

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

THE NORTHERN PASS EIS

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
MOUNTAIN VIEW GRAND RESORT
WHITEFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 25, 2013

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 RAY BURTON: Good evening, everyone. For
2 the record, my name is Ray Burton. It's been my
3 honor to serve on the New Hampshire Executive
4 Council now in my 36th year, and this map of the
5 State of New Hampshire is quite simple. Just
6 make one fold at the bottom of the map and
7 that's where you find 108 towns and 4 cities
8 spread across the northern 7 counties of the
9 State of New Hampshire. I, of course, appear in
10 opposition as I did on December 27th in 2010, in
11 opposition to this project. The ISO group
12 stated last summer when we were having hot days
13 that New England had enough power to get by.
14 New Hampshire has 4600 miles of state-owned,
15 state-maintained highway. We also have 400
16 miles of rail corridor. I would encourage the
17 department and those interested in this project
18 that the whole project be buried. Period. And
19 we in New Hampshire state government are not
20 making new ground or plowing new ground. We
21 voted at Governor Council several years ago to
22 bury a methane pipeline from Turnkey in
23 Rochester down to UNH so that they could help

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 with their energy costs. So as I stated before
2 on December 27, 2010, it's time for this
3 project, Public Service Company/Hydro-Quebec to
4 fold their tent and go home and leave us alone.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
6 Ray, and thank you to the crowd for resisting
7 that temptation to clap. I know it's tough, and
8 it's hard not to clap for Ray. Paul Grenier.

9 PAUL GRENIER: My name is Paul Grenier and
10 I reside in Berlin, New Hampshire. I currently
11 serve as the Mayor of the city of Berlin, and
12 I'm also a twelve-year Commissioner of Coos
13 County. I rise here today to support the
14 Northern Pass project in the route they have
15 proposed through Coos County. This new route
16 relies on existing rights-of-way that already
17 hosts electric lines, utilizes industrial forest
18 property ideal for projects like this, includes
19 a short span of underground that significantly
20 reduces lower view impacts in the northern Coos
21 County and lowers the heights of most towers in
22 our region. In total this redesigned route
23 significantly reduces the impacts on Coos

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 County. A critical part of this project is the
2 benefits it will bring to Coos County. As many
3 of you are aware Coos County economy continues
4 to struggle. Businesses face difficult times
5 and jobs are scarce. Northern Pass would bring
6 a major influx of new tax investment in our
7 region. Nearly 6 million dollars in new tax
8 revenues will flow to support local communities
9 as well as the county. Services like road
10 maintenance, welfare, nursing homes, law
11 enforcement and others will all benefit from
12 this investment in our county.

13 This also provides an opportunity to reduce
14 the tax burden of our citizens. Those of you
15 who are tasked with managing the county budgets
16 see the cost of services continue to increase
17 while the number of tax buyers continue to
18 decrease. This place is an unsustainable burden
19 on those of us that are remaining. Northern
20 Pass is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to not
21 only invest in the country but also reduce this
22 burden on taxpayers. The stability of this tax
23 revenue, however, remains a concern for many of

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 us. While PSNH has been a reliable taxpayer in
2 Coos County it is critical that residents and
3 taxpayers have assurances that the Northern Pass
4 tax revenue will remain stable for the next 20
5 years. I look forward to working to provide
6 that stability for our taxpayers. Thank you and
7 I urge you to undertake a thorough but efficient
8 review of this project to insure that Coos
9 citizens realize this benefit.

10 MODERATOR: Our next speaker. Ed Betz.

11 ED BETZ: My name is Ed Betz. I am the
12 Chairman of the Whitefield Planning Board and
13 CIP committee. Consideration should be given to
14 burying the DC line just north of Whitefield
15 Village at the PSNH substation. Right of way is
16 tight in this location and the substation is in
17 the middle of the right-of-way thus there are
18 proposed multiple towers close to Route 3 and
19 nearby residents. The proposed towers are to be
20 115 feet tall versus 55 feet for the existing
21 115 kV line. This is a terrible gateway for
22 Whitefield Village.

23 At the Mt. Washington Regional Airport, the

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 airport commissioners and FAA are proposing a
2 1000-foot one-way extension to accommodate jet
3 and commuter aircraft. At the north end of the
4 runway is the existing 115 kV line, which
5 structure is 55 feet tall and proposed DC towers
6 at 90 feet. The question is how will this
7 affect light safety and the glide path.
8 Reviewing the visual simulation at Burns Pond
9 and Forest Lake Road the monopole option would
10 be much more aesthetically pleasing than lattice
11 towers, but we have to ask the question that's
12 been asked before, two of them, will the
13 structures be designed to avoid a repeat of a
14 Quebec ice storm in 1998 and why can New York
15 State and Hydro-Quebec and New York utilities
16 bury 300 miles underground utilities when it's
17 not economical in New Hampshire. I know there's
18 a big piece of equipment today that can dig very
19 fast. And also appears that the DC line will be
20 much more valuable in the future as time passes
21 with Vermont Yankee and the coal and the oil
22 plants going out. And this is a comment from
23 the Whitefield Selectman. Two years ago PSNH

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 met with a group of Whitefield residents at the
2 Town Offices. The question was asked is how
3 will depreciation be calculated. Will
4 depreciation be a straight line for two years,
5 five years, ten years, 20 years, when the
6 residence and future residents of Whitefield is
7 going to have to look at this line for
8 generations. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
10 Ed. Next speaker, Marcia Hammond.

11 MARCIA HAMMON: Good evening, and I thank
12 you for giving us this opportunity to comment in
13 Whitefield, New Hampshire. I represent as a
14 State Elected Representative Carroll, Jefferson,
15 Whitefield and Randolph, and I wish to present
16 you with an important scenario that Northern
17 Pass could embrace. Bury the lines that
18 Hydro-Quebec's power will transmit to southern
19 New England. We of northern New England invite
20 the suburban and urban persons that are the
21 nature deprived, the ND persons, when driving
22 north on I-93 at Exit 30, the wooden towers
23 define a cut through the White Mountain National

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 Forest. We have actually come to accept that
2 and may look for it when we are driving the
3 snowy roads. I'm here to state we do not want a
4 wider cut through the ROW or the right-of-way
5 that is in the Northern Pass plan. This would
6 support another trail of taller steel or metal
7 towers.

8 I am of the generation that read and
9 subscribed to the book Awake and Aware. Women
10 changed the way hospitals, actually profit and
11 nonprofit hospitals, dictated how babies were
12 delivered. Separated, my first baby, separated
13 from mother, husband and supportive family
14 members once a child was born and within a few
15 years women have imagined an improvement that
16 was beneficial for future generations and for
17 parenting. My generation is now joined with new
18 voices and we're saying no to the Northern Pass
19 as it is envisioned by her corporate leaders.
20 Moving massive quantities of electricity across
21 our state when it has been determined that it is
22 not needed. Our citizens are not a developing
23 country that can be flummoxed or trod upon, run

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 over. Previously we have attended to our
2 archeological sites. We have been conscientious
3 about conserving our sensitive lands. I speak
4 for the hungry eyes and the hungry hearts of
5 Europeans and Asians that trek to our state
6 burying the 8 miles that has been the second
7 plan I feel is a snub of our efforts to protect
8 the preciousness of our New Hampshire's beauty.
9 Please do not degrade and scar the vistas that
10 we revere. Please bury your pipelines as you
11 have in neighboring states. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
13 Marcia. Brad Bailey.

14 BRAD BAILEY: Good evening. My name is
15 representative Brad Bailey and I represent the
16 citizens of Grafton 14 which encompasses the
17 towns of Bethlehem, Franconia, Lisbon,
18 Littleton, Lyman, Monroe and Sugar Hill. When
19 this project was first announced I had no
20 opinion one way or the other as to whether the
21 Northern Pass was a good idea or not. After
22 spending time researching the project and
23 listening to my constituents I have publicly

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 come out opposed to the Northern Pass as
2 proposed.

3 It is my understanding that for the
4 Department of Energy to issue a Presidential
5 Permit, DOE must find that the project is,
6 quote, consistent with the public interest, end
7 quote. DOE's determination of whether a project
8 is consistent with the public interest depends
9 on the potential environmental impacts of the
10 project as documented and evaluated during a
11 National Environmental Policy Act review which
12 include the impacts of the project on electric
13 system reliability and any other factors DOE
14 views as relevant to the public interest.

15 I believe you may ultimately make the case
16 for additional electricity in southern New
17 England. Clearly, there is no current need here
18 in New Hampshire. So Hydro-Quebec would serve
19 as the electrical outlet, southern New England
20 as the user and New Hampshire as the extension
21 cord connecting the two. We all know that your
22 consideration does not rest on just what the
23 people of New Hampshire want or need, but if you

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 look at whether or not this project is
2 consistent with the public interest you must
3 consider the impact on the hard working people
4 of the North Country. This project will result
5 in the loss of tourism dollars vital to our
6 region. Real estate values will undoubtedly
7 plummet for many and the planned Pass will cross
8 environmentally sensitive areas. Clearly as you
9 can see evidenced by the many people here, the
10 vast majority of citizens in northern New
11 Hampshire don't want this. If you determined
12 this project must go forward against the will of
13 the people, then as a compromise it should be
14 buried. I would hope that you would consider
15 the issues I've raised and that of the many
16 people here tonight as being, quote, relevant,
17 to the public interest. End quote. Thanks for
18 your time.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
20 Brad. Susan Ford.

21 SUSAN FORD: Thank you. For the record, my
22 name is Susan Ford. I am a representative in
23 the New Hampshire House of Representatives and

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 one of the 7 towns I represent is Easton where
2 the Northern Pass plans to cross the White
3 Mountain National Forest. I attended the
4 scoping sessions in Plymouth yesterday and share
5 some of the concerns of my colleagues. I
6 believe that Northern Pass should have to prove
7 that they have a clear legal path before having
8 their permit application accepted. Pretending
9 that they have a legal right to bury the line on
10 state and town roads is a joke. I suspect
11 you'll hear more about this tomorrow evening.

12 Their alternative plan is worse. They plan
13 to go under the Vermont headwaters. Really?
14 That land was one of the first purchases of what
15 we call the LCHIP program. That's the New
16 Hampshire Land and Community Investment Program.
17 By now you all know that New Hampshire doesn't
18 believe in taxes, but they adopted a fee that
19 would go into a fund to preserve New Hampshire's
20 heritage. LCHIP is a dedicated fund, and one of
21 the purchases, one of the first purchases was
22 the Connecticut River headwaters area. Do you
23 really think that the citizens of this state are

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 going to roll over and say sure, private
2 corporation, take this land for your private
3 gain. New Hampshire doesn't spend money easily,
4 but when we do, we hold on to what we value.

5 We all know they want these towers. PSNH
6 is hoping to garner the rent from Hydro-Quebec.
7 That's really why there is no alternative plan.
8 It's not that we can't bury these lines. It's
9 that we won't even discuss it. Senator
10 Forrester spoke to you about the 361 Commission
11 yesterday. It only makes sense to explore and
12 cost out what burying would cost under the New
13 Hampshire energy corridor. You heard yesterday
14 what the estimate was for that to happen.
15 Instead, PSNH has just paid outrageous prices
16 for land hoping to get a clear path through the
17 top 40 miles, a path they were unable to achieve
18 and you'll hear more about that tomorrow.

19 The area I live in is a prime tourist area.
20 You're about to destroy that economic base.
21 When the fall foliage is at the peak we actually
22 have traffic jams. Leaf peepers are slower than
23 skiers. It's a fine thing. I mentioned that

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 I'm on the Finance Committee. We need that 9
2 percent to fund our state.

3 Stop the project now. I'm not an
4 electrician. I am an educator. I do not know
5 the electrical aspect of this, but I do
6 recognize good thoughtful analysis when I see
7 it, and this application doesn't pass muster.
8 All I can say in closing is that you need to
9 send this back. We need to get our homework
10 done.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
12 Susan. Next speaker, Linda Lauer.

13 LINDA LAUER: Thank you. I'm State
14 Representative Linda Lauer. I represent 8 towns
15 in Grafton County including the town of Easton
16 which is in the path of Northern Pass. I'm here
17 to represent my citizens, my constituents in the
18 town of Easton and northern New Hampshire who
19 say we don't want Northern Pass, and I'm also
20 asking that the Department of Energy protect the
21 public interest of our citizens by asking
22 Northern Pass to provide an accurate economic
23 impact statement so the communities at least

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 know what the impact on our economy is going to
2 be.

3 Northern Pass's website boasts of injecting
4 \$28 million in new tax revenues to communities,
5 county and the state. If you look at that data
6 the first problem that pops up is that only
7 includes the revenue that the communities would
8 get from Northern Pass. It doesn't include the
9 revenue that we'll lose from the loss of
10 property value adjacent to it. The Appalachian
11 Mountain Club has stated that 95,000 acres in
12 the State of New Hampshire will be impacted
13 visually by Northern Pass as is currently
14 proposed. That doesn't include the northern
15 most 16 miles which we're just recently
16 rerouted. Now, if they put 125 foot towers in
17 front of my house, I guarantee you I'm going to
18 ask for a reduction in property value. So
19 claiming that you're going to get \$28 million in
20 new tax revenues, first of all, doesn't count
21 the decrease in tax revenue that we should
22 expect.

23 The other problem bothers me even more and

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 that's the fact that any company can appeal
2 their assessment and if they're successful they
3 reduce their tax payments and it's already
4 happened. PSNH, right now, one of Northern
5 Pass's real tight bedfellows, has filed suits to
6 change the assessment formula in 31 local towns
7 including my hometown of Bath, and if they're
8 successful the assessment formula will change
9 and the assessment on those towers will go to
10 zero within 25 years. So the \$28 million in new
11 tax revenues, it's offset today with permanent
12 reductions in the value of adjacent properties
13 and it disappears in 25 years. So I would ask
14 that as a sponsor of a state bill that would
15 require New Hampshire site committees to
16 thoroughly evaluate economic impacts on affected
17 communities, I would ask that the Department of
18 Energy do the same and require a similar
19 independent, unbiased and accurate economic
20 impact study for the Northern Pass project on
21 the affected communities. I think that will
22 help us determine if Northern Pass really is in
23 the best interests of our citizens.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
2 Linda. Next speaker. John Colony.

3 JOHN COLONY: My name is John Colony. I'm
4 a member of the Zoning Board in Sugar Hill.
5 Thank you for holding these public meetings and
6 for making them as accessible as they are. Two
7 nights ago members of the Nashua and Manchester
8 Chambers of Commerce spoke in favor of the
9 towers. That is in favor of the current
10 proposal from Northern Pass. I wonder what
11 their reasoning is. They must know it is bad
12 business to allow such flagrant damage to be
13 inflicted on the greater part of the state.
14 They must know it is reprehensible to cause
15 undoubtedly serious, long-lasting irreversible
16 damage and impoverishment of the entire Coos
17 County, but these chambers are okay with that.
18 So if there are any members of those chambers
19 here tonight, I yield the remainder of my time
20 to them if they will explain your reasoning. If
21 any friends of those chambers are here, and can
22 explain the reasoning, I yield my time to them
23 if they will explain their reasoning. There is

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 no good reason for Northern Pass. Thank you.

2 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
3 John. Neal Kurk.

4 SPEAKER: He spoke in Concord.

5 MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you. I have
6 Andrew Hosmer. Are there any other officials
7 that are in the room? There's one. Another
8 one, two. Come on up. Three? Okay. Go ahead.

9 REBECCA BROWN: Thank you. I'm Rebecca
10 Brown, and I'm speaking with several hats this
11 evening. First I want to say that as someone
12 who spoke here two and a half years ago it's so
13 great to see many of us here back again and a
14 whole lot more people here than were here two
15 and a half years ago so thank you. So I am
16 proud to represent the North Country, five North
17 Country towns in the New Hampshire legislature.
18 One of these towns is Sugar Hill which has the
19 power line running through it and Sugar Hill
20 residents are united in their opposition to this
21 project. I'm also on the Board of Directors of
22 the North Country Council which is the North
23 Country's regional Planning Commission. The

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 council has taken the position against Northern
2 Pass's proposal based on the fact that every
3 single Selectboard in affected towns has voted
4 against Northern Pass. I'm also the founder and
5 director of the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust
6 which is the region's land conservancy. ACT has
7 many lands and many land-owning members who are
8 affected by the power line route. ACT in an
9 intervenor opposed to the project. I'm speaking
10 today as a State Representative and for ACT. A
11 value of many of my constituents and the trust's
12 mission is to conserve the working landscapes of
13 the North Country. Our land and our people are
14 our greatest assets. Our place is as much a
15 reflection of our people as we are a reflection
16 of our land. From our great Connecticut River
17 which is an American Heritage River and which
18 this project would affect to our rugged
19 mountains and to the crown jewel of our region,
20 the White Mountain National Forest which the
21 project will affect. In between are the private
22 forest and farms that have been worked and
23 tended for generations which are the heart of

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 our communities and which the project would
2 obviously affect. Our working landscape should
3 support renewable clean energy that goes to
4 power our region and it does through hydropower,
5 a growing number of solar installations, wind
6 and biomass. Many of our region see the economy
7 in part based on renewable energy. Northern
8 Pass does nothing to advance this. In fact, it
9 would do a lot more to make it difficult, both
10 by affecting the market and by creating an
11 enormous scar on the land that draws so many
12 people here.

