build a new coal or nuclear plant  
17 and even the proposed 670 megawatt Footprint  
18 natural gas plant in Salem, Mass., is facing  
19 objections from environmental groups who choose  
20 to ignore the fact that the New England ISO has  
21 clearly stated that the project is needed to  
22 ensure reliability of the grid. Buoyed by the  
23 pending decommissioning of Vermont Yankee,

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1 environmental groups are pushing to close the  
2 Massachusetts Pilgrim nuclear plant, and it's  
3 only a matter of time before Seabrook Station is  
4 also targeted.

5 With nuclear power plants re-emerging as a  
6 red herring for environmentalists and with 8000  
7 megawatts of baseload power scheduled to retire  
8 by the end of the decade, new reliable baseload  
9 power will be needed to provide stability to the  
10 New England power grid.

11 Additionally, the U.S. Department of Energy  
12 projects that electricity demand will increase  
13 approximately 28 percent over the next 30 years.  
14 These numbers include energy efficiency measures  
15 which won't do enough to offset growing  
16 electricity demand. Which energy sources are  
17 going to provide us with the reliable and  
18 inexpensive power we will desperately need?  
19 Wind and solar are costly intermittent power  
20 sources that rely heavily on taxpayer and  
21 ratepayer subsidies that cannot be assured to  
22 last indefinitely. They also cannot provide  
23 baseload power requiring natural gas power

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1 generation on spinning reserve as backup,  
2 further complicating concerns about natural gas  
3 pipeline capacity in the region. The answer  
4 likely lies in large scale hydropower.

5 The Northern Pass project will provide 1200  
6 megawatts of affordable reliable baseload power  
7 to a region with a growing dependence on natural  
8 gas generation for electricity as well as a  
9 rapidly dwindling portfolio based on baseload  
10 supply options. The project is opposed by  
11 individuals and groups who are concerned about  
12 the impacts of transmission structures along the  
13 route corridor. Many argue that unless the  
14 entire project is buried, it shouldn't be built  
15 at home. However, this is not financially  
16 feasible despite speculative arguments about  
17 hoped-for technological advances and  
18 apples-to-oranges comparisons to dissimilar  
19 projects. These opinions are all subjective and  
20 open to debate. What isn't debatable is the  
21 rapidly declining options for baseload power in  
22 New England. Nuclear and coal plants have been  
23 pushed off the table and until natural gas

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1 pipeline expands throughout New England, and  
2 that will raise its own set of environmental,  
3 hurdles. The region will need to turn to  
4 additional baseload power options. Denying a  
5 Presidential Permit to the Northern Pass  
6 Transmission Project will deny New England an  
7 opportunity to add 1200 megawatts of cost  
8 effective and reliable baseload power to an  
9 electricity grid that will soon be starving.  
10 Thank you.

11 MODERATOR: I have another public service  
12 announcement. It's an old one, though. If you  
13 are speaking from written comments and you don't  
14 mind leaving them, they would greatly help  
15 Cynthia in pulling together her report.

16 I believe I called a name incorrectly, but  
17 I got the first name wrong. Hawk Metheny, if  
18 you are here, Hawk, please come up. Next  
19 speaker, Larry Breckenridge. I'd like to also  
20 call up Mike Wolf.

21 LARRY BRECKENRIDGE: Hello. My name is  
22 Larry Breckenridge. I am a professional  
23 environmental engineer registered in the state

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1 of New Hampshire. I live and work in Wilton,  
2 New Hampshire. I think I will probably be the  
3 only environmental professional you will hear  
4 today speaking in favor of the project. One  
5 reason is that I use scientific rather than  
6 emotional arguments to make my decision.

7 Let me explain a little bit. One of the  
8 things we have to do in environmental  
9 engineering when evaluating alternatives, we  
10 must consider existing impacts differently than  
11 future impacts. A clear existing impact that we  
12 have here is the Hydro-Quebec project. These  
13 dams are constructed. There's nothing that can  
14 be done in this moment at this day to prevent  
15 the flooding of those rivers up by James Bay.  
16 The project is in place, and what it is doing  
17 right now is delivering large quantities of  
18 clean and reliable power. I think it is our  
19 ethical and moral obligation to use that impact  
20 to the best benefit of people everywhere.

21 So let's look at the other impact that  
22 we're dealing with here which is how PSNH  
23 supplies the power that we're using right now.

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1           They do it through coal mining, and they do  
2           their coal mining in Latin America. My company  
3           focuses on mining in Latin America. It is what  
4           we do so I think I can bring a unique  
5           prospective to this debate. Mining in Latin  
6           America has a higher environmental impact on the  
7           mining in the United States because they are not  
8           protected by the same environmental regulations  
9           we are. Coal mining in particular has  
10          tremendous surficial impacts. This is a  
11          tropical or subtropical forest that is stripped  
12          away, the soil is removed. This is a very fine  
13          grain soil in many cases. It erodes and impacts  
14          streams, increasing the sediment load and  
15          decreasing the ability of those streams to  
16          sustain life. Every day we use power in New  
17          Hampshire, we are adding to the disruption of  
18          these environments. Coal mines mine through  
19          land. They move at a fairly rapid rate through  
20          terrain that is previously undisturbed. With  
21          this project we have an opportunity to use land  
22          that is already disturbed to supply the power  
23          that we need every day. This is a question of

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1 very clear alternatives and the lower  
2 environmental impact alternative is the Northern  
3 Pass project supported by Hydro-Quebec's power.  
4 Thank you.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
6 Larry. Sister Denise Turcotte? Like to call up  
7 Vincent Ragucci, Sandi Hennequin, David Allen  
8 Ross.

9 SISTER DENISE TURCOTTE: Good evening. My  
10 name is Sister Denise Turcotte. I have been a  
11 resident of New Hampshire for over 40 years as a  
12 Sister of Holy Cross. I am currently  
13 coordinator of the Justice and Environment Group  
14 and speak on behalf of them. We oppose Northern  
15 Pass for the following reasons: The injustice  
16 to all the species of James Bay that have lost  
17 habitat and homes because of the construction of  
18 dams and the large scale flooding to yield more  
19 and more hydropower. The devaluing of New  
20 Hampshire people's homes and property as well as  
21 the destruction of trees, loss of habitat for  
22 wildlife species by the construction of large  
23 towers and power lines. The injustice to New

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1 Hampshire residents in order to transmit power  
2 to other states. The power lines don't benefit  
3 New Hampshire so why run them through our state?  
4 The potential physical impact to people and  
5 other species by the emission of radiation from  
6 the power lines. The loss of beauty,  
7 simplicity, moments of awe and reflection within  
8 the White Mountains by the construction of  
9 towers and transmission lines. We hope that the  
10 environmental impact study will include the  
11 effect of the Northern Pass proposed route  
12 construction to users and our burial lines on  
13 vernal pools and other wetlands, old growth  
14 forests, habitat of endangered or threatened  
15 species, the water table, soil erosion and the  
16 bedrock. The impact on farmlands, the farmers  
17 and local people earning a living from the land.

18 In closing, we believe it would be a more  
19 just use of our time and money to seriously  
20 advocate conservation of energy and more local  
21 small scale renewable energy sources. Thank  
22 you.

23 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,

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1 Denise. Aubrey Davis. Like to call up Karl  
2 Tubalkain, Gina Neily, Jay Smith. The floor is  
3 yours.

4 AUBREY DAVIS: Thank you. My name is  
5 Aubrey Davis. My wife and I live on Fox Run  
6 just off Hoyt Road, and we've lived there for  
7 over 25 years. We are abutters to the west side  
8 of the PSNH right-of-way. About a third of our  
9 property is under this easement and I can look  
10 out and see pole 139-179 as it presently sits,  
11 and if this project goes through it will be 45  
12 feet closer to our house and to my bedroom and  
13 that doesn't really make my happy.

14 I realize that burying the line is an  
15 expensive alternative, but it's an expense that  
16 can be recouped over time as an investment.  
17 PSNH didn't pay for this land. They're renting  
18 our land out, they got it free, they're renting  
19 it out now to make an investment in and I see no  
20 reason why they couldn't just let it be a little  
21 longer time before they recoup their money.

22 I'm also concerned about this project  
23 because of poor health reasons. I happen to

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1 have some personal health issues. I have a  
2 pacemaker, defibrillator. I'm on my second one,  
3 and I am also on the heart transplant list at  
4 Mass. General Hospital. Matter of time before I  
5 either have a heart pump or heart transplant and  
6 I'm well enough to stay at home for now. Will I  
7 be a few years from now if that's what it takes  
8 once this transmission lines goes through. I  
9 don't have those answers, but I am concerned  
10 about the answers.

11 I think that this is something that should  
12 be studied and portrayed as to the truth,  
13 whatever it is, as to what impact this is really  
14 going to have on the health of people. I  
15 appreciate the opportunity to speak and I'm sure  
16 you will do a good job in reviewing the  
17 information. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
19 Aubrey. Mark? Mike Wolf? Vincent.

20 VINCENT RAGUCCI, JR.: Good evening,  
21 gentlemen. I'm going to add a different wrinkle  
22 to the number of people who are here tonight and  
23 I've listened to the pros and the cons. I'm

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1 Vincent Ragucci, Jr., and I'm from the state of  
2 Massachusetts, and before anybody misquotes me,  
3 it's much easier to say you heard it from your  
4 cousin Vinnie.

5 I'm very much aware of the Northern Pass  
6 project, and I wholeheartedly give support to  
7 this project. Reading about it and then coming  
8 to a function such as this and listening to what  
9 people have to say I think is important. You  
10 gentleman have a huge task in front of you. You  
11 have to take all the information and make some  
12 sense out of it and then allow or disallow a  
13 permit so that this project may or may not live  
14 up to what it's supposed to.

15 We're talking about clean renewable energy.  
16 That's going to give jobs to all of the people  
17 in the surrounding area including our brothers.  
18 I'm hoping that the line continues to the  
19 Massachusetts border so that our brothers in  
20 Massachusetts can take advantage of working on  
21 the power line to bring it from Canada through  
22 the rest of Massachusetts. Somebody said it's  
23 being overbuilt with 600 kilowatts of additional

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1 source power. Well, then, talk to the power  
2 company and have them bring the lines further  
3 and let the Massachusetts power companies tap  
4 into it because we are going to lose some power  
5 plants in Massachusetts. Why should we lose it  
6 and not take advantage of the work that's going  
7 to be done here. Yes, I'm in favor. I'm in  
8 favor of Northern Pass. I look to create jobs  
9 and to put money in the economy. In the economy  
10 so that our people can live up to what they're  
11 supposed to live up to instead of sitting home  
12 waiting for the union representative to call and  
13 say we've got a tentative job for you. Thank  
14 you very much.

