

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

October 20, 2017 - 9:08 a.m. DAY 49
49 Donovan Street Morning Session ONLY
Concord, New Hampshire

{Electronically filed with SEC 11-02-17}

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-06
NORTHERN PASS TRANSMISSION -
EVERSOURCE; Joint Application of
Northern Pass Transmission LLC and
Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a
Eversource Energy for a
Certificate of Site and Facility
(Hearing on the Merits)

PRESENT FOR SUBCOMMITTEE/SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Chmn. Martin Honigberg <i>(Presiding Officer)</i> | Public Utilities Comm. |
| Cmsr. Kathryn M. Bailey | Public Utilities Comm. |
| Dir. Craig Wright, Designee | Dept. of Environ. Serv. |
| William Oldenburg, Designee | Dept. of Transportation |
| Patricia Weathersby | Public Member |
| Rachel Dandeneau | Alternate Public Member |

ALSO PRESENT FOR THE SEC:

Michael J. Iacopino, Esq. Counsel for SEC
(Brennan, Caron, Lenehan & Iacopino)

Pamela G. Monroe, SEC Administrator

(No Appearances Taken)

COURT REPORTER: Cynthia Foster, LCR No. 14

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| | JOHN AMEY | |
| | CINDY LOU AMEY | |
| | DON BILODEAU | |
| | DIANE BILODEAU | |
| | JASON BALINT | |
| | BETTE GUERIN | |
| | JOHN HARRIGAN | |
| | E. MARTIN KAUFMAN | |
| | RODERICK MCALLASTER | |

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P R O C E E D I N G S)**(Hearing resumed at 9:08 a.m.)**

1
2
3 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Good morning,
4 everyone. We are resuming the hearing on the
5 Northern Pass Application. We have a lot of
6 witnesses to get through today.

7 The first Panel that is seated is the
8 Clarksville-Stewartstown Combined Group of
9 Intervenors. They have a video that's going to
10 be shown, and then there's going to be an
11 opportunity to ask questions by Counsel for the
12 Public, other Intervenors, the Applicant, and
13 then the Committee.

14 Just so people understand what's going to
15 happen, I'm going to go through the order of
16 events for those who aren't regulars here.

17 Because this group doesn't have a lawyer,
18 Mr. Iacopino is going to go through a few
19 routine questions with the two people on the
20 Panel who prefiled written testimony. Then
21 we're going to show the video. Then we're going
22 to go to opportunity for questions by Counsel
23 for the Public and then the other Intervenors,
24 then the Applicant, then the Committee. So

{WITNESS PANEL: THOMPSON, AMEY, BILODEAU, BALINT, GUERIN,
HARRIGAN, KAUFMAN, MCALLASTER}

1 that's what you're going to see over the next
2 period of time. So would you please swear in
3 the Panel of witnesses.

4 (Whereupon, **Bradley J. Thompson, John Amey, Cindy Lou**
5 **Amey, Don Bilodeau, Diane Bilodeau, Jason Balint,**
6 **Bette Guerin, John Harrigan, E. Martin Kaufman and**
7 **Rod McAllaster** were duly sworn by the Court
8 Reporter.)

9 **BRADLEY J. THOMPSON, SWORN**

10 **JOHN AMEY, SWORN**

11 **CINDY LOU AMEY, SWORN**

12 **DON BILODEAU, SWORN**

13 **DIANE BILODEAU, SWORN**

14 **JASON BALINT, SWORN**

15 **BETTE GUERIN, SWORN**

16 **JOHN HARRIGAN, SWORN**

17 **E. MARTIN KAUFMAN, SWORN**

18 **ROD MCALLASTER, SWORN**

19 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

20 **BY MR. IACOPINO:**

21 Q I'm going to start with Mr. Kaufman up at the
22 far end of the table. I'm going to ask you to
23 go down the table and each of you please
24 identify yourself by telling us your name and

1 your address, and if you hold a position in your
2 town or in the county government, please tell us
3 that position as well. So let's start with
4 Mr. Kaufman followed by Mr. McAllaster right
5 down the line.

6 A (Kaufman) I'm going to guess on half of what you
7 said because I'm very hard of hearing, and,
8 frankly, you know, I hope Pam had mentioned to
9 you that -- so I heard part of what you said.

10 My name is Dr. Kaufman. I live in
11 Stewartstown on Bear Rock Road. I've lived
12 there until, since 1981.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Your name.
14 And where you live.

15 A (Kaufman) Yes. I heard you. Yes. So it's
16 Stewartstown, and it's Dr. Kaufman.

17 Q Mr. McAllaster?

18 A (McAllaster) My name is Roderick McAllaster, and
19 I live in Stewartstown, 380 McAllaster Road.

20 A (Balint) Jason Balint, 721 Diamond Pond Road,
21 Colebrook, New Hampshire.

22 A (Cindy Lou Amey) Cindy Lou Amey, 81 Tabor Road,
23 Pittsburg, New Hampshire.

24 A (John Amey) John Amey, 81 Tabor Road, Pittsburg,

1 New Hampshire.

2 A (Harrigan) John Harrigan, 360 South Hill Road,
3 Colebrook.

4 A (Guerin) Bette Guerin, 27 MacKinnon Road,
5 Colebrook.

6 A (Diane Bilodeau) Diane Bilodeau, 317 Route 145,
7 Clarksville.

8 A (Donald Bilodeau) Donald Bilodeau, Route 145,
9 number 317, Clarksville, New Hampshire.

10 A (Thompson) Brad Thompson, 599 Noyes Road,
11 Stewartstown, New Hampshire.

12 Q Okay. I'm going to start with you,
13 Mr. McAllaster. It's my understanding that you
14 have filed Prefiled Testimony in this
15 proceeding. Is that correct?

16 A (McAllaster) Yes.

17 Q And do you recall the date on which you filed
18 that testimony? Was it November of 2016?

19 A (McAllaster) It could be.

20 Q Okay. Did you only file one Prefiled Testimony?

21 A (McAllaster) Yes.

22 Q I'm just looking for the exhibit number, and I
23 don't have it handy here, but that Prefiled
24 Testimony that you filed, do you swear that it's

1 truthful?

2 A (McAllaster) I suppose so.

3 Q Okay. And if you were asked the same questions
4 today as you were asked in that Prefiled
5 Testimony, would you answer them the same way?

6 A (McAllaster) I would hope so.

7 Q Okay. So you don't have any changes or
8 additions to make to your testimony?

9 A (McAllaster) No.

10 Q Okay. Dr. Kaufman, I'm going to ask you the
11 same questions. You filed Prefiled Testimony in
12 this case as well?

13 A (Kaufman) I did, yes.

14 Q Okay. And if you were asked those same
15 questions today, would the answers be the same?

16 A (Kaufman) I think so. I have not memorized that
17 Prefiled Testimony which I gave probably two
18 years ago.

19 Q And were those answers truthful then and are
20 they truthful now?

21 A (Kaufman) Yes.

22 Q Do each of you adopt that testimony as your
23 Direct Testimony in this case? Mr. McAllaster?

24 A (McAllaster) Yes.

1 Q Dr. Kaufman?

2 A (Kaufman) Yes.

3 Q Thank you.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'll note for
5 the record that Mr. Kaufman's testimony is dated
6 November 15th, 2016. I'll also note that
7 Mr. Thompson has also filed testimony, but
8 that's going to be dealt with separately later,
9 probably later today. So now we're going to ask
10 that the video be cued up and played.

11 ("Negative Impacts of the Northern Pass
12 Transmission Line" video played)

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Could we
14 bring the lights back up, please?

15 MR. IACOPINO: Mr. Chairman, I just want to
16 point out that I didn't have the exhibit number
17 previously for the Prefiled Testimony of
18 Dr. Kaufman and Mr. McAllaster. Those two are
19 part of the document that's been marked as CS 1.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Aslin, do
21 you have questions for the Panel?

22 MR. ASLIN: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

23 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

24 **BY MR. ASLIN:**

1 Q Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Panel
2 members.

3 My name is Chris Aslin. I am an Assistant
4 Attorney General, New Hampshire Attorney
5 General's Office, and I've been appointed to be
6 Counsel for the Public in this proceeding, and
7 I'm going to ask you a few questions following
8 up on the video testimony that we just reviewed.

9 I'd like to start with Mr. Thompson just to
10 get a better understanding of the location of
11 your residence in relationship to the proposed
12 Project. You stated earlier that your residence
13 is at 599 Noyes Road; is that correct?

14 A (Thompson) Correct.

15 Q All right. And I'm going to show you one of the
16 Project maps. Let me know when that comes up on
17 your screen.

18 A (Thompson) Got it.

19 Q This is part of Appellant's Exhibit 201. It is
20 Sheet 11. And this shows, well, Mr. Thompson,
21 can you see that this shows a portion of the
22 Project running along Bear Rock Road in
23 Stewartstown?

24 A Yes.

1 Q And on the right-hand side of the screen, well,
2 do you understand that that's an underground
3 portion of the Project?

4 A (Thompson) Almost all of it is.

5 Q Okay. So under Bear Rock Road is underground.

6 A (Thompson) That's correct.

7 Q On the right-hand side of this sheet, do you see
8 where there's a mark for Transition Station
9 number 4?

10 A (Thompson) Yes.

11 Q And that's just by the junction of Bear Rock
12 Road and Heath Road; is that correct?

13 A (Thompson) Correct.

14 Q Is your residence shown on this map?

15 A (Thompson) Yes.

16 Q Is it the yellow dot, sort of to the right of
17 center at the bottom of the screen coming off
18 the Noyes Road?

19 A (Thompson) Yes. It is.

20 Q Okay. Thank you.

21 Could you please -- let me show you another
22 exhibit. Now I'm showing you what's been marked
23 as Applicant's Exhibit 200. This is part of the
24 Alteration of Terrain map set, and it's Sheet

1 22.

2 Looking at this exhibit, can you confirm
3 that this is the same general location of the
4 Project?

5 A (Thompson) Yes.

6 Q And I don't believe your home is visible on this
7 sheet; is that correct?

8 A (Thompson) Correct.

9 Q But it would be located off the bottom of the
10 page?

11 A (Thompson) Correct.

12 Q Looking at this exhibit and just with your
13 knowledge of the landscape, can you explain to
14 the Committee the topography between your home
15 and Bear Rock Road?

16 A (Thompson) Elevation wise?

17 Q Yes.

18 A (Thompson) If I was standing on the front deck
19 of our home, looking down at Bear Rock, I'm
20 probably, I'm guessing, perhaps 100 to 125 feet
21 elevation higher than Bear Rock Road.

22 Q So your home is above Bear Rock Road?

23 A (Thompson) Yes, it is.

24 Q And on the other side of Bear Rock Road where

1 the line reaches Transition Station 4, can you
2 describe the topography going to the north from
3 Bear Rock Road?

4 A (Thompson) Still looking down but nowhere near
5 as much of an angle down. From Bear Rock, it's
6 very steep going up and past the transition
7 station.

8 Q So is Bear Rock Road at the bottom of the vail
9 essentially?

10 A (Thompson) Well, the east branch of the Mohawk
11 River is the bottom, but it's definitely at the
12 base of Holden hill.

13 Q Okay.

14 A (Thompson) What you call a valley. Compared to
15 the hill.

16 Q Do I understand correctly that from your home
17 you look down towards the valley and then back
18 up across towards Transition Station 4?

19 A (Thompson) Yes.

20 Q And is it your understanding that at Transition
21 Station 4 the Project transitions from
22 underground to aboveground?

23 A (Thompson) Correct.

24 Q And after Transition 4, does the aboveground

1 portion of the Project continue on to, I think,
2 what would be the northeast?

3 A (Thompson) That's correct.

4 Q Is that up --

5 A (Thompson) I call it more east.

6 Q More east. Yes. These Project maps are not all
7 oriented straight north.

8 A (Thompson) Right.

9 Q Is that portion of the aboveground line going
10 uphill?

11 A (Thompson) Somewhat. Yeah. The first couple
12 towers are going uphill quite a bit, and then it
13 levels off as it goes away.

14 Q Okay. Am I correct based on the testimony and
15 the video that you believe you will have, well,
16 you'll be able to see Transition Station 4 from
17 your home?

18 A (Thompson) Yes. I will.

19 Q Thank you. Mr. Kaufman. I'll try to be loud so
20 you can hear me.

21 A (Kaufman) Yes. Thank you very much.

22 Q If you can't hear my question, just let me know
23 and I'll try again.

24 A (Kaufman) Okay.

1 Q I'd like to ask a similar line of questions to
2 you, Dr. Kaufman. You reside at 714 Bear Rock
3 Road; is that correct?

4 A (Kaufman) Yes. That's right.

5 Q And flip back to the other map here. So now
6 we're back on Exhibit 201, Sheet 11, and do you
7 recognize this area along Bear Rock Road?