13 I ask the DOE to consider the no build
14 option. I believe that is the proper one for
15 our environment and also consider burying the
16 lines. As a legislator I've asked Dartmouth
17 College to do a cost/benefit analysis of burying
18 the lines. They will focus on three key
19 factors. First, how many jobs would be created
20 for New Hampshire workers compared to aerial
21 lines. Second, what would be the investment
22 opportunity for New Hampshire businesses on
23 related technology and services; and third, what

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 would be the competitive advantage to New
2 Hampshire businesses for a more dependable power
3 source than aerial lines that are subject to
4 storms and outages. With the Department's
5 permission I'd like to give you that analysis
6 when it's completed later this year and thank
7 you.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
9 Rebecca. Our next speaker?

10 MARGO CONNORS: My name is Margo Connors.
11 I'm representing the Sugar Hill Selectboard and
12 the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission. I also
13 testified in 2011. On March 8th, 2011 the town
14 of Sugar Hill unanimously voted to oppose
15 Northern Pass at its annual town meeting. The
16 town of Sugar Hill believes that there will be
17 serious negative environmental and economic
18 impacts for all of its citizens if the proposed
19 Northern Pass transmission line is built through
20 our community. We ask that you give serious
21 consideration to our concerns in order to
22 provide Sugar Hill and the State of New
23 Hampshire the fullest protection possible from

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 the EIS phase of the permitting process. The
2 Selectboard and Conservation Commission have
3 examined the proposed Northern Pass route in
4 relation to our natural resource inventory,
5 conservation plan and revised master plan.

6 We believe that the following factors
7 should be studied by the Department of Energy.
8 One, the inherent physical changes brought by
9 towers lines and clearing of the right-of-way.
10 Two, the deleterious effects towers will have on
11 scenic areas and viewsheds. Three, the
12 degradation of property values and the resulting
13 loss of tax revenues. This has already occurred
14 in our town even with the idea of towers going
15 through. The assault on our town's conservation
16 land, water resources, wildlife, forest and
17 farmland. The impact on tourism that hulking
18 towers would have looming over our historic Main
19 Street. We ask that you evaluate the impact of
20 the proposed line on our recreational trails,
21 lands and water ways that are currently used by
22 numerous groups and year-round tourists.
23 Recreation land is one of the major facets of

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 our economy so we specifically ask that you
2 assess the visual and auditory impact of these
3 proposed lines.

4 We urge the Department of Energy to
5 carefully look at these issues and consider
6 alternatives to the proposed Northern Pass
7 project, either a no-build option or the
8 complete burial of the line along straight
9 transportation corridors. Thank you.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
11 Our next speaker?

12 LINDA MASSIMILLA: Good evening. My name
13 is Linda Massimilla. I represent the towns of
14 Littleton and Bethlehem. I hadn't planned on
15 speaking tonight so lucky for you I have no
16 notes. I just wanted to make the comment. If
17 Northern Pass, the Northeast Utilities can
18 sweeten the pot by offering to put millions of
19 dollars into a fund to create new jobs for North
20 Country residents, then my question is why
21 couldn't they take some of that money and apply
22 it to burying the lines and using the rest of
23 their money for their North Country job

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 creation? So what I suggest is maybe Northern
2 Pass dig a little deeper to help dig themselves
3 out of this monstrous abomination. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
5 Linda. Any other elected officials who want to
6 speak? Last chance. We're going to go into our
7 preregistered list. I'm going to call up a Luke
8 and Cornelia Lorentzen?

9 CORNELIA LORENTZEN: I got the kid --
10 thanks for letting us go. I got the kid, he's
11 really with me. So we live in Sugar Hill. My
12 name is Cornelia Lorentzen. Luke, he lives
13 there, too, and we are against the Northern Pass
14 as it is proposed today. Nice to see all that
15 orange out there. Like you to consider the
16 opinions of the people who live in the places
17 that this is specifically going to affect and
18 that's us. Thank you.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
20 Cornelia and Luke. I have an Evalyn Merrick,
21 and I'm also going to call up a Jessica Houle.

22 JESSICA HOULE: Hi. My name is Jessica
23 Houle, and I'm a 8th grader from Littleton, New

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Hampshire. I have been recently learning about
2 the Northern Pass project in my Social Studies
3 class. From my research I have learned that
4 this project does not benefit New Hampshire and
5 that I am against it. Some of the reasons why
6 I'm against this project is possible negative
7 health effects, damaging our views and
8 environment, damming up the water destroying
9 habitat and fish migration. Would you want your
10 child to have leukemia? Not just cancer but
11 nausea, vertigo, metallic taste and light
12 flashes. Studies show that there are possible
13 risks of leukemia from radiation in children.
14 These possible health problems could happen to
15 anyone that lived close enough to the towers.
16 Not only is our health being destroyed but also
17 our beautiful views. If this project proceeds
18 all we will see are these huge electric towers.
19 Tourists will not come to our area anymore, and
20 this will directly affect our economy. Already
21 natural disasters, weather and economic
22 recessions affect our tourism on a yearly basis.
23 Now we want a permanent structure in place that

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 will impact our tourism daily? Tourism is a
2 major source of income for New Hampshire and we
3 need to focus on attracting more people to our
4 area, not pushing them away. I really care
5 about the animals and do not want their homes
6 being destroyed by excavators in the
7 construction process and especially endangered
8 species like the golden eagle and common
9 nighthawk. Every day animals homes are being
10 destroyed. We need to actually take a look at
11 that. It is like us living on hold. How can
12 this get better if we're going to construct
13 these towers. Whether these lines are buried or
14 above ground, the habitats are going to be
15 destroyed by the construction and ongoing
16 maintenance of the new line. I'm asking the
17 Department of Energy to reject this application
18 and realize that this project will impact us
19 more than what we were told. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
21 Jessica. Next speaker, Evalyn Merrick. I'm
22 sorry.

23 EVALYN MERRICK: I used up 2 minutes of my

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 3 just getting up here.

2 MODERATOR: I'm now going to call some
3 additional names so we can fill out our on deck
4 circle now that it's clear so Kris Pastoriza,
5 Jim Dannis, Sandy Dannis, Linda Upham-Bornstein,
6 Susan Schibanoff, Deborah Warner.

7 EVALYN MERRICK: Thank you. For the
8 record, I am Evalyn Merrick, former State
9 Representative from Coos County. I am
10 expressing the following concern on behalf of
11 myself and also that of Michael Ransmeier who
12 could not be here today. Michael is an attorney
13 who practices in Littleton and is the chairman
14 of the Board of Selectmen for the town of
15 Landaff which is not on the primary Northern
16 Pass proposed right-of-way but would be bisected
17 by Northern Pass's proposed alternative route if
18 it has to go around the National Forest.

19 It is our understanding that there is an
20 existing DC line owned by National Grid starting
21 from the same headquarter substation in Quebec
22 and running down the western side of the
23 Connecticut River all the way through Vermont

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 and Massachusetts into central Connecticut. It
2 is allegedly not being fully used and would be a
3 far more logical alternative as a power supply
4 route than compounding the negative
5 environmental and economic impacts of creating a
6 second parallel power line along the route just
7 15 to 20 miles to the east. The real underlying
8 reason why Northeast Utilities which owns PSNH
9 wants the new Northern Pass route is so that
10 PSNH can receive the transmission fees for
11 running power over its New Hampshire lines. It
12 should not be the responsibility of New
13 Hampshire citizens or the DOE to underwrite an
14 effort to prop up a failing PSNH. If the DOE
15 simply told Northern Pass that the negative
16 environmental impacts for its plan could be
17 largely eliminated if it simply worked out an
18 arrangement of National Grid to use it's ROW,
19 the problem might largely be solved. Thank you
20 very much.

21 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
22 Evalyn, and thank you, Jessica, from earlier.
23 Kris?

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 SPEAKER: Can I pass my comments to someone
2 else?

3 MODERATOR: No. We could add them at the
4 back of the list though. That would leave us
5 Jim Dannis.

6 JIM DANNIS: So I'd like to follow up on
7 the topic of greed. Sandy and I spent a couple
8 of hours reading one of the Northern Pass's most
9 recent filing with Tom Wagner. It was the
10 filing asking for a permit to cross through the
11 White Mountain National Forest. Northern Pass
12 as usual made a number of statements that we
13 found flatly misleading to downright ridiculous
14 and they really all center on this theme of
15 greed so Northern Pass says we can't bury the
16 lines on I-93 to avoid the National Forest
17 because it will cost too much. Sandy and I did
18 a little illustration to help you understand how
19 ridiculous that statement is. Northern Pass is
20 guaranteed a return -- excuse me. Northeast
21 Utilities is guaranteed a return as owner of the
22 Northern Pass of 12.56 percent. 12.56 percent
23 on the money it puts into the project. I don't

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 know about you, I don't get 12.56 percent on
2 anything. Let's look what that adds up to.
3 Northeast Utilities will make a profit margin, a
4 guaranteed profit margin of \$88 million a year.
5 \$88 million a year. So we said to ourselves,
6 what if Northern Pass did something really nice
7 or Northeast Utilities. What if they said we'll
8 just take a 3 percent discount on that 12
9 percent profit. We'll just take nine percent.
10 If they took 9 percent for just three to 5 years
11 that would free up up to \$100 million so if they
12 just said we only need 9 percent, we don't need
13 12.56 percent, they free up enough money to bury
14 the lines for the entire route around the White
15 Mountain National Forest. I ask you, is the
16 White Mountain National Forest worth a three
17 percent discount off Northern Pass's profits? I
18 think it is. When they tell you they cannot
19 afford to bury the lines, just remember, it's a
20 lie. It's not true. And in terms of the
21 scoping process, we say we have economic experts
22 looking at this, we don't need economic experts.
23 We need to have financial experts. We need

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 somebody on Wall Street to give a report to the
2 DOE and the U.S. Forest Service saying you know
3 what? A nine percent profit margin for
4 Northeast Utilities is perfectly fine, thank
5 you. They can afford to bury the lines.

6 SANDY DANNIS: I'll save three minutes so
7 we can go on to Susan. That's all right. Bury
8 the lines.

9 MODERATOR: I don't know where I stopped at
10 calling names right now so Deborah Warner.
11 Dolly McPhaul. Dave Dobbins. Nancy Martland.

12 LINDA UPHAM-BORNSTEIN: My name is Linda
13 Upham-Bornstein. I have a Ph.D. in American
14 legal history and I am a resident of Lancaster
15 and I object to the proposed transmission lines
16 for both personal and public policy reasons. On
17 a personal level, my husband and I own a
18 historic home on Mt. Prospect Road in Lancaster.
19 Ironically, the farm was once owned by the Weeks
20 family whose efforts to preserve the northern
21 forest culminated in the passage of the 1911
22 Weeks Act. The proposed transmission lines will
23 run roughly parallel to and approximately two

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 tenths of a mile from the eastern border of our
2 property. If these very large transmission
3 towers are installed, they will be a scar on the
4 landscape of the White Mountains and will ruin
5 the beautiful view that we have of those
6 mountains.

7 The construction of this transmission line
8 and the resulting significant and adverse impact
9 on our viewshed will also substantially reduce
10 the market value of our property. The Northern
11 Pass project will have a direct impact on our
12 property and other residential properties within
13 the Northern Pass viewshed. The diminution of
14 real estate tax revenues generated by the
15 affected properties will likely offset much if
16 not all of the temporary, and I emphasize
17 temporary, real estate tax revenues generated by
18 the Northern Pass project.

19 On a public policy level the Northern Pass
20 as proposed will have a negative impact on the
21 historic, cultural and environmental landscapes
22 of New Hampshire. The transmission project will
23 also be antithetical to the tourist and

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 recreational industries that are Coos County's
2 that tonight's scoping meeting is held at a
3 hotel that markets and celebrates the very
4 landscape this project will project will
5 permanently scar. Moreover the project will
6 severely impact hundreds and more likely
7 thousands of historic buildings and cultural
8 landscapes that once lost will never be
9 recovered. Furthermore, the proposed
10 transmission line is inconsistent with New
11 Hampshire's Scenic Road statute and Cultural
12 Bylaws statute. The New Hampshire Supreme Court
13 observed that the purpose of the scenic road
14 status is to encourage tourist attractiveness of
15 our scenic roads and to protect the scenic
16 beauty of our state. Mt. Prospect Road is one
17 of five designated scenic roads in Lancaster.
18 It likewise seems incongruous that I must obtain
19 permission to cut down trees in my yard and that
20 an out-of-state utility will be allowed to eject
21 enormous and ugly towers in plain view. The
22 Northern Pass will adversely impact New
23 Hampshire's scenic byways and undermine the

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 purpose of this statute. Therefore, as a tax
2 paying citizens, I request, no, in fact, I
3 demand the Presidential Permit for the Northern
4 Pass project as proposed be denied. The DOE is
5 charged with preparing an Environmental Impact
6 Statement that examines all these issues and I
7 exhort them to include all multiple activities,
8 specifically burying the line and no build
9 alternative.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
11 Linda. Our next speaker. Susan Schibanoff.
12 The floor is yours.

13 SUSAN SCHIBANOFF: Thank you, George. My
14 name is Susan Schibanoff. I live in Easton.
15 The White Mountain National Forest borders our
16 property. The PSNH right-of-way crosses our
17 land and connects with a temporary special use
18 corridor in the forest. Whatever affects the
19 forest directly affects us in Easton and in
20 nearby towns and vice-versa. We are good
21 neighbors. Good neighbors look out for one
22 another. And in that spirit, Mr. Wagner, I
23 suggest that there are three meticulously

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 researched documents that you consider, that you
2 should consider as you decide whether to issue
3 the special use permit that Northern Pass needs
4 to cross the forest, and I respectfully request
5 the DOE to include all three in the study.

6 The first document is the EIS prepared in
7 1978 by the State DOT to evaluate whether the
8 route that Northern Pass currently wants to use
9 to cross the forest was suitable to put a road
10 through. The State's conclusion was no. Any
11 infrastructure here would, quote, destroy the
12 near natural and solitude qualities of a major
13 portion of the White Mountain National Forest
14 through which it would pass.

15 The second document I'd ask you to look at
16 is the EIS that the DOE prepared in 1978 to '80.
17 That's the DOE. To evaluate whether this route
18 was suitable for a transmission line to bring
19 power down from a hydroelectric project in
20 Maine. The DOE's conclusion? No. Colocation
21 of overhead towers in this narrow transmission
22 corridor would cause severe defects on the
23 aesthetics of the environmental setting, on

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 recreation, on community values and character
2 and on property values.

3 The third document is the EIS that the DOE
4 prepared in 1986 as part of its study of a
5 direct current transmission project with towers
6 lower than those proposed by Northern Pass.
7 Again, the DOE said no, don't locate them here
8 in the corridor that Northern Pass now wants to
9 use. It would cause severe land use conflicts.
10 Three EISs have already been prepared on
11 Northern Pass's currently proposed route. All
12 have said no. Mr. Mills, please include these
13 three EIS studies in the scope of your work.
14 Let's not reinvent the wheel that already has a
15 flat tire. Enough is enough. Thank you.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
17 Susan. Or next speaker, Deborah Warner?

18 DEBORAH WARNER: I have a poster that has,
19 can you see it over here? Actually might move
20 up a little bit. Up higher. Thank you. I'm
21 Debbie Warner from Littleton. In my business
22 I'm a psychologist. My business serves Coos and
23 Grafton, and I would like to welcome the members

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 of the scoping committee to New Hampshire and
2 especially to our beautiful North Country.
3 Thank you for coming. I very much appreciate
4 the privilege of you coming to hear our voices
5 in person and it's just a privilege to have this
6 happen here. Thank you so much, everyone, for
7 being here.

8 I want to give you the results of a study
9 that I did last summer. It was a survey that I
10 did in asking people what do you like about the
11 North Country, and I just wrote down what people
12 said. And as you can see, the top two thirds of
13 the people said it's the mountains and the
14 forests and half of the people said it's people
15 here. These are very important aspects of the
16 North Country and as I listen to people talking
17 about it, I notice that it's not that they like
18 the North Country. We love the North Country.
19 You can go all around the state and you're not
20 going to find people who just love, Milford,
21 maybe? I don't know. And as I talk to people
22 around the state they say, you know, people
23 don't have the kind of passion about where they

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 live as we do here, and the top thing that
2 people mentioned right off the top of their
3 heads is the mountains and the forests. And I
4 just want to bring that forward to us that it's
5 not just sentimentality. It's important to us.
6 The mountains and the forest are as important
7 and even sometimes more important than the
8 people who are our main reason for being here
9 and usually where people are. There are many
10 other things that I did calculate on this list
11 and I just wanted to bring those two forward to
12 you briefly as the top items that people
13 mentioned.