15 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
16 Vincent. Sandi Hennequin?

17 SANDI HENNEQUIN: Yes. Thank you. Good  
18 evening. My name is Sandi Hennequin, and I'm  
19 with the New England Power Generators  
20 Association, and I live in Portsmouth, New  
21 Hampshire. We believe this amended application  
22 is not complete. Northern Pass does not have  
23 site control nor have they presented a feasible

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1 alternative. They misrepresent impacts of the  
2 project and they rely upon outdated and  
3 inaccurate data.

4 I'd like to talk about three areas. First,  
5 cost. Northern Pass commissioned the Charles  
6 River Associates in 2010 to study the wholesale  
7 energy market. They concluded that there would  
8 be an annual reduction of 206 to \$327 million in  
9 cost. Then we looked at -- the industry has  
10 changed quite a bit since this time. Now we  
11 have on our doorstep low cost shale gas. So a  
12 2012 study by the PA Consulting Group took the  
13 same assumptions that CRA used and they updated  
14 it with new gas figures and they found that the  
15 expected reductions were maybe half of this and  
16 then in addition they found that they even  
17 overstated some of the benefits in the report by  
18 making assumptions that all of the, that HQ  
19 would shift all of their power exports from  
20 other areas into New England.

21 Two, jobs. We've heard a lot about jobs  
22 tonight, and we believe Northern Pass greatly  
23 overstates the job impacts and the promise of

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1 new New Hampshire jobs. A 2012 study by a firm,  
2 PolEcon Research in Dover, New Hampshire, found  
3 a more likely estimate of the jobs would be a  
4 high of 533 jobs in year 2 to 241 in year 1.  
5 They also concluded that most of the labor to  
6 complete this project would come from  
7 out-of-state businesses. Now, in the current  
8 economic environment job creation should never  
9 be viewed negatively, but it also shouldn't be  
10 overstated to win support for a controversial  
11 project.

12 And finally, reliability. Northern Pass  
13 mischaracterizes the project in dealing with the  
14 regional reliability concerns while at the same  
15 time completely failing to mention some of their  
16 reliability issues. They don't mention the 1998  
17 ice storm, they don't mention the forest fires  
18 in Quebec this summer that caused a loss of load  
19 of about 8 percent of our peak load into New  
20 England. They don't mention lightning strikes  
21 that caused outages as well. DOE needs to  
22 consider the regional reliability impacts from  
23 relying on a long distance transmission line

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1 from an area with a history of significant  
2 reliability problems.

3 The ISO-New England and also the New  
4 England State Committee on Electricity, they've  
5 done their own studies on issues within New  
6 England and natural gas and they've concluded  
7 this is not one of the long-term solutions that  
8 they're looking at. In fact, NESCOE suggested  
9 looking at a cross-regional gas pipeline would  
10 be a better way to solve some of the issues that  
11 we currently have in the region.

12 Given all the misrepresentations in the  
13 amended application, the fact that the project  
14 hasn't even reached the minimum threshold of  
15 attaining meaningful site control, the DOE  
16 process to consider the Presidential Permit  
17 should be suspended and Northern Pass needs to  
18 update its many statements and misstatements  
19 about the benefits of the project. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
21 Sandy. You're not David Allen Ross. Hold on.  
22 He might not be either. Karl? We thank you for  
23 your enthusiasm.

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1                   KARL TUBELKAIN: Good evening. I'm Karl  
2                   Tubalkain from Hampstead, New Hampshire, and I'd  
3                   like to preface my remarks by reading a poem. I  
4                   think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as  
5                   a tree by Ogden Nash. The 1200 megawatts of  
6                   hydropower that Northern Pass will transmit is  
7                   about the amount of power that is generated by a  
8                   large coal-fired or nuclear power plant. This  
9                   power from Hydro-Quebec is renewable energy  
10                  without the risks of nuclear power or the  
11                  pollution from fossil fuel power plants. The  
12                  main objection to Northern Pass has been the  
13                  unsightly power lines that would cut through the  
14                  Great North Woods. However, power lines are  
15                  required whatever or wherever the power source.  
16                  I live in Hampstead, a small town in Rockingham  
17                  County and wish our power lines were buried.  
18                  The tree trimming by PSNH since the 2008 ice  
19                  storm has cut down many old trees in southern  
20                  New Hampshire. Are the trees in the Great North  
21                  Woods more valuable or attractive than the trees  
22                  in small New Hampshire towns? I believe that it  
23                  comes down to a cost/benefit analysis. Power

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1 lines may be unsightly, but the cost of burying  
2 the lines is expensive. The benefits of 1200  
3 megawatts of nonpolluting renewable energy  
4 outweigh of cost of another large fossil fuel or  
5 nuclear power plant. New Hampshire needs clean  
6 air and water to maintain our status as a  
7 vacation destination and a nice place to live.  
8 That is why I support Northern Pass.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
10 Karl. Gina Neily. Before you start, we're  
11 going to the site registered speakers. Mark  
12 Zmudzien? Ken Rhodes, Mary Lee, Sherrill Crow  
13 and Paula Bedard. The floor is yours.

14 GINA NEILY: Before I start speaking I just  
15 want to make a comment about the State Reps that  
16 have come up today for Northern Pass. I have to  
17 say I'm a little surprised. We have 32 towns on  
18 the route for Northern Pass and out of those 32  
19 towns, 31 towns' townspeople have come out  
20 voting against Northern Pass. So I wish our  
21 State Reps would represent the people as they  
22 were hired to do. Now I'll say my little  
23 speech.

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1 Hello. My name is Gina Neily and my family  
2 and I live in Deerfield, New Hampshire. First,  
3 I'd like to thank you for giving me this  
4 opportunity to speak tonight about the Northern  
5 Pass project. I am the mother of three  
6 children, the youngest only three years old, so  
7 it may not surprise you that my leading concern  
8 about this project is the EMS. The British  
9 Medical Journal from June of '05 stated that  
10 children living within 650 feet of power lines  
11 has a 70 percent increased risk of leukemia.  
12 The French GEOCAP study published this past  
13 April had similar findings. Our home abuts this  
14 proposed project and the lines will be within 30  
15 feet of my home. I am sure mine is not the only  
16 family in harm's way. In fact, The Profile  
17 School in Bethlehem is right on the border of  
18 the danger zone. Many countries as well as six  
19 of our own states practice Prudent Avoidance,  
20 keeping high voltage power lines a safe distance  
21 from homes, schools and malls. Some of you may  
22 wonder why my husband and I purchased our home  
23 twelve years ago with an easement. Believe or

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1 not, we actually did do our homework. We  
2 researched the deed and found that the easement  
3 had been granted over 50 years ago allowing PSNH  
4 access to our land so that needed power could be  
5 carried from one town to another. Never was  
6 there any indication that it would be anything  
7 other than a small transmission line. I was  
8 concerned even then about EMFs and called PSNH  
9 and asked what the voltage was on the lines. I  
10 was assured that the voltage, only 115 kV was  
11 less than what ran through the lines on our  
12 street. So my question is this. How is it  
13 legal or ethical for a company to use an  
14 easement that was originally granted for the  
15 purpose of getting power from one town to the  
16 next now able to add an additional power line  
17 with an increased voltage of over 200 percent  
18 and towers that are now more than double the  
19 height of our existing poles? Shouldn't they  
20 have to renegotiate their easement? Especially  
21 since the additional line will no longer be for  
22 public need but rather for private profit? And  
23 if there is going to be a profit, which I

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1 understand will be in the hundreds of millions,  
2 then shouldn't the abutters that stand to lose  
3 property value be awarded some sort of monthly  
4 rental fee like homeowners with cell towers are  
5 given? It doesn't seem right that Hydro-Quebec,  
6 Northern Pass and PSNH are all going to profit  
7 while some citizens like us are forced to endure  
8 health and safety risks along with decreased  
9 property value and quality of life. Thank you.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you for comments, Gina.  
11 Jay Smith.

12 JAY SMITH: Thank you. I live in Pembroke.  
13 While I will be fairly close to the line going  
14 through Pembroke, I'm not particularly a NIMBY  
15 about this. I do think, however, about the  
16 impact of these towers on tourism in the North  
17 Country especially needs to be considered and on  
18 people's property values, and I'd like to say  
19 that I live closer to the Bow power plant and I  
20 would love to see us stop burning coal, but I  
21 don't think Hydro-Quebec's proposal, Northeast  
22 Utilities' proposal, will achieve that, and I  
23 think there's some real fallacies out here.

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1 First off, Hydro-Quebec can drown more land  
2 and they already are planning to. They have  
3 three dams under construction with dates in '14,  
4 and '16 and '20 for completion projected. That  
5 land might be saved if there's less market for  
6 that power. When you flood that land, for the  
7 first four years it puts out a lot of greenhouse  
8 gases. Methane is extremely powerful. In the  
9 first year, the kilograms of CO2 equivalent per  
10 megawatt hour is 671 and drops to 436 and keeps  
11 going down. These are higher than natural gas  
12 numbers in the first two years, and this does  
13 not account for all of the greenhouse gas  
14 emissions because constructing a line, all of  
15 that metal in the towers, all of the work, the  
16 diesel in the power tools, all of that is also  
17 greenhouse gas, and the Clean Air Act is  
18 something under the EPA as well as Clean Water  
19 and we should be concerned about that.

20 Finally, and by the way, I've also spent  
21 time in northern Columbia where the biggest open  
22 pit coal mine is. I hate coal. It is terrible.  
23 But the alternatives are there. We can learn to

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1           conserve and we can promote wind power on the  
2           coastlines where the wind is always blowing  
3           somewhere. This notion that it's not reliable,  
4           ask Denmark. There is a huge amount of wind  
5           power that's being relied on in Denmark. We can  
6           do this, but if we buy into this we are then  
7           saying hey, we don't need to put the money into  
8           these other things, especially if we allow this  
9           into the RGGI standard which they're trying to  
10          get passed for the benefit of Northeast  
11          Utilities. Thank you.