8 A (Kaufman) Yes.

9 Q Can you locate your home on this map?

10 A (Kaufman) Let me see. You know, off on the
11 right-hand side of the screen as far as you go,
12 you see Bear Rock Road goes down to the lower,
13 toward the lower corner, and Heath Road
14 continues in a direction to the end of the
15 screen. And if you can move this whole thing, I
16 don't know if you can do this, but I'm about,
17 where I live is about, I would say, 3 or 400
18 feet at the most to the right of the screen.
19 Maybe 50 feet. It's hard to tell when it's, you
20 know, because of the trees.

21 Q So your home is not on this map.

22 A (Kaufman) So my home, yeah. My concern --

23 Q Well, before you go there let me just --

24 A (Kaufman) But my home is not on the screen.

1 Q Okay. Thank you. I will see if you can find
2 the correct page then.

3 It's a little hard to see here. I believe
4 I just moved in the right direction down the
5 Project.

6 A (Kaufman) Rod, can you see the beaver ponds?

7 Q Going the wrong way? I'm sorry. Try the other
8 way. Now, this is moving back to the west which
9 I understand is the opposite direction that you
10 wanted me to go. I'll try again. Maybe this
11 will get us where we need to be. So on this
12 sheet which is Sheet 12, Bear Rock Road is
13 running down the bottom left-hand corner?

14 A (Kaufman) You know --

15 Q And Heath Road is across the street?

16 A (Kaufman) This may not be good for your
17 question, but it's good picture for my concern.

18 Q Well, right know I just want to establish the
19 location of your home in relationship to the
20 Project.

21 A (Thompson) If I can help, the bottom left is
22 Bear Rock Road heading into East Colebrook, and
23 you're right down in the bottom corner just off
24 the --

1 A (Kaufman) I'm right down where, on the lower
2 left corner where it says Bear Rock Road, it's,
3 the driveway is off where the word says "Bear"
4 is the house would be in there.

5 Q Okay. So your house is perhaps just off of the
6 map?

7 A (Kaufman) So it's probably, it's probably off
8 the map, yes.

9 Q Okay. I think that's sufficient. So you would
10 agree then that your property is not directly on
11 either the underground or the aboveground
12 portion of the Project; is that correct?

13 A (Kaufman) Could you repeat that?

14 Q Is your property directly abutting the Project
15 in any way?

16 A (Kaufman) To the proposed Project?

17 Q Yes.

18 A (Kaufman) It depends on how you define my
19 property.

20 Q Okay.

21 A (Kaufman) In other words, if you include my
22 easement, then that is, very much is a part, you
23 know, is affected by the proposed line. The
24 easement is part of my property on my deed. So,

1 yes, I abut, my deed abuts the Northern Pass
2 Project. My house does not except visually.

3 Q That was going to be my next question. From
4 your home, do you believe you have visual access
5 to the --

6 A (Kaufman) I'll be seeing --

7 (Court reporter interruption)

8 Q We have a transcript so we need to wait our turn
9 so we don't have confusion.

10 My question was do you believe you have,
11 you will be able to see the Project, the
12 aboveground portion of your Project from your
13 home?

14 A (Kaufman) I'll be able to see it, yeah. From a
15 number of, from many places actually. From many
16 places. If I can, I mean -- so it's a yes. Can
17 I expand on that little bit?

18 Q Well, perhaps a little.

19 A (Kaufman) A little. Just a little bit.

20 Q If it's about your visibility.

21 A (Kaufman) You know, when you live up in here, in
22 that area, it's not only your home, it's where
23 you spend your time. So it's where the paddock
24 is for the horses, where the hay is, where, it's

1 where you spend your time. And on so many
2 places I look, I'll be looking out at towers.
3 So that's it.

4 Q So your concern is not just visibility of the
5 Project to your home, but to the places that you
6 spend time in your area.

7 A (Kaufman) Yes.

8 Q In the video, and I believe also possibly in
9 your written testimony?

10 A (Kaufman) I'm not hearing you.

11 Q I'm sorry. I'll get closer.

12 In the video and also I think in your
13 written testimony you indicate that your
14 proposal would be to bury the line. Is it your
15 position that it should be buried in the
16 location of this corridor, the current proposed
17 Project corridor, or buried somewhere else?

18 A (Kaufman) I hate to say this, but I just am not
19 hearing you. Can you speak louder?

20 Q Yes, I can, at the risk of being too loud for
21 others. The question was --

22 A (Kaufman) I hear that.

23 Q In your testimony, you state that your
24 preference would be to have the line buried.

1 A (Kaufman) Yes.

2 Q My question is buried where? In the existing
3 proposed corridor or somewhere else?

4 A (Kaufman) The obvious place for, I mean, if
5 it's, if they seriously considered burying it,
6 then they should seriously consider where the
7 best place to bury it. Currently, it seems like
8 a rather illogical, irrational, and unusual
9 place to snake it through and around and under
10 these tiny roads. And so I would leave that up
11 to the experts to find where the best place is
12 to bury it. If they were just going to
13 continue, you know, burying it, then I would say
14 well, go down Heath Road and over to Dixville,
15 but the whole thing is kind of, doesn't make
16 sense to me. I would imagine they would have to
17 find a better route to bury it.

18 Q Okay. Thank you, Dr. Kaufman.

19 A (Kaufman) You're welcome.

20 Q Mr. McAllaster, a few questions for you if you
21 want to grab the mike. I'll go back to the page
22 with your farm. Okay.

23 Mr. McAllaster, your property, your farm is
24 located along the McAllaster Road near the

1 junction of Bear Rock Road. Is that correct?

2 A (McAllaster) That's correct.

3 Q And I'm showing you Sheet 10 of Applicant's
4 Exhibit 201. Can you identify your farm on this
5 map?

6 A (McAllaster) Yes. It's where the spots are on
7 McAllaster Road, I guess. It's not very clear,
8 but I assume that's it. Shows the brook. That
9 would be it.

10 Q So along McAllaster Road there are some gray
11 dots. Do you see those to the left of the road?

12 A (McAllaster) Yes. I see them.

13 Q Is that your farm?

14 A (McAllaster) Yes, it is.

15 Q Okay. And the property that is shaded green and
16 has, if you can see it, a notation "McAllaster
17 CE," is that the extent of your property?

18 A (McAllaster) I'm not seeing that.

19 Q It's very faint so it's hard to see. I can make
20 it larger.

21 You see to the left of your farm the words
22 "McAllaster CE"?

23 A (McAllaster) Yes. That's mine.

24 Q Would you agree with me that the shaded green

1 rectangle there is your property?

2 A (McAllaster) Most of it is. I don't think quite
3 all of it is.

4 Q Okay.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG:

6 Mr. McAllaster, can you move the business end of
7 that microphone closer to your mouth, please? I
8 don't think the people in the back can hear.

9 A (McAllaster) Yes. Most of it is.

10 Q Thank you. Am I correct in assuming that that
11 property has a conservation easement over it?

12 A (McAllaster) Yes, it does.

13 Q Okay. Thank you. In the video you testified
14 regarding a daily milk truck?

15 A (McAllaster) Every other day.

16 Q Every other day. Okay. Thank you. And also a
17 grain truck?

18 A (McAllaster) Every two weeks.

19 Q Every two weeks. Thank you. You anticipated my
20 question.

21 A (McAllaster) Cattle truck every week.

22 Q And are those vehicles or deliveries necessary
23 for the operation of your farm?

24 A (McAllaster) Definitely.

1 Q And I believe you stated in the video that there
2 is no other access to your farm for those trucks
3 other than Bear Rock Road; is that correct?

4 A (McAllaster) No. Not for those trucks. No.
5 There is a road, a back way out that you can go
6 over with a four-wheeler. Right now in a dry
7 time you might get through it with a four-wheel
8 drive pickup, but it's not possible to put --
9 these are tractor trailer, two of them. The
10 cattle track is not, but the other two are large
11 vehicles.

12 Q And the back way that you're referencing, is
13 that McAllaster Road itself?

14 A (McAllaster) Yes. It's a discontinued road.

15 Q Okay. Thank you. You reference in the video
16 that your understanding from public meetings
17 early on in the process that there would not be
18 any road closures for Bear Rock Road, has that
19 understanding changed?

20 A (McAllaster) Yes. It changed. I mean, I was,
21 myself and other people was concerned over the
22 road issue, and I was, we were told specifically
23 at a meeting at the Outback which is a little
24 saloon below the Spar Restaurant in West

1 Stewartstown that there would be no road
2 closures, and it was mentioned large trucks like
3 a milk truck, and the individual there stressed
4 that there was going to be digging in the ditch
5 and in the shoulder and using one half of the
6 road for their machinery and their dirt, and the
7 other half would always be open. And if it
8 wasn't, he said they had a large set of grates
9 if they had to dig across the road that they
10 would set in that would even allow a large truck
11 to come over. They said they had it all
12 covered.

13 Q Thank you, Mr. McAllaster. And my question was
14 has your understanding of that changed at this
15 point?

16 A (McAllaster) Well, it's changed considerably.

17 Q What is the source of your information for
18 understanding that there may be road closures?

19 A (McAllaster) Mr. Thompson informed me that it
20 was brought up at these previous hearings that
21 there would be some pretty long-term closures,
22 especially while the streams are involved which
23 there are three streams fairly close to me, one
24 right at the end of my driveway, that would

1 require a four- to six-week permanent closure of
2 my driveway. Nothing in and nothing out.
3 Including me.

4 Q And you said a minute ago that it was
5 Mr. Thompson who provided that information.

6 A (McAllaster) Yes.

7 Q Has the Applicant or any of the Applicant's
8 representatives reached out to you to discuss
9 potential road closures?

10 A (McAllaster) No.

11 Q Are you aware that there's been testimony in
12 this proceeding from Mr. Johnson, one of the
13 Applicant's construction experts, that the
14 Applicant would propose to buy your milk or
15 arrange for smaller trucks to be used to bring
16 milk into your property during construction?

17 A (McAllaster) Well, there are no smaller trucks
18 that I'm aware of. We only have the one milk
19 truck now. Rancourt Trucking. It's the biggest
20 truck you can get that's legal in the highway
21 department. I mean, it's the longest tractor
22 trailer that the law will allow because they
23 have to go a long ways with it. They go with a
24 big load. It holds 70,000 pounds of milk.

1 And as far as buying the milk, what are you
2 supposed to feed your cows? The road runs both
3 ways. You've to get your milk out and you've
4 got to get the feed in, and all the feed that I
5 cut for winter has to come in. Everything at
6 home, that whole green area except for a little
7 bit, is all open pasture, and that lasts about 8
8 weeks in the spring and then you've got to feed
9 them. And I never stop feeding grain. And I
10 buy my grain from Poulin Grain in Newport,
11 Vermont, and that comes sometimes in a
12 ten-wheeler, but most usually with a tractor
13 trailer.

14 Q Okay. But has the Applicant reached out to you
15 to discuss this?

16 A (McAllaster) No. They haven't.

17 Q They have not.

18 A (McAllaster) No.

19 Q Are you aware through Mr. Thompson or otherwise
20 that there has been a proposal for a business
21 loss mitigation program to compensate business
22 owners for losses due to the Project
23 construction?

24 A (McAllaster) No.

1 Q You've had no outreach from the Applicant about
2 that either?

3 A (McAllaster) No.

4 Q So at this moment, do you have any understanding
5 of how the Applicant may propose to assist you
6 with construction impacts to your property?

7 A (McAllaster) Nothing.

8 Q Okay. Thank you, Mr. McAllaster.

9 And just for the record, I forgot to
10 mention that Mr. Johnson's testimony was Day 43
11 in the Morning Session transcript at page 23 to
12 24.

13 I'd like to turn to Mr. and Mrs. Bilodeau.
14 Good morning?

15 A (Don Bilodeau) Can you hear me?

16 Q I can. Yes.

17 A (Don Bilodeau) Or us, I'm sorry.

18 Q I can hear you. Mr. Bilodeau, your residence is
19 located in Colebrook; is that correct? Did I
20 hear that right?

21 A (Don Bilodeau) Clarksville.

22 Q Clarksville. I'm sorry. And on what street do
23 you reside?

24 A (Don Bilodeau) Route 145, number 317. Corner of

1 145 and Wiswell Road.

2 Q Great. So let me see if I can find the map for
3 you. I believe it is --

4 A (Don Bilodeau) Sheet 4 of 189.

5 Q All right. I've come to Sheet 4 in Applicant's
6 Exhibit 201, and is your property located on
7 this map?

8 A (Don Bilodeau) No.

9 Q Okay. I see Route 145 on the right-hand side of
10 the sheet. Is your property to the north?

11 A (Don Bilodeau) You might go up to the north.

12 Q Okay. Let's see if we can find that. Is that
13 better or did I go the wrong direction?

14 A (Don Bilodeau) No. Okay. Go to the left. Is
15 that 145? There it is. Keep going a little
16 more.

17 Q That's as far as this one goes to the left.

18 A (Don Bilodeau) Well, you want to see a little
19 more than that. That's my property you see
20 there, and the lower left-hand corner that
21 purple line that's my property line. About 1500
22 feet and I am an abutter. That's Northern Pass
23 in the lower portion, and that other view you
24 chose 145 and Wiswell Road, that's my property.