14 I want to turn this over and give you how
15 they interplay with our economics. Turn this
16 over. Mark is helping me. I appreciate his
17 kindness. Way up high. There you go. Thank
18 you. Thank you so much. And over here so these
19 gentlemen can see.

20 In terms of the economy there are several
21 different markets that we are affected by.

22 There's the external market which is where we
23 produce things and we send them out elsewhere

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 and money comes to us. This is a very good kind
2 of portion of our market. And at this point --
3 oh, I didn't realize I had a particular time
4 limit. I'll speak very quickly then.

5 This portion of the market has been
6 terribly depressed as the mills have gone. We
7 also have the destination market where people
8 from elsewhere come here and they bring their
9 money and spend it and then go home. And as you
10 see on the top, this is our depiction of our
11 results of what we love here and the mountains
12 and forests are very, very important to us and
13 that is what we have for them to come to. And
14 as our external market has been so depressed,
15 then we have the destination market as our main
16 reliant market force sector and it's very
17 important to us. This would greatly affect us,
18 and we know 95,000 acres would be affected.
19 People come here from all around the
20 Metropolitan surroundings, Boston and Montreal
21 as well as the prime destination for foreigners
22 to come. I have run out of time. I appreciate
23 that very much. Thank you.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 MODERATOR: Thank you, Deborah, and your
2 assistant Mark. You are the first entrants in
3 today's Ross Perot presentation style award so
4 we'll see if there are other props that are
5 brought along. Our next speaker is Dolly
6 McPhaul.

7 DOLLY MCPHAUL: Hi, my name is Dolly
8 McPhaul, and I'm from Sugar Hill. There are
9 lots of things about the Northern Pass that
10 anger me and sponsors as well but I want to
11 address the Department of Energy tonight and
12 their lack of integrity, their blatant bias for
13 Public Service of New Hampshire. It's as the
14 two of them are joined together and they are
15 going to ram their way through New Hampshire
16 regardless of what the citizens want. They
17 don't seem to care that it's going to affect
18 people's property values. Sometimes those
19 property values reflect their retirement money.
20 They don't see seem to care that they're going
21 to ruin our beautiful views. They don't seem to
22 care that they are going to hurt our tourism
23 business and will have job losses from that.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 And they don't seem to care about kids that go
2 to Profile Junior Senior High School and will be
3 spending daily right next to those towers with
4 the possibility of childhood leukemia. Their
5 bias goes on to their accepting the first permit
6 that PSNH asked for. They didn't have a route,
7 but the DOE accepted it anyway. They allowed
8 PSNH to select the company to do the EIS
9 studies. They allowed PSNH the right to
10 contribute language to the contract written.
11 They allowed PSNH to have the DOE
12 representatives trespass on New Hampshire
13 residents' properties to do their studies
14 regardless of the property owners' disapproval
15 and without a legitimate route, and they allowed
16 studies to continue which were supposed to have
17 citizens inputs but guess what? They forgot to
18 tell the citizens that those studies had
19 started. So the DOE to me has exemplified a
20 blatant bias for Public Service of New
21 Hampshire. Because that first application
22 failed, they applied number two. Again, they
23 don't have a legitimate route, and subsequently

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 the four-person delegation to Washington lodged
2 an objection, but the Department of Energy being
3 sort of like a little lapdog to PSNH they just
4 followed them around and let them do whatever
5 they want so they ignored that and the project
6 was allowed to continue.

7 Then they failed to put on their permit
8 something that was required, listing
9 alternatives, and those alternatives were not
10 put on. Even though it was a requirement they
11 allowed the application to go forward. I'm
12 currently wondering if PSNH is looking at
13 another route coming down Vermont, maybe coming
14 into New Hampshire at Littleton and then going
15 on their rights-of-way. If that's the case are
16 we going to have to go through these charades
17 again or are they going to try to slip it in
18 under their second application for a permit. In
19 my mind, unethical but a real possibility. So
20 in closing I would like to say that the people
21 in New Hampshire have had enough, the Department
22 of Energy should listen to the people, and if
23 they grant this permit, they should be aware

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 that the people most very likely will ask for an
2 investigation of the people involved and the
3 process involved at the DOE. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
5 Dolly. Be careful with the woo-hoos. I did
6 hear one. Somebody tried sneaking it in. Our
7 next speaker is Dave Dobbins. By the way, the
8 Moderator is going to apologize because right
9 now we are at the break point that I had
10 originally set. To keep things moving, and if
11 Cynthia agrees, we're just going to go straight
12 through to probably 7 o'clock to 7:15. Dave,
13 come on up.

14 DAVE DOBBINS: That's quite a bit to
15 follow, I think. Before I actually start my
16 remarks I actually wanted to touch on protocols
17 for our meetings if I could just for a brief
18 moment, Mr. Moderator.

19 MODERATOR: Is this being counted as your
20 3?

21 DAVE DOBBINS: No. It has to do with
22 benefit to our audience.

23 MODERATOR: Sure. Go ahead.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 DAVE DOBBINS: Thank you. We had a little
2 issue last night in Plymouth because some
3 members of the audience had wanted to pose
4 questions to the panel and that's not part of
5 the protocol. You had explained that if you
6 wanted questions about the project answered,
7 that there are developer representatives from
8 Northern Pass available to us, and I wanted to
9 ask a couple of quick things. One is will they
10 be available for questions in Colebrook tomorrow
11 night?

12 MODERATOR: Yes. As far as we know. Yes.
13 I can't control it. Yes.

14 DAVE DOBBINS: That kind of gave me a great
15 idea. It's like, you know, we have big crowds
16 coming into these meetings. How about if we
17 just adjusted the meeting format slightly, we
18 have the developers come up that first half
19 hour, address the entire audience questions and
20 concerns, and I think that would go a long way
21 to help answering some of those concerns and
22 hearing en masse what the developer has to say
23 about so many questions we have. I'd like to

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 know if that would be possible for tomorrow
2 night.

3 MODERATOR: We will take it under
4 advisement. Let's just be clear. We got a lot
5 of comments last night in Plymouth. We made
6 adjustments to our process today. We'll take
7 your information under advisement and again,
8 tomorrow, the times are set so we only have the
9 same amount of time. Obviously, the number
10 people who registered to present comments is not
11 insignificant so we'll take it under advisement
12 and see what we can do.

13 SPEAKER: Good idea.

14 MODERATOR: Thank you. Are you going to
15 use your three minutes now?

16 DAVE DOBBINS: I would like to, yes.

17 MODERATOR: Okay.

18 DAVE DOBBINS: Thank you.

19 MODERATOR: And you're not going to ask any
20 questions, correct?

21 DAVE DOBBINS: Correct.

22 MODERATOR: Thank you.

23 DAVE DOBBINS: Good evening. My name is

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Dave Dobbins. I'm a resident of Gilford, New
2 Hampshire. Our town as you all probably know is
3 not on any of the proposed primary routes of
4 which there is one and since of course there's
5 no alternate route we're not on that route
6 either. You know, for that reason alone I
7 personally believe and I did communicate this to
8 Mr. Mills that I think the application should
9 have been rejected as invalid and incomplete and
10 would have prevented us from being here this
11 round at the moment. That didn't happen so
12 we're all here. So what I'd like to just
13 comment on is when the -- let me put these aside
14 maybe and try this. When this project was first
15 promoted by the developers they used this tag
16 line. A unique opportunity in time. And you
17 know, I've been thinking about that and it's
18 like, you know, that really was an unique
19 opportunity in time. For them. They announced
20 it at a time when, of course, New Hampshire
21 residents didn't know much about the project and
22 its whole impact on the State of New Hampshire.
23 And it also came at a time when this concept of

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 a participant-funded transmission line is new to
2 the State of New Hampshire. And because of
3 that, it was a time and still is in which the
4 state of New Hampshire doesn't have adequate
5 legislation, adequate energy policies to
6 actually address this type of a for-profit
7 commercial venture coming in to deliver
8 transmission of electricity through our state to
9 another state, even if some small piece of it
10 makes a return loop some day.

11 So what I think is the applicants had an
12 open-ended period of time. You know, their
13 initial concept for participant funded was
14 approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory
15 Commission back in 2009. Yes. Before you folks
16 heard about it. And then, of course, we all
17 know they filed the original one on October 14th
18 of 2010. They supplemented that in 2011 in
19 February and in April and now here we are with
20 an amendment to that original application which
21 seems to have this odd status of yes, it's been
22 filed, it's kind of under review, we're thinking
23 about some other adjustments and oh, look, here

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 they are.

2 So what's me point? My point is reject
3 what was submitted and give the State of New
4 Hampshire the time and respect that it deserves
5 to enable us to let our represented officials
6 develop the right legislation to protect our
7 state, and it doesn't mean that some day some
8 transmission line may need to be built but let's
9 build it inside the framework that New Hampshire
10 citizens and its leaders have decided is right
11 for our state. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
13 Dave. Moderator wants to apologize to the rest
14 of the crowd and the audience and the speakers.
15 Technically, I did give Dave more time than
16 three minutes. I was kind of hoping he was
17 going to thank us for changing today's format
18 but anyhow. Our next speaker is going to be
19 Nancy Martland. I've got on deck if you could
20 come up, please, Henrietta Moineau, Rebecca
21 More, and Eliot Wessler. The floor is yours.

22 NANCY MARTLAND: Thank you. I'm Nancy
23 Martland. I live in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 Many of you know that I work closely with Dolly
2 McPhaul, but I promise you we did not plan our
3 testimony together. Good evening to Mr. Mills
4 and Mr. Wagner. I'm very pleased to have this
5 chance to look you in the eye and speak to you
6 face to face about what concerns me regarding
7 Northern Pass. My comments do focus on the
8 permitting process. This project involves real
9 people who will suffer real damage. It is not
10 just a line on a map leading from impoundment
11 dams in Quebec to dollar signs in Connecticut.

12 Take a good look at us. We are the ones
13 you will injure through a faulty process. We
14 deserve the most rigorous, above-board scrutiny
15 possible. No excuses. This is a matter of the
16 public trust. Mr. Mills, I am sorry to say much
17 of the public has little if any confidence in
18 the permitting process. The United States
19 government owes New Hampshire a scrupulously
20 open, fair and exacting process, not a rubber
21 stamp affair controlled by the applicant. I
22 have not observed those qualities to date. What
23 I have seen looks more like an inside game.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 Here are some of the things that shake our
2 confidence. Allowing this permitting process to
3 go forward when the application was suspended
4 and right now when it is incomplete. Appearing
5 to fast-track these hearings with the minimum
6 possible abbreviated public notice period,
7 apparently ignoring the objections of our entire
8 federal legislative delegation to facets of this
9 project. Allowing portions of the permitting
10 process to go forward behind closed doors that
11 shut out the public but not Northern Pass
12 representatives such as the ongoing Section 106
13 process. The impression of interlock between
14 applicant and permitting agency. At least one
15 high level Northern Pass employee whose job is
16 to further this application is a former high
17 level DOE employee. And finally, allowing DOE
18 contractors on our land without our permission
19 or even advance notice of their presence.

20 These are the kinds of things that erode
21 the public trust. As a speaker noted last night
22 in Plymouth, this is tragic. I call upon you to
23 do better moving forward. Mr. Wagner, there is

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 no overriding public benefit to this project.
2 Nothing about this project justifies the assault
3 on a cherished White Mountain National Forest
4 landscape that so many have worked so hard to
5 acquire, protect and care for. I urge you in
6 the strongest possible terms to take your duty
7 as steward of this forest seriously. Thank you
8 very much.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
10 Nancy. You are? Henrietta.

11 HENRIETTA MOINEAU: Henrietta Moineau of
12 Lancaster, New Hampshire. Because my time to
13 speak is so limited, I will state the barebones
14 reasons why the four electric power companies in
15 Canada and the United States should be denied a
16 permit for Northern Pass. Number one, 33 towns
17 up and down the Connecticut River have said no
18 to project. Number 2, if Northern Pass gets the
19 Presidential Permit to run their electric lines,
20 I was told they would be overhead electric lines
21 at the recent open house at Cabin Inn through
22 ten miles of the White Mountain National Forest.
23 Where and when will it stop. I foresee the

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 eventual end of our national and state parks.
2 Number 3, Northern Pass claims it will improve
3 our tax base. They don't mention the loss of
4 tax money for northern New Hampshire when people
5 sell their homes at a loss to move away from the
6 ugly and dangerous and I'll explain dangerous
7 later, landscape. Number 4, one bit of
8 information in the newspaper stated that Canada
9 has developed a, quote, huge, well-planned
10 facility that has expansion capability, end
11 quote. This is only the first phase, folks.
12 Number 5, Northern Pass is just that. Using New
13 Hampshire as a conduit for its electricity. New
14 Hampshire will receive no benefit. Number 6,
15 Northern Pass claims southern New England needs
16 the electricity. It does not. Why do I keep
17 getting propaganda letters from North American
18 Power located in Norwalk, Connecticut, offering
19 me cheaper electric rates than PSNH? Rhode
20 Island doesn't need it either. Rhode Island is
21 setting up wind power on Block Island which is
22 12 miles off the coast and running the electric
23 lines under the ocean to Quonset Point on

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Narraganset Bay. It will generate enough power
2 for 17,000 homes in one year. And last, number
3 7, at the Department of Energy meeting here in
4 2011, a man showed the crowd a one-foot thick
5 collection of research papers that told of the
6 deadly electromagnetic fields created above or
7 below the ground lines. That is, they cause
8 cancer and other medical problems. 33 years ago
9 I noticed there were no homes, no businesses, no
10 farms or anything near the massive towers in
11 Quebec province on my way to Montreal.

12 In plain and simple language there is no
13 need for Northern Pass and we New Hampshire
14 Americans don't want it above or below the
15 ground. Thank you.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
17 Henrietta. Our next speaker?

18 REBECCA MORE: Rebecca More. Mr. Mills and
19 colleagues, I am Rebecca Weeks Sherill More,
20 Ph.D. I speak on behalf of the Weeks Lancaster
21 Trust which owns over 700 acres in Lancaster
22 where my family have farmed since 1786. Here in
23 New Hampshire we have a tradition that

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 conservation of the environment is plain common
2 sense. It ensures our natural resources for the
3 future. As a result, the Weeks Lancaster Trust
4 has filed a Motion to Intervene against the
5 request of Northern Pass for a Presidential
6 Permit. We urge the Department of Energy to
7 recommend that the proposed transmission lines
8 be buried along existing transportation
9 corridors. The Northern Pass would degrade the
10 quality of the environment in this region and
11 have a negative impact on the ability of
12 visitors to understand why we are stewards of
13 the natural world.

14 Over the past century, people in this area
15 have worked with federal, state and local
16 agencies to preserve the White Mountain National
17 Forest, Weeks State Park in Lancaster, Franconia
18 Notch Parkway and many conservation easements.
19 In 1911 my great grandfather, Congressman John
20 Wingate weeks sponsored the Weeks Act enabling
21 federal forestry conservation. The act
22 protected the headwaters of New England's major
23 rivers through the creation of the White

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Mountain National Forest. Those rivers power
2 industry in all six states. Today the forest
3 draws millions of visitors to enjoy clean air,
4 clear water and healthy outdoor recreation. The
5 proposed transmission towers would convey the
6 message to the world that in the US above ground
7 high voltage power lines vulnerable to solar and
8 ice storms are more important than the
9 environment. In 1941 Weeks's children gave his
10 estate on Mount Prospect for a State Park
11 dedicated to teaching about forestry
12 conservation. Visitors enjoyed the view of the
13 region while learning about the reclamation and
14 conservation of lands damaged in the 19th
15 century by the timber industry. The Northern
16 Pass towers would degrade both the view and the
17 learning experience at Weeks State Park. Today
18 you drove through the Franconia Notch state
19 parkway to reach Whitefield. In the 1960s
20 Interstate 93 threatened the Notch's fragile
21 environment. It was saved by a broad consortium
22 including my grandfather, former Secretary of
23 Congress, Sinclair Weeks. Such efforts

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 replicated by many others across New Hampshire
2 and the US demonstrate the mutually beneficial
3 partnership between citizens and the federal
4 government. In closing, the Northern Pass could
5 demonstrate that a profit-making corporation can
6 model safe, public-spirited energy transmission
7 and preserve the valuable beauty of New
8 Hampshire by burying the lines.

9 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
10 Rebecca. Last speaker before our break. Eliot
11 Wessler.