12           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
13          Jay. Mark Zmudzien? No. Anybody who has a z  
14          in their last name? Ken Rhodes? No Ken Rhodes.  
15          Mary Lee is next. Then I'm going to call Fred  
16          Martin, Elizabeth Martin, Ward Stooks, and I'm  
17          not sure that that's the name, the handwriting  
18          was rough but if you live at 149 East Drive,  
19          number 154, that's you.

20           MARY LEE: My name is Mary Lee. I live in  
21          Northfield. A lot of the comments have been  
22          previously stated very well articulately by my  
23          friends here. Thank you. In the past two and a

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1 half years since my last scoping meeting on  
2 March 15th, 2011, I have been actively opposed  
3 to the Northern Pass Transmission Project. I  
4 have learned a lot about energy and environment  
5 and I still strongly believe the best practice  
6 would be not to build this project. I live in  
7 Northfield. It's about the center of the state.  
8 According to the maps I'm in the southern  
9 sector. I live in Northfield, own property  
10 that's along a right-of-way. The amended  
11 Northern Pass application for Presidential  
12 Permit from the Department of Energy proposes to  
13 build up to 100 feet tall steel H-frame lattice  
14 towers on my property. The replacement to the  
15 existing 115 kilovolt poles would be a steel  
16 core 10 monopole. They look like rusty steel.  
17 You can check them out near the Mall of New  
18 Hampshire.

19 The preliminary map of July 13th would move  
20 the monopole closer to my well area and I had  
21 two representatives from Northern Pass walk the  
22 line with me this past week and they moved  
23 closer to my yard and about 24 feet closer to my

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1 well, and I do live in a conservation zone in  
2 Northfield. I learned that in the second  
3 application the poles and the steel H frame  
4 tower would be taller. The tallest one as far  
5 as I can read the schematic would be about 100  
6 feet and the average would be 80 feet.

7 My number one thing I have to say here is I  
8 would have a clearcut of the buffer line of  
9 white pines that's a natural resource here.  
10 Half of that buffer would be cut. Clearcut, as  
11 I was told. So I say to this whole project, no,  
12 do not build this. We do not need this. And I  
13 want to say that I have a lot of visitors to New  
14 Hampshire. My family's from Massachusetts. I  
15 make monthly visits to Massachusetts. I'm from  
16 Boston. And I don't have anything against  
17 people who use power or need to turn on their  
18 lights. We don't need it in New Hampshire  
19 because we're very, very conservative and very  
20 efficient in the way we use the energy we do  
21 have. We live very simply. And we would like  
22 to keep New Hampshire beautiful because as one  
23 of my relatives said when I had a reunion last

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1 month, he said New Hampshire's still beautiful.  
2 Thank you.

3 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
4 Mary. Sherrill Crow? The nonsinger. Like to  
5 call up, at least I'm guessing the nonsinger. I  
6 have to call up Elaine Kellerman, Lynn Woodard.  
7 The floor is yours.

8 SHERRILL CROW: Thank you. I'd like to  
9 thank you for letting me speak this evening.  
10 And my name really is Sherrill Crow, and I am a  
11 musician. I'm a 53-year resident of New  
12 Hampshire after coming here from Maine when I  
13 was 18 to go to UNH in Durham. I have not gone  
14 anywhere else since and I don't want to. New  
15 Hampshire exports power. That must mean we have  
16 more than we need currently. It should be a  
17 no-brainer to vehemently oppose having stuffed  
18 down our throats when we not only don't want it  
19 but we won't use it and our state is maimed in  
20 the process. This awful scar across our North  
21 Country from Northern Pass towers would be  
22 permanent. It's not going to go away. Once the  
23 millions of trees, think about that for a

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1 minute, millions of trees if not billions,  
2 that's a lot of trees, once they are cut and the  
3 ugly towers erected the scar is there and it is  
4 just that. A scar. And there's no plastic  
5 surgery for that kind of scar. We do this and  
6 we're stuck. Our forebears left us an  
7 exquisitely beautiful state. What will we be  
8 leaving. Quebec should find another target.  
9 New Hampshire citizens didn't come in on the  
10 cabbage truck this morning. We love our state,  
11 and there are many obvious reasons. We are  
12 fortunate to live some place where some people  
13 save up money all year to come for a week or  
14 two, and we live here, but if we do not  
15 vehemently oppose this project and protect  
16 ourselves and our children, the irreplaceable  
17 spot of amazing beauty God gave us, the bully on  
18 the playground will win. If all we do is lie on  
19 the ground and ring our hands and cry, the bully  
20 will win. May we please find our backbones and  
21 pray that the state and federal governments will  
22 hear us. Please. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR: Thank you, Sherrill Crow. Our

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1 next speaker Paula Bedard. And I'd like to call  
2 up Carl Sargent, III, Rick Russman, Charmaine  
3 Rose.

4 PAULA BEDARD: I'm Paula Bedard, and I'm  
5 from Goffstown and I'd like you to know that my  
6 husband and I oppose the Northern Pass project  
7 for the following reasons. We oppose the  
8 scarring of New Hampshire's landscape by the  
9 construction of new and the expansion of  
10 existing towers and transmission lines that will  
11 forever ruin our scenic landscapes. The beauty  
12 of our scenic vistas is the most valuable  
13 resource we have in our state. This should be  
14 fiercely protected. We hike, bike, ski and  
15 snowshoe in New Hampshire. It's beautiful here,  
16 and we'd like to keep it that way. Once this  
17 existing corridor is built, we believe that over  
18 time, just as we are seeing now, it will  
19 continue to be expanded upon and it will  
20 continue to scar and destroy more and more  
21 views. I'd also like to point out and make sure  
22 that people are aware that the State of New  
23 Hampshire currently exports more energy than it

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1           actually uses. Why would we even consider such  
2           a massive and devastating proposal that will  
3           forever leave our state scarred simply so that  
4           Hydro-Quebec, a foreign company, can sell more  
5           power to states like Massachusetts, Connecticut,  
6           and New York. I do not support entities like  
7           Hydro-Quebec specifically because they are built  
8           on the premise of damming up wild rivers and  
9           creating huge devastating environmental  
10          disturbances. This is not green energy to me,  
11          and it is not clean energy to me. I am opposed  
12          to it. We don't believe that New Hampshire  
13          should bear the burden of this project so that  
14          states like Massachusetts, Connecticut and New  
15          York can benefit from the energy being  
16          transmitted to them. I'd also like you to know  
17          that we like many are property owners who  
18          currently abut the existing PSNH row in the  
19          lower 40. We own a small vacation property that  
20          we purchased specifically because of the view of  
21          the White Mountains. Because we're so close to  
22          the existing row, our view will definitely be  
23          devastated by the towers that will be expanded

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1           upon in front of us. We currently look at a  
2           40-foot-tall wooden pole and we're looking at  
3           the possibility of 130 foot or even more tower  
4           being built on top of that. We stare directly  
5           at this. I'd like you to be aware of our  
6           decrease in property value that will be as a  
7           result of this project. This is the real deal  
8           and what people like us are faced with as a  
9           result of this proposed project. I'd also like  
10          you to know that I stand before you as someone  
11          who is currently unemployed and job hunting so I  
12          fully understand the value of that adding more  
13          jobs to our economy. However, just because a  
14          project adds jobs it does not mean that that  
15          project is a good thing for our state. It's  
16          more important to protect the natural beauty of  
17          New Hampshire's landscapes than to sell out for  
18          what is supposedly some temporary jobs. We  
19          oppose Northern Pass. Thank you.

20                   MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
21                   Paula. Fred Martin. Like to call up Don  
22                   Edgecomb.

23                   FREDERICK MARTIN: My name is Frederick

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1 Martin, and I am the owner of the family farm  
2 which is now on the National Register in  
3 Stratford, New Hampshire. We would have had the  
4 other line go right through us, but I intervened  
5 and spoke on the public interest as well as the  
6 private interest. The power line towers do  
7 damage the residents of Coos County, New  
8 Hampshire. Particularly, the towns of  
9 Stewartstown and Colebrook which depend heavily  
10 on tourism for their economic benefit. The  
11 scenic aspect of the region is destroyed by the  
12 lines of high voltage towers through the open  
13 countryside of those towns. Secondly, the power  
14 line towers do damage to the hospitality economy  
15 of the whole state of New Hampshire. Towers  
16 parallel to I-93 much higher than the trees will  
17 be visible to all tourists coming up the  
18 highway. You don't see them now, but they will  
19 see it as they approach the primary resource of  
20 the tourist economy of the state which is the  
21 White Mountains. There are six crossings of  
22 these 135 foot towers with the highway. The  
23 connections promise the substations do damage to

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1 the local generation economy for electricity in  
2 the state. The local generation of electricity  
3 has been mentioned as a source of reliability  
4 versus Canadian forest fires and ice storms.  
5 There's little need for the capacity of the  
6 project. The HVDC line under water in the  
7 Hudson River is supposed to bring a thousand  
8 megawatts to New York City in a few years.  
9 There is the Atlantic Wind project on the coast  
10 of New Jersey, et al, which will bring in a  
11 thousand megawatts to New York City by 2019. We  
12 badly need a regional study. That's been asked  
13 for apparently two years ago. This project  
14 should be studied to death. And finally, the  
15 Presidential Permit should be looked at on a  
16 national level. It should be denied on the  
17 national level because energy development needs  
18 encouragement in that offshore wind resource.  
19 According to Atlantic Wind there's enough energy  
20 there to power the nation four times over. And  
21 wind power is cleaner than hydroelectric. It's  
22 not a question of natural gas versus  
23 hydroelectric, it's wind power against the power

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1 line. So finally, there is a national need for  
2 jobs outside, in the US economy we have  
3 unemployment, and the permit should be denied in  
4 order to encourage development of the US  
5 resource of the Atlantic coast in preference to  
6 the ecologically inferior Canadian one.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
8 Fred. Next speaker, Elizabeth Martin.