1 That's 25 acres there.

2 Q Okay. So help me out a little bit. Are you
3 referring to the property to the west of Route
4 145 that has a label of 10274?

5 A (Don Bilodeau) That is correct.

6 Q And is that yellow dot in that property your
7 home?

8 A (Don Bilodeau) The little yellow dot is, yes.
9 Right?

10 A (Diane Bilodeau) Correct.

11 Q And that for the record is Sheet 4 A of
12 Applicant's Exhibit 201.

13 A (Don Bilodeau) Can you go a little more to the
14 left?

15 Q That's what I was just going to try and do.

16 A (Don Bilodeau) Then you'll see all the towers.

17 Q Right.

18 A (Don Bilodeau) No. That's not it. Go down some
19 more.

20 Q Well, hold on, Mr. Bilodeau. This is showing
21 the transition station that is along Wiswell
22 Road. Do you see that at the top?

23 A (Don Bilodeau) That is correct.

24 Q And is it your understanding that at that

1 Transition Station that the aboveground portion
2 of the line is coming in from the west?

3 A (Don Bilodeau) Correct.

4 Q And it's going underground at that location and
5 then moving towards Wiswell Road?

6 A (Don Bilodeau) Correct.

7 Q Away from Wiswell Road towards Route 145?

8 A (Don Bilodeau) That is correct.

9 Q On this map your property is not shown, but is
10 it roughly the center of the page and above
11 what's shown here?

12 A (Don Bilodeau) No. No. Where the transition
13 station is, my house is just above that.

14 Q Okay. Thank you.

15 Is it your understanding then that you'll
16 have, the Transition Station itself will be
17 visible from your house?

18 A (Don Bilodeau) I believe so. It's hard to tell
19 with the leaves on the trees right now, but I
20 believe so, and once the leaves fall, I believe
21 we'll see the Transition Station.

22 Q And is it your understanding that you will or
23 will not be able to see the aboveground
24 structures moving to the west from your

1 property?

2 A (Don Bilodeau) Oh, I'll see at least 6 or 7.
3 It's hard to tell because it's, the topography
4 is up and down, but I'm sure it will be at least
5 6 or 7, and then the, of course, the Transition
6 Station as well.

7 Q Okay. Thank you. Ms. Bilodeau, in the video
8 you reference a neighboring property that will
9 have visibility of the Transition Station.

10 A (Diane Bilodeau) Yes, I did.

11 Q Are you able to locate that on those maps?

12 A (Don Bilodeau) Go back to the other one, you
13 will.

14 A (Diane Bilodeau) Yes. I can see it.

15 Q Okay. Could you point me in the direction?

16 A (Diane Bilodeau) It's just below us, and it's to
17 the west. It's the other yellow dot in the
18 lower left corner. I can just about see it.
19 Yes.

20 Q This property just on the edge of the page?

21 A (Diane Bilodeau) Yes. It is.

22 Q Okay. Thank you. And again, that is Sheet 4 A
23 of Applicant's Exhibit 201.

24 Mr. Balint, am I pronouncing that

1 correctly.

2 A (Balint) Close enough.

3 Q All right. Feel free to correct me if I get it
4 wrong.

5 Do I understand correctly that you are not
6 an abutter to the Project?

7 A (Balint) Correct.

8 Q And your home is located in Colebrook?

9 A (Balint) Yes.

10 Q And I forgot where it is, but what's the address
11 of your home?

12 A (Balint) 721 Diamond Pond Road.

13 Q Diamond Pond Road. Let's see. We'll go back.
14 Okay.

15 So looking here at Applicant's Exhibit 201,
16 Sheet 13, I see Diamond Pond Road on the
17 right-hand side of the sheet. Do you see that?

18 A (Balint) Yes.

19 Q And the transmission line here is aboveground
20 moving from left to right?

21 A (Balint) Correct.

22 Q Is your property to the bottom of this view
23 which is generally south but not quite south?

24 A (Balint) No. I'm up here.

1 Q So you're above the crossing or sorry, between
2 the crossing of the power lines of Diamond Pond
3 Road and Coleman State Park?

4 A (Balint) Correct.

5 A (Thompson) No. That's Heath Road coming up.

6 A (Balint) Correct. I'm sorry.

7 Q So you want to correct that? You're actually to
8 the south of this crossing?

9 A (Balint) Yes. I would be on the lower right.

10 Q Okay. But not on this sheet?

11 A (Balint) Correct.

12 Q Do you know approximately how far your house is
13 from the crossing of the project over Diamond
14 Pond Road?

15 A (Balint) As the crow flies, it would be about a
16 half a mile.

17 Q Okay. Is it your understanding that you will
18 have -- I think in the video you testify that
19 you will have visibility of the Project as it
20 moves up over Sugar Hill?

21 A (Balint) Very much so.

22 Q In the video you also reference concern about
23 noise from the power lines?

24 A (Balint) Correct.

1 Q I'm assuming you don't believe you will hear the
2 power line noise from your home?

3 A (Balint) I'm not assuming anything with this.

4 Q Okay. So you don't know.

5 A (Balint) No.

6 Q Thank you. Mr. Harrigan.

7 A (Harrigan) Good morning.

8 Q Good morning. Am I correct that you also are
9 not a direct abutter to the Project?

10 A (Harrigan) I'm sorry. I didn't get that.

11 Q Sorry. I'll try again. Am I correct that your
12 property does not directly abut the Project?

13 A (Harrigan) Oh, correct.

14 Q Is your property located in Colebrook?

15 A (Harrigan) It is.

16 Q And I think you said earlier it was on South
17 Hill Road?

18 A (Harrigan) Right.

19 Q Approximately how far from the Project corridor
20 is your home?

21 A (Harrigan) Well, as everybody's crow flies,
22 maybe three or four air miles.

23 Q Okay. Three or four miles. Do you believe that
24 you will have visibility of the Project from

1 your home?

2 A (Harrigan) Oh, I know I don't.

3 Q Okay. That's fine. And your testimony in the
4 video was -- to the extent you're testifying in
5 the video about concerns of the visibility of
6 the Project, then is your concern with
7 visibility from roadways and other places that
8 you visit frequently in the area?

9 A (Harrigan) Absolutely.

10 Q How long have you been a resident of Colebrook?

11 A (Harrigan) Well, I've been on the planet for 70
12 years, and most of those 70 were in Colebrook.

13 Q Thank you. Mr. and Mrs. Amey.

14 A (John Amey) Good morning.

15 Q Good morning. And I believe if I have it right
16 that your property is also not directly abutting
17 the Project; is that correct?

18 A (John Amey) That's correct.

19 Q And Tabor Road is somewhat to the north of the
20 Project line; is that right?

21 A (John Amey) That's correct.

22 Q And approximately how far from the Project is
23 your property?

24 A (John Amey) Three miles.

1 Q And do you understand that you will or will not
2 have visibility of the Project from your farm?

3 A (John Amey) I absolutely will because half of
4 the property that I farm is in Vermont, and the
5 only way I can get to my home from there is Old
6 Canaan Road, and every time I go by the state
7 line, I will see the tower, the transition
8 station, and if I'm on the southwest corner of
9 my woodland looking towards Canaan, I will look
10 down on it because that elevation is roughly
11 2000 feet, and I'll be looking out at the line
12 where it crosses the Starlings' property and
13 down on to the transition station.

14 Q Okay. Thank you very much.

15 Ms. Guerin, I didn't forget about you. How
16 are you this morning?

17 A (Guerin) I'm doing well. Thank you.

18 Q In the video you were testifying in your
19 capacity as the owner of Fiddleheads; is that
20 correct?

21 A (Guerin) That's correct.

22 Q And is Fiddleheads located in Clarksville?

23 A (Guerin) No. It's on Main Street in Colebrook.

24 Q Colebrook. I'm sorry.

1 And if I understand your testimony, it
2 regards concerns with impacts to tourism and the
3 local businesses; is that fair?

4 A (Guerin) That's fair to say because I don't look
5 at it as how it's going to affect me as an
6 individual. I think more community. More area.

7 Q Am I correct that the Project will not be
8 visible from downtown Colebrook?

9 A (Guerin) To my understanding at this point, no,
10 but as I stated in the video the people that
11 come to our area, the first and foremost thing
12 they come for is the visual grandeur and beauty
13 of the roads.

14 Q Thank you. And I think you communicated that
15 very well in the video so I won't get into it
16 further here.

17 A (Guerin) Thank you.

18 MR. ASLIN: The remainder of my questions
19 are for Mr. Thompson that came from his
20 testimony on behalf of the combined parties. I
21 can save that for when he's back on the stand or
22 I can ask him now, Mr. Chairman. It's your
23 call.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Well, I had

1 thought that what we would do was deal with
2 Mr. Thompson's written testimony separately,
3 although it may be more efficient to deal with
4 it all at once. Mr. Needleman, do you have an
5 opinion on that?

6 MR. NEEDLEMAN: I think it's your call. We
7 may have a bunch of separate questions for
8 Mr. Thompson, and I'm not sure everyone would
9 want to sit up there, but it's up to you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: That is what
11 I was thinking. So Mr. Thompson is going to
12 have an encore performance a little later, I
13 think.

14 MR. ASLIN: Very good. Lucky Mr. Thompson.
15 In that case, Mr. Chairman, I have no further
16 questions. Thank you?

17 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Thank you,
18 Mr. Aslin. What other Intervenors have
19 questions for this Panel? I see Mr. Reimers, I
20 see Ms. Pacik, I see Ms. Menard and I see a hand
21 but not a face associated with it. Oh, okay.
22 Thank you. So Deerfield, two different
23 Deerfield groups have questions. Is that what's
24 going to happen, Ms. Menard? Ms. Draper I see.

1 Anybody else? Ms. Saffo has questions. All
2 right.

3 I have this order here. Looks like Ms.
4 Pacik. You'd be first.

5 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

6 **BY MS. PACIK:**

7 Q I have a question for Mr. McAllaster.

8 During the questions from Counsel for the
9 Public, you were asked about a potential
10 purchase of the milk that you have from Northern
11 Pass, and I understand from your response that
12 there's a truck that comes to your property
13 every other day. How many customers do you
14 have?

15 A (McAllaster) I just sell my milk to Agri-Mark
16 and then they either process it in their Cabot
17 plant or they have contracts and they resell it
18 to other plants. Right now the load that I'm on
19 is going to Concord and is sold to the Hood
20 plant, and it's bottled for fluid milk.

21 Q Do you have a commitment to supply a certain
22 amount of milk?

23 A (McAllaster) No. I don't.

24 Q Okay. Do you have any concerns that if you're

1 not able to have your milk delivered to that
2 customer that they may seek another supplier?

3 A (McAllaster) They could perhaps drop me. I
4 don't know what they would do. The hauler
5 doesn't seem too impressed of having to go
6 around. Part of the time they could possibly go
7 around 20 miles out of their way. They have a
8 pretty tight schedule in the trucks.

9 Q Okay. Thank you. Nothing else.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Saffo?

11 MS. SAFFO: Yes. Hello, Mr. McAllaster,
12 I'm over here.

13 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

14 **BY MS. SAFFO:**

15 Q I have a quick question for you. The meeting,
16 it said you were, looked like at a restaurant
17 called the Saloon?

18 A (McAllaster) No. It was the Spar Restaurant.
19 The meeting was actually in the Outback Pub
20 which is a little saloon under the restaurant.

21 Q Okay.

22 A (McAllaster) It's a little bar. I just called
23 it a saloon.

24 Q No, no, no. I just was referring to it. Was

1 that a formal public hearing?

2 A (McAllaster) Yes, it was.

3 Q So that was recorded and so forth?

4 A (McAllaster) It should have been, I guess.

5 Q And Northern Pass was present for it?

6 A (McAllaster) Yes. They had a panel of experts
7 there. The one I spoke with or listened to
8 speaking to somebody else was their expert on
9 highways and what was going to happen with the
10 road project.

11 Q And so you attended this public hearing to learn
12 about what was going to happen in your --

13 A (McAllaster) Yeah, I was concerned about the
14 road issue.

15 Q And I don't want you to reiterate what you said
16 earlier just because that isn't the purpose of
17 cross, but you left that meeting with the
18 understanding from Northern Pass that the road
19 would not be closed.

20 A (McAllaster) That's right. No permanent road
21 closures. They said one lane would always be
22 open.

23 Q And they also outlined a plan for if having to
24 go under the road? With the grates? There was

1 a grate discussion, I thought you said?