12 ELIOT WESSLER: Can I thank you in advance
13 for an extra minute?

14 MODERATOR: No. Excellent try.

15 ELIOT WESSLER: Thank you. My name is
16 Eliot Wessler. I'm a resident of Whitefield. I
17 recently retired after 28 years working as an
18 economist in the Federal Energy Regulatory
19 Commission. Frankly, I am all in favor of
20 importing excess hydro from Quebec and to a New
21 England market. My objection to this project is
22 that it will result in a massive imbalance
23 between those that benefit and those that bear

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 the cost. In a nutshell, this project as
2 proposed will create a huge monetary windfall
3 for Hydro-Quebec and its ratepayers while New
4 Hampshire residents bear all the environmental
5 costs. Northern Pass counts the benefits to New
6 Hampshire residents, and some of these benefits
7 in fact probably will flow to them even if
8 Northern Pass greatly exaggerates them, but in
9 sheer size these meager benefits are positively
10 dwarfed by the potential benefits to HQ and it's
11 ratepayers. HQ will be able to sell up to
12 10,000 gigawatt hours per year of excess hydro.
13 This would represent a windfall for HQ and its
14 ratepayers of as much as \$400 million per year
15 and that's net of HQ cost and net of Northern
16 Pass's transmission charges. This works out to
17 \$16 billion in nominal dollars over the 40-year
18 term of the contract. That's what we economists
19 call a whole lot of rent. And I also say God
20 bless capitalism and God bless HQ. Let them
21 capture as much of those rents as they can. But
22 PSNH is a homegrown utility. It needs to do a
23 better job of representing the people it serves.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 And DOE is our watchdog over this proposal.
2 It's DOE's job to focus not only on the
3 environmental benefits that may flow from this
4 project but on the costs that New Hampshire
5 residents will bear and how the applicants can
6 best mitigate these costs.

7 When asked about undergrounding the lines
8 Northern Pass always seems to respond in the
9 same way. That undergrounding is expensive and
10 then there's dead silence. Well, yes, it is
11 expensive, but with 400 million for year in the
12 rents it's my strong intuition that there's more
13 than enough money sloshing around in this deal
14 to cover any and all additional costs of
15 undergrounding the lines. And let's be clear,
16 that undergrounding the lines would not
17 eliminate all costs to New Hampshire residents,
18 but it would go a long way to mitigating those
19 costs. Undergrounding the lines would also go a
20 long way to dampening the opposition of this
21 project. Why then is Northern Pass so adverse
22 to even discussing undergrounding. The answer I
23 think is that they have boxed themselves in by

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 cutting a bad deal with HQ in the first place to
2 sell transmission under a cost base rate when
3 they could have applied for, almost certainly
4 been granted approval by FERC, my former
5 employer, to sell transmission under a market
6 base rate. Market base rates would have allowed
7 them to capture at least some of the rents, but
8 this would also have exposed them to use some of
9 those rents in mitigating damages. So they took
10 the easy way out.

11 My view is that this process should be
12 frozen until Northern Pass gets off the dime and
13 gets serious about estimating the benefits and
14 costs of undergrounding the line. To sum up, I
15 encourage DOE to use the occasion of the EIS
16 scoping to determine that there is a massive
17 misallocation of benefits and costs inherent in
18 the deal between Northern Pass and HQ and force
19 Northern Pass to plan for the undergrounding of
20 any HVDC lines it wants to construct in New
21 Hampshire.

22 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments, Eliot.
23 Reminder for all speakers that when Travis stands up,

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 that's your three minutes and you are supposed to
 2 stop. We're going to take our break right now. It
 3 is, we'll call it 7:10. It will be a 15-minute break
 4 so come back at 7:25. Just so we're clear on our on
 5 deck circle when we get back and we can jump quickly
 6 into this our first speaker will be Katie Rose, and
 7 then we've got Margo Connors, Timothy Williams,
 8 Frederick Von Karls and Roy Stever. Thank you.

9 (Recess taken)

10 (Message from Christopher Lawrence)

11 MODERATOR: Just so everyone knows, there's
 12 been a request that we exceed the 3-minute rule
 13 on Katie's song. Is that okay?

14 My name is Katie Rose, and I am a resident
 15 here in Whitefield and we're disgusted we have
 16 to be here two years later when we did this two
 17 years ago.

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

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
 West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

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

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

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

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

19 Well, it's a sad story of oppression by a
20 powerful entity, but it's more about the human
21 spirit and people standing up for what they
22 believe and when our children are all grown and
23 having kids of their own they'll be thinking

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 back to you and me and the spirit that kept them
2 free.

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

7 MODERATOR: Thank you, Katie Rose. Since
8 we let her slip on the time if anybody wants to
9 throw in a woo-hoo, go ahead. Felt good to get
10 that out, didn't it. Our next speaker, Timothy
11 Williams. Frederick Von Karls. Got an on deck
12 circle with nobody on it. How about a Roy
13 Stever. Jon Wilkinson. Kate Savage. The floor
14 is yours.

15 FREDERICK VON KARLS: Okay. Hi, everybody.
16 My name is Frederick Von Karls. I'm a clinical
17 psychologist with a Ph.D. in psychology, minor
18 degrees in sociology and anthropology,
19 especially cultural anthropology, so you might
20 think I care about people from some of the work
21 I've done and I do. So I intend to tell a story
22 here that might seem like it's coming out of
23 left field but over the time I have I think I'm

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 going to bring it to centerfield.

2 I doubt many people in this audience know
3 about a people in Hudson's Bay named the Nunavut
4 Inuit people. Part of their problem is that
5 Quebec hydro has for quite a few years now been
6 dumping fresh water which is accumulated through
7 the spring runoff season in dams and reservoirs
8 and is often heated beyond the normal
9 environmental, let's say, proper levels and
10 dumping that into the Hudson's Bay at a rate
11 that is really quite extreme and this involves
12 millions of gallons of water that's released
13 during the high peak energy seasons of winter in
14 Quebec and the northeast American coast. So
15 what happens with that.

16 Well, what happens with it is that the
17 people who live on these little barrier islands
18 who are surrounded mainly by salinated frozen
19 water at the time of year when the release is
20 held is that their water and their environment,
21 the whole ecological environment they live in is
22 changed dramatically. Fresh water freezes at a
23 much more accelerated rate than salinated water.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 And also, it affects the environment in another
2 way that I'll just make a slight note to that I
3 think is a big environmental impact in that that
4 fresh water then floods the Labrador coast and
5 creates a problem of disturbing the deep water
6 flow in the Atlantic in terms of the
7 Gulfstream's proper functioning.

8 The main point is that these people
9 survival is based on the Arctic idler which is
10 dying at remarkably great rates because of the
11 resalinated water so their culture here is going
12 down the tines. What I want to say is they
13 didn't get a choice. They still don't have a
14 voice and that what I'm feeling here in New
15 Hampshire is we're given one option. We're not
16 given a variety of options. We don't have the
17 opportunity to negotiate directly with any
18 power, we have to rely on people that are here
19 representing us, and I hope they take it into
20 account the fact that what happens here will
21 have a drastic effect on people here. What
22 happens here will affect all the people that I
23 think care about their environment in northern

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 New Hampshire which is a whole bunch of folks.
2 And in conclusion I'd like to say, and I'm not
3 kidding about this, that I think there will be a
4 lot of depression and some extra drastic
5 consequences in people's personal lives in New
6 Hampshire which wouldn't be addressed because we
7 don't have the money for mental health services
8 to cover that here. I'll leave with that.

9 ROY STEVER: Good evening my name is Roy
10 Stever. Thank you for the opportunity to come.
11 I'm chairman of the Easton, New Hampshire,
12 Conservation Commission. Our Commission is
13 currently working on habitat protection, local
14 agriculture, the preservation of cultural
15 records and energy conservation in the town of
16 Easton.

17 Easton Conservation Commission strongly
18 opposes Northern Pass. We believe that the
19 project would be a devastating effect on
20 wetlands, habitat, recreation, tourism, scenic
21 values and cultural resources. We have filed an
22 application as an intervenor in the EIS
23 proceedings. With limited time I will review

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 our request to the panel first, then circle back
2 with supporting evidence. It seems to make
3 intelligent comments and we believe facts have
4 been withheld. Hopefully, I can prove that.

5 We asked that the following be delivered to
6 the Easton Conservation Commission 45 days prior
7 to the close of any EIS comment period.

8 1, answers to the questions that we
9 submitted to Northern Pass in July which I will
10 explain in a minute. 2, a fair and thorough
11 assessment of Easton's visual landscape
12 including more than 20 high-valued views. 3,
13 consideration of viable alternatives including
14 the no build option and burial along existing
15 transportation corridors. And 4, thorough study
16 of the impact of Northern Pass on the federally
17 and state protected Canada Lynx based on
18 confirmed tracks along Kinsman ridge this past
19 spring within miles of Northern Pass's proposed
20 route detailed in testimony just last night by
21 one of our Commission members, Steve Sabre, in
22 Plymouth. We would like USFS and U.S. Fish and
23 Wildlife Service with input from New Hampshire

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Fish & Game to examine the need to protect the
2 Kinsman ridge corridor involving Bob Pond and
3 land in Easton as critical habitat under all
4 existing laws, regulations and agreements
5 including the Endangered Species Act as amended
6 and the Canada Lynx Conservation Agreement. It
7 is impossible to comment on this project.

8 Our commission enjoys a strong working
9 relationship with the White Mountain National
10 Forest. We collaborate on activities such as
11 trail head improvement, cultural resources,
12 habitat improvement. Nearly 7 percent of Easton
13 lives within the forest. On June 10th members
14 of our commission met with Tom Wagner,
15 Supervisor of WMNF and members of his staff to
16 register our concerns, and we were cordially
17 received.

18 On July 2nd we issued an invitation to
19 Mr. Long, then President and COO of PSNH, to
20 meet with our Commission to discuss Northern
21 Pass. Mr. Martin Murray followed up, agreeing
22 to meet, even nominating dates in August. We
23 believe, however, that Mr. Murray changed his

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 mind after we informed him that our meetings
2 would be open to the public per RSA 91 A. We
3 subsequently received a letter from Mr. Long
4 indicating that we could instead meet at some
5 point in the future prior to the State's site
6 evaluation committee proceedings and after a
7 finer level of engineering design work.

8 Mr. Long and Northern Pass have turned
9 their back on a respected New Hampshire
10 institution in the Conservation Commission. We
11 take our role seriously and approach Northern
12 Pass to ensure of our own objectivity as we do
13 in any project in our town. Mr. Long and
14 Northern Pass team continue to ignore our
15 request to meet and to date have answered none
16 of our 26 questions, something they did not do
17 at the open houses by the way. We believe the
18 actual cost for locating 2 new lines in Easton
19 would make them make the most expensive miles on
20 the entire project due to remote terrain and the
21 need for helicopters. We also believe the
22 environmental, recreational and personal impact
23 along this stretch would be among the highest on

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 the route and we strongly advise consideration
2 of no build or burial along existing corridors.

3 We continue to believe that the project is
4 a private profit-laden insult to the residents
5 of Eaton, the people of New Hampshire, the
6 millions who have visited the White Mountain
7 National Forest from all over the world, the
8 100-year-old Weeks Act and the countless
9 dedicated New Hampshire citizens and elected
10 officials who over the centuries have had the
11 courage to say no.

12 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
13 Roy. Jon Wilkinson. And also like to invite up
14 Frank Lombardi, Winifred Ward, Richard Mallion.

15 JON WILKINSON: My name is Jon Wilkinson.
16 I'm a resident of Lancaster, New Hampshire.
17 Mr. Mills and all the DOE folks that are here
18 tonight, I welcome you to my beloved home State
19 of New Hampshire. I hope you're able to witness
20 and enjoy the unique and natural transformation
21 of one of New Hampshire's many splendors that is
22 occurring right now as we go from summer into
23 the spectacular array of fall colors.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Now then, here we are after two years since
2 the last DOE scoping hearing and with only three
3 minutes to speak I have little time to cover all
4 the reasons that I and thousands of New
5 Hampshire residents, landowners, businesses,
6 elected officials and visitors to this state
7 steadfastly oppose the possible granting of
8 United States Presidential Permit to the
9 proposed Northern Pass project. This hearing
10 should not even be occurring since after being
11 granted an ample amount of additional time the
12 Northern Pass project has been unsuccessful in
13 acquiring uncontested contiguous 40-mile
14 northern corridor through New Hampshire and they
15 have not offered a valid alternative route
16 required for the permitting process.

17 Also there are questions concerning the
18 existing Public Service transmission easements
19 Northern Pass went to use to our south. As to
20 the intent and need when those easements were
21 originally conveyed many years ago versus a
22 possible adding and altering of the size and
23 type of structures within those easements,

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 transferring of a different capacity of
2 electricity.

3 Northern Pass boasts many benefits about
4 their project. One of their claims about this
5 project is that it would be built at no cost to
6 taxpayers or customers. I totally disagree. If
7 this project is built as currently proposed it
8 would be an enormous cost to New Hampshire, land
9 owners, businesses and taxpayers. Destroying
10 views and lowering property land values is not a
11 win as they like to refer in their ads. It is
12 devastating personal loss in an unneeded
13 hardship.

14 I will close with a few questions. Who
15 needs the Northern Pass? The answer is not New
16 Hampshire. New Hampshire is an exporter of
17 electricity to the New England grid. Who needs
18 New Hampshire? The answer is Northern Pass.
19 Everyone please understand New Hampshire is the
20 only in the way of the Northern Pass. All they
21 want is to get their way through our state. Who
22 should have to sacrifice anything for the
23 Northern Pass to get their way through New

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Hampshire? The answer, no one. No one who
2 lives in New Hampshire, no one who owns land in
3 New Hampshire, and no one who comes to New
4 Hampshire to visit. Mr. Mills, I respectfully
5 ask you to deny the Presidential Permit
6 currently proposed by the Northern Pass project.
7 Thank you.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
9 Jon. Next speaker, Kate Savage.

10 KATE SAVAGE: Kate Savage from Jefferson.
11 We are all noticing the beauty of our trees
12 changing from green to orange. We have all
13 noticed the ugly green of greed and money and
14 the beauty of orange of opposition. We stand
15 united to speak loudly that we don't accept this
16 proposal for an extension cord running from
17 Canada through our state for the New England
18 power grid. The citizens of New Hampshire chose
19 to live free or die. The citizens of the North
20 Country choose to embrace a lifestyle of Yankee
21 ingenuity in keeping the natural elements real.
22 We choose to moderate our lives to responsively
23 consume our utilities which for New Hampshire

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 has equaled a power surplus. With this surplus
2 we are not in need of this energy. Therefore,
3 with Northern Pass into the New England power
4 grid New Hampshire will not be taking the power.
5 In fact, per literature from the Hydro-Quebec
6 and the Northern Pass websites this power plant
7 is bidirectional. Once the power is into the
8 ISO-New England power grid Hydro-Quebec has one
9 of the first dibs on buying it back for its own
10 impending power droughts. To see this as a win
11 in any form for the State of New Hampshire is
12 blind. We have heard and read all of the many
13 promises. Of taxes, of 1200 jobs, of clean
14 energy. This scoping process that we are all a
15 part of requires alternative plans and paths to
16 the proposed line. Why then is the only
17 alternative listed that of crossing the
18 Connecticut Lakes headwaters which is legally
19 protected by a conservation easement. Should
20 not the alternative be a legal means such as
21 burial along existing right-of-way, highways,
22 corridors or perhaps on the transmission line
23 that exists across the Connecticut River in

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 Vermont? Northern Pass could make friends with
2 its neighbors that appreciate the scenic beauty
3 of the state rather than obstructing it.

4 While the opposition for this plan has been
5 strongly held in the North Country we are
6 encouraged that our brothers and sisters of New
7 Hampshire speak out loudly and informed making
8 this a New Hampshire Pass issue. This is a burr
9 in our side, and we aren't taking it quietly.

10 When Northern Pass arrives at the threshold
11 of our great national and natural treasures it
12 is a game over for the North Country. This is
13 not a NIMBY, not in my backyard, issue. This is
14 an EB issue. Everybody's backyard. The White
15 Mountain National Forest and the Connecticut
16 Lakes Headwaters are both there as protected for
17 everyone. We enjoy and appreciate the natural
18 beauty that Mother Nature provided to all of us.
19 The audacity of these private companies to even
20 ask permission to use these places is out of
21 control. Northern Pass is for profit, and its
22 only basis is that it doesn't provide energy to
23 Connecticut, Rhode Island or Massachusetts out

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 of kindness or goodness. It's for green profit.
2 That is offensive and underhanded to the
3 citizens of New Hampshire and we won't take
4 that. Thank you.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
6 Katie. Our next speaker, Frank Lombardi. I'd
7 also like to call up Brian Calloway, Michael
8 Phillips, Michael Dionne, Christopher Emmons.

9 FRANK LOMBARDI: My name is Frank Lombardi,
10 and I'm a lifelong resident of Whitefield, New
11 Hampshire. The Northern Pass has no defined
12 route and this application is incomplete. The
13 first hearing should not have taken place and
14 neither should these because Northern Pass does
15 not own the route they're proposing and continue
16 to miss multiple self-imposed deadlines on
17 producing an official route. The project does
18 not only affect New Hampshire residents but all
19 the U.S. states. Globally, terrorism is
20 focusing on soft targets such as the most recent
21 attack on the shopping mall in Kenya. Would
22 this power line with its remote geographic
23 location and regional importance be considered a

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 soft target? I request that the Department of
2 Energy review with Homeland Security or the
3 appropriate authorities the possibility of this
4 power source becoming a potential terrorist
5 target. How can we rely on Canada for our power
6 and not consider how we will be securing it.