9 ELIZABETH MARTIN: I have to admit I am  
10 Fred Martin's wife. I don't want to disagree  
11 with him, but I want to emphasize something  
12 slightly different. The NEPA brochure which I  
13 picked up on the table outside said more clearly  
14 than I could for major federal actions that may  
15 significantly affect the quality of the human  
16 environment, NEPA requires preparation of an  
17 EIS. They should consider the human  
18 environment. I have been going to, my husband's  
19 farm goes back four generations, but I've only  
20 been going there for 45 years. We love it.  
21 We're not going to leave. But people, I've  
22 watched the loss of the jobs in that area due to  
23 the paper companies in Groveton, Berlin and so

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1 many other places, so many other industries that  
2 we've lost but what has saved northern New  
3 Hampshire has been tourism of all sorts.  
4 Snowmobiles, ATVs, fishing, hunting, people  
5 coming up buying cabins because they want to  
6 find a place to get away from the cities. If we  
7 lose that in northern New Hampshire we're in  
8 serious trouble and that is the human  
9 environment. I look back, I just looked back at  
10 the White Mountain School exhibitions of art  
11 which I've seen recently in this area in  
12 Portsmouth, in fact, and Plymouth and that was  
13 almost destroyed by the overlogging of the White  
14 Mountains in around, leading up to 1900. Then  
15 we had the Weeks Act, 1911. It was celebrated  
16 two years ago, the 100th anniversary, which  
17 saved the White Mountains because the federal  
18 government stepped in to create a balanced  
19 forest use for both enjoyment of people and for  
20 logging and that was true both in the White  
21 Mountains and in the Appalachians in the south.  
22 Now there's a serious threat to the White  
23 Mountain area from this power line which is far

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1 bigger than the power line that it is following,  
2 claims to be following through the easements  
3 that it has. It has far more impact, and I  
4 think it will be a very negative impact on the  
5 human resource, environmental industry in the  
6 North Country. Thank you.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
8 Elizabeth. Next speaker, Ward Stooks? Did I  
9 get that right? Awesome.

10 WARD STOOKS: I want to thank you  
11 gentlemen's patience for listening to all of  
12 this tonight because you've been very patient  
13 and listening to convincing arguments from both  
14 sides, and my heart goes out to those that feel  
15 that their jobs are being inconvenienced by lack  
16 of opportunity here in New Hampshire, and yet I  
17 feel there are other issues which are here which  
18 are more important. I might say that I grew up  
19 in the midwest where it was flat as a pancake  
20 and there was a little hill between our house,  
21 my grandfather's house and a lake in Indiana.  
22 It was 90 feet tall. They called it Buzzard's  
23 Hill. They put 50 feet on top and call it Mount

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1 Orazeme and put a ski area on it. So we have  
2 many things here to be thankful here that we  
3 didn't have there. In fact after I met my wife  
4 and dragged her up Mt. Katahdin which she didn't  
5 quite divorce me for I became a New Englander  
6 forever. The thing here I think is that we have  
7 a heritage here. We inherit a precious piece of  
8 nature which we need to preserve. We are being  
9 beset by forces now, large corporations that  
10 have terrific power, owned by mostly people who  
11 are the top 1 percent and our people have to  
12 stand up for their rights and I think people  
13 have done that very well expressing their fears  
14 and their encroachments and so on, and I just  
15 hope that the panel will take this all into  
16 consideration and make wise decisions and  
17 hopefully the whole issue will be more  
18 thoroughly studied and researched before any  
19 decision is made. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
21 Ward. Next speaker, Elaine Kellerman. I'd like  
22 to call up Margaret Edgecomb, Kelly Normandeau,  
23 Jay Smith.

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1           ELAINE KELLERMAN: My name is Elaine  
2 Kellerman and I moved to Concord six years ago,  
3 September 2007. Like the previous gentleman,  
4 I'm also from the middle of the country. I'm  
5 originally from Kansas City. I didn't move here  
6 because of a job or because of family. I moved  
7 here because New Hampshire is a beautiful state,  
8 and I wanted to call this place home instead of  
9 a vacation destination. I am not yet a  
10 homeowner although I want to be. In searching  
11 for a home I have become very familiar with the  
12 Northern Pass website especially the In My Town  
13 section. If I am interested in a house for sale  
14 which is in a town impacted by Northern Pass, I  
15 immediately check to see how close the house is  
16 to the power line cut-through. I won't even  
17 look at a house within a mile of the power  
18 lines. If the house is in an elevated area it  
19 has to be even further removed because from  
20 higher up the towers and lines will be visible  
21 for miles. Now, these towers aren't even built  
22 yet and they're scaring me away. I guess  
23 Northern Pass people didn't take people like me

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1           into consideration when they did their studies  
2           with property values. I would never buy a house  
3           near these proposed towers because I wouldn't  
4           want to try to resell this house after the  
5           towers are constructed. I don't think I'm the  
6           only one who feels this way. Those towers will  
7           diminish the value of any property with a view  
8           of them. Honestly, when the leading industry in  
9           this state is tourism, I cannot grasp why anyone  
10          living here would be supportive of this project.  
11          Trust me. Visitors don't come to New Hampshire  
12          to look at 115-foot-tall towers. They come to  
13          see our beautiful mountain vistas. If Northern  
14          Pass comes to fruition, it will be like  
15          performing open heart surgery on the state. It  
16          will leave a permanent visible scar down the  
17          center of New Hampshire. Concord will have an  
18          excellent view of the damage. Just one example,  
19          Turtle Town Pond recreation area off of Oak Hill  
20          Road will have towers up to 109 feet bordering  
21          the southern edge of the pond so anyone wanting  
22          to snap a photo of that area had better do so  
23          before construction begins. I don't think

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1           you're going to like the image nearly as much  
2           once the towers are in place. I'm saddened this  
3           project has progressed to this place. It's  
4           amazing that the good people of New Hampshire  
5           are not taking their jobs as land stewards more  
6           seriously. Everyone needs to wake up and  
7           recognize the negative impact Northern Pass will  
8           have on the natural beauty of this state. The  
9           environmental impact Northern Pass would have is  
10          beyond measure. We need to speak out and  
11          protect the national assets of our state from a  
12          foreign private company which does not care  
13          about the best interests of the people of New  
14          Hampshire. Thank you.

15                 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
16                 Elaine. Lynn Woodard? Carl Sargent? Like to  
17                 call up Jeff Fellows and Bob Allen. And special  
18                 thanks to Brian Tilton, our microphone adjuster.

19                 CARL SARGENT: My name is Carl Sargent. I  
20                 was born here in Concord and have lived since  
21                 I've been a teenager near the lines that are  
22                 there now for 59 years. I would like to see the  
23                 lines underground which I think would eliminate

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1 much of the opposition. If this was done along  
2 state highways it would not have too much effect  
3 on the environment. The line through New York  
4 supported financially by one of the major  
5 investment groups can do this underground and  
6 under lake, of course, certainly would expect a  
7 good profit. Why can't we look at this for New  
8 Hampshire. Now, a lot of electricians are here  
9 tonight, but an underground would create more  
10 construction works for different trades if it  
11 was built underground.

12 The thing is I already have poor radio  
13 reception for certain stations since the last  
14 lines went in and I would expect considerably  
15 more because I'm close enough to the lines than  
16 that. Property values would go down on nearby  
17 properties, partly visual but partly because of  
18 the perception of harm that would be done by  
19 major overhead power lines and continuing  
20 research is going on with some promising results  
21 that there may be harm so I'm wondering if we're  
22 maybe pushing this a little too far because in  
23 Concord there's a lot of people along the lines

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1           that they are, one of the bigger cities,  
2           Concord, goes through some major property areas.  
3           That's all I have to say.

4           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
5           Carl. Rick Russman.

6           RICK RUSSMAN: Hi. Thank you. My name is  
7           Rick Russman and I live down in the southern  
8           part of the state in Kingston, and I'm a former  
9           State Senator and I chaired the Senate  
10          Environmental Committee there for ten years, and  
11          I also was the prime sponsor for the LCHIP bill  
12          which preserves land here in New Hampshire. So  
13          I can tell you that it strikes me that the  
14          alternative routes do need to be on the table  
15          and ideally, specifically, burial along the  
16          transportation corridor as the last gentleman  
17          said. There's really not any good reason  
18          outside of money that these lines couldn't be  
19          buried, and given the application, the applicant  
20          has failed to put forward a burial alternative  
21          and I think DOE really should include the  
22          analysis of at least one or more of the burial  
23          alternatives and certainly the no build option

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1 as well.

2 I live, like I say, down in Kingston which  
3 is about as far southeast as you can go from  
4 this area, but because of the impact on the  
5 White Mountain National Forest and other  
6 conserved lands I feel nonetheless personally  
7 impacted. The White Mountain National Forest is  
8 everyone's backyard. I mean it's not just in  
9 the North Country. It belongs to all of us and  
10 the EIS should include a comprehensive look on  
11 the impacts to the National Forest. As an  
12 attorney, perhaps I believe that DOE should not  
13 move forward at all before Northern Pass can  
14 demonstrate that they have legal access to their  
15 proposed route. Seems a bit of a waste of time  
16 to go forward until that can be determined. The  
17 lack of legal access is likely to dramatically  
18 affect the potential for Northern Pass/  
19 Hydro-Quebec to use the border crossing point  
20 that Hydro-Quebec has chosen and New Hampshire  
21 should not let Hydro-Quebec dictate where and  
22 how a transmission line crosses our border or  
23 traverses our state. I mean, most of us live

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1 here because we love New Hampshire just the way  
2 it is, and I don't think any of us here tonight  
3 are insensitive to the people that spoke about  
4 their jobs certainly, but at the same time we  
5 have to understand that New Hampshire future is  
6 not for sale at this price. And I think that,  
7 you talk about making a living, I mean making a  
8 living in the North Country is not an easy task  
9 and the people that choose to live up there have  
10 not chosen perhaps the easiest way to make a  
11 living so I certainly think that their concerns  
12 and their suggestions about the tourism industry  
13 and the services that they provide stand to be  
14 more impacted perhaps than a lot of others of us  
15 that are here so I do hope you, I don't envy  
16 your task but certainly I appreciate the time  
17 that you're given us. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
19 Rick. Charmaine Rose. Like to call up Richard  
20 Hartman, Dennis Gilbreath, John Violette.