2 A (McAllaster) Pardon?

3 Q I thought you said they had a discussion about
4 grates.

5 A (McAllaster) Yes. They said they had a large
6 grate that if they needed to dig up the whole
7 road, cross the road, they had a large grate
8 they could set in place that even a large
9 tractor trailer could drive over. They said
10 there'd be no problem.

11 Q So just like that you were told no problems with
12 the road getting through?

13 A (McAllaster) Yes.

14 Q Do you remember when that hearing was?

15 A (McAllaster) It was when the proposed route was,
16 you know, shortly after the proposed route was
17 released. You know, I don't know. It's been a
18 while. It must have been in, good three years
19 ago. Anyway.

20 Q And then after receiving those representations,
21 nobody corrected those representations to you
22 when the plans changed or something?

23 A (McAllaster) No.

24 Q And you learned about it indirectly from

1 Mr. Thompson?

2 A (McAllaster) Yes.

3 Q Has Northern Pass ever contacted you to correct
4 the misunderstandings?

5 A (McAllaster) No.

6 Q Thank you. No further questions.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Reimers?

8 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

9 **BY MR. REIMERS:**

10 Q Good morning. My name is Jason Reimers, and I
11 represent the Forest Society.

12 I just have two questions. Mr. Harrigan,
13 in the video I didn't quite catch what you said.
14 You mentioned something about the North Country
15 or New Hampshire being used as a doormat. What
16 did you mean by that?

17 A (Harrigan) Well, basically I view this Project
18 as nothing more than using New Hampshire as a
19 pipeline, an extension cord to get
20 Hydro-Quebec's power, which it desperately needs
21 to sell, to the markets in the greater New York
22 City area, and New Hampshire is simply in the
23 way. That's the way it's been since the project
24 was proposed, and nothing has changed.

1 Q Mr. McAllaster, when Sam Johnson of the Northern
2 Pass testified, he mentioned the possibility of
3 purchasing your milk, that the Project
4 purchasing your milk and either delivering it to
5 another establishment or disposing of it. How
6 do you feel about the possibility of your milk
7 simply being disposed of?

8 A (McAllaster) Well, it's kind of
9 counterproductive, I think. You know, we're
10 trying to produce milk to feed people. To get a
11 living. A simple living. And it's work to
12 produce it, and you don't really feel like
13 dumping it. But if I don't get feed in to feed
14 them, you won't be dumping a whole lot.

15 Q Thank you.

16 A (McAllaster) So I don't really think that's a
17 good idea.

18 Q Okay. Thank you. No further questions.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Menard?

20 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

21 **BY MS. MENARD:**

22 Q Good morning, members of the Committee.

23 Thank you all for coming here this morning.

24 My name is Jeanne Menard, and I am a member of

1 the Deerfield Abutter group, and all of my
2 questions, of which are about five, pertain to
3 real estate values. Your own property values.

4 And the first question for purposes of the
5 court reporter, it might be easier for you, this
6 is a yes or no question, and it might be easier
7 for you to state your name before giving the
8 answer, if that would be helpful.

9 Are you an expert about your property and
10 the existing view from your property? So if you
11 could each state your name and say yes or no.

12 MR. WALKER: Objection.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Menard,
14 what do you mean?

15 MS. MENARD: I would like for them to be
16 able to offer an opinion about their property
17 value impacts from Northern Pass Transmission,
18 and I'm going to be tying in some recent
19 testimony from Mr. Chalmers and then coming back
20 to that question. And it is important. I
21 think --

22 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I understand
23 what you're trying to do, but the first question
24 you asked isn't going to get you where you want

1 to end up.

2 MS. MENARD: May I explain?

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Are they an
4 expert on property valuation? I'm not sure any
5 of them are.

6 MS. MENARD: No. I'm asking them
7 specifically if they're an expert about their
8 own property. Yesterday it was very clear that
9 it was important whether or not the witness was
10 an expert.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I believe the
12 exchange with Mr. Pappas made it very clear that
13 having special expertise is not necessary for
14 someone to give an opinion about valuation of
15 their property. You've asked questions of a
16 number of other Intervenor witnesses about what
17 they thought would happen to their property and
18 they were all allowed to answer.

19 MS. MENARD: Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: You're
21 talking about a very specific instance having to
22 do with a very specific area of scientific
23 expertise, and you don't want to pick a fight
24 where you don't need one, Ms. Menard.

1 MS. MENARD: Well, thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: If you want
3 to ask them their opinion about what's going to
4 happen to their real estate values, they're all
5 going to be free to answer that question.

6 MS. MENARD: I appreciate the
7 clarification. I wanted to make certain it was
8 established regarding their ability to offer an
9 opinion about their property values. So thank
10 you.

11 MR. BALINT: I have an opinion.

12 MS. MENARD: Can you hold off and we can
13 come back if there's any opportunity for summary
14 comments.

15 BY MS. MENARD:

16 Q So do you agree that the Northern Pass
17 Transmission Project effect to your property
18 value may be caused by an aboveground line, a
19 transition station or a buried line. So the
20 question is I'm wanting to have you view the
21 Project, your view of the Project may be
22 different from your neighbor's view of the
23 Project. So once again, do you agree that the
24 Northern Pass Project effect to your property

1 value may be caused by one of these three items?
2 And again, logistically, how we answer, if we
3 want to have one person speak for the group that
4 may be appropriate or maybe --

5 A (Thompson) I guess that's me. Repeat the
6 question, please.

7 Q Would you agree that the Northern Pass Project
8 effect to your property value may be caused by
9 an aboveground line, a transition station, or a
10 buried line?

11 A (Thompson) I agree.

12 Q Did I leave out any Project component as far as
13 infrastructure that may cause property
14 devaluation or do you think that that covers it?

15 A (Thompson) Perhaps access road construction
16 would be another aspect.

17 Q Okay. Thank you.

18 Mr. Chalmers is the Applicant's real estate
19 expert, and he testified on July 31st, page 47,
20 line 20, that there may be a dozen or so
21 properties for which the Project will result in
22 a change in visibility. And he goes on to say
23 on page 76, that even if the houses had clear
24 visibility of the line, if they were beyond the

1 hundred foot mark, there would not be any market
2 impact due to the Project. And I do have
3 transcripts if anyone would like to refer to
4 them.

5 So final two questions. Do you agree with
6 Mr. Chalmers' New Hampshire real estate market
7 research conclusions that if Northern Pass
8 Transmission was located 100 feet beyond from
9 your property that there would be no -- and
10 property meaning house in this case -- that
11 there would be no market value impact to your
12 property, yes or no? And I'm going to read the
13 question again.

14 Do you agree with Mr. Chalmers' New
15 Hampshire real estate market research conclusion
16 that if Northern Pass Transmission was located
17 beyond 100 feet of your house that there will be
18 no market value impact to your property? Yes or
19 no.

20 A (Thompson) I'm Brad Thompson, and I disagree.

21 A (Don Bilodeau) I also disagree with that report.
22 That's a little ridiculous. Hundred feet.

23 A (Diane Bilodeau) Diane Bilodeau, and I disagree.

24 A (Guerin) Bette Guerin, and I disagree.

{WITNESS PANEL: THOMPSON, AMEY, BILODEAU, BALINT, GUERIN,
HARRIGAN, KAUFMAN, MCALLASTER}

1 A (John Amey) John Amey. I disagree. Sorry.

2 A (Harrigan) No problem. I'm not an abutter.

3 A (Cindy Lou Amey) Cindy Lou Amy. I disagree.

4 A (Balint) Jason Balint. I disagree.

5 A (McAllaster) Roderick McAllaster, and I
6 definitely disagree.

7 A (Kaufman) Dr. Kaufman, and I definitely
8 disagree.

9 Q If you disagree with Mr. Chalmers' conclusion,
10 in your opinion what is the specific cause of
11 the property value devaluation, and I'm --

12 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Maybe you
14 weren't finished. Why don't you finish what you
15 were going to say. I expect there's an
16 objection, and then we'll deal with it. So why
17 don't you finish what you were going to say.

18 MS. MENARD: I'm going to ask that you be
19 brief. Is there something specific, for
20 example, many of you, we've already heard and
21 saw in your beautiful, beautiful video most of
22 your concerns about a view impact. So that
23 would be an example of a cause of your property
24 devaluation.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Everybody
2 wait. Mr. Needleman.

3 MR. NEEDLEMAN: It wasn't in their Prefiled
4 Testimony to the effect they filed any, and I'm
5 not sure they have a basis to be offering an
6 opinion.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Menard?

8 MS. MENARD: I believe, and, again, this
9 goes back to my very first question, the basis
10 of any opinions of property owners is based on
11 their personal expertise of what they value in
12 their property, and value is more than
13 perception, and this is an opportunity to find
14 out exactly.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: You would
16 agree that valuation of property is a thing that
17 experts do, right?

18 MS. MENARD: Correct.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: So
20 understanding that, that there may be limited
21 strength of a nonexpert's opinion about value,
22 but someone who does know their own property,
23 I'm going to overrule the objection and allow
24 them to answer.

1 Does anybody over there remember the
2 question?

3 MS. MENARD: Can you, for all of our
4 benefits, you made a very fine point and I want
5 to make sure that there's a distinction, that we
6 understand the distinction of what you've just
7 made in terms of how it is going to impact the
8 proceeding?

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I don't know
10 that it has any impact on the proceeding.
11 Literally. I honestly don't know.

12 MS. MENARD: Okay. Thank you.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: But there's a
14 difference between a layperson's opinion and an
15 expert's opinion which I think you understand
16 that.

17 MS. MENARD: Yes.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: And you're
19 asking a bunch of individuals who have some
20 knowledge and expertise of a sort about their
21 own properties. You've asked them for their
22 opinions. And we're going to hear their
23 opinions about the reason or reasons for why
24 they think it will have a negative effect on

1 their property values.

2 MS. MENARD: Thank you.

3 A (Thompson) Brad Thompson. My wife and I bought
4 our property in 2007 for distinct reasons.
5 Natural beauty, the aesthetics, the quietness,
6 the views. We value that very, very highly, and
7 we are convinced that a lot of that is going to
8 be totally disrupted permanently, decrease in
9 value a lot more than just monetarily. Thank
10 you.

11 A (Don Bilodeau) Donald Bilodeau. I built my home
12 there on 145 31 years ago, and it's just
13 beautiful. I'm not an expert, and I don't think
14 anyone here is an expert. But it just takes
15 just common sense here. I mean, we're going to
16 be looking at least 7 or 8 towers. Just common
17 sense. Imagine what that's going to look like.

18 A (Diane Bilodeau) Diane Bilodeau. And I live on
19 145 also, and I've been there 31 years. And I
20 have to say above my driveway all different
21 times of the year there are people stopping to
22 take pictures of the view from our property so
23 yes, does it have an impact? Yes.

24 A (Guerin) Bette Guerin. Just in my opinion if I

1 was someone seeking a home in that area and saw
2 a ginormous tower in their backyard, it wouldn't
3 compel me to purchase it.

4 A (Harrigan) John Harrigan. While I'm not an
5 abutter with my personal property, this Project
6 would affect the greater Colebrook/Pittsburg
7 area, the entire northern end of Coos County,
8 the countryside as I know it and as the tourism
9 industry knows it. Everything that happens
10 there has a ripple effect on property values,
11 and on, of course, tax rates. So do I think it
12 will have an effect on property values? Yes.
13 Absolutely, I do think it will. I've seen it
14 happen elsewhere. So we're all in this thing
15 together, and it's a bad, it's a bad mark on the
16 landscape, and I can't see how it could ever
17 help and I can see many ways where it will hurt.

18 A (John Amey) I'm going to share my time or give
19 it, rather, to my wife.

20 A (Cindy Lou Amey) Cindy Lou Amey. 81 Tabor Road,
21 Pittsburg. We have the Indian Stream Valley
22 Farms that you saw earlier in the video. During
23 Moose Festival Weekend which is always the
24 fourth Saturday in August, there's a large

1 influx of individuals coming, we call it from
2 down below, that visit our property as well as
3 many other northern New Hampshire communities.
4 There's events scheduled on our farm we have a
5 day at the farm, and then in the evening we have
6 a concert under the stars. The whole event is
7 free of charge to all those that visit with us.

8 We have had measurable and observable
9 instances over the last 12 years where we have
10 run this event where we observe people come on
11 to the property, they look down the valley, they
12 look at the surrounding hillsides, and you watch
13 their shoulders come down and the stress seems
14 to pour out of them. It is such an impact on
15 us, and that's why we continue to do it because
16 that energy, that joy that they seem to express
17 comes back at us, and so we do it over and over
18 again. That to me is something we can observe
19 and we can attest to. And it happens over and
20 over again. Thank you.

21 A (Balint) Jason Balint, 721 Diamond Pond Road.
22 Could you confirm that the real estate expert
23 testified to 100-foot rule or was it 150?