7 Next, Hydro-Quebec is a public utility
8 owned and operated by the Canadian government.
9 In 2003 Canada opposed the US decision to invade
10 Iraq. If the United States and Canadian
11 governments differ on future decisions, could
12 our electricity source be negatively impacted?
13 With such a strong dependence on Canada, would
14 we be able to make our own decisions without
15 asking for their input? On the same note,
16 purchasing this foreign energy from Canada is
17 like buying oil from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or
18 Iraq. We become dependent on them and in turn
19 these countries have political and economic
20 leverage over our foreign policies. Would we
21 just be exchanging our dependence on foreign oil
22 for foreign hydro?

23 My next question regards Northern Pass's

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 hydropower undermining New Hampshire's already
2 producing power sources. There is no need for
3 additional power in New England as New England
4 is already in an overproducer of energy. Of
5 course, everyone wants cheaper prices, but
6 Northern Pass has not proven this to be a
7 benefit of the project. However, even if this
8 project could reduce energy prices, at what
9 cost. At the expense of our existing producers
10 in New Hampshire which sell to the same market
11 Northern Pass is aiming for? Additionally, will
12 Canadian hydropower imported from a foreign
13 country be required to meet the regulations of
14 New Hampshire's Public Utilities Commission or
15 will Hydro-Quebec set any price they want,
16 especially once our producers have been edged
17 out of the market. Our local wood chip plants
18 like Whitefield Power and Light and Pine Tree
19 Power already struggling as it is. These topics
20 need be addressed in DOE's study.

21 Lastly I'm asking the Department of Energy
22 pursue Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
23 which requires that federal agencies take no

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 action that would jeopardize any endangered or
2 threatened species or its habitat. United
3 States Code Title 16, chapter 31, 1531 requires
4 that the guidelines for the Endangered Species
5 Act be adhered to. The environmental effects of
6 this transmission line only be studied from
7 within the US boundaries but within Canada as
8 well. I respectfully request that you deny this
9 application because it is incomplete, it is not
10 in the interest of our national security, it
11 jeopardizes our political autonomy, it
12 undermines New Hampshire's already producing
13 power sources. It is detrimental to the area's
14 aesthetic values which may affect property
15 values and it may jeopardize endangered or
16 threatened species along the entire potential
17 project route, and I would like to submit this
18 written testimony for the official record.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
20 Frank. To the audience, remember woo-hooing and
21 cat-calling is now out of bounds. Sorry.
22 Winifred Ward? Richard Mallion? Brian
23 Calloway. Michael Phillips. Michael Dionne.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Mark McCullock. And Chelsea Petereit.
2 Hopefully, that's close. Ronnie Sandler. John
3 Jones. It's yours, Mark.

4 MARK MCCULLOCK: My name is Mark McCullock
5 from Stratford, New Hampshire. Last night in
6 Plymouth, Plymouth was the most intense scoping
7 hearing so far. The place was packed with folks
8 wearing orange and opposition speakers digging
9 deep into their souls trying to find a way to
10 make this DOE scoping process justifiably end.
11 Tom Wagner, the supervisor of White Mountain
12 National Forest, also had a personal friend
13 desperately come up to the mike and speak. He
14 stated that he stopped in to talk to Tom about
15 his concerns with the Northern Pass. He then
16 put his friend Tom on the spot as respectfully
17 as he knew how to in the public eye knowing that
18 his friend does have the authority to stop this
19 project from crossing White Mountain National
20 Forest. He was very troubled when Tom stated
21 something like this. I can't believe after all
22 these years trying to do the right thing for the
23 National Forest that I'm going to be judged by a

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 single decision for the rest of my life
2 concerning this project. His friend then knew
3 what Tom's decision already was and at that
4 point so did everyone else, still respectfully
5 listening to the remaining speakers at this
6 hearing. Tom's sincere friend knew he may have
7 put his friendship on the line for this DOE
8 scoping process. He then respectfully pointed
9 his finger at Tom and basically from my
10 perspective told him this. You know in your
11 heart what the right decision is. Make that
12 right decision. Tom, your friend is right. You
13 do know what the right decision is. I have been
14 watching you throughout these scoping hearings
15 and how intently you have been listening to the
16 people in opposition to this project.
17 Sometimes, Tom, please trust me on this, you
18 have to put your ass out there on the line and
19 do what you feel and know is the right thing to
20 do. Yes, there may be some political negative
21 consequences for this, but as far as being
22 judged for a single decision you make pertaining
23 to the stupid project, if you take your sincere

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 and desperate friend's advice, you'll be judged
2 for the rest of your life as a man who stood up
3 for what was right for White Mountain National
4 Forest and for the majority of New Hampshire's
5 citizens who also know what that right decision
6 is. Not just for the rest of your life, but
7 forever. Tom, my personal advice, this is my
8 personal advice, tell Northern Pass to kiss your
9 ass.

10 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
11 Mark. Again, I ask the audience, back to the
12 ground rules. I am not going to repeat them,
13 you guys know them. Let's try to respect the
14 speaker, let's try to respect the opinions and
15 thoughts and feelings of people in the room.
16 Chelsea.

17 CHELSEA PETEREIT: Hi, hard to follow the
18 husband. My name is Chelsea Petereit. I'm a
19 resident of North Stratford and a science
20 teacher in Lancaster and life is a balancing act
21 full of tough decisions and when students come
22 to me with their most pressing problem, should I
23 go to the dance on Friday night with so-and-so,

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 I tell them make a list of the positives and
2 negatives, and I did that for the Northern Pass.
3 And I'm not going to rehash all of that because
4 other more eloquent people have spoken about all
5 of those already tonight and in the past and
6 you'll hear more tomorrow night. Suffice to say
7 that my list of definite negatives vastly
8 outweighed the meager possible positives. But
9 think about this. There's a place that we all
10 want to go, and in this place there is all the
11 clean, safe affordable energy and enough to do
12 all we want and need to do. And to get to this
13 place, Northern Pass is taking us down this
14 path, and we're going down this path and like
15 whoa, there is a cliff. And they're like, go
16 for it, it's all good. And we're no, I'm not
17 going there. We won't all make it. Some of us
18 might make it. Some of us might benefit but we
19 all won't. Some people are going to get hurt.
20 And you look around and there are these other
21 paths, there's one and there's one and there's
22 one and guess what, they all go to that place.
23 Might take a little longer, but they all get

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 there. My personal favorite is that path where
2 you combine conservation with higher efficiency
3 and you add in a mix of some solar and some wind
4 and some small hydro that's produced where the
5 energy is needed and guess what? There's no
6 cliff, we can all get there. Northern Pass
7 doesn't listen. They won't listen. They keep
8 pushing us, edging us toward that precipice and
9 we keep fighting and struggling to keep from
10 going over the edge. Well, we've looked at
11 Northern Pass. We're not going to leap and
12 we're not going to stop fighting. Thank you.

13 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
14 Chelsea. Next speaker is Ronnie Sandler. I'd
15 also like to call up Charlie Duursema. Douglas
16 Eason, Allen Bouthillier, David Atkinson. The
17 floor is yours.

18 RONNIE SANDLER: My name is Ronnie Sandler.
19 I am a resident of Easton. I've lived in the
20 North Country for the past 46 years and I live
21 here because of the beauty of the landscape, the
22 rural beauty and the recreational opportunities
23 that are bound up here. I want to start by

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 saying I've gone to the open houses, I've asked
2 questions, and my questions are not answered.
3 Last week I was told we'll get back to you on
4 that. I haven't heard anything yet. I'm not
5 expecting to. Number one, it's my understanding
6 that this is an incomplete application and I
7 thought there had to be an alternate route for
8 the application to go forward but I guess I'm
9 wrong on that. Everything Northern Pass has
10 been telling us doesn't pass the straight face
11 test. A hundred plus foot towers twice the
12 height of the trees through some of the most
13 scenic landscape in New England won't affect
14 tourism. Really? I don't know. It won't
15 affect the salability of property and the values
16 of the property. It's hard to believe that
17 property assessments won't go down. I have a
18 couple of friends that live in Sugar Hill.
19 They're in their late 70s, they own 400 acres
20 and a beautiful large house. They wanted about
21 two and a half years ago to start downsizing as
22 they get older, they wanted to sell a couple of
23 hundred acres on one side of the land with their

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 house and build a smaller house on that other
2 side. They went to three realtors. Every one
3 of them said don't even put your land on the
4 market until this Northern Pass thing is
5 finished because you will not sell it or if you
6 will, you will get 50 percent of the value.

7 The tax estimates given to towns and I want
8 to point out that Northern Pass is not willing
9 to guarantee those taxes. Now, this is from the
10 same companies that are suing the towns right
11 now to lower their tax assessments. It's no
12 wonder they don't want to guarantee them.

13 Employment estimates of 1200. I spoke to a
14 contractor at the open house who said to me I
15 don't know where they got that number. It would
16 be closer to 450 people. We'll bring half our
17 own employees, we'll hire loggers and earth
18 works locally and that's about it. And when I
19 walked in here today, I'm parked way down there,
20 there were three trucks from a Michigan firm
21 doing electrical work. I feel badly for the
22 brothers in the IBEW who probably won't be
23 getting the jobs they've been promised. Why not

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 look at burying the lines. Let's get real
2 estimates of the cost and I encourage you to do
3 your own research and evaluations. We can't
4 believe everything or perhaps anything that
5 Northern Pass tells us. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
7 Ronnie. John Jones.

8 JOHN JONES: Thank you for being so
9 patient. You've been waiting to hear what I
10 have to say for two nights now. I'm from
11 Plymouth and stayed there. My name is John W.
12 Jones and I'm originally from Connecticut. I'm
13 a refuge from progress if you will. I've been
14 up here since 1959. Raised my family up here.
15 We live in the shadow of Mt. Kearsarge down near
16 New London in a little town called North Sutton
17 and I'm a rocket scientist, but the good news is
18 that is a no-brainer. I was thinking coming up
19 through the notch and holding back the tears and
20 the emotions and the love I have. These are our
21 White Mountains of home, sir, and for you to
22 allow them to put a string of these towers, ten,
23 15-story towers down through the White Mountains

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 here would be a desecration that would be
2 comparable to go to the Louvre in Paris and take
3 a Magic Marker and put warts all over the nose
4 of the Mona Lisa. It would be disgraceful, and
5 that's not an exaggeration. I'm a working man,
6 not a rocket scientist. And I am certainly
7 interested in employment for the North Country
8 and there's going to be an awful lot of digging
9 that's going to be have to be done if these
10 folks from across the border want to have their
11 way and send electricity to Connecticut through
12 our state. Thank you.

13 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
14 Charlie is pretty eager to get up here so --

15 CHARLIE DUURSEMA: Everything that's been
16 said is what I was going to say, but I'll just
17 read what I have. Charlie Duursema from
18 Lancaster. As an abutter to the existing
19 right-of-way crossing Route 2 in Lancaster I'm
20 very concerned about the Northern Pass
21 transmission line towers along with the
22 replacement towers for the existing lines.
23 These towers interfere with the beautiful scenic

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 view of the White Mountains Presidential Range
2 from a scenic area opposite Rogers Campground on
3 Route 2 and we will be stuck with these towers
4 forever. Much of New Hampshire's North Country
5 economy is based on and generated by
6 out-of-state vacationers who come to admire the
7 picturesque scenery and colorful autumn leaves
8 and whose visits may be impacted by unsightly
9 transmission towers interrupting their views and
10 quite possibly causing them to reconsider future
11 visits. This project jeopardizes our economy.

12 Because of the proposed height of the
13 towers my own calculations and observations
14 indicate they will be visible from my house.
15 This is through the woods, too, and are sure to
16 detract from my own property's appeal as well as
17 decrease its value and others along the
18 right-of-way. Do you think for a moment that
19 our local government will reduce our property
20 taxes because of this diminished value?
21 Absolutely not. We the people will lose on both
22 counts. If allowed to build the line, I am not
23 the only one who feels these transmission lines

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 should be buried along state-owned
2 rights-of-way, along highways or inactive
3 railroad beds. Northern Pass has spent too much
4 time trying to convince the public this is not
5 an option, but developers have been doing
6 exactly this for years. I say no to Northern
7 Pass.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
9 Charles. Douglas Eason? Also like to call up
10 Chris Thayer, Robert Craven, Jan Edick.

11 DOUG EASON: Good evening. My name is Doug
12 Eason. I live down in Dover, New Hampshire.
13 That's where my primary residence is. My family
14 owns property in Stark and Groveton and I wish I
15 could wow you with some fancy charts or graphs.
16 I don't have a Ph.D. or psychiatry degree and I
17 certainly can't sing a lovely song like we heard
18 earlier, but I do have a passion for this topic,
19 and I can really think back to about 30 years
20 ago when I was just graduating from UNH and I
21 had a job and my parents were like whew, he's
22 out of the house, we finally got rid of him and
23 I just wasn't feeling it. I felt like I needed

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 to go out and see the world. I thought about
2 going to Europe. I quickly surmised I just
3 didn't have the money to do that, but I thought,
4 you know, the United States would be a great
5 place to see first. So much to my parents'
6 chagrin I quit my job, liquidated my bank
7 account, sold all my possessions that wouldn't
8 fit in the car, packed my camping gear up and I
9 hit the road and I spent over 6 months traveling
10 through the country. I lived in a tent. I saw
11 some of most beautiful natural scenery that this
12 country has to offer including Yellowstone,
13 Yosemite, but I felt lonely. I felt like I was
14 missing something and eventually I found my way
15 back to New Hampshire, and it quickly dawned on
16 me that New Hampshire has this small beautiful
17 environment that you feel comfortable in.
18 People come here because they can take the
19 breath of fresh air and feel like themselves.
20 And if this proposal should go through, that's
21 all going to go away. I compare these towers to
22 building a skyscraper and you might as well put
23 one up every 800 feet from Franklin to the

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Canadian border and I wouldn't put it past
2 Hydro-Quebec to spray paint them green and spend
3 a few million dollars more to convince us it was
4 a new species of tree and all will be well.
5 Well, it isn't going to well because it's going
6 to impact our tourism, our recreation, obviously
7 our property values, and it will destroy the
8 future for my children and your children and our
9 grandchildren. I'm asking the Department of
10 Energy to deny the Presidential Permit. The
11 Forest Service should deny the special permit,
12 and the site evaluation committee for New
13 Hampshire should be looking at underground
14 alternatives. There's all kinds of energy
15 options out there. All you have to do is search
16 it on Google and if the reps of Northern Pass
17 don't know how to use it, I'd be happy to show
18 them. Thank you very much.

19 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments
20 Douglas. Allen? Like to call up Judy
21 Weisenberger.

22 ALLEN BOUTHILLIER: My name is Allen
23 Bouthillier. I'm from Lancaster, New Hampshire.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 I was born and brought up in Coos County. Born
2 in West Stewartstown that's now a nursing home.
3 No longer a hospital. I'm in the logging
4 activation trucking business. I'm here to speak
5 on, I'm in favor of the Northern Pass idea. I
6 know I'm probably in the minority here, but I
7 want to say a few things. I've got two young
8 boys got out of college, they come to work for
9 me. I employ 25 people here. We need the work.
10 I've been in the logging business since 1983. I
11 logged on the White Mountain National Forest for
12 years. A few elitist groups that wanted to use
13 it for just their own use has basically shut
14 down the logging program on that so I've had to
15 diversify into other things which includes
16 excavation, site work and other things. I also
17 have a quarry. I've got 25 families that I
18 employ that rely on me keeping them employed.
19 The White Mountain National Forest was designed
20 and was developed and implemented to create jobs
21 and clean water and timber for the local
22 industries, the local people. And it's not,
23 it's a land the multiple use for many people. I

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 met Tom when he first came here and we've had
2 multiple talks about this. White Mountain
3 National Forest has a multiple use for
4 everybody. It should be used for everybody.
5 There is power lines on it as it exists. I hunt
6 on that land, don't log on it anymore. If you
7 leave here, you drive down as I have many a
8 times to go visit my kinds at UNH, you drive
9 down 93, you take Route 4 over there. You see
10 all this beauty that everybody talks about. But
11 you know what? Take a closer look. You're
12 looking through power lines everywhere you look.
13 Route 4, 93, Route 3, every single highway you
14 drive on you're seeing power lines. So, I mean,
15 it's not the end of the world. One thing is for
16 certain there's going to be change. Work with
17 these people, there could be some compromises.
18 Maybe there is some critical areas here where it
19 could be buried. I think you've got to work
20 with them. To say no, to stick your head in the
21 sand isn't the right way to go about this.
22 We've got to work with them. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR: David Atkinson.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 DAVID ATKINSON: My name is David Atkinson
2 of Lancaster. I'm a former vice president of
3 operations of the Wausau paper mill that was
4 located in Groveton. I chose not to move out of
5 the area and stay in our beautiful North Country
6 and be around and hopefully to contribute to the
7 restoration of our fragile economy. I'm wearing
8 orange actually on purpose tonight. I have a
9 lot of respect for many of the folks that are
10 here in orange. So I think that we need to
11 compromise. Mark, Chelsea, Allen. I mean,
12 there's a lot of good friends I have here that
13 deserve to be heard. That being said, I want to
14 encourage the Department of Energy to support
15 the proposed route because I believe it is the
16 least environmentally impactful option
17 available. As a method of protecting the
18 environment, countless environmental laws,
19 regulations, require that new development take
20 place within the footprint of existing
21 development. This is an accepted approach to
22 minimizing environmental impacts that many
23 environmental groups have lobbied in favor of

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 over the years. For a great majority of the
2 proposed route, the Northern Pass follows this
3 same approach. It proposes putting new power
4 lines where power lines already exist. As many
5 hikers, hunters, recreational vehicle owners can
6 attest the land is already clear and maintained
7 for the purpose of hosting power lines and the
8 environmental disruption will be minimal
9 compared to clearing a new route or digging a
10 180-mile trench underground. Can there be more
11 underground? Possibly. I think as Allen just
12 said, that's worth some more exploration. It's
13 my understanding that less than one percent of
14 the electric transmission lines in our nation
15 are buried. Yes, cost is probably a driver in
16 this statistic, but I suspect that the negative
17 environmental impact of trenching is also a
18 significant contributor. Should be studied and
19 looked at. As a businessman, a long-term
20 resident, and a concerned citizen it is very
21 troubling to hear environmental special
22 interests and some elected officials question
23 the Northern Pass's use of the forest. I find

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 it very interesting that some of these special
2 interest groups actively opposing Northern Pass
3 were supportive of the wind towers that are
4 spread across our northern forest. These towers
5 are over four times the height of the proposed
6 towers in this project. The National Forest and
7 the Weeks Act were set up to allow for all uses.
8 These are not national parks. These are areas
9 that are meant not only to protect land and
10 provide recreational opportunity but also to
11 support the economic viability of the region.