21 CHARMAINE ROSE: My name is Charmaine Rose.  
22 I live here in Concord and in fact I live within  
23 100 feet, maybe less of where these proposed

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1 lines would be going, and some of my neighbors  
2 are even closer, and one of my neighbors would  
3 have lines going right over his deck. To me  
4 there is absolutely no reason why these lines  
5 cannot be buried. This is just unacceptable to  
6 have lines in your own, literally over your deck  
7 let alone backyard. I would believe that not  
8 only should they be buried where I live but they  
9 should be buried through all of Concord, also  
10 through all of the communities in southern New  
11 Hampshire that would be affected. We've heard  
12 so much about the effects of northern New  
13 Hampshire. I want to stress that we are also  
14 affected in the south.

15 The main reasons that have been given for  
16 being against Northern Pass are the social  
17 consequences and the effect of property values.  
18 I am also extremely concerned about the health  
19 effects and you'll notice that we've heard only  
20 a couple people mention that tonight. This is  
21 an area that people have not wanted to discuss  
22 since it hasn't been scientifically proven in  
23 this country to the satisfaction of many people.

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1 Yet since the 1950s, I have read study after  
2 study about health effects related to high  
3 tension electromagnetic lines, especially  
4 affecting young children. I am concerned and I  
5 believe that it is only a matter of time before  
6 this is scientifically demonstrated. Such lines  
7 should never go near human habitation. I say  
8 bury it if it has to come at all, preferably  
9 along the state highways. So that I would  
10 support, I guess, people, I would support a plan  
11 that would ask Northern Pass to submit a plan  
12 for burying the entire line. It's being done in  
13 Maine, it's being done in New York. We can do  
14 it here. I also want to ask for some  
15 clarification from Brian Mills, is it?  
16 Department of Energy? One of you? Yes. I  
17 believe I heard you to say that the final  
18 decision on Northern Pass was up to the state  
19 whether to allow the line to be built or not yet  
20 for the past two years we've been told that the  
21 state can only suggest, that the final decision  
22 is at the federal level so I really would like  
23 to have clarification of that. Who makes that

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1 final decision?

2 BRIAN MILLS: The Department of Energy does  
3 not have siting authority in the state. Again,  
4 the Department of Energy does not have siting  
5 authority for transmission lines in the State of  
6 New Hampshire.

7 CHARMAINE ROSE: Are you suggesting then  
8 that the State of New Hampshire is in control of  
9 that?

10 BRIAN MILLS: That would be the state  
11 citing committee. The state citing committee.

12 CHARMAINE ROSE: And not Washington, D.C.

13 MR. MILLS: Right.

14 CHARMAINE ROSE: This is very good to know  
15 because in all these years this has not been  
16 made clear to us. Thank you.

17 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
18 Charmaine. Don Edgecomb. Margaret Edgecomb.  
19 Kelly Normandeau.

20 KELLY NORMANDEAU: Hi there. My name is  
21 Kelly Normandeau, and I am the owner of Concord  
22 Equestrian Center which is a horse facility at  
23 56 Sanborn Road in Concord, New Hampshire, and

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1 we are on the right-of-way. I am going to echo  
2 some earlier comments. Sorry. Sherill Crow  
3 sort of stole my thunder a little bit, but in  
4 2011 my sister Mary Lee O'Brien and I realized  
5 our dream of owning a horse farm. We purchased  
6 a foreclosed property on the Public Service  
7 right-of-way in Concord. Concord Equestrian  
8 Center, our business, is more than that. It's  
9 more than just a business. It's my home, and  
10 it's a place for people to come and enjoy the  
11 beauty of the horse in a peaceful environment.  
12 My sister passed away this spring knowing that I  
13 would continue on with CEC to the best of my  
14 ability. At this moment, life is in limbo. My  
15 fences should be replaced, my pasture should be  
16 re-seeded. I can do none of these things due to  
17 the fact that I have no idea what the future is  
18 going to bring during this whole permit  
19 processing. So I cannot improve my facility, I  
20 can't do anything spending my money in fear of  
21 what's coming down the pike. I will be greatly  
22 affected by this. Basically it would end up  
23 crippling my way of life not to mention that I

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1 have gotten no response to what safety  
2 precautions will be put into effect for  
3 minimizing any injuries that could be sustained  
4 to the livestock that is on my property that  
5 people are paying me to ensure their safety as  
6 well. I am all for people going to work. I  
7 believe in the ability to earn a living, but you  
8 have to think about the living that you're going  
9 to be creating. Is the electrical workers 15,  
10 20, \$30 an hour job more important than the  
11 \$2.38 cents an hour server that's working at the  
12 diner up in the North Country? I don't think  
13 so. And we also to have to ask some questions.  
14 Are the jobs guaranteed to our domestic workers  
15 here? How many plant designers and operators  
16 reside in the town of Franklin? Perhaps labor  
17 jobs will pan out but only for a very short  
18 time. Interrupting your unemployment perhaps  
19 for no long-term guarantees? For me it's  
20 ruination of my home, property and livelihood  
21 and dream for my life. Our New Hampshire  
22 tourism is a way, it's a huge income for the  
23 state and I'd say that burying the lines is an

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1           excellent alternative, but it's too expensive,  
2           yet the people who are claiming it's too  
3           expensive have certainly far more money than all  
4           of us here that are in opposition to it. So I  
5           think follow the money, see where it goes  
6           because the pockets the money is coming out of  
7           are the ones that are going to be filled up, not  
8           our local people. We're going to be devastated  
9           by this.

10           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
11           Kelly. Next speaker, Jay Smith. No Jay Smith.  
12           Jeff Fellows. Jeff, before you start I'm going  
13           to call a few more names. Jud Pitman, Audrey  
14           Hickey, Janet Ward, Laura Bonk.

15           JEFF FELLOWS: My name is Jeff Fellows,  
16           general foreperson for Asplundh Tree Company. I  
17           was born and raised in New Hampshire. I've  
18           heard a lot of opposition opposing Northern  
19           Pass. I am for the Northern Pass. A lot of  
20           people don't, I've heard one person in here say  
21           hey, I like to go hunting on the power lines but  
22           a lot of people do. Public Service and all the  
23           utility companies don't have fences up blocking

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1 anybody from using the right-of-ways.  
2 Snowmachine trails, four-wheeler trails,  
3 everything goes through them. There's 180 miles  
4 of line. They only need 40 more miles. It's  
5 going to bring 1200-plus jobs into New  
6 Hampshire. It's going to generate approximately  
7 \$24 million to stimulate the economy a year.  
8 I'm 100 percent for the Northern Pass. Thank  
9 you.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
11 John. Bob Allen.

12 BOB ALLEN: Good evening. My name is Bob  
13 Allen. I live in New Ipswich, New Hampshire.  
14 I've been impressed by the process tonight and I  
15 thank you for allowing us to have this open  
16 forum. I've been impressed by some of the  
17 speakers. I'd like to say I've been working  
18 with trees for the last 30 years. Hiked all  
19 over New Hampshire. Hiked all over New England.  
20 I consider the outdoors to be my home. But  
21 there's a couple things we need to talk about  
22 tonight that I don't think have been discussed  
23 at all and one is that New Hampshire according

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1 to the U.S. Forest Service is the number one  
2 most forested state in the nation. In New  
3 Hampshire we have four electric companies.  
4 Those electric companies have over 15,000 miles  
5 of overhead line, and those lines get trimmed  
6 every 4 to 5 years. So we're asking with the  
7 Northern Pass to do another 32 miles of line.  
8 It was originally 40. Now 8 are going to go  
9 underground. 32 miles. We're already trimming  
10 15,000 or a portion thereof every year. It's  
11 not going to make that big of a difference. We  
12 have plenty of tourism. Everybody says tourism  
13 is the number one thing in the state and they're  
14 coming with 15,000 miles of line. I don't see  
15 how 32 miles is going to make that big of a  
16 difference.

17 I'd also like to say somebody mentioned the  
18 guys in the orange trucks earlier, and I  
19 appreciate the guys in the orange trucks. The  
20 men and women who are in those orange trucks and  
21 brought them here tonight on their own time are  
22 all wearing blue shirts because they support the  
23 Northern Pass. When you're thinking about who

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1           these people are, the people that are keeping  
2           the power flowing, trimming the trees around the  
3           wires every single day in all kinds of weather,  
4           and I think we need to support them and the jobs  
5           that this project will provide. Thank you very  
6           much.

7           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
8           Bob. Richard Hartman, Dennis Gilbreath. Before  
9           you start, we're going to do another call for  
10          John Violette, Jud Pitman, Audrey Hickey, Janet  
11          Ward, Laura Bonk. Alan Schiavone. Thank you.  
12          James Walker. Sam Langley.

13          DENNIS GILBREATH: I'm Dennis Gilbreath. I  
14          live in Concord and I represent myself. I see  
15          no benefits to this power line, and I see a huge  
16          cost, this huge power line going down the length  
17          of our beautiful state. My view is build it all  
18          underground or build it mostly underground or  
19          don't build it.

20          MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
21          Dennis. John? Jud? Audrey? Janet? Laura?  
22          Alan?

23          ALAN SCHIAVONE: Thank you. My name is

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1 Alan Schiavone. And I live in Contoocook, New  
2 Hampshire, nowhere near the line or anything to  
3 do with the line. I want to give you a unique  
4 perspective, I believe. For 1972 to 1982 I  
5 worked for a company by the name of Long Island  
6 Lighting Company who later became Light Bug who  
7 then became National Grid, earmarked National  
8 Greed. I worked in substation maintenance for  
9 five years, maintenance and distribution. It  
10 was the first 345 line from Danbury,  
11 Connecticut, 300,000 volts DC under Long Island  
12 Sound. It rose in Kingsport, New York. It ran  
13 to Glen Head, New York and from there to Lake  
14 Success. The people of Long Island had no use  
15 of that line. It went directly to Queens with a  
16 tie to Con Edison. As being part of substation  
17 maintenance which Public Service I don't think  
18 has substation maintenance crews any longer, we  
19 tested and worked the line. I worked 345. Not  
20 live, just on testing, 90 feet below. Gentlemen  
21 that are wearing the blue shirts I applaud you,  
22 but I worked 345 and two things very unique.  
23 One, 138 birds fly over it, birds nest in it.

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1 345 to this day I will attest to you no birds  
2 fly over it, no birds nest in it. They stay  
3 away from it. We worked at the subs, they were  
4 totally grounded. As you know they're a  
5 web-based grounding system, and we had to wear  
6 low voltage gloves to open the cabinetry because  
7 of the electromagnetic field building up,  
8 electromagnetic force, status electricity in our  
9 bodies going to ground. So I say to you, do the  
10 test, do the studies, and ask Public Service for  
11 the truth. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
13 Alan. James Walker? I will also call up  
14 Barbara Matthews, William Power, Erica Druke.