24 MS. MENARD: No. It was 100.

1 A (Balint) 100. Then I guess it's fair that I
2 take a stab at it.

3 My wife's a successful realtor. We own the
4 camp together on Diamond Pond Road, and the fact
5 of the matter is is when you introduce a power
6 line of this size where there isn't one on a
7 purchased right-of-way, there isn't a
8 right-of-way that existed before, this is a
9 large chunk of land that was purchased for a
10 very large amount of money to put this line on,
11 it is going to have an effect. Period.

12 MS. MENARD: Thank you.

13 A (McAllaster) Roderick McAllaster, 380 McAllaster
14 Road in Stewartstown. Where I actually live, I
15 won't be able to see towers because I'm kind of
16 on the buried portion, but I do have property
17 that will see the towers, and I use fields of
18 some of my neighbors and other people that,
19 especially one individual that bought a large
20 portion of land and he's got some tremendous
21 views, and it will ruin his land. He'll be
22 seeing it for a long ways. And I just wouldn't
23 wish that on anybody.

24 A (Kaufman) Dr. Kaufman from Stewartstown. There

1 are two major impacts that I'm concerned about.
2 One is certainly the view, but it's also, along
3 with that is that there will be a corridor on
4 which the towers go that, yes, I do see from
5 many aspects of where I live. But in that
6 corridor used to be a family with two kids, and
7 the husband made his living with computers and
8 that allowed them to live there. Another
9 neighbor, who is also gone, used a computer for
10 a living, and it seemed to me that what was
11 beginning to happen during this transition from
12 many dairy farms to the future was that this is
13 a remote area, but it's accessible through the
14 computer and through internet, and that that
15 family was bought out by Northern Pass. The
16 kids are gone, the woman was working as a
17 teacher in town, and the husband was making his
18 living on the land through the computer. That
19 corridor now that exists is naked of people
20 living there.

21 So it really, it really has destroyed
22 already the area as a community. What it's
23 going to be, it's going to be a dead zone of
24 this power line that goes through instead of

1 people living there and working there. And yes,
2 that impacts, that's going to impact my property
3 tremendously. People won't see it as a place to
4 actually live. Maybe plant something so they
5 can get on a four-wheeler. The other thing I
6 just --

7 Q Actually, I am going to ask that we wrap this
8 up.

9 A (Kaufman) Okay.

10 Q I appreciate your answers, and thank you,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Thank you,
13 Ms. Menard. Ms. Bradbury?

14 MS. MENARD: Her questions are going to be
15 for Mr. Thompson later today. During the
16 construction. I'll confirm.

17 MS. BRADBURY: I have some questions for, a
18 few for the Panel and I have a couple more for
19 Mr. Thompson alone.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I don't think
21 the stenographer can hear you, Ms. Bradbury,
22 because you're not talking in a microphone.

23 MS. BRADBURY: I have a few questions for
24 the Panel, and then a couple of questions for

1 Mr. Thompson alone.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Are the
3 questions for Mr. Thompson based on his Prefiled
4 Testimony?

5 MS. BRADBURY: Based on his Prefiled
6 Testimony, based on what we have learned during
7 the trial as evidence in the transcript.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: So he's going
9 to be back and so that that round of questions
10 you'll do later, but you have questions for the
11 Panel?

12 MS. BRADBURY: Yes. Just a few.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Okay. Come
14 on down.

15 The only other person I have is Ms. Draper.
16 Was there anybody else? All right.

17 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

18 **BY MS. BRADBURY:**

19 Q Good morning. I am Jo Anne Bradbury. I'm from
20 Deerfield. Just a few questions for the Panel.

21 We heard testimony from the experts that
22 certain local roads will be closed to all
23 traffic, and I would like to know what the
24 impact of those roads closures on the timing and

1 access of emergency vehicles to your homes.

2 Dr. Kaufman?

3 A (Kaufman) Well, I'm 82 years old, but I'm still
4 practicing part-time, and I intend to for
5 another year or two anyway, and I'm not going to
6 be able to get to work if they close that road.
7 There's only one way out in the winter
8 especially.

9 Q My question is specifically as to the ability of
10 emergency vehicles.

11 A (Kaufman) Yes, I'm talking about me in my car
12 going on an emergency to look after a patient as
13 well as an ambulance coming in and looking after
14 us.

15 Q (Kaufman) Thank you. Mr. McAllaster?

16 A (McAllaster) Yes. That's a quite a concern. I
17 mean, in my case, when they do the stream by my
18 drive, if I have a 4- to 6-week complete closure
19 there, there will be no ambulance, no fire, no
20 mail, no anything.

21 And another thing that I have a problem
22 with is I've got two grandchildren that for at
23 least part of the Project won't be able to go to
24 school. I don't know what the answer is to

1 that. But they're 9 and 12 years old. Kind of
2 young to drop out.

3 A (Balint) No impact on me.

4 Q No impact. Ms. Amey. Mr. Amey?

5 A (John Amey) No impact.

6 Q Mr. Harrigan?

7 A (Harrigan) No impact.

8 Q None?

9 A (Harrigan) No.

10 Q Uh-huh. Ms. Guerin?

11 A (Guerin) No impact.

12 Q No impact on you?

13 A (Diane Bilodeau) No impact.

14 A (Don Bilodeau) No impact.

15 Q Mr. Thompson?

16 A (Thompson) It's believe it's definitely a
17 general concern for all residents on Bear Rock
18 Road, North Hill and Old County Road. We've had
19 testimony and I think serious communication
20 between the two Fire Departments and the 45th
21 Parallel Ambulance Service where they know how
22 to get to any particular residence if there's an
23 emergency, and it doesn't have to be somebody
24 old like Marty or I. It could be, you know,

1 somebody working on the farm or whatever. But
2 it's a serious concern and it definitely has
3 been addressed and I certainly hopeful it will
4 work out.

5 We're covered in Clarksville and
6 Stewartstown by the Canaan Fire Department for
7 part of it and the Colebrook Fire Department for
8 the other. They're both from my house 10 or 11
9 miles away, dirt roads, and it's a better part
10 of a 20-minute ride when conditions are good.
11 The ambulance service is north on Route 3 of
12 Colebrook, and it's probably 13 or 14 miles
13 away.

14 So it's an issue anyway and it's going to
15 get a lot worse. Nature of the beast is skinny
16 roads, there's times when something will be in
17 the a way and an emergency vehicle just won't
18 get through.

19 Q Thank you.

20 A (Harrigan) If I could interject? I forgot to
21 mention something. Is it okay to mention it?

22 Q Mr. Harrigan. Yes.

23 A (Harrigan) John Harrigan. South Hill Road,
24 Colebrook. We do have recreational trails that

1 go through this very area. Major snowmobile
2 artery. Also during the rest of the time, the
3 warm months, so-called, off-road vehicles or
4 OHRVs. So with the injury rate as what it is,
5 which is often the subject of a lot of news
6 stories after a weekend, the ability of rescue
7 people to get into the end of Bear Rock Road and
8 the specific area where Brad Thompson and Daryl
9 live and where the Kaufmans live is very much an
10 issue.

11 Q Okay. All right. Okay. We've learned from the
12 Applicant's expert testimony thus far or I guess
13 that's over in the trial, do any of you have an
14 opinion whether the Northern Pass benefits the
15 welfare of the population of your individual
16 towns?

17 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Bradbury?

19 MS. BRADBURY: Welfare of the population is
20 an important factor for the Committee to
21 consider, and these people live and work and
22 worship in these towns, and they are the best
23 experts as to what these towns are going to be
24 like.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: And that
2 really was the subject of their video. I mean,
3 if you got anything from that video, that's what
4 you got, isn't it?

5 MS. BRADBURY: Oh, I got many things from
6 the video.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: But that was
8 clearly, included in what they were talking
9 about is what you just asked about, is it not?

10 MS. BRADBURY: Okay. Yes. I think it's
11 pretty clear what their opinion of the --

12 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: So I'm going
13 to sustain the objection and ask you to move on.

14 MS. BRADBURY: Okay. Move on.

15 BY MS. BRADBURY:

16 Q With respect to testimony from Mr. Quinlan early
17 in the trial, when he testified about the claims
18 process, he described what they were offering
19 the homeowners, correct? Are you familiar,
20 members of the Panel, from discussions about the
21 trial? That there was testimony about the
22 claims process for homeowners?

23 A (Thompson) There was. Quite a while ago.

24 Q Yes. It was a while ago. That was back in

1 April. And Mr. Quinlan admitted that only nine
2 homes qualified for that claims process. Were
3 any of you any of the nine homeowners that would
4 qualify for that claims process?

5 A (Thompson) No.

6 A (Don Bilodeau) No.

7 A (Diane Bilodeau) No.

8 A (Guerin) No.

9 A (Harrigan) No.

10 A (John Amey) No.

11 A (Balint) No.

12 A (McAllaster) No.

13 A (Kaufman) No.

14 Q Since this hearing began, have any of you had
15 any compensation or any offer from Eversource
16 personnel?

17 A (Thompson) No.

18 A (Don Bilodeau) Absolutely not. I've never seen
19 an Eversource personnel.

20 A (Diane Bilodeau) No.

21 A (Guerin) No.

22 A (Harrigan) No.

23 A (John Amey) No.

24 A (Balint) No.

1 A (McAllaster) No.

2 A (Kaufman) No.

3 Q Do you view the proposed claims process as fair
4 and reasonable compensation to those impacted by
5 the Project?

6 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection.

7 MS. BRADBURY: I'll withdraw it.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Thank you.

9 MS. BRADBURY: That's all I have for the
10 Panel. Thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Draper?

12 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

13 **BY MS. DRAPER:**

14 Q Good morning. I'm Gretchen Draper and I
15 represent, I'm part of a team of people that
16 represent the Pemigewasset River Local River
17 Advisory Committee, and as we were, as I was
18 listening this morning, I realized you folks
19 have been involved in this for a long time. So
20 I'm wondering when and how did each of you learn
21 about Northern Pass? Start with Mr. Thompson
22 maybe and just?

23 A (Thompson) My first recollection was the
24 original announcement, I think it was in 2010,

1 that they were going to run down the Connecticut
2 River Valley with a new power line.

3 Q Was that newspaper or television or something
4 else? It was media; is that right?

5 A (Thompson) It might have initially been word of
6 mouth, but I'm sure it didn't take me long to
7 find a newspaper.

8 Q Thank you.

9 A (Don Bilodeau) Donald Bilodeau. I heard about
10 this, we had a get-together for a funeral,
11 Mr. Dan Lefebvre, who used to own the Eagle's
12 Nest. Diane and I were at the spa, and it was
13 brought up then. It was October of 2010. And
14 one of the local folks said there was a power
15 line going to go in, and they said oh, it's
16 going to be very soon, two or three years
17 anyway, and it will be done. And at that time
18 I said, you know, it was Kathy Keezer. I said
19 Kathy, I'll bet you that thing won't go through
20 for ten years. And guess what, we're up to 7,
21 almost 8.

22 A (Guerin) I think I first heard about it probably
23 in the same time period, about 2010, reading an
24 article in the newspaper. Was bowled over by

1 it. I just couldn't believe, and I just
2 remember having this reaction of just this lump
3 in my throat my heart racing thinking God, no,
4 please don't do this to this area. Its just too
5 pristine. There's not many areas left like what
6 we have.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Draper,
8 why do we need to know when folks first heard
9 about it?

10 MS. DRAPER: I think that I want, my
11 reasoning is I'd like the SEC to realize how
12 long people have been involved in activities in
13 opposition to Northern Pass.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: You think
15 that's not sufficiently in the record already?

16 MS. DRAPER: Not for these folks. I'm
17 interested, I have two more questions. I'm
18 interested in when and how people found out
19 about it.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: We're getting
21 that, and what else are you interested in?

22 MS. DRAPER: I'm interested in whether or
23 not they found out before Renewable Properties
24 began buying up land or after.

1 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Do they know
2 that?

3 MS. DRAPER: I don't know. I mean, this is
4 a small community. If people started --

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: And why is
6 that relevant?

7 MS. DRAPER: It's relevant because I'm
8 always concerned about how Northern Pass or
9 Eversource communicates with people about things
10 that are very important.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: And what is
12 the relevance to this proceeding about what
13 elements of the SEC's statute and rules does
14 that go to?

15 MS. DRAPER: I would say it goes to in the
16 public interest. It goes into orderly
17 development. So if you hear about your neighbor
18 being offered \$7,000,000 for their property, and
19 then you hear about this line coming through, I
20 think you have lots of questions about that.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.
22 We're going to let you continue with this, and
23 ask you to ask the witnesses to be brief.

24 MS. DRAPER: Yes. Okay.

1 A (Guerin) I just have one additional comment to
2 make. My whole mindset and my concern is not on
3 an individual basis. It never has been. I'm
4 not one of these --

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'm sorry.
6 The question is when did you hear about it, and
7 she wants to know the circumstances in which you
8 heard about it. That's the only question
9 pending right now.