12 In my experience a lot of the people
13 opposed to the Northern Pass are not directly
14 impacted by the project. Not everyone in this
15 room, but many simply want to stop any type of
16 economic activity in the region. I often refer
17 to these people as citizens against absolutely
18 everything. We need business investment in our
19 region. We need the jobs, even the short-term
20 ones. Our communities need the increased tax
21 base so that we can invest in our schools and in
22 our community infrastructure. I spent much of
23 last year as the building committee chairman for

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 the White Mountain Regional High School Career
2 and Tech Education project. This good project
3 was not supported in large part due to the
4 residential taxpayers having to carry too much
5 of a burden. Business investment like the
6 Northern Pass is important in our region to help
7 replace the large tax revenue vacuum created
8 when the mill closed their doors nearly a decade
9 ago. I received an unsolicited direct mailing
10 yesterday in my mail box that provided a very
11 simple comparison of 1200 megawatts of clean
12 hydropower to the construction of two nuclear
13 plants the size of Vermont Yankee, three
14 coal-fire plants, 300 wind turbines or over
15 24,000 acres of solar panels. My mind was made
16 up already but this unsolicited direct mail
17 piece was quite a powerful affirmation and
18 reinforcement of my position. Finally, I would
19 encourage the DOE to approve this project route
20 because it represents a good compromise. I hope
21 there's more compromise and in my assessment
22 it's a good project. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 David. Remind all speakers, again, it's
2 3-minute time. When Travis stands up, you're
3 encouraged to wrap up. Thank you. Chris
4 Thayer.

5 CHRIS THAYER: Good evening. Thank you for
6 this opportunity once again to provide public
7 comment on the Northern Pass transmission line
8 project. My name is Chris Thayer. My wife
9 Wendy and I along with our two young boys are
10 residents of Sugar Hill, New Hampshire. We
11 welcome tonight's hearing as a chance to take
12 part in the public process that ensures the
13 voices of New Hampshire citizens including those
14 in the North Country are directly heard and
15 considered in shaping the final Environmental
16 Impact Statement by federal agencies.

17 We stand in opposition to the Northern Pass
18 transmission line project as currently proposed
19 for the following reasons.

20 Despite efforts to suggest otherwise, the
21 expanse of metal towers and their addition to
22 existing transmission corridors will scar the
23 scenic landscape of our town and region

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 affecting quality of life, diminishing property
2 values and town tax bases and our reputation as
3 a scenic rural destination. In fact, I can
4 personally attest that the mere proposal for
5 such a project has already adversely affected
6 the purchase price of local real estate. Visual
7 studies of the proposed routes suggest an impact
8 on 95,000 acres throughout the state as a whole.
9 Public support for this project has been lacking
10 from the start with 30 of 31 communities, New
11 Hampshire communities, along the proposed route
12 formally in opposition to the project. I
13 respectfully request the Department of Energy to
14 evaluate all project alternatives including that
15 of no action or full burial along the entire
16 route that allows our northern region to retain
17 the natural assets that have been the life blood
18 of local citizens and the source of inspiration
19 and spiritual renewal for all over countless
20 generations.

21 The taller towers proposed for carrying the
22 high voltage direct current aerial transmission
23 lines will necessitate widening existing rights

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 of way and will allow for additional capacity in
2 the future. I respect actually request the
3 Department of Energy and related federal
4 agencies to perform due diligence in studying
5 the impacts to wildlife, wetland, forest
6 resources, communities and recreation areas
7 along the proposed routes including most
8 significantly the White Mountain National Forest
9 and the crossing of the Appalachian National
10 Scenic Trail. The recent celebration of the
11 centennial of the landmark conservation
12 legislation known as the Weeks Act created the
13 Eastern National Forest System and the White
14 Mountain National Forest. Any private
15 exemptions proposed or accepted for this project
16 are an insult to the legacy of the people's
17 forest and the generations who have entrusted it
18 to public protection and management. I have
19 other comments that I'll submit, but I notice
20 that Travis is holding up signs that everybody
21 knows well so I'm going to cut to the chase. On
22 behalf of my family along with others in our
23 community and surrounding North Country region,

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 we stand firmly against this project as
2 presented and ask that this public process
3 produce a result that serves the best interests
4 of the State of New Hampshire and those of us
5 who are lucky enough to call it home. Thank
6 you.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
8 Chris. Robert Craven. I'm also like to call up
9 Andrew Smith, Carl Martland, Paul Haslanger,
10 Julie Seely.

11 ROBERT CRAVEN: My name is Robert Craven.
12 I'm a resident and former Selectman in the town
13 of Easton. In December of 2010 I and the Easton
14 Selectmen submitted a petition to intervene in
15 the NPT permitting process on behalf of the
16 people of Easton. The project if allowed to
17 proceed as proposed would have the devastating
18 impact on our town in terms of diminished
19 property values and quality of life as has been
20 amply discussed by past speakers. We should be
21 clear about the NPT project. This is simply a
22 private, for-profit merchant transaction.
23 Hydro-Quebec has excess power that it wants to

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 sell. NPT and PSNH would both profit handsomely
2 if this power were transmitted over the PSNH
3 right-of-way and it is estimated that PSNH would
4 realize a revenue of approximately \$50 million
5 annually for leasing this right-of-way.

6 Therefore, it is clear that NPT has no interest
7 in seriously pursuing any alternative to their
8 proposed overhead power line which would deprive
9 them of this lucrative revenue stream. New
10 England power grid operator, ISO-New England,
11 has not declared need for any new power to the
12 grid in order to ensure its reliability. New
13 Hampshire is, in fact, a net power exporter and
14 this project would have no benefit to us. New
15 Hampshire is to be simply a conduit for a power
16 line that not only would not benefit New
17 Hampshire but would have a permanent devastating
18 effect on our quality of life. Not a very good
19 deal for New Hampshire.

20 There have been persistent and repeated
21 requests to NPT to consider underground rather
22 than overhead power transmission in public road
23 and rights-of-way. NPT has consistently and

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 repeatedly dismissed these alternatives as too
2 expensive, that would increase the project's,
3 considered as expensive and not practical. By
4 NPT's convoluted logic any alternative that
5 would increase the project's cost is considered
6 not practical and dismissed summarily. It's
7 true as NPT says that undergrounding power lines
8 is five to ten times as expensive as overheading
9 them. However, it's far less devastating to the
10 land, environment, property values and quality
11 of life. These issues must be factored into any
12 final project decisions as required by NEPA
13 regulations. If Hydro-Quebec wants to sell its
14 power in the US, they should bear the cost of
15 burying the transmission lines. By my rough
16 calculation the power transmitted over these
17 lines would generate gross revenue of around
18 \$800 million annually. Surely this revenue
19 stream should be more than sufficient for
20 Hydro-Quebec to bear the cost of burying the
21 transmission lines.

22 In summary, we believe that NPT's current
23 permit applications fails to consider

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 undergrounding its proposed power transmission
2 lines within existing public transmission
3 corridors in a meaningful way and for that
4 reason should be rejected.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
6 Robert. Jan Edick.

7 JAN EDICK: My name is actually Jan Edick.
8 It's Dutch. What can I do. I live in
9 Littleton. My home is just down the road from
10 the original alternative route of Northern Pass.
11 I have no confidence that like the phoenix it
12 won't rise again so it's here. I'm retired.
13 I'm primarily concerned with the negative impact
14 Northern Pass would have or will have on
15 property values in the North Country. When my
16 wife and I came to northern New Hampshire 20
17 years ago we looked at a beautiful ten-year-old
18 log house on a bluff with a glorious view north
19 up the Connecticut River. It had a large living
20 room with a view, the library, a large country
21 kitchen, three bedrooms, three baths, modern
22 oil, water heat, wood stoves to take the chill
23 off, a finished two-bay garage and walk-in

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 professional offices in the basement and sat on
2 three and a half choice acres. There was a
3 transmission line in the backyard. It was
4 nominally a 250 to \$300,000 property at that
5 time. The house was then priced at 119,000
6 which is the only reason I was looking at it.
7 It sold a year or so later for 97,000. That's
8 substantial depreciation. It's a real house.
9 This is a real world experience. It isn't an
10 illusion. It's not a public relations
11 invention. It's fact, and it ain't deniable.

12 The true cost of Northern Pass cannot only
13 be measured in steel and wire and clearing and
14 paperwork. It is also to be found in the
15 catastrophically diminished value of all the
16 neighbors' properties along its route.
17 Anecdotally, Northern Pass has already caused a
18 profound slump in real estate north of Plymouth.
19 Unsalable is a word I have heard a number of
20 times. The environmental impact assessment of
21 Northern Pass has to include the comprehensive
22 study of the effect it has had and will have on
23 neighboring property values and the project must

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 have some mechanism to compensate damaged
2 property owners. In the absence of said
3 mechanism, it should be an automatic no-go. Of
4 course, it's possible that if PSNH and
5 Hydro-Quebec are forced to contemplate the real
6 costs of their joint venture they might decide
7 to do something different. The real cost of
8 overhead transmission lines might even make
9 burying their lines some in some more suitable
10 corridor economically attractive. Really cheap,
11 clean and renewable power from the sub-arctic of
12 Quebec, magically transported to southern New
13 England to run their air conditions and hair
14 dryers is a fairy tale. If the real cost was
15 calculated it always was. Quebec has chosen to
16 bury and eat the real social and environmental
17 cost of their hydro development. In New
18 Hampshire, that cost for this project as
19 presented would be borne by real people who have
20 invested and labored for what they have. They
21 don't deserve to have it taken away. That just
22 won't do.

23 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Jan. Judy Weisenberger.

2 JUDY WEISENBERGER: Hello. I had 8
3 questions. They've all been eloquently answered
4 so I'll skip to just the one that I hear about
5 the most. I'm yet another citizen of Sugar
6 Hill. One of the reasons I think there were so
7 many of us here from Sugar Hill is because we
8 represent many of the really tiny small towns in
9 New Hampshire that would be impacted by this
10 project. I ask you to please conduct an
11 independent study on the effects of this project
12 on the values and culture of the North Country,
13 not just the economics. Sugar Hill is a tiny
14 17-square-mile town. Retirees buy homes in our
15 town because of the landscape. Tourists come to
16 our towns because of the views. The landscape
17 is the tax basis of our town. Our citizens have
18 conserved a very large percentage of the town
19 for residents and visitors alike to use and
20 enjoy. We value the land and our scenic vistas
21 above all else. It is the reason we come and
22 the reason we stay on. I'm a flatlander from
23 Boston. It is the reason tourists have flocked

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 to our town for centuries. If you love northern
2 New Hampshire, it is because you get it. It is
3 about the land. You will never accept that
4 anyone has a right to destroy our constitutional
5 right to the happiness these beautiful vistas
6 give us when there are alternatives. People
7 talked about compromise. There's been no
8 compromise. People talk about facts. We can't
9 get the facts. We know they're there, but we
10 can't get them so how could there be a
11 compromise. To echo one of the speakers that
12 was in favor of Northern Pass I feel Northern
13 Pass is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to
14 destroy the essence of northern New Hampshire.
15 And in our town, right away we're just
16 dismissed. We have no rights at all. Well, a
17 right-of-way is not the same as a right to
18 destroy. Finally, I would just like to say when
19 I began this project I began because I saw what
20 those towers were and I saw where they were
21 going to go. I did not know about any of the
22 alternatives. Lot of the things that people
23 said, Northern Pass said, sounded reasonable at

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 the time. I now know the difference. My main
2 concern for the epic time, money that I really
3 don't have that I put into this project is about
4 a concern I have with the kind of, after
5 watching this project what kind of democracy
6 we're passing onto our children is the reason
7 that motivates me now at this point. So,
8 please, do the right thing by you. At least
9 look at all the alternatives. There has to be a
10 better way. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
12 Judy. Andrew Smith.

13 ANDREW SMITH: Thank you and appreciate the
14 opportunity. My name is Andrew Smith. I live
15 in Franconia, New Hampshire. I'm a real estate
16 broker and have been for the last 25 years. I
17 have a company that has offices up and down 93
18 and basically up and down the Northern Pass
19 corridor. I think it was Mr. Jones who said
20 something like this should be a no-brainer. Is
21 real estate going to be impacted, is the value
22 of real estate going to be impacted. It should
23 be a no-brainer, but just in case there's any

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 question at all, let me unequivocally tell you
2 that it is not only having a very negative
3 impact, it's having it right now every day,
4 every day in all of my offices. My agents are
5 dealing with this every day with clients that
6 either need to or have to or want to sell their
7 property and they just can't. They can't
8 because of the fear of the unknown or the fear
9 of the known that this is a no-brainer, that a
10 nice little 3-bedroom, two-bath ranch over here
11 with a view of the mountains or 3-bedroom,
12 two-bath ranch over here with 140 foot steel
13 tower in its backyard, this house is going to
14 sell. This one probably won't. If this one
15 will, it will sell at a discount, a big
16 discount. So Mr. Edick said yeah, these are
17 real life problems, real life people and they're
18 happening right now.

19 The unfortunate part is this hearing
20 probably shouldn't be happening because the
21 application is not complete, and these people
22 are being put in horrible positions and they
23 will be for years and years if this drags on

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 until we just put it to bed. The people in this
2 room are not going to go away. This problem is
3 not going to go away. This is going to win and
4 these people are going to have spent three or
5 four or five years of diminished value.

6 I just want to share with you two very real
7 life situations. One is right down the road.
8 Jefferson Road in Whitefield. This is a house
9 that's currently on the market. Some folks came
10 up, looked at it twice with a broker from the
11 southern part of the state. The third time they
12 came up they just wanted to figure out where
13 their furniture was going to go, come back to
14 the office and make an offer. Instead we got
15 this email. This was about two weeks ago.
16 Hello. They're going to pass on this property.
17 They like the home and the land but further
18 investigation they saw that Northern Pass is
19 designed to come down Route 16 throughout
20 Whitefield. They were perplexed that this was
21 not discussed within the property documents.

22 Now, this is a property that's down the
23 road off 116. You can't see the current line

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 which you certainly, is right off Mountain View
2 Grand right now. You can't see anything. It's
3 not impacted by any power line now. But these
4 folks have just lost a very nice buyer for their
5 home because of just the concept that this power
6 line is going to come through Whitefield. I've
7 interviewed lots and lots of brokers. I talk to
8 them every day, and I think I can just summarize
9 it on what we're dealing with every day by a
10 quote by a broker it says, Andy, my own
11 experience has been the buyers would not even
12 look at the properties if they were near the
13 Northern Pass. I did have one sale fall through
14 on Tracker Road in Campton when it was
15 discovered that Northern Pass might impact the
16 property. Mostly buyers just stay away from any
17 properties that have any possibility of being
18 impacted. I respectfully ask that you do the
19 right thing and have Northern Pass stay away
20 also. Thank you.

21 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
22 Andrew. I was wondering if you wanted to leave
23 your papers.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 ANDREW SMITH: I've already submitted.
2 Carl Martland. Also like to invite up Robert
3 Kruszyna, Jim Ramsdell, David Hill, Linda
4 Brownson.