15 JAMES WALKER: Thank you. My name is James  
16 Walker. I'm a lifelong resident of this state  
17 in the city of Concord, and I don't think that  
18 we need Northern Pass. A lot of people don't  
19 realize it, but Hydro-Quebec when they built  
20 those dams there's enough sluice ways in them to  
21 install generators for 200 years worth of  
22 electricity they can supply at a minimum and a  
23 maximum of 250. So if Northern Pass is built

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1 through New Hampshire, we're going to be stuck  
2 with those beautiful poles of steel for at least  
3 200 years with all their wires. We don't need  
4 that landscape ruined for 200 years or more when  
5 power is not for residents of New Hampshire or  
6 business. It's for Massachusetts, Connecticut,  
7 New York. I have nothing against people from  
8 those other states, but they sure wouldn't let a  
9 power line like that go across their state to  
10 give us electricity, and we're not going to get  
11 anything out of it. If we need electricity in  
12 the future that bad, we can go up to Colebrook  
13 or Stewartstown and build a converter station  
14 and tap into the circuits that we already have  
15 the power lines and rebuild them, but we don't  
16 need 130 foot towers, no. You know what's going  
17 to happen at about 30 years? There'll be  
18 another set of lines built on those towers  
19 underneath and looks is going to be worse. So  
20 I'm definitely, I hear about all these jobs.  
21 Thank you. I don't know where all these  
22 electricity workers are looking for jobs but  
23 Public Service is not hiring, talk with the

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1 linemen. Talk with Concord Electric's linemen  
2 which I have a lot of friends in all these  
3 places, Co-op, when somebody leaves they don't  
4 have. I'm not qualified to really talk, but I  
5 did spend 27 years as a contractor for Public  
6 Service and 30 years for New Hampshire Electric  
7 Co-op. Thank you for the time.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
9 James. Sam Langley. Going to call out some  
10 other names, too. Do I have a Barbara Matthews?  
11 No. William Power? Okay. Yes, come on over.  
12 Erica Druke. I know this one is wrong because I  
13 can't read it well. I'm going to say it's P E N  
14 T T I. Excellent. Thank you. Sue Moore.

15 SAM LANGLEY: Okay. Thank you. Sam  
16 Langley from Boscowen. Some of the points I'm  
17 going to make have already been covered so I'm  
18 going to try to make things brief. First, let  
19 me suggest that if I understand you correctly,  
20 that the line, even if you approve the crossing  
21 of the border permit the line still cannot be  
22 built without local agreements? And I suggest  
23 you approve the border crossing and then we've

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1 got it if we need it and if we don't need it,  
2 the line won't get built. As far as the people  
3 that are saying that New Hampshire doesn't need  
4 the power but maybe Massachusetts and  
5 Connecticut does, this is all one country. If  
6 the line has to be built to provide them with  
7 power, and they need the power, then the line  
8 should be built. How would we feel if the  
9 residents of Massachusetts said they wouldn't  
10 allow trucks delivering goods that New Hampshire  
11 needs to run over their highways to get to New  
12 Hampshire. We'd be up the creek. As far as the  
13 people that say yeah, property values are going  
14 to go to pot and all this, I don't think, people  
15 come up here to hunt and fish and swim in the  
16 lake and they can still do that whether the  
17 towers are there or not. Having said this, I  
18 would suggest one other thing. Talk about  
19 underground lines. Underground lines are fine,  
20 they don't have to look at them, but they're a  
21 lot harder to maintain. I have lived in areas  
22 that have used underground lines and when power  
23 goes out it takes three times as long to get it

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1 back because they have trouble finding where the  
2 break is. I think the proposal should be  
3 studied, but I don't think it should be killed  
4 out of hand. I don't think it's going to kill  
5 the tourist industry. Thank you for your time.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
7 Sam. Last call on Barbara Matthews. William  
8 Power.

9 BILL POWER: Hi. I'm Bill Power. Lifelong  
10 resident of New Hampshire. I have no prepared  
11 statement tonight. Had I brought one I probably  
12 would have addressed my comments to the fact  
13 that I've been a lifelong hiker in the White  
14 Mountains and my concern is with the visual  
15 impact that this product would have, but you  
16 asked that people not cover repeatedly the same  
17 argument and so I appreciate the other comments  
18 that people have made regarding that tonight.

19 So I've been sitting here, it's dawned on  
20 me that nobody has spoken about this tonight. I  
21 was in the logging business for a couple years  
22 from 2009 or 2007 to about 2009 and I hauled  
23 wood chips for a living to power plants and

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1 people talk about jobs and economic opportunity  
2 and I'd like people to consider that the  
3 economic benefits from this project, it sounds  
4 to me like are going to go out of the country  
5 except for the temporary jobs. And we have  
6 loggers in our state who are suffering and  
7 truckers who are suffering and people who supply  
8 the local, we have the most forested state,  
9 somebody said earlier, and I would like people  
10 to consider if we need power in the state we can  
11 build biomass plants and we can employ people in  
12 New Hampshire and support the local economy.  
13 When a logger buys his equipment in New  
14 Hampshire, he generally buys it from a local  
15 dealer, and there's a ripple effect from that.  
16 He's employing local loggers who are buying  
17 pickups and chainsaws and equipment and the  
18 money would stay in New Hampshire and benefit  
19 New Hampshire residents as opposed to going out  
20 of state. Thank you very much.

21 MODERATOR: Thank for your comments,  
22 William. Erica Druke. I'm also going to call  
23 John O'Neil. Christopher Hunt. Naomi

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1 Butterfield.

2 ERICA DRUKE: Erica Druke. I'm a military  
3 veteran, retired. New Hampshire raised and  
4 recently returned after a career protecting the  
5 national security of the United States so I find  
6 myself asking who's protecting New Hampshire's  
7 citizens from Canadian companies that are backed  
8 by Canadian government, and I'm curious if the  
9 DOE study or decision making includes if there's  
10 a national security risk for the government for  
11 the United States relying and becoming more  
12 dependent on foreign power to the United States  
13 and whether or not that's a factor that's  
14 considered in the decision making.

15 MR. MILLS: Is that your comment?

16 ERICA DRUKE: No. I just have a question.  
17 Isn't there a national security risk for the  
18 government relying too much on foreign power.

19 Okay. So Canada has made it clear that  
20 their power source would first go to Canadians  
21 so if there's any type of crisis that power that  
22 was coming to the United States would probably  
23 be cut off and used for Canadian purposes. But

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1 to get back to my speech, the Northern Pass will  
2 permanently mar the landscape of New Hampshire  
3 and negatively impact New Hampshire's economy  
4 and legacy, and I remember my stepfather before  
5 he died always used to call Massachusetts  
6 drivers flatlanders to explain why the traffic  
7 was so heavy here in New Hampshire. So  
8 Massachusetts and the southern New England  
9 states have a lot of industry and higher  
10 populations that require more and more power.  
11 New Hampshire does not. New Hampshire has its  
12 beauty with its peaks and valleys. All the  
13 flatlanders come up here for the clean air, the  
14 views and vistas and to get away from the  
15 gridlock and congestion in order to reconnect to  
16 the natural environment. I keep a picture in my  
17 living room that says allow nature to produce  
18 beauty and joy. Allowing a Canadian company to  
19 ramrod high line power lines dissecting the  
20 State of New Hampshire for profit is  
21 unacceptable. The economy of New Hampshire  
22 depends on tourism. New Hampshire does not need  
23 this power. It is strictly for export to the

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1 lower New England states. I'm for clean local  
2 renewable energy.

3 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
4 Erica. Is it Pentti? I'm going to call out  
5 Martin Vaughan, Colin Novick, Sarah Highland,  
6 Stephen Pascucci and Jeanine Menard.

7 PENTTI AALTO: Pentti Aalto. I live in  
8 Pembroke. Probably a few hundred yards from the  
9 right-of-way for the AC component. I stand here  
10 representing myself. I'm not opposed to  
11 importing power at some level, but I am  
12 concerned with this particular project in that I  
13 believe that it does pose some environmental  
14 concerns that would need to be raised but also  
15 economic ones. The problem with a DC line as  
16 this one is designed is it's an older type of  
17 line. Basically you feed it at one end and you  
18 take the power out at the other. There's no  
19 chance to tap into it for either supply or  
20 extraction of power from it. New systems, new  
21 DC lines, as I understand it, can do that. They  
22 go from what's called thyristor switching to  
23 transistor switching, and they can do a lot more

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1 with it. They're a lot more flexible that way.  
2 What that would allow is that some of our  
3 northern power sources, biomass, wind in the  
4 North Country could put their power on the wire  
5 to get it down to here but today they can't. So  
6 the flexibility's an issue. Getting it  
7 underground, I keep hearing the arguments that  
8 it would cost way too much so there's a tendency  
9 in Europe and even here to start burying more  
10 and more of the power lines. I think it really  
11 deserves another look at what is the real cost  
12 of burying power. I understand there's no free  
13 lunch. Everything that we do, every type of  
14 power that we produce will have a negative  
15 impact of some sort. We need to balance those  
16 effects with what we gain from them. As we look  
17 forward, this wire will be in place for many  
18 years, and I have to ask are we going to see  
19 other technological changes that may reduce the  
20 need for it. We're already beginning to see  
21 distributed power in the form of wind and solar  
22 and smaller scale, but we also are seeing the  
23 beginnings of technology for homescale power

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1 production from fossil fuels that allows us to  
2 both heat and cool our house with power that we  
3 generate ourselves. The efficiency is still low  
4 and the cost is still high with the equipment  
5 that's available. In the future there are some  
6 that say, for example, solid oxide fuel cells.  
7 We maybe see efficiencies comparable to utility  
8 efficiencies and have the ability to use the  
9 waste heat locally for a dramatic change in the  
10 way that our grid system works. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments  
12 Pentti. Sue Moore.