10 A (Guerin) I answered that question. I'll pass it
11 along.

12 Q Thank you.

13 A (Harrigan) John Harrigan. I first heard about
14 this Project in the newsroom of the Coos County
15 Democrat in Lancaster. Founded in 1838.

16 Q Thank you.

17 A (Cindy Lou Amey) We were looking at the local
18 newspaper. I think, I don't know if it was the
19 Sentinel or the Chronicle. The very first thing
20 we ever saw was there was a big picture on the
21 front page of our farm, and on the bottom it
22 said starting at the Amey farm. That's the
23 first we ever heard or knew anything about it,
24 and it already had been in process. Nobody has

1 contacted us.

2 Q Thank you.

3 A (Balint) I learned about it when the chess game
4 started for buying the land they needed to
5 create the right-of-way to get up over the back
6 side of Sugar Hill, and then I also learned
7 about it when I heard Mr. McAllaster's statement
8 that his roots go deeper than Northern Pass's
9 pockets.

10 A (McAllaster) The first I knew of it I saw it in
11 the news in the Sentinel. They had a map.

12 A (Kaufman) I think that's how I saw it also, on
13 the news in the Sentinel.

14 Q Thank you very much. I think my question about
15 Renewable Properties has been answered by when
16 you called it the chess game.

17 My next question has to do with what kind
18 of, I'm looking for things that you folks have
19 done to build public interest, to build, to
20 share knowledge up your way about your
21 opposition you had. When was the first meeting
22 with Northern Pass? That was mentioned earlier.
23 One person can answer that. That was the
24 meeting at the Outback and the Spar? Was that

1 very soon after the --

2 A (Cindy Lou Amey) That wasn't the first one.

3 A (John Amey) No.

4 Q It wasn't the first one. Okay. What was the
5 first one?

6 A (Cindy Lou Amey) The one at the Colebrook
7 Elementary, right?

8 A (Kaufman) I think it was in the school. It was
9 in the school gymnasium back in 2010.

10 Q And was that organized by Northern Pass?

11 A (Kaufman) yes.

12 Q And then I'm was wondering if you folks have
13 done parades or fairs or fundraisers? I know
14 there was an article in Yankee magazine.

15 A (Cindy Lou Amey) Several.

16 Q Several. Several articles.

17 What else have you done in your area to
18 object to this Project?

19 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection. Relevance.

20 MS. DRAPER: The relevance that I see again
21 is that this has been a very active community,
22 and in fact they have in fact, they have
23 contacted people in Quebec, done Hands Across
24 The Border. If there's a group of people that's

1 been more --

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: That's well
3 beyond the scope of their video and their
4 testimony.

5 MS. DRAPER: Okay.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'm going to
7 sustain the objection and ask you to move to
8 something else.

9 MS. DRAPER: All right.

10 BY MS. DRAPER:

11 Q Where do you think you've had the most influence
12 in things like talking to people? And I'm
13 saying influence because I'm very interested in
14 whether you feel like you've been heard or you
15 feel heard by the Northern Pass Project?

16 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Same objection.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Draper?

18 MS. DRAPER: I guess what I'm trying to
19 find out is with people who are as far away from
20 Concord, I mean we have Mr. Thompson who comes
21 down regularly, how do people make their
22 concerns known? They write letters which I know
23 some of these folks have done. But in their own
24 community, how do they, do they feel like

1 they've --

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'm sorry,
3 Ms. Draper. It's beyond the video, it's beyond
4 their testimony. So I'm going to sustain the
5 objection.

6 MS. DRAPER: All right. Well. Thank you
7 very much, folks.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I have no
9 other Intervenors who indicated that they had
10 questions for this Panel so seeing no hands, Mr.
11 Needleman, Mr. Walker, do you have questions for
12 the Panel?

13 MR. WALKER: Just a few minutes.

14 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

15 **BY MR. WALKER:**

16 Q Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is
17 Jeremy Walker. I'm an attorney for the
18 Applicant, and the bulk of my questions are for
19 Mr. Thompson, but before I get to Mr. Thompson
20 quickly, Mr. McAllaster, is it correct that
21 Northern Pass, the Project has reached out to
22 you both by letters and by phone calls trying to
23 set up a meeting with you to discuss your
24 concerns?

1 A (McAllaster) No. I've heard from nobody
2 concerning my concerns.

3 Q You haven't heard from anybody from the Project
4 with regard to arranging a meeting to talk about
5 your concerns?

6 A (McAllaster) No.

7 Q You have not received letters?

8 A (McAllaster) No.

9 Q How about phone calls from representatives from
10 the Project?

11 A (McAllaster) No.

12 Q Would it surprise you if Northern Pass still
13 would like to meet with you to discuss your
14 concerns?

15 A (McAllaster) Nothing surprises me concerning
16 Northern Pass.

17 Q Well, then after you're done testifying today,
18 would you agree to sit down with Northern Pass
19 and arrange a time to have a meeting to discuss
20 your concerns?

21 A (McAllaster) Sure.

22 Q You would?

23 A (McAllaster) Oh, sure.

24 Q Thank you. Mr. Thompson, with regard to the

1 video, and, Dawn, if you could put up Applicant
2 Exhibit 354, please. And that's just your
3 letter, Mr. Thompson, where you describe the
4 purpose of the video. I can tell you what it
5 says. I mean, I just want to you to
6 acknowledge, you've provided this video with the
7 intention of providing the SEC, the Committee,
8 with a guided tour of the proposed Project route
9 from Pittsburg into Dixville; is that right?

10 A (Thompson) I would say that was one of the two
11 reasons, main reasons, yes.

12 Q So when I think of "guided tour" when I saw your
13 letter I was thinking a guided tour of where it
14 starts, the proposed route, all the way from
15 Pittsburg in through Dixville, but now having
16 looked at your video, it's not quite that,
17 right? I mean, in fact it starts with a
18 picture, and it's labeled Stewartstown. So
19 you're not starting right at the beginning of
20 the route.

21 A (Thompson) Short of walking the whole route,
22 including the overhead part, with a camera, I
23 don't think it would be very effective because
24 it's wooded.

1 Q Okay.

2 A (Thompson) And I think the video is a very good
3 cross-section of the terrain, of the aesthetics,
4 of the natural beauty of the hills, the
5 mountain, the rivers, the brooks. Very
6 indicative of the land.

7 Q Right. But I just want to make clear for this
8 Committee what it is. So we actually go from
9 Stewartstown, and I think the next section was
10 to Ms. Guerin's store in Colebrook which she
11 acknowledged the route does not go through
12 Colebrook, right?

13 A (Thompson) Correct.

14 Q And also there is some landscape footage that's
15 shown with no description. So the video is
16 showing some landscape, but there's really no
17 description of where that is in the video. Is
18 that right?

19 A (Thompson) That's not -- yes, that's true.

20 Q Okay. And in fact, there's some aerial footage
21 shown in the video of Lake Francis which is a
22 very nice lake up in your area.

23 A (Thompson) Correct.

24 Q And that lake is beyond three miles from the

1 proposed corridor; would you agree with that?

2 A (Thompson) That is true.

3 Q Okay. In fact, it extends probably 6, 7 miles
4 out beyond the corridor?

5 A (Thompson) Definitely.

6 Q Have you reviewed the visibility or the
7 hypothetical visibility maps that were provided
8 by Mr. DeWan in this case?

9 A (Thompson) Some.

10 Q Have you seen the one that shows Lake Francis as
11 not having visibility or hypothetically not
12 having visibility of the proposed corridor?

13 A (Thompson) I don't think I've seen it, but I can
14 agree with you.

15 Q Okay. So you've included Lake Francis as
16 showing just the nice area, nice lake up in that
17 area, but it's not really a guided tour of the
18 route?

19 A (Thompson) That part isn't, but it definitely
20 speaks to the second point of the video.

21 Q Okay. We can get to that. I can talk with you
22 about that.

23 The video itself, was that created with a
24 drone?

1 A (Thompson) Correct.

2 Q And who did that? Who is responsible for
3 producing the video?

4 A (Thompson) A professional photographer from
5 Jackson, New Hampshire, named Tim Shellmer, who
6 is here in the hall today.

7 Q I take it Mr. Shellmer is not a visual impact
8 assessment expert in any way? He doesn't do
9 those things? Or do you know? If you don't
10 know, that's fine.

11 A (Thompson) I don't know.

12 Q Do you know what heights it was filled at with
13 the drone?

14 A (Thompson) I don't think it was documented, and
15 the answer is a number of heights.

16 Q Okay. It's a bird's-eye view essentially,
17 right? It provides a bird's-eye view to the
18 Committee?

19 A (Thompson) Yes.

20 Q Are you aware with the Site Evaluation Committee
21 rules with regard to Visual Impact Assessments
22 and how those are to be presented?

23 A (Thompson) I tried to understand some of it.
24 That's concerning distances? And from public

1 locations and so on?

2 Q Sure.

3 A (Thompson) Yup.

4 Q And also it requires a Visual Impact Assessment
5 to give a characterization of the view from a
6 typical viewer's perspective. You would agree
7 that this video from a drone is not that. I
8 mean, that's not the typical viewer's --

9 A (Thompson) Not necessarily. No. I will not
10 agree with that.

11 Q Well, the typical viewer of the proposed Project
12 is not looking at it from a drone. You would
13 agree with that?

14 A (Thompson) No, but you can get the same look in
15 many cases from a hillside.

16 Q I take it, though, that ultimately you're not
17 offering this video as a Visual Impact
18 Assessment under the Site Evaluation Committee
19 rules?

20 A (Thompson) I don't think that was the intent.

21 Q Nothing further. Thank you. I'm sorry. One
22 more question.

23 Just going to follow up on a couple
24 questions for Mr. McAllaster. You mentioned

1 earlier that you have not received any letters
2 or communications from the Project, and Mr.
3 Needleman has just brought to my attention a
4 couple of letters that were addressed to you
5 from the Project, and I want to ask you if that
6 refreshes your recollection about having
7 received some letters from the Project.

8 A (McAllaster) No. I don't recall seeing these.

9 Q Okay.

10 MS. DANDENEAU: I'm sorry. Can we see
11 those on the ELMO also?

12 MR. WALKER: Yes, we'll put these up on the
13 ELMO.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG:
15 Mr. McAllaster, will you hand those over,
16 please?

17 BY MR. WALKER:

18 Q For the record, there are two letters. One of
19 them is dated December 10, 2014, to Roderick and
20 Donna McAllaster, and the second one is October
21 2, 2017, to Rod and Donna McAllaster. And I
22 understand you don't recall receiving these
23 letters?

24 A (McAllaster) I don't recall seeing them, and I

1 certainly would recall if a member of the team
2 had contacted me. And I've had no contact from
3 anybody.

4 Q But after you're done here today you will talk
5 with somebody from the team and arrange a time
6 to meet with them?

7 A (McAllaster) Yes.

8 Q Thank you.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.
10 Now you're done, Mr. Walker?

11 MR. WALKER: Yes. Thank you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Do members of
13 the Committee have questions for the Panel?
14 I'll start down there with Ms. Dandeneau.

15 **QUESTIONS BY MS. DANDENEAU:**

16 Q Good morning, folks. I think the bulk of my
17 questions are for Mr. and Mrs. Amey and
18 Mr. McAllaster. So Mr. and Mrs. Amey, I'll
19 start with you guys. I just wanted to get some
20 clarification on the impact of the proposed
21 Project on your property. People had asked you
22 some questions about where it was relative to
23 your property and your views of it from your
24 property, and so I just wanted to confirm.

1 You're not abutters which I think we've
2 confirmed that already, but can you see the
3 Project from your house or your barns or the
4 proposed Project?

5 A (John Amey) No. We will not see the Project
6 from our home. But in the beginning we were in
7 direct line of sight of Alternative A, and we
8 have not received a piece of paper that says
9 that Alternative A is forever off the books.
10 And we know that it might just not be off the
11 books because we know a person in Canada who
12 bought land in particular thinking he was going
13 to sell to Northern Pass which would line up
14 with Alternative A, and so we're cautious about
15 giving up rights to things that we know the
16 background of.

17 Q Okay.

18 A (Cindy Lou Amey) There are places on the
19 property though, it's an extensive piece of
20 property, where we would see those and including
21 the location of the concert that we have.

22 Q All right. And Mr. Amey, you mentioned using
23 property over the border in Vermont. Are you
24 haying?

1 A (John Amey) Yes. I have 95 acres of tillable
2 acreage that I rent in Vermont, and there has
3 been word, unofficial but in the paper, that Old
4 Canaan Road will be closed for extensive periods
5 of time. As we know, the state of New Hampshire
6 still struggling with the bridge across the
7 Connecticut into Beecher Falls. So I could
8 possibly be looking at going to West
9 Stewartstown to get to Pittsburg from Canaan.