5 CARL MARTLAND: Thank you. My name is Carl
6 Martland. I recently retired after 35 years in
7 the Department of Civil and Environmental
8 Engineering at MIT. While there I developed and
9 taught a course on project evaluation. I wrote
10 a textbook. It's an expensive textbook, but you
11 can get it in Portuguese for half price. It
12 deals with the EPA process. We're all talking
13 about the scope of this statement. When the
14 statement is done, there's a draft and more
15 hearings and it will be reviewed by EPA. Yet
16 another organization, and I intend to save a lot
17 of my time and space for a long comment to have
18 100,000 words as I understand it at that time.
19 I would like to look at the options in the
20 impacts that must be included in this scoping of
21 this study in order to successfully go to EPA to
22 be accepted. First, does it include burial
23 along a route that is a reasonable efficient

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 route which may be railroads, rights-of-way,
2 highways. It's not necessarily I-93. Second,
3 does the analysis consider options for
4 transmission and generation. We received in the
5 mail yesterday something from the IBEW that said
6 if you don't have Northern Pass you'll need all
7 those power plants and millions of acres of
8 whatever. Transmission is not generating the
9 power. Wherever the power is coming from is
10 going through the lines and you're going to need
11 people to dig those ditches and put it in place
12 and move the cable there whether it's on towers
13 or whether it's in the ground. So the analysis
14 must be very careful not to make the mistakes
15 that IBEW did. For us and for the US in
16 general, the negatives relate to the towers. So
17 if you bury the pass, bury the lines, most of it
18 goes away. Timing is an issue. When is this
19 needed and when might it be done? I don't think
20 anybody has suggested. Maybe this is a project
21 for 2040 or 2060, and by that time there will be
22 more technological development and all such
23 projects will likely be underground. The no

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 option will be considered because it's a law.
2 Impacts, we've talked about property values, the
3 property values include the future development
4 for second homes and tourists. It's not just
5 what's there today or what might happen over 20
6 years. Third, environmental justice. This is a
7 clear case where the people of northern New
8 Hampshire, economically challenged regions, are
9 being told give up your views, give up your
10 homes so that people down south can plug in
11 their long extension cord and run their air
12 conditioners. And I conclude, I don't really
13 want to make all these comments because if the
14 Draft EIS is deficient in these matters, it will
15 be rejected and will have more delay and we'll
16 come back for more of this in the future. Thank
17 you.

18 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
19 Carl. Paul Haslanger.

20 PAUL HASLANGER: I'm Paul Haslanger from
21 Lancaster. I'm going to start by telling
22 everybody in this room something that I don't
23 normally advertise, and that was that in my

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 prior life I was an executive of a Fortune 500
2 company. So what I intend to do tonight is give
3 you the perspective of the people that you're
4 dealing with, what they're thinking and how they
5 work because I've been in the board room and
6 I've worked with people like that.

7 You've got to stop talking about PSNH.
8 PSNH is part of Northeast Utilities. It only
9 represents 25 percent of their business. They
10 have 2.1 million customers in their total
11 company. There are only 475,000 in New
12 Hampshire that belong to PSNH. The big dog is
13 in Hartford and it's Northeast Utilities. They
14 are making the decisions, they're right now
15 plotting the next 2 or 3 moves down the board.
16 They got the Wizard of Oz working there with
17 them, okay? Because they want this to go and
18 the reason is dollars and cents. This line will
19 produce ten billion kilowatt hours of
20 electricity down the pipeline. So let's say
21 they sell it for 20 cents, that's \$2 billion
22 worth of cash. Northeast Utilities is an \$8
23 billion company. They make \$3 billion of gross

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 profit and a billion dollars of final profit
2 after the taxes are taken out and et cetera.
3 They are playing for real. They want the money.
4 Companies do not do things that are good. They
5 put a monetary value. They give to the United
6 Way, they figure out how they're going to get
7 their money back. They don't just wake in the
8 morning and say these are nice people. Let's do
9 something nice for them. Everything has a cost.
10 Everything has a value. The guy who had it
11 right earlier this evening had a sign that he
12 held up over there. Greed. This is what it's
13 all about. If we didn't learn anything in 2008,
14 2009, when the market crashed, you should have
15 learned it. I'm just telling you, they're not
16 nice people. They want the money. Thank you
17 for your time.

18 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
19 Paul. Julie Seely?

20 JULIE SEELY: My name is Julie Seely. I
21 live in Bethlehem, New Hampshire, and I'm an
22 elected member of the Profile School Board, and
23 I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of the

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 entire Profile School Board of which I've been a
2 member of for what it's worth for four and a
3 half years. Profile School is a public regional
4 junior senior high school located in Bethlehem.
5 It serves four communities. The proposed route
6 of Northern Pass cuts directly through Profile
7 School property, very, very close to the school,
8 and our building and athletic fields would
9 literally be in the shadows of the towers if the
10 power line is approved as proposed. We're
11 blessed with a vibrant school community and a
12 very involved staff and student body. Between
13 classes, sports and other extracurricular
14 activities, it's not unusual for students and
15 staff to spend ten to twelve hours or more per
16 day at school. We are very concerned that the
17 environment remain safe.

18 The Profile School Board wrote a letter to
19 Mr. Mills at the Department of Energy back in
20 May of 2011 with several questions about the
21 project in an effort to learn more about this
22 and similar projects elsewhere. That was over
23 two years ago. We never received a reply and

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 our questions remain unanswered. The Profile
2 School Board has unanimously adopted the
3 following position regarding Northern Pass and
4 I'm quoting. Following the principle of prudent
5 avoidance with specific respect to the long-term
6 health effects of human proximity to high
7 voltage transmission lines, we, the Profile
8 School Board, take the position that if the
9 Northern Pass project is approved, the portion
10 of the transmission lines that is in close
11 proximity to the Profile School be buried to
12 eliminate the potential health risks to our
13 students and staff. Clearly, based on the route
14 that's being proposed in the far northern
15 reaches of the state, burial of the lines is
16 feasible and we thank you in advance for
17 requiring that the proposal if approved be
18 revised to include burial of the lines in the
19 vicinity of Profile School. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
21 Julie. Robert Kruszyna. Jim Ramsdell.

22 JIM RAMSDELL: Jim Ramsdell. My wife Judy
23 is here. My daughter Holly, we live in

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Whitefield. It's actually Dalton with just
2 across the town line. One mile out of
3 Whitefield on 142 and we live right next to the
4 existing right-of-way. We have a nice little
5 barrier of trees which shields us from that now.
6 It's never been an issue. And that right-of-way
7 is the preferred route for the Northern Pass to
8 go through and my wife was going to speak later
9 and she has something written out. I'll just go
10 through that and keep it focused.

11 In '08 we moved to North Carolina because
12 of economic reasons and employment and after we
13 were there for a year or two we thought we
14 probably want to settle in here and buy a home
15 and sell the house in New Hampshire. So in 2010
16 we listed the house with real estate. They came
17 and did their appraisal on the house and they
18 said that we would need to put a Disclosure
19 Statement in the listing saying that the
20 preferred route for Northern Pass may go next to
21 our house so we had to disclose that up front,
22 but they come up with a price to list it at and
23 we thought in light of the Northern Pass project

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 we will set the price 25,000 lower than what
2 they suggested to try to market it and get
3 attention. So we did that and the feedback that
4 we got from them was that we had done everything
5 to get the house ready. Everything looked nice.
6 We did carpets and wood floors and painted, made
7 everything look nice, new roof, and answered all
8 of the objections people might have. And they
9 said it was one of most turnkey-ready houses
10 that they had listed and they showed it they
11 said more than any others but every time there
12 was a potential buyer, anyone interested, the
13 Northern Pass always scared them off. We never
14 got an offer at all on the house.

15 In 2012 we decided we'd just need to come
16 back and live in the house because of the burden
17 of the expense that we had with it so ours is
18 not a hypothetical story. It's a real story,
19 we're a real family affected by the real estate
20 of this proposed project. And if Northern Pass
21 goes through, we'll be forced and you'll be
22 forced to contribute to a cause that devalues
23 our home and the beauty of the State of New

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Hampshire to a company which I don't support and
2 they will make a lot of money at my expense and
3 the expense of other property owners. I've
4 heard it said the costs are too high to bury the
5 lines. It would seem if the lines are buried
6 the Northern Pass development would bear the
7 cost and not the individual landowners who have
8 become investors in this project through no
9 choice of their own and great personal cost.
10 Northern Pass has a huge problem and they should
11 not be our problem. We ask you the DOE to
12 please deny Northern Pass to go through.

13 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
14 Jim. David Hill.

15 DAVID HILL: I'd like to thank you for your
16 endurance and for giving us all the opportunity
17 to speak and thanks to Mountain View for hosting
18 this meeting. My name is David Hill. I'm an
19 almost 30-year resident and businessman from
20 Lancaster. I'm also an instrument-rated private
21 pilot based at Mt. Washington Regional Airport
22 which is just down the hill here in Whitefield
23 although you can't tell that from the map in the

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 back because it's been kind of conveniently
2 obliterated by a label that says Whitefield
3 substation. That should give you all some idea
4 of how close the airport is to the existing
5 right-of-way and to the proposed higher towers.

6 I would like to formally request that part
7 of the EIS be a thorough and rigorous aviation
8 safety assessment along the entire route, and
9 more specifically, I would like part of the
10 assessment to study how the instrument
11 approaches into Whitefield and missed approach
12 procedures may be affected by the higher towers.
13 I know from personal experience that if you have
14 to fly the missed approach you're going to go
15 over those lines. And I know from being a past
16 chairman of the Mt. Washington Regional Airport
17 Commission that the FAA and the New Hampshire
18 Department of Transportation are very interested
19 in extending the runway. Ed Betz mentioned
20 this. He was like the second speaker. They're
21 very interested in extending the runway an
22 additional thousand feet to the east so I think
23 that those approach procedures also need to be

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 examined in the light of that possible runway
2 extension. And if anybody doesn't think that
3 that's a concern, we should go flying some time
4 in the clouds at night.

5 MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your
6 comments, David. Linda Brownson. Before Linda
7 starts, I'll give you some statistics. We had
8 11 elected officials speak. Linda is now our
9 42nd speaker, and I have a pile with 17
10 additional names.

11 So Linda, before you start, Sharon Currier,
12 Sherry Knierim, Barbara Enderson, Art Hammon,
13 Terry from 29 Colby Road.

14 LINDA BROWNSON: Good evening, gentlemen,
15 and greetings, everyone. I'm Linda Brownson,
16 Vice President of the New Hampshire Association
17 of Conservation Districts which is comprised of
18 our ten conservation Districts in the state, one
19 in each county, and since 1946 we have been
20 providing coordination, representation and
21 leadership for our individual Conservation
22 Districts to conserve, protect and promote the
23 responsible use of our natural resources. So

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 when this Northern Pass came up we definitely
2 studied it and after long deliberations we stand
3 united and opposed to the Northern Pass project
4 for several reasons. We have nine bullet points
5 that we're updating the new Governor on, but I
6 can only go through a few. Hundreds of farms in
7 our Conservation Districts across the state will
8 be adversely impacted, degraded and devalued. A
9 great number of these have been family farms for
10 generations and form part of the cultural
11 history of the state and the identity of its
12 people. The hydropower coming from Quebec
13 cannot be considered green by any interpretation
14 that we've ever used. As defined by our
15 Environmental Protection Agency, green power
16 represents, quoting them, those renewable
17 resources, solar wind, biogas, biomass, low
18 impact hydro that provides the highest
19 environmental benefit. We cannot ignore what
20 goes on at the source of this power even though
21 it's an international border because we are all
22 part of the northern forest region, and
23 ecological systems do not recognize political

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 boundaries. By signing on to this source of
2 power, we continue the deforestation of millions
3 of Canadian acres, the draining of rivers and
4 inundating thousands of miles of biologically
5 productive and diverse shoreline habitat
6 supporting a number of species such as the
7 woodland caribou, black bear, beaver, birds,
8 muskrat and moose. The impact of creating such
9 large areas of reservoirs on the water regime
10 and the land is tremendous as is the profound
11 impact on the nature communities. The
12 deforested areas will never again absorb carbon,
13 and decaying wood and debris will emit carbon
14 resulting in a net emission of global greenhouse
15 gases. Also, the Northern Pass project will
16 pass through thousands of acres of the highest
17 ranked wildlife habitat in New Hampshire as
18 identified by our New Hampshire Wildlife Action
19 Plan. These designated areas are critical
20 habitats for numerous threatened species of
21 wildlife as well as breeding grounds for the
22 highest concentration of neotropical birds in
23 the country and cannot sustain favorably such an

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 impact.

2 Any of these issues, I'm closing, any of
3 these issues alone should stand up to close
4 scrutiny by the Department of Energy but taken
5 all together as a group, and I only went through
6 a few, the conclusion we reach is that the
7 greater public benefit, health and welfare,
8 economy and environment for New Hampshire and
9 New England can be realized by not building the
10 Northern Pass.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
12 Linda. Sharon Currier. Sherry Knierim.

13 SHERRY KNIERIM: Good evening. I'm an
14 award-winning watercolor artist and
15 photographer. I own ten plus acres which
16 includes wetland, vernal pools, two streams,
17 forest and glacial outcroppings. It borders
18 conservation land and abuts Route 93. I have
19 kept a wildlife diary for over a decade of all
20 the wildlife and vegetation I have seen. In
21 2010 the New Hampshire Department of
22 Transportation spent months cutting back trees
23 along Route 93 and repaving the highway. Before

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 this disruption, I had otters, moose, bear,
2 deer, snowshoe hare, hooded mergansers, wood
3 ducks, boreal chickadees, indigo buntings,
4 scarlet tanagers, owls and even timber
5 rattlesnakes. Since then, nothing. It has not
6 recovered. I do not even see common birds. I
7 have not even seen the New Hampshire state bird,
8 the purple finch. This is representative of
9 damage on a small scale. We cannot afford the
10 rape and devastation the Northern Pass will
11 cause to wildlife, vegetation, farms, tourism,
12 and the people of New Hampshire. This is my
13 impact study.

14 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
15 Sherry.

16 BARBARA ENDERSON: Hi. I want to thank
17 everybody that's spoken here and it seems like
18 the people who are in favor of Northern Pass,
19 their main reason is economically for the North
20 Country for the jobs. Won't they still have the
21 jobs if they find an alternative route or bury
22 it? And duh, listen to these people.

23 MODERATOR: Thank you, Barbara. Art

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Hammon.

2 ART HAMMON: Thank you. Art Hammon from
3 Whitefield. I'm a retired physics and chemistry
4 teacher. I taught at White Mountain Regional
5 High School. Whitefield Elementary School.
6 I've been an educator for NASA. I have a
7 doctorate in management, and so in that context
8 I want to look at the feasibility and the
9 physics of moving electrons through buried
10 lines. We're told that this is very expensive
11 and difficult and that it's not feasible, but
12 there's a proof of concept in our area. There
13 are three buried oil pipelines that pass through
14 northern New Hampshire. One of those was built
15 in the 1940s with a very different technology,
16 they didn't have as much earthmoving equipment
17 as we do today and so those pipelines were
18 buried and put in. Is there any reason why a
19 cable cannot be buried and put in? The
20 technology exists to bury the cable. It's
21 neither new nor impossible technology. In
22 addition, I spoke with one of the developer
23 representatives because I was concerned, can a

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 buried cable carry as much electricity as an
2 overhead line. I thought they might use that as
3 an argument, but the developer representatives
4 assured me that yes, the same quantity of
5 electricity can pass through a buried cable as
6 can pass across the tall towers. So if we can
7 bury oil lines, we can bury power lines. And I
8 think my recommendation would be to simply bury
9 along the entire route of this Northern Pass.
10 Thank you.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments.
12 Art. Do we have Terry from 29 Colby Road?

13 TERRY LUFKIN: Terry Lufkin. I'm from
14 Whitefield. Local lands. Local does not always
15 pray. We tend to think the places that are
16 important, places to be protected, are the
17 places somewhere else. Places we have to go to.
18 Places out of town. Local suggests what is
19 ordinary and familiar. But what makes local
20 familiar may be what makes it matter. In each
21 of our communities there are places that have
22 special meaning for us. We are oddly agreed on
23 what they are. And in ways we may not speak of

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 we depend on them to tell us where we are and
2 who we are. We need places to breathe in,
3 places to pause for, to look at, to walk in,
4 places near where we live. Not places we have
5 to wait to go to or to vacation in. Places that
6 prompt us to say that's why I live here. These
7 are real places, places we feel part of, that
8 feel part of us. They may show the rubs and
9 marks that come from being lived in. They don't
10 have to be apart. They are places of essential
11 scenery that gives setting to our lives. There
12 is something in them we are aware of. Maybe we
13 can't name it or choose not to, but it would
14 feel its loss if it were not there. Mary Lyn
15 Ray, South Danbury.

16 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
17 Terry. I'd like to call Judy Ramsdell.

18 JIM RAMSDELL: She's not going to go. I
19 covered hers when I spoke.

20 MODERATOR: Thank you. Sean Sweeney. Doug
21 Evelyn. David Thurston.

22 DOUGLAS EVELYN: Douglas Evelyn. Sugar
23 Hill. And thank you for this opportunity and

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 thank you all for your patience. My wife and I,
2 my wife's roots go back to Bath Upper Village in
3 the 18th century. We're the third generation of
4 the family that has owned property in Sugar
5 Hill. We moved up here after retirement in the
6 mid-Atlantic 7 years ago. People asked why New
7 Hampshire. I said we love its beauty and its
8 elemental quality.