13 SUE MOORE: Hi. I'm Sue Moore. I'm an  
14 environmental educator. I first heard of this  
15 hydroelectric project in 1986 from the Cree  
16 Indians whose land and archeological artifacts  
17 were flooded. From its beginning, this project  
18 has had no regard for the indigenous people nor  
19 the environment. The US and in particular New  
20 Hampshire has the ability to create its own  
21 renewable energy, and we should not allow a  
22 foreign entity to prevent American companies to  
23 profit from their own creation of renewable

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1 energy as will happen in Connecticut if Northern  
2 Pass succeeds. It is time that the US in  
3 general and New Hampshire in particular support  
4 its own renewable energy business. We don't  
5 need a source of foreign energy from Canada's  
6 Northern Pass nor from Alberta Tar Sands that is  
7 now being planned by Enbridge to run through  
8 northern Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine in a  
9 pipeline more than 60 years old. We need to  
10 support renewable energy made in the USA.  
11 That's where the jobs should be. Building  
12 solar, wind and geothermal renewable energy.  
13 Thank you.

14 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
15 Sue. John O'Neil.

16 JOHN O'NEIL: Good evening. Thank you for  
17 having me here tonight to speak to you. I'm a  
18 professional environmental engineer from Hollis,  
19 New Hampshire, and professional civil engineer,  
20 same place. Professional or licensed land  
21 surveyor and I've been around the construction  
22 industry and permit process for many, many  
23 years. We're facing a decision here that

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1 shouldn't really be based in money and greed but  
2 it pretty much is. 30 years ago the section  
3 that hasn't been constructed, this 40 miles, 50  
4 miles, whatever it was was taken off the table  
5 prior to it being rejected by the civil hearing  
6 process. The practices that were engaged upon  
7 to make these corridors go through are  
8 considered archaic and medieval by today's  
9 standards. Herbicides, pesticides, destruction,  
10 wantonly for these corridors. Today the visual  
11 scarring isn't much different with the impacts  
12 and continues along the same lines in the past  
13 without putting the environment in that we need  
14 to see. Perhaps this is a premature project  
15 that should be put off for another 30 years and  
16 we could look at it then to see if and when  
17 Northern Pass is ready to pony up what they need  
18 to do to get this project through properly.

19 We need to make this work financially. If  
20 the Northern Pass project can't figure a way to  
21 do this by burying it underground it should be  
22 deemed premature. Federal government through  
23 President Barack Obama recently in the past few

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1 weeks has asked the coal mining industry to bury  
2 all their carbon emissions. Guess what. We  
3 need to bury the Northern Pass. Period. This  
4 needs to go under the ground on a majority of  
5 the bases.

6 So here's what we're asking for. We want  
7 to know what the cost is. True blue. Per  
8 kilowatt -- I have one minute? Is this one cent  
9 kilowatt hour that is going to increase the base  
10 price over the hundred year as one of the  
11 gentleman tonight said, 250 years. Let's go  
12 with a hundred year and see what this is. This  
13 is the ask. They should be providing this. 2,  
14 cost of burying under the water, cost under the  
15 roads, any of these alternatives need to be  
16 brought forward. Three, what is the cheapest  
17 burial corridor, what are some of the  
18 alternatives. Four, projected future technology  
19 in 30 years may well be able to accomplish what  
20 they can't accomplish today. Five, financial  
21 protections for the cost absorbed over the time  
22 life of the project. What if that truly is. No  
23 bull crap. What is it. Is it 100, 200 years?

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1 Six, draft requirements to our politicians for.  
2 Tax credits, incentives, direct revenue grants,  
3 and finally the rate increases required in order  
4 to effectuate or execute the burial of this  
5 project. I'd like to ask have a cost comparison  
6 between the coal industry that President Obama  
7 and federal government and EPA has asked to have  
8 buried. What is that doing to the cost per  
9 kilowatt hour to the coal industry, we're no  
10 different, and finally, when you get back to  
11 Washington, if this is such a vital project to  
12 the nation let's send a message and ask the  
13 Obama administration or whoever is in government  
14 at that time to put this into the ground. Thank  
15 you for your time.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
17 John. Christopher Hunt.

18 CHRISTOPHER HUNT: Thank you for your time.  
19 I know it's very late. My only comment is the  
20 reference to the map that shows a parallel  
21 existing 2000 megawatt line that runs down and  
22 my only understanding or my lack of  
23 understanding is is this being considered to be

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1 a possible right-of-way that can be upgraded and  
2 utilized for the transmission of this excess  
3 power that you want to bring down in lieu of a  
4 new corridor being opened up? Hopefully at some  
5 point I will find the answer to that in some  
6 other avenue of information. I know maybe a  
7 competitor owns that right-of-way or such but in  
8 such that it is the definition of eminent domain  
9 is for the good of all public so I just haven't  
10 heard that answer to that question. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
12 Christopher. Lot of yours sounded like question  
13 and I would encourage you to talk to the people  
14 out by the maps. They might be able to answer  
15 the question better than any of us. Naomi  
16 Butterfield. Going once, going twice. Martin  
17 Vaughan. Colin Novick.

18 COLIN NOVICK: My name is Colin Novick.  
19 I'm not an abutter and my position is not about  
20 personal financial impacts. I am from  
21 Massachusetts. My parents brought me to New  
22 Hampshire annually. I return to New Hampshire  
23 annually and now I bring my children to New

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1 Hampshire. I proposed to my wife on a New  
2 Hampshire mountain peak and I drove two hours to  
3 be here tonight. This project supposedly  
4 benefits southern New England. As a resident of  
5 southern New England I am here to speak out in  
6 opposition. I do not need this power line. The  
7 Department of Energy's Presidential Permit  
8 requires the determination of the public good.  
9 Where is the public good in this project. It is  
10 a private project to generate private profits  
11 benefiting private investors. All the costs for  
12 this private goods are borne by the public. It  
13 is not a public good. It is a public cost. The  
14 property owners will pay. The tourism industry  
15 will pay, the environmental habitats will be  
16 compromised and citizens of the United States  
17 and our collective White Mountain National  
18 Forest will pay. I buy 100 percent renewable  
19 energy for both my house and my business.  
20 Industrial hydroelectric protection is not  
21 considered a renewable energy source. I speak  
22 as a consumer. This is not green energy, and  
23 the market does not view it as green energy.

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1           Moreover, in energy terms this project is of the  
2           past. Energy production of the future is going  
3           to be decentralized with power production  
4           produced in smaller amounts within the grid. It  
5           is more redundant, it is more efficient, it is  
6           also better for security. The future is smart  
7           grid. Small scale wind, solar and biomass which  
8           are locally produced. This project is of the  
9           past. We should not build that in our future.

10           MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
11           Colin. Sarah Hyland.

12           SARAH HYLAND: Thank you. First, thank you  
13           for the opportunity to address you tonight on  
14           this very important topic. First I want to say  
15           I support the use of renewable energy in  
16           producing electricity instead of importing  
17           Middle Eastern oil or using gas that's created  
18           from fracking or from coal that damages the  
19           environment, but I have problems with the  
20           Northern Pass project, and those are aesthetic,  
21           environmental and property rights issues. I  
22           object to the Star Wars like towers running down  
23           the state. They will be close to my house. I

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1 object to them. And I object also to the taking  
2 of private property by private corporations, and  
3 I especially object to the lack of consideration  
4 of burying the lines on the part of the  
5 utilities. It's a process that's being done in  
6 other places as has been said tonight and  
7 certainly should be considered here. That kind  
8 of process would certainly provide the jobs that  
9 have been mentioned tonight, and it would  
10 address a lot of the other aesthetic issues as  
11 well so I would encourage DOE to include an  
12 analysis of burying the lines for the entire  
13 project, the entire route through New Hampshire,  
14 not just the token couple of miles, and include  
15 that in your Environmental Impact Statement for  
16 the proposed permit. Thank you very much.

17 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.  
18 Sarah. Stephen Pascucci.

19 STEPHEN PASCUCCI: Thank you. Hello. My  
20 name is Stephen Pascucci of Franklin, New  
21 Hampshire. I come before you this evening to  
22 express my concerns regarding Hydro-Quebec's  
23 proposed Northern Pass project. I am concerned

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1 about Hydro-Quebec's business practices and how  
2 they may affect the environmental study being  
3 made along with this utilities monopoly, this  
4 utility monopoly proposed deal with the people  
5 of New Hampshire. I see a government business  
6 that is regulated by the same government that  
7 operates it. I see a government business whose  
8 idea of environmentalism is different than mine.  
9 I see a government business that dug through  
10 mountains and rerouted whole rivers. I see a  
11 government business that treats humans as  
12 obstacles to progress. What I see is a Cree  
13 Indian nation that said no and a government that  
14 forced its political will on a minority  
15 population and made it look like they said yes.  
16 Exactly when has that ever been acceptable.  
17 What I see is a government business that  
18 multiple times built on land that wasn't theirs  
19 and found ways to make it legal after the damage  
20 was done. I see a government business whose  
21 answer is to use money as its right, its  
22 solution maker and its false apology. I ask you  
23 to consider that based on their extensive

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1 historical precedence. This government  
2 business, Hydro-Quebec, may not honor all their  
3 promises and obligations and may instead seek to  
4 offer money redirected from the pockets of its  
5 customers as its apology and leave us with a  
6 state more damaged than they once led us to  
7 believe. Please consider what happens when we  
8 cannot reverse the concrete and steel damage  
9 done to our local farms and families who helped  
10 build this state, to our forests and  
11 countryside, to a very own White Mountain  
12 National Forest. Please consider what happens  
13 when this project is not enough and they come  
14 back for more. This project is not about what's  
15 good for New Hampshire. This project is what is  
16 good for Quebec. If this had been good for any  
17 other state, they would have jumped at the  
18 offer. New York, if they needed the money or if  
19 they needed the electricity, they would have  
20 passed this project, but they did not. It is a  
21 bad investment for them. It is a bad investment  
22 for New Hampshire. Please tell me, with living  
23 in Franklin I know what the price is for

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1 Franklin. Our mayor told us that our tax base  
2 would increase by some 40 percent so I know what  
3 the price was for Franklin. I'm wondering what  
4 the price is for everybody else who's voting yet  
5 on this project. Please tell me, please tell my  
6 fellow citizens of New Hampshire, please tell  
7 Hydro-Quebec that our representatives can't be  
8 bought, that we cannot be bought. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
10 Steven. Last of our on site registered  
11 speakers, Jeanne Menard.