10 Q Okay.

11 A (John Amey) That is one issue.

12 A (Cindy Lou Amey) And the percentage of the hay
13 that we get overall is significant.

14 A (John Amey) Yes. About 50 percent of the hay
15 that I cut is in Vermont.

16 Q Okay.

17 A (John Amey) And if Old Canaan Road is closed for
18 extended periods of time, I would have to go
19 south to get north.

20 Q So you'll still be able to access that property.
21 It will just take you longer to get there and
22 back.

23 A (John Amey) Absolutely.

24 A (Cindy Lou Amey) Almost 45 minutes to an hour

1 just to get there one way with farm equipment.

2 Q With farm equipment. Okay. From your property
3 on -- by Indian Stream?

4 A (John Amey) Tabor Road.

5 Q Okay. Thank you. I was also curious if there's
6 any other farm-related income that might be
7 impacted by construction-related issues to the
8 Project. So we've heard Mr. McAllaster talk
9 about milk pickup, grain deliveries. Is there
10 anything like that that falls into, like I said,
11 farm-related income for you guys that would be
12 impacted?

13 A (John Amey) Not in our case.

14 Q All right. Thank you.

15 A (Cindy Lou Amey) As long as Route 3 when they do
16 the transition they go underneath to, as long as
17 that road there is still open.

18 Q Passable?

19 A (Cindy Lou Amey) That's where our grain trucks,
20 you know, it's not as severe as what would
21 happen to him, but the milk truck does the same
22 thing for us, our grain, as well as, you know,
23 service vehicles, you know, if Route 3 is still
24 completely open and they don't send them over

1 145, some of those trucks, that wouldn't be
2 good.

3 Q Okay. Thank you for that clarification.

4 Mr. McAllaster, I had a couple of clarification
5 questions for you also. You've mentioned the
6 milk truck that comes to pick up milk from your
7 farm every other day and grain trucks and other
8 delivery vehicles. Do you have an estimated
9 amount of money or income that you collect from
10 each of those milk pickups that occur every
11 other day?

12 A (McAllaster) Well, no. Not really. That varies
13 depending on how much milk I'm producing at the
14 time and what the price of milk is at the time
15 because it varies pretty drastically sometimes.

16 Q Okay. So do you have an overall estimation if,
17 say, a milk pickup truck were not able to get to
18 your farm for a 4- to 6-week time period, how
19 would that impact you in terms of your income
20 from your milk pickup?

21 A (McAllaster) It would kind of knock a hole in my
22 income. But even more than that, it's hard to
23 predict it. There's a lot of other aspects
24 involved. I mean, if you can't get feed in,

1 then your cows don't produce, and if they don't
2 produce for any period of time, they dry up, and
3 then they won't produce.

4 Q Right.

5 A (McAllaster) Even when you can get feed in. And
6 if I can get everything in that I cut, then I
7 can't winter them. You know, even if they don't
8 produce, they need food to live during the
9 winter.

10 Q Sure. So do you have a thought as to a minimum
11 amount of time that your farm could not have
12 access in and out with some of the things that
13 just mentioned where it would be sort of like a
14 tipping point that if it was like just 2 or 3
15 days you could probably bounce back from that,
16 but if it was like 10 to 15 days you might start
17 to see impacts in terms of your cows' milk
18 production having to dry some of your cows up?

19 A (McAllaster) Well, they'll dry up on their own
20 if they don't get food. They're funny that way.

21 Q So do you have sort of a day to week time frame?

22 A (McAllaster) Well, if I don't -- I go two weeks
23 with the grain truck.

24 Q Okay?

1 A (McAllaster) Approximately.

2 Q Okay.

3 A (McAllaster) So if I had the bins full when they
4 closed the road, I could keep them milking for
5 two weeks.

6 Q Okay.

7 A (McAllaster) If I had enough roughage in to go
8 with it.

9 Q The time of year. Sure. Okay. Sorry. Did
10 somebody else say something?

11 A (Cindy Lou Amey) But his milk wouldn't go out.

12 A (McAllaster) No, it wouldn't go out.

13 A (Cindy Lou Amey) So he could keep the cows in
14 milk, but then he doesn't get the income from
15 the milk.

16 Q Sure. Excellent. Thank you very much for that
17 clarification. I'm all set.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms.

19 Weathersby.

20 **QUESTIONS BY MS. WEATHERSBY:**

21 Q Mr. McAllaster, welcome to the land below the
22 notches. On the letters that were purportedly
23 mailed to you, I think it had the address of 384
24 McAllaster Road. Is that your mailing address?

1 A (McAllaster) No. That's not my address.

2 Q What is your mailing address?

3 A (McAllaster) 380 McAllaster Road. Stewartstown.
4 03576.

5 Q Okay. Concerning your farm, do you have others
6 that work with you at the farm?

7 A (McAllaster) My son and his family.

8 Q And is he paid by you for his work?

9 A (McAllaster) We all live off from it.

10 Q Does your son and his family, do they live on
11 the farm as well? Or do they have to commute?

12 A (McAllaster) Well, he's got a home that he's
13 built one mile down the road. Down Bear Rock
14 Road.

15 Q So will construction of the Northern Pass
16 Project affect his ability to get to the farm to
17 assist with the work?

18 A (McAllaster) Well, he won't drive with a
19 vehicle. I mean, he'll have to come with some
20 other means.

21 Q And he works with you year-round?

22 A (McAllaster) Yes.

23 Q Ms. Guerin. Do you have any employees at
24 Fiddleheads?

1 A (Guerin) I have one part-time employee.

2 Q And are you open year-round as well?

3 A (Guerin) I am.

4 Q And what effect, if any, do you expect this
5 Project will have on, first, your employee?

6 A Well, it's basically to me a ripple effect. If
7 you have something that takes away from the
8 tourists wanting to come up, then if it affects
9 my business, I may have to let someone go and
10 try to do it on my own.

11 Q So you're expecting your business then to
12 perhaps lose income.

13 A (Guerin) Well, it just seems that it would be a
14 ripple effect. People come up to our region for
15 a numbers of reasons, but the basic fundamental
16 thing is the scenic beauty. Can't stress that
17 enough.

18 Q Mr. Kaufman, when I think Counsel for the Public
19 was talking with you earlier, I thought I heard
20 you say something about an easement.

21 A (Kaufman) Yes.

22 Q Do you have an easement to use other property or
23 what did you mean by that?

24 A (Kaufman) Yes. When I bought the property, it

1 came with a spring, and the spring now is on
2 Northern Pass land. It's a mile away from the
3 house. And there's an easement in the deed that
4 includes a spring and what they call aqueduct
5 rights, and that goes right through Northern
6 Pass. It goes right, it goes within a few yards
7 of the number 4 transition area.

8 So that's enormous concern to us because
9 it's 200 feet above the height of our house and
10 all of our land approximately, and so when I
11 built the barn and I built the house and I built
12 other buildings that are expensive, the way the
13 water gets to everywhere is, it's gravity. And
14 that line, by the way, was put in at the turn of
15 the century so it's been there for well over a
16 hundred years, and so I, obviously, replaced it.

17 I talked about this in one of the meetings
18 in several of the meetings over the years and
19 Northern Pass did send somebody out. They sent
20 two people, nice people. They both agreed that
21 they're not experts, but they said that they
22 generally kind of know about springs, sort of, I
23 mean they were not experts. And they agreed
24 that when they start blasting at the transition

1 area that it's conceivable that it could affect
2 the water that gets up into that spring.

3 Q Okay. I'm going to stop you because I was just
4 curious right now --

5 A (Kaufman) So that's the concern.

6 Q -- about the easement. So it sounds like you
7 have an easement to access the spring as well
8 as --

9 A (Kaufman) And maintain it.

10 Q -- and maintain it and you have a right to the
11 water that comes through the property.

12 A (Kaufman) That's right.

13 Q And that easement is on land that is presently
14 owned by --

15 A (Kaufman) That now is owned by Northern Pass.

16 Q -- Northern Pass.

17 A (Kaufman) Right.

18 Q Okay. Is the water that comes from that the
19 source of your drinking water?

20 A (Kaufman) Yes. That's my drinking water, the
21 it's the horse's drinking water, it's my
22 neighbor's drinking water. It goes to more than
23 my house. It goes to Dr. Learner's house and
24 Weinstein. So what I'm saying is that if that

1 spring is knocked out, then water stops for all
2 of us, and to put a well, to put a half dozen
3 wells in would, you know, it's just not
4 practical. I wouldn't have built the way I
5 built if I didn't have gravity-fed water.

6 Q Okay. Thank you very much. I have nothing
7 further.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Commissioner
9 Bailey?

10 **QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:**

11 Q Thank you. Good morning. Mr. McAllaster, is it
12 possible for you to stockpile grain?

13 A (McAllaster) I don't know. The shelf life on it
14 isn't that long really. It will get moldy.
15 Humidity affects it, especially if it's in the
16 summertime, and I don't have a space to
17 stockpile it that's adequate. You know. You
18 can't put it outdoors.

19 Q Okay. So you have to have --

20 A (McAllaster) It would take a lot, I mean, it
21 would cost a lot of money, too.

22 Q So you have to have delivery of grain every two
23 weeks.

24 A (McAllaster) Yeah. That's pretty much standard

1 for every farmer.

2 Q Okay.

3 A (McAllaster) The check comes over two weeks, and
4 it goes back out to the grain company every two
5 weeks. That's the way it works.

6 Q Thank you.

7 A (Cindy Lou Amey) It's very efficient.

8 Q Mr. Harrigan, you testified that there would be
9 absolutely no benefits if this Project were
10 built. Do you remember that testimony?

11 A (Harrigan) No. I don't think I said that there
12 would be no benefits. I don't recall saying
13 that.

14 Q Okay.

15 A (Harrigan) Certainly would be benefits to people
16 that are involved in the construction.
17 Certainly would be tax revenues to the town on a
18 descending basis. But no, I don't recall saying
19 that there will be no benefits. I think there
20 will be no long-term benefits. I think that
21 this is an arrow aimed at the very heart of New
22 Hampshire, and I have felt that from day one.

23 Q So what you think is that the benefits don't
24 outweigh the impacts?

1 A (Harrigan) Absolutely not. I don't see how
2 anybody who has been up to the North Country and
3 driven around and taken in the scenery and felt
4 the difference between that and the southern
5 tier could possibly sit by and let this thing
6 happen. I don't think that the Governor or
7 other decision makers really understand the
8 scope of this Project. What a monstrous thing
9 it is.

10 Q Okay. Thank you. I have nothing further.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Wright?

12 **QUESTIONS BY DIR. WRIGHT:**

13 Q Good morning, folks. Craig Wright with the
14 Department of Environmental Services. Welcome
15 down to the southern part of the state.

16 Mr. McAllaster, just a couple of questions
17 for you. You'd mentioned the grain truck and
18 the milk truck. Did you mention a third truck
19 that you regularly have access to?

20 A (McAllaster) Cattle truck.

21 Q And that is to move, obviously, cattle in and
22 out?

23 A (McAllaster) No. It's to pick up beef calves,
24 bull calves, maybe a beef cow. Almost every

1 week you've got something to go and if it's
2 going to go, you want to it to go because then
3 you don't have to feed it.

4 Q So that's a regular activity?

5 A (McAllaster) Well, it is for me in the
6 summertime.

7 Q And for you as well, Ameys, as well? And just
8 frame of reference, I'm a guy who buys milk by
9 the gallon. You said the truck holds 70,000
10 pounds.

11 A (McAllaster) Close to it.

12 Q And you have it do pickup every other day. How
13 much do you deliver every other day in terms of
14 poundage or gallonage?

15 A (McAllaster) Our high point is in the 8,000s.
16 I've never quite been able to get to nine. But
17 during the summer, you no, we average 6 or 7
18 probably. We're a small farm.

19 Q Almost a full truck every other day?

20 A (McAllaster) Oh, no. No, no, no. 70,000. 6 or
21 7,000.

22 Q So about, okay. I get it now.

23 A (McAllaster) We're the smallest producer on the
24 route pretty near.

1 Q Thank you. That clarifies it in my mind. Thank
2 you.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr.
4 Oldenburg?

5 **QUESTIONS BY MR. OLDENBURG:**

6 Q Thank you. I just have a few questions and
7 thank you for coming down.

8 So I think from what I've heard, you're all
9 opposed to the overhead section. I see a lot of
10 heads shaking. So nobody disagrees with that,
11 right? So we've heard a lot of "bury the line."
12 So if the line was buried from Canada all the
13 way through the new right-of-way which would
14 take it down through past Diamond Pond which I
15 think is the limits of what this Panel's area
16 covers, if that was buried but it was buried
17 under the proposed corridor, so that would in my
18 mind would mean there would still be trees cut
19 and there would be a corridor that the line
20 would be in, but it wouldn't have towers or
21 lines that you would see and wouldn't have the
22 Transition Stations, would you, how many of you
23 would still be opposed to that?