9 I didn't think that one of the elements we
10 would be dealing with would be Hydro-Quebec and
11 Northeast Utilities, but here we are, and we are
12 passionately opposed to this project for a
13 variety of reasons. I want to say something
14 about the beauty of this landscape. I think it
15 comes from the grandeur of the mountains and the
16 valleys and the hills, but it also comes from
17 the scale and the intimate qualities of our
18 built landscape and that is what makes it
19 particular. And I think that there are few
20 structures in that built landscape that rival
21 these towers. These towers exceed or certainly
22 challenge our church steeples, our town halls
23 and that will change. It will affect this whole

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 region. I find that we are the door mat to
2 Hydro-Quebec's markets to New England. The
3 Northern Pass pass-through will permanently
4 damage what I believe is an international
5 resource, these mountains. It's not just our
6 mountains. It's an international resource.
7 People come here from all over the world and two
8 weeks from now you're going to see the busloads
9 stopping with the photographers from Japan or
10 wherever photographing the trees.

11 This project will depress our tax base, our
12 tourist-based economy, incentives for regional
13 alternative investments. It will damage our
14 unique landscapes and our habitats. There's no
15 benefit to New Hampshire. We've talked about
16 the Weeks Act tonight, and what it did to
17 recover this landscape from the degradation of
18 corporate activity in the 19th century. We are
19 the stewards today for the next generation. I
20 ask that we get the national help that the Weeks
21 Act provided a century ago. We get it today to
22 stop this project at the border. It's a bad
23 project. Even if it's buried, it will come out

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 of the ground again. Given the disingenuousness
2 of the corporate proponents of this, I have no
3 doubt that in the future there will be some way
4 to bring those lines up out of the ground.
5 Thank you for listening.

6 MODERATOR: David Thurston. Howard Mitz.
7 I'll keep going, too. Margaret Seymour. Sandy
8 Bergquist. Hawk Metheny.

9 HOWARD MITZ: Howard Mitz. Sugar Hill, New
10 Hampshire. Gentlemen, thank you for your time.
11 You talk about human impact. Tonight there was
12 450 people, my count, that showed up. You guys
13 are used to thousands and thousands. This is a
14 low density population area. I've been here 17
15 years and I've not seen 450 people to anything.
16 Four-hundred-fifty people came here, and if you
17 look mostly everybody was in orange. That has
18 to tell you something. That the northern people
19 do not want this. You talk about impacts. This
20 will impact people, real people. We're people,
21 not props, so these people came here, spent
22 time, it's got to tell you something. There
23 will be an impact seen in property values, down.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 Quality of life, down. There will be
2 degradation of the pristine ecology of the
3 Franconia Notch and points northward. This is
4 going to be, it's an obscenity, an obscenity to
5 the land to allow, even to think to allow this
6 to happen to our property. I don't know if
7 you've seen the area, but to put these towers
8 along this pristine property is just an
9 incredible insult to our land.

10 The energy doesn't appear to be green.
11 We've heard multiple people talk about that.
12 The energy is not green. People talk about all
13 uses, but it's not the expensive every other
14 use. Lastly, Northern Pass talks about jobs.
15 Really? If they really wanted to give maximum
16 jobs they would bury the whole line and that
17 would give maximum jobs because it would take
18 the maximum work but at the minimum impact
19 long-term and lastly, we are people, not props,
20 and I with the other 450 people or actually
21 three people out of the 74 that you talked about
22 have talked in favor. Everyone else here is
23 really against this. Most people have not

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 talked. And I thank you for your time and I
2 hope that you'll listen to the 447 people that
3 really do not want this. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
5 Howard. Margaret Seymour.

6 MARGARET SEYMOUR: It's a tough job
7 listening to all these comments and the
8 Moderator, I think, has done a great job. I'm
9 Margaret Seymour. Like a lot of people in the
10 North Country I wear a lot of hats and I look at
11 things from a lot of different perspectives. I
12 have a very sort of small and particular item
13 that I want to talk to Mr. Mills about, but
14 before I get there I just want to say that I'm a
15 Selectman in the town of Littleton. Littleton
16 has voted against the Northern Pass two
17 different years. The Board of Selectmen in
18 Littleton has voted to intervene when the time
19 comes to do so when if we haven't yet we will.
20 I also am a board member of the Ammonoosuc
21 Conservation Trust, and it's partly because of
22 that relationship, but also because I'm an
23 attorney, and I studied environmental law when I

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 was in law school and that brings me to my
2 particular concern.

3 The project as it has been presented to you
4 and apparently accepted by the DOE has sort of a
5 squishy area in the far north about exactly
6 where it's going to go, exactly how it's going
7 to get to its right-of-ways, and they're either
8 absurd or illegal. The notion that a
9 corporation can just decide any time it wants
10 anywhere it wants to just pass over a public
11 road is absurd. And the alternative which is to
12 breach the headwaters of the Connecticut River
13 by just disregarding a conservation easement is
14 particularly dangerous, and it's that that I
15 want you to think of in the environmental
16 assessment of this because it would not, if that
17 were ever to happen, it would not be just a
18 breach of that particular conservation easement,
19 it would be catastrophic for conservation
20 easements throughout the state and really
21 throughout the region and the country and that's
22 something that really has to be calculated when
23 looking at any sort of environmental impact from

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 some little move like that in the North Country.
2 So that's what I wanted to talk about. I agree
3 with a lot of other people who have orange on in
4 this room, and thank you all for coming out and
5 all of the time that you've put in fighting this
6 project.

7 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
8 Margaret. Sandy Bergquist. Is Hawk Metheny
9 still here? Excellent. Margaret Egan. Carol
10 and/or Joseph Coulombe. Paul Amey.

11 SANDY BERGQUIST: Good evening, and thank
12 you for listening. I know that what is
13 happening is protocol. I am not sure of how
14 effective we really are because the decisions
15 are ultimately made in boardrooms which we are
16 not invited to, but we all speak from the heart,
17 speak from our brain. A lot of highly educated
18 people have chosen to live here and we're
19 fortunate enough to have had their point of view
20 expressed to you. People who have come to these
21 meetings come not only because of their feelings
22 but because of their rational thinking, and we
23 expect that you respect that in your listening

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 now, but also when it comes time to make those
2 final decisions because there have been many
3 instances when requests are totally ignored and
4 then what recourse does the average citizen
5 have. We don't know where that request got
6 lost. So I ask that you please listen and that
7 you act on the request and that they not get
8 shuffled or set aside or ignored because that is
9 a disrespect, and that is a lack of formal
10 protocol. There have been a lot of issues that
11 border on illegality. We don't want to go down
12 that road, do we. There's a lot of orange out
13 in the audience, and I brought some myself. On
14 the way over here, I saw the beautiful leaves
15 that are just turning this particular shade. So
16 I think it's completely appropriate that we're
17 wearing orange. This signifies health, health
18 of our forest, health of our trees, health of
19 our people, health of our environment and a very
20 healthy economy because up here this is dollars.
21 We're also concerned not only about the health
22 but also the safety. As employees of our
23 government, ultimately of us, protecting the

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 safety of your citizenry is a very important
2 part of your job, and there's lots of studies
3 that say that these lines produce, can produce
4 leukemia in children. We have someone speaking
5 to that about the school. That should be a red
6 flag. A stop light, if nothing else. Nothing
7 is so important that you have to plant a power
8 line that's going to, that has a risk of giving
9 children leukemia. Now, how important are
10 dollars. That's just, that's nothing short of
11 criminal in my view. So I would just say that
12 you've had a handful of people, I don't even
13 think a handful because I've been here all
14 night, of people who have spoken in favor of
15 this project. I dare to say that they have a
16 little personal gain in it, and I will say no
17 further. I respect them and their opinions, but
18 the rest of us are here speaking from the law,
19 speaking from environmental concerns and also
20 speaking from the sentimental value that we have
21 about living in a place like this, and I urge
22 you not to ignore requests for studies, not to
23 ignore anything that would open up more

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 information because that is part of the
2 frustration with this. People are asking in a
3 very polite way and they're being ignored and
4 you'll see much more orange down the road
5 because this is not going away. People do not
6 want this and they do not trust what they're
7 being told. That's the truth.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments and
9 excellent use of props. Hawk Metheny.

10 HAWK METHENY: Good evening. My name is
11 Hawk Metheny, and I serve as the New England
12 Regional Director of the Appalachian Trail
13 Conservancy. We work in cooperation with
14 federal and state agencies and 31 trail clubs in
15 the maintenance, management and protection of
16 the Appalachian Trail. The Appalachian Trail,
17 also known the AT, runs 2189 miles from Georgia
18 to Maine and was designated a National Scenic
19 Trail by Congress in 1968 and is a unit of the
20 National park system.

21 ATC represents the interests of our 44,000
22 members, over 3000 here in New Hampshire, 6,000
23 trail maintaining volunteers and over two

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 million visitors who recreate on the AT
2 annually. Our New England office is responsible
3 for the section of trail from Connecticut to
4 Maine and here in New Hampshire the AT has a
5 southwest to northeast alignment and runs for
6 approximately 160 miles from Hanover to
7 Shelburne. Since the proposed Northern Pass DC
8 transmission line would run virtually north to
9 south through the state if built it would have
10 to cross the Appalachian Trail. The applicant's
11 proposed crossing of the AT is in the Kinsman
12 Range at a remote location near the Easton and
13 Lincoln town lines on an existing PSNH easement
14 and right-of-way. The section of the AT is
15 locally known as the Kinsman Ridge Trail and
16 several thousand visitors hike this section
17 annually. That's the background.

18 I have a specific request for something to
19 be analyzed in the environmental impact study.
20 The 2005 White Mountain National Forest Land and
21 Resource Management Plan designated a specific
22 management area for Appalachian National Scenic
23 Trail, MA 8.3, which encompasses the lands half

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

1 mile either side of the Trail for a total of one
2 mile in width which extends beyond the current
3 PSNH 1948 easement. With that designation comes
4 a set of standards and guidelines. On pages
5 3-48 of the Forest Plan the language under Lands
6 and Special Uses for MA 8.3 list Standard 3
7 which states, new utility lines or rights-of-way
8 are prohibited unless they represent the only
9 feasible and prudent alternative to meet an
10 overriding public need.

11 Since ATC last provided public comment on
12 this project in 2011, we have learned the
13 Department of Energy has categorized this
14 proposal as a for-profit merchant project and
15 the developer has stated the project is not
16 necessary to meet current market demand or
17 system reliability.

18 While we recognize there may be some
19 societal and environmental benefits to
20 hydropower versus more carbon intensive methods
21 for producing electricity, we believe that the
22 Department of Energy, White Mountain National
23 Forest, SE Group and all others involved with

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 the EIS for this project, including ATC, should
2 very carefully analyze and interpret the
3 language of the Forest Plan, attempt to clarify
4 and if possible reconcile what appear to be
5 conflicting statements about what precisely is
6 an overriding public need.

7 The American people have investigated
8 through the authority of the National Park
9 Service and the U.S. Forest Service hundreds of
10 millions of dollars in securing a protected land
11 base for the 2100 mile Trail, and ATC is
12 concerned about the continued compromise of this
13 highly regarded public resource for what may not
14 necessarily be the only feasible and prudent
15 alternative to meet an overriding public need.
16 Thank you.

17 MODERATOR: Thank you for your comments,
18 Hawk. Margaret Egan. Carol?

19 CAROL COULOMBE: Carol. Good evening. My
20 name is Carol Coulombe, and I live in
21 Clarksville, New Hampshire, and I'm here,
22 basically I am not much of a speaker so I'll
23 make this quick. I agree with everything that

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 everybody said against Northern Pass. Probably
2 values have depreciated. I just had mine
3 reappraised and it's half price now, and I'm
4 probably one of the few people who's going to
5 have a great view. It's going to go in front of
6 my house and up on the side because I live up in
7 a little corner up there where they have that
8 L-shaped so I'm right there. And if you don't
9 believe about the devastation that this project
10 can cause, take a ride, I invite you up to
11 Colebrook tomorrow night, the other scoping
12 meeting, come and see the devastation. We now
13 have less nice pretty leaves to look at because
14 Northeast Utilities has hired crews to clear the
15 lines this year to make way for Northern Pass
16 along the proposed route. They have taken a
17 bunch of beautiful old growth trees off the
18 river. Completely cut them right down, and you
19 know, I mean, I couldn't believe it even up
20 where I live on Wiswell Road they've taken up
21 big slashes of the trees and left devastations
22 like you wouldn't believe. I've never seen such
23 horrible logging. Id like to find out who the

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 operators are and put them out of business
2 because it's not even environmentally nice.
3 They left stumps that high all split and broken,
4 never, you know, they figure if the line's going
5 through so they'll just dig it all up anyway,
6 you know? It's the attitude of the Quebec
7 government towards the United States people, and
8 I say, I mean, there are some good Quebecois and
9 it's not all the French people that want this
10 because what they've done to the native people
11 in their own country is a filthy shame. When a
12 native from Canada cannot even go hunt without
13 getting permission to go through their
14 properties which have been gated by these dams,
15 it's incredible. I mean, I can't believe that
16 all these beautiful forests are under water so
17 that they can make more dams, and, of course,
18 the environmental devastation is unbelievable
19 because of the global warming, trees should
20 never be cut down. I mean, I'm against logging,
21 by the way, I'm not ashamed to say that. They
22 logged too many. Find another way to earn a
23 living. Become an environmentalist. Plant

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784
(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)443-1157 cell

1 trees. Stop cutting them. I mean, there's
2 plenty of work out there. The government has
3 allocated funding that's never been touched for
4 this whole area for environmental jobs and other
5 types of work that Northern Pass can't even
6 touch those grants. I mean, if people were
7 smart they'd look into it and they could see
8 that there is another way, and I'm not just
9 speaking for myself, I'm speaking for what I see
10 is already happening. Northern Pass, the
11 Canadian government, are so presumptuous to
12 think that they can just come across the border
13 and just take over and cut all the trees down
14 and the hell with the people. The hell with the
15 way the people of New Hampshire feel, but yet,
16 they send plenty of tourists down our way, too.
17 Why? Because there's nothing left for anybody
18 to see in Canada. They have to come to the
19 United States to do their hiking and their
20 camping. We've got more tourists from Canada.
21 If you lived up my way in Colebrook that's all
22 you see is cars from Quebec coming here so I
23 mean, why do they want to cut us down. Why do

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 they want to devastate our beautiful New
2 Hampshire. I'm ashamed of what's going on. I
3 mean, there's so many good people in Canada.
4 Why don't they stand up and speak up against
5 their government. I mean, it's not like they're
6 going to get shot for it. You know? I mean,
7 come on, Magog. Wake up and die right. That's
8 what they call themselves by the way.
9 Canadians. And they are definitely stepping on
10 our toes so I think it's time to tell them you
11 know, come on. Be reasonable. There is a
12 border.

13 MODERATOR: Are you wrapping up?

14 CAROL COULOMBE: Yup. I am. So I mean,
15 I'm not trying to start a war or anything. It's
16 obvious that they want one, but we're trying to
17 hold back. You know.

18 SPEAKER: How about spelling your last name
19 for us?

20 CAROL COULOMBE: C O U L O M B E. There
21 was once a realtor that was in the business of
22 selling properties which have now depreciated.
23 And another thing, too. I wish they'd stop

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1 flying their helicopters over my property and
2 harassing me each day because it's a no-fly
3 zone. Okay. I have said my piece. Have a good
4 day.

5 MODERATOR: Do I have a Paul Amey? No.
6 Then it looks like Carol was our last speaker.
7 So consistent with what we've done every other
8 time, and noting that it is late, does anyone
9 want to give comments again? I'll take that as
10 a no. Does anybody want to sing again? No.

11 SPEAKER: I think we ought to thank our
12 stenographer.

13 COURT REPORTER: Well, thank you. That's
14 very nice.

15 MODERATOR: Is everybody in favor of
16 thanking the stenographer. (Applause)
17 Thank you all very much.

18 SPEAKER: What about questions?

19 MODERATOR: That request was for tomorrow.

20 SPEAKER: They're here now.

21 MODERATOR: I do believe they had to say,
22 Chris did say you could grab people afterwards
23 to talk.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax

(603)443-1157 cell

northcountrycr@aol.com

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

HEARING ENDED AT 9:36 P.M.

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cynthia Foster, Registered Professional Reporter and Licensed Court Reporter, duly authorized to practice Shorthand Court Reporting in the State of New Hampshire, hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand the above-entitled Public Scoping Meeting held on September 25, 2013, for the Northern Pass EIS and that the foregoing is a true, complete, and accurate transcript of public comments as appears from my stenographic notes so taken to the best of my ability and transcribed by me.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and affix my Certified Shorthand Reporter seal this 28th day of September, 2013.

CYNTHIA FOSTER, LCR, RPR

NORTH COUNTRY COURT REPORTERS

40 South Main Street
West Lebanon, New Hampshire 03784

(603)298-2987 tel

(603)218-6633 fax
northcountrycr@aol.com

(603)443-1157 cell