12 JEANNE MENARD: Thank you. Good evening.  
13 I'm Jeanie Menard. I'm from Deerfield and I am  
14 opposed to the Northern Pass project. I have  
15 spent the last two and a half years traveling to  
16 various communities to hear the pros and the  
17 cons on this issue. And there's been a lot of  
18 speaking this evening about resources, New  
19 Hampshire's resources, and there is no doubt in  
20 my mind that New Hampshire's most valuable  
21 resources are the voices of the people and I  
22 have been greatly inspired and encouraged and  
23 motivated to respect and desire that these

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1           voices be weighed in on as a resource from our  
2           state. So during this process of decision  
3           making, just keep in mind, there are hundreds  
4           and hundreds and hundreds of documents, written  
5           statements, emails, meetings, votes, all along  
6           the line, communities have come together, these  
7           resources have come together and made statements  
8           and these statements should speak as, in my  
9           opinion, they should speak with greater value  
10          than statistical evidence or economic reports,  
11          just hearing the people from the State of New  
12          Hampshire.

13                 On another note, I feel very strongly, I am  
14          a consumer and I'm actually a fan of Public  
15          Service of New Hampshire for the job that they  
16          do. Deerfield, the last few years, has been hit  
17          by tornados and floods and we've had innumerable  
18          examples of power outages but the company,  
19          Public Service of New Hampshire has done amazing  
20          things in our community to get power restored.  
21          My request would be that Public Service of New  
22          Hampshire also hears these voices and reconnects  
23          with New Hampshire. Public Service of New

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1 Hampshire. Disconnect from Hydro-Quebec and  
2 reconnect and as a company provide power and  
3 what is needed for the State of New Hampshire.  
4 Once again, I am opposed to Northern Pass and  
5 thank you very much for the long evening and  
6 your time.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,  
8 Jeanne. We're at that point where we have gone  
9 through all of our preregistered, on-site  
10 registered speakers. Before we go to that next  
11 step, talking about people who want to go again,  
12 I want to first of all hear a round of applause  
13 for all the speakers that we've had thus far.  
14 Thanks you very much. We thank you guys for  
15 your hospitality tonight. I want to review our  
16 upcoming meetings as I said in the beginning.  
17 This was the first. Hanaway Theater at Plymouth  
18 State University, open house at 5 p.m. Scoping  
19 starts at 5:30 and we'll run until 8 or when  
20 finished. Wednesday at the Mountain View Grand  
21 in Whitefield. Again, five o'clock start time  
22 for the open house. Scoping 5:30 to 8.  
23 Thursday Colebrook Elementary School at the

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1 gymnasium. Again, 5 o'clock for the open house,  
2 scoping 5:30 until finished. We might have  
3 broken a record tonight. We had as I count 66  
4 total speakers. Is there anyone who wants to go  
5 and speak again?

6 TARAS KUCMAN: I would just like to finish  
7 what I started.

8 MODERATOR: For another three minutes.  
9 That's one.

10 JENNIFER GOODMAN: Actually I thought I was  
11 on the preregistered list.

12 MODERATOR: Your name?

13 JENNIFER GOODMAN: It was Maggie Steere.  
14 My colleague signed up on site.

15 MODERATOR: Why don't you grab a seat up  
16 here. Anyone else? Dave?

17 DAVE DOBBINS: I'm good. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR: So we've got two more. Anyone  
19 else? Final call. Two speakers to end it.  
20 Thank you very much. Your name is. Taras  
21 Kucman.

22 TARAS KUCMAN: Brian, I don't know if I  
23 want to touch this again. The last time wasn't

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1 a success, but at least I don't have to yell  
2 that loud. Hello. Just to refresh everyone's  
3 memory, I am Taras Kucman. I am an abutter in  
4 Concord and when I last left off with my note, I  
5 was basically saying that New Hampshire will  
6 continue to be an electricity exporter based on  
7 the fact that we are producing 250 percent of  
8 what we need. Whenever one of the Northern Pass  
9 representatives are asked why not bury the lines  
10 their knee jerk response is it's cost  
11 prohibitive or it costs ten times what it cost  
12 to erect towers. Enough already. Northeastern  
13 Energy Link in Maine is burying the line cost  
14 effectively. The Lake Champlain project is  
15 burying their transmission lines with service to  
16 New York cost effectively. In short, the world  
17 has recognized the wisdom of burying the lines.  
18 Wake up, Northern Pass. Call your competitors,  
19 observe your competitors. Seek out who the  
20 contractors are and employ today's best  
21 practices. Your competitor's costs are not ten  
22 times the cost of putting up towers. Your  
23 competitors have found a way of satisfying their

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1 customer needs with today's technology. They've  
2 gotten beyond the,  
3 that's-not-the-way-we've-always-done-it  
4 mentality. Where is your justification for the  
5 ten to one cost impact. What assumptions have  
6 you made. If I were interested in overstating  
7 the cost of burying the lines, I could hire an  
8 army of lawyers, give each of them a pick and a  
9 shovel and pay them their hourly wage. Get  
10 real, Northern Pass. Get real, PSNH. You can  
11 spit in our eyes and tell us that it's raining  
12 for only so long before your customers, the  
13 ratepayers, the New Hampshire voters will drive  
14 reforms your lobbyists won't have a prayer of  
15 stopping. What about the threat of national  
16 security and public safety. These towers are  
17 potential strategic targets. The 1.2 gigawatt  
18 electrical project will not go unnoticed on  
19 those hell bent on doing us the greatest harm  
20 possible. In ten minutes any Second Lieutenant  
21 in the Army Corps of Engineers can calculate how  
22 much weapon charge and C4 he would need to take  
23 out any one of your towers. After that it's a

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1 simple math problem to find out how many  
2 motivated terrorists you need to take out miles  
3 of infrastructure. The cost is, such an  
4 operation would destroy miles of transmission.  
5 You all remember the northeast blackout in 2003.  
6 45 million Americans from Massachusetts to  
7 Michigan and ten million Canadians lost power in  
8 Ontario. Why? Because of unpruned foliage  
9 touching transmission wires, a software bug and  
10 human error that resulted in the greatest power  
11 outage in history. The ice storms in 1998  
12 crippled New London for a week. Hurricane Irene  
13 crippled Connecticut in 2011 for weeks with  
14 700,000 without power. And these are the acts  
15 of nature. Imagine what can happen when it's no  
16 accident but a carefully thought out, executed  
17 terrorist attack. It is not possible to imagine  
18 the devastation and restoring the infrastructure  
19 where it takes weeks and months to replace. In  
20 short, coming to the end, I implore the  
21 Commission to reject this Northern Pass permit  
22 as it is written today. As a Commission charged  
23 with secure and reliable energy sources to the

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1 northeast and the nation as a whole, the time  
2 has come to reject antiquated transmission  
3 systems fraught with vulnerabilities to nature  
4 and enemies of the United States. The time has  
5 come for Northern Pass and PSNH to begin their  
6 out of the box thinking and join the competitors  
7 who have embraced burying transmission lines and  
8 considered it a best practice. Thank you.  
9 Aside from that, I have no firm opinion.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you for finishing your  
11 comments, Taras.

12 JENNIFER GOODMAN: I can't believe I'm  
13 last. I'll be very quick. My name is Jennifer  
14 Goodman. I'm the Executive Director of the New  
15 Hampshire Preservation Alliance which is the  
16 statewide nonprofit historic preservation  
17 organization committed to the preservation of  
18 historic buildings, landscapes and communities.  
19 We do have intervenor status and I promise I'll  
20 be providing written comments by the deadline  
21 and I'm only taking a couple of minutes to speak  
22 right now because I feel like only a couple of  
23 people have even mentioned historic resources

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1 and the potential impact on those. The  
2 Preservation Alliance is concerned about the  
3 potential of Northern Pass's routes. Potential  
4 of having negative impacts on historic and  
5 cultural resources and landscapes in New  
6 Hampshire, aspects that define the  
7 characteristics of our state. Historic and  
8 cultural places are important to residents,  
9 businesses, visitors and the economic health of  
10 New Hampshire. Many independent studies  
11 demonstrate these points and many people in this  
12 room intuitively understand this from their own  
13 direct experience. Again, I'll go into more  
14 detail in written comments but just wanted to  
15 emphasize that for the scoping that the analysis  
16 of historic resources be comprehensive, timely  
17 and complete. Alternatives should be examined  
18 that avoid impact to historic resources. They  
19 must be fully considered and all parties need  
20 access to the survey information that I know is  
21 being worked on right now in process on historic  
22 resources and the impacts. We need that in a  
23 timely fashion as part of this process.

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1 Historic places connect us to our past and are  
2 essential ingredients for our future. Thank  
3 you.

4 MODERATOR: Unless we have anyone else that  
5 wants to jump up to the mike, I'd like to  
6 adjourn this meeting. Anyone not in favor of  
7 adjourning? Thank you very much.

8 MEETING ENDED AT 10:30 P.M.

9 Written comments handed to George and asked to be put  
10 in the written record:

11 John Faggiano, 11 Carriage Way, Manchester,  
12 New Hampshire, 603-625-9873. Supports Northern  
13 Pass, lifelong resident of NH, I love this  
14 state. I hike here. I'm in support of clean  
15 energy and it's important to me and my family.  
16 NP will supply clean hydro power to the State of  
17 NH and the region. This clean power will be in  
18 compliance with the State of NH Climate Action  
19 Plan which recommends additional hydropower. As  
20 energy consumption continues to rise in the  
21 region and as plants are retired the need for  
22 clean power will continue to grow. I encourage  
23 the Department of Energy to allow permitting of

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the Northern Pass. Support the Future. Support  
the Pass.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2 I, Cynthia Foster, Registered Professional  
3 Reporter and Licensed Court Reporter, duly authorized  
4 to practice Shorthand Court Reporting in the State of  
5 New Hampshire, hereby certify that I reported in  
6 machine shorthand the above-entitled Public Scoping  
7 Meeting held on September 23, 2013, for the Northern  
8 Pass EIS and that the foregoing is a true, complete,  
9 and accurate transcript of public comments as appears  
10 from my stenographic notes so taken to the best of my  
11 ability and transcribed by me.

12 I further certify that I am a disinterested  
13 person in the event or outcome of this cause of  
14 action.

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and  
16 affix my Certified Shorthand Reporter seal this 27th  
17 day of September, 2013.

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CYNTHIA FOSTER, LCR, RPR

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