24 Okay. So I see probably half of you. So

1 if it was buried under a new route, say under
2 the roads, recognizing Mr. McAllaster has the
3 issue and there would probably be more issue,
4 would folks still be opposed to --

5 A (Kaufman) Which road?

6 Q I don't know. A road. Roads. A series of
7 roads. But that would offer different issues
8 but you wouldn't have that cut. You wouldn't
9 see that on the land but there would be
10 construction issues. Would folks be opposed to
11 that as well?

12 A (Guerin) Can I just make a comment?

13 Q Yes.

14 A (Guerin) For me personally, the reason why I
15 can't answer that is because it's not enough for
16 me to say it's not going to impact me or my
17 area. It's going to impact others all along the
18 route, and it would be selfish for me to say I
19 don't care what you do beyond where I live
20 because that whole area I consider my home, and
21 those are my neighbors. So I can't answer that
22 in that realm.

23 Q Thank you, yes, and that's sort of the
24 hypothetical question that I ask is a tough one

1 because you don't know where the route would be.
2 But what I'm trying to assess is the opposition
3 to the Project. Is it strictly overhead or is
4 it I'm opposed to the Project, period, no matter
5 where it is?

6 A (Kaufman) For me it depends on the road, on the
7 route. Under the ground, and then on the route.
8 And then I would not be opposed to it.

9 A (Thompson) I'm opposed totally to the Project.
10 In any fashion.

11 A (Harrigan) I would echo that. I would like to
12 see Northern Pass fold up its tents and go home.
13 If it has to be, it should go down an existing
14 right-of-way. Route 3 jumps out and beckons in
15 the winds. Think of the jobs that that would
16 create. Nobody wants to talk about that. But
17 that's the most logical route actually. Or one
18 of the most logical routes right down Route 3.
19 But as far as the new right-of-way is concerned,
20 that's nearly 40 miles of brand-new, carved-out
21 swath through a beautiful landscape. Sort of
22 like asking you already have one scar on your
23 face, do you want another one. Well, we don't
24 even have the first one.

1 A (Cindy Lou Amey) My husband and I have traveled
2 to Canada and attended meetings up there for
3 people that are concerned on that side of the
4 border which our land just about meets the
5 border. They're having difficulties along the
6 same route. The other thing that's been
7 difficult, and I guess answers to your question
8 as to whether we're opposed, period, or not is
9 the fact that there's been a lot of
10 miscommunications on both sides of the border,
11 an awful lot, and it appears that there's been
12 efforts to kind of keep the little people busy
13 at each other, the French against us and
14 vice-versa. The bottom line is siting the route
15 properly, if it had been done correctly right
16 from the start, as far as approaching and being
17 really up front about everything rather than all
18 the way it's been done, there probably could
19 have been some compromises worked out that would
20 have been beneficial to more than just the
21 stakeholders, the shareholders. And so it's
22 difficult to answer your question in a very
23 straightforward manner when there are so many
24 pieces to consider.

1 Q That's very fair. Thank you. Anybody? That's
2 all the questions I have.

3 A (Balint) The only thing I can say is if it's
4 gone on for 7 years, it can't really be a good
5 idea.

6 Q That's all the questions I have.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I understand
8 that Mr. Iacopino has no questions. I have no
9 new questions for you, but since you're not
10 represented by counsel, one of the things that
11 happens when witnesses are done, having been
12 questioned by everybody, you'd have an
13 opportunity to be asked redirect questions by
14 your lawyer. So here's what they would ask you.

15 Generally, they would be specific, but I'm
16 going to ask it to you generally. In light of
17 the questions you were asked here today by Mr.
18 Aslin, Ms. Pacik, Ms. Saffo, Mr. Reimers, Ms.
19 Menard, Ms. Bradbury, Ms. Draper, Mr. Walker or
20 any members of the Subcommittee, is there
21 anything you feel you want to say in response or
22 to further clarify some answer to one of the
23 questions asked of you today. Anyone at all? I
24 see no one grabbing a microphone or raising his

1 or her hand.

2 A (Kaufman) You now, the woman who I think was
3 trying to get at something that was not so
4 clearly expressed and that is the impact that
5 this whole process has had on the community, and
6 it's been very negative in terms of turning
7 people against each other, and there's a very
8 large group that stays together, but it's been
9 an incredibly divisive experience, painfully
10 divisive experience, that some people just kind
11 of nod their head and don't seem to care. I
12 think we do.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Amey?

14 A (Cindy Lou Amey) One of the reasons why this
15 video was created is because the sheer magnitude
16 of printed material that you would have to
17 peruse in order to make an informed decision
18 regarding the siting of this issue is huge. As
19 a retired teacher, if I had presented that kind
20 of, there was a bookcase full of stuff to, my
21 students, their eyes would have glazed over.

22 We hoped that giving you a piece of
23 information in a visual sense which we know as
24 teachers works better than trying, some

1 hands-on, would be helpful, and that really was
2 the intention of this Committee.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Okay. I'm
4 not sure if that's related to any question you
5 were asked today, but is there anything further
6 that people feel they want to say that's related
7 to what you were asked here today?

8 A (Cindy Lou Amey) Excuse me, sir, but it was
9 related because you brought up the point as to
10 why, first of all, the first and second
11 reasoning for this video. And the second
12 reasoning had to do with impacts and providing
13 you with that opportunity. You have been up
14 north?

15 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: This is
16 actually our opportunity to ask you questions.
17 That's one of the parts of this process. The
18 answer to the question is yes. But Mr. Balint?
19 You have something you wants to say?

20 A (Balint) I just want to clarify the comments
21 about the drone. The drone video was very
22 accurate. I was there as were everybody here.
23 The drone took off from the ground. So it
24 showed you a real life experience of what you're

1 going to see from the ground up. It's no
2 different than any of the other photographs that
3 were shown.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Someone else
5 is grabbing the microphone. Yes, Ms. Bilodeau?

6 A (Diane Bilodeau) Yes. I would like to address
7 the drone, the video with the drone. It was
8 said that it was just a big overview of the
9 country up there. Actually, some of it was
10 taken directly from my deck, our deck, that
11 viewed into Canada and into Vermont, and that is
12 up also where the line would be coming through
13 so some of that was done right from the ground.

14 A (Don Bilodeau) Could I add to that?

15 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Sure.

16 A (Don Bilodeau) It was said that the drone really
17 didn't give you a good view because it was too
18 high or whatever and yadda, yadda, but as Diane
19 said, we're at 1800 feet and that drone went
20 right straight out. So I could, I'm going to
21 see numerous towers. So even at that height, I
22 think that the video did a good job.

23 A (Balint) The drone took off from my deck.

24 A (Don Bilodeau) Correct.

1 A (Guerin) And I think it's important to, what all
2 these folks said, is that when you're in that
3 area and the roads are undulating back and
4 forth, you get to the height of the land and
5 that's the amazing thing that we're try to
6 convey. You see that gorgeous scenery in front
7 of you. You don't see towers. You don't see
8 high rises. All you see is trees and in little
9 clearings, little homes, and so it's hard for
10 someone who hasn't, if you haven't gone there
11 and ridden the roads, the drone actually gave a
12 good depiction of how it feels to get up on the
13 height of the land on a road or outside your
14 deck or on your driveway and look at that
15 beautiful expanse that goes for miles and miles
16 and miles, and that's what's going to be
17 impacted tremendously.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Anyone else?
19 All right. Seeing none, thank you for coming.
20 Thank the Panel for its testimony. We're going
21 to take a break for 15 minutes.

22 (Recess taken 11:31 - 11:45 a.m.)

23
24

1 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: We expected
2 to see three people on the witness stand, but I
3 see only two, and I'm sure that will be
4 explained momentarily. Would you please swear
5 the witnesses in.

6 (Whereupon, **Stephen Ellis** and **Allen Coates** were duly
7 sworn by the Court Reporter.)

8 **STEPHEN ELLIS, SWORN**

9 **ALLEN COATES, SWORN**

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I understand
11 Commissioner Samson is going to go through the
12 Prefiled Testimony and get that into the record
13 for us. Commissioner Samson, you may proceed.

14 MR. SAMSON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
15 Thank you.

16 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

17 **BY MR. SAMSON:**

18 Q Would each of you two witnesses please identify
19 yourself by telling the Subcommittee your name,
20 your address, and your position, please?

21 A (Ellis) Steve Ellis. 121 Camp Otter Road, and
22 I'm representing the three towns, more
23 specifically Pittsburg.

24 Q Thank you.

1 A (Coates) Allen Coates, 194 Bishop Brook Road,
2 Stewartstown. Chairman of the Board of
3 Selectmen.

4 Q And the third Selectman, Ray DeMaio, from
5 Clarksville asked to be excused this morning
6 because he had medical procedures that he could
7 not change.

8 Did you both file Prefiled Direct Testimony
9 on December 16th of 2016?

10 A (Ellis) Yes.

11 A (Coates) Yes.

12 Q That testimony has been entered as exhibits
13 MUNI1NORTH #1. Do you have any changes to make
14 to that testimony?

15 A (Ellis) No.

16 A (Coates) No.

17 Q If asked the same questions today would you give
18 the same answers as November 15th, 2016?

19 A (Coates) Yes.

20 A (Ellis) Yes.

21 Q Do you have that Prefiled Testimony as your
22 testimony today?

23 A (Coates) Yes.

24 A (Ellis) Did we adopt it?

1 Q Do you. Would you adopt it?

2 A (Ellis) Yes. Do I. Yes.

3 Q Okay. Thank you. The Panel is available for
4 cross-examination at this time.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Thank you,
6 Commissioner Samson. You have questions, Mr.
7 Aslin?

8 MR. ASLIN: Yes, I do. Thank you.

9 PRESING OFFICER HONIGBERG: While Mr. Aslin
10 is coming up, who else is going to have
11 questions for this Panel? Just quickly. I see
12 Mr. Reimers, I see Mr. Baker. Okay.

13 Mr. Aslin, you may proceed.

14 MR. ASLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

16 **BY MR. ASLIN:**

17 Q Good morning, gentlemen. My name is Chris
18 Aslin. I'm an Assistant Attorney General and
19 have been appointed as Counsel for the Public in
20 this proceeding. Just a few questions to follow
21 up on your Direct Prefiled Testimony.

22 First, you are filing your testimony as
23 members of the Boards of Selectmen for the two
24 towns here represented. Is your participation

1 here on behalf of the Board of Selectmen or is
2 it in your individual capacity?

3 A (Ellis) I'm here on behalf of the Board of
4 Selectmen in Pittsburg. And Allen is, in fact,
5 he is a Selectman in the town of Stewartstown.

6 Q Okay. Thank you. Mr. Ellis, are you a former
7 member of the Board of Selectmen?

8 A (Ellis) I am.

9 Q So you've been authored to speak for the board?

10 A (Ellis) I have.

11 Q Thank you. And how long were you a member of
12 the Board of Selectmen in Pittsburg?

13 A (Ellis) Six years.

14 Q Mr. Coates, how long you have been serving on
15 the board in Stewartstown?

16 A (Coates) Almost 12.

17 Q Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Coates,
19 if you could move a little closer to your
20 microphone, it will be better for the folks in
21 the back.

22 A (Coates) Okay.

23 Q In your Prefiled Testimony, you reference town
24 votes that were made in the 2011 time frame.

1 And there's a reference to Appendix A which I
2 didn't actually see at least on the SEC's
3 webpage. Are you aware of whether that Appendix
4 that has the actual votes has been submitted to
5 the Committee?

6 A (Ellis) I thought that it was, but I have not
7 confirmed that.

8 Q Okay. To the extent it hasn't, we'll ask you to
9 do that, but I'm seeing nods from the Committee
10 that they have it so I think it's there.

11 The town votes, as I understand it from the
12 testimony, were in opposition to the Project,
13 and I wanted to clarify whether it has language,
14 there's one, sorry, the Clarksville town vote is
15 quoted in the testimony; is that correct?

16 A (Ellis) Correct.

17 Q And it states that the town is opposed to
18 aboveground installation of the Project. Is
19 that correct?

20 A (Ellis) That's correct.

21 Q And the testimony references that the towns of
22 Pittsburg and Stewartstown had similar
23 resolutions, and without the benefit of having
24 the copy of those, can you just indicate whether

1 it was also those towns' position that the
2 aboveground portion was opposed but buried would
3 not be opposed?

4 A (Ellis) Allen, you want to get that?

5 A (Coates) Yes. I have the Annual Reports from
6 years '11 and '12. If you give me just a half a
7 second here.

8 Q Take as much time as you need.

9 A (Coates) Okay. In 11th Annual Report, to see if
10 the town would vote to register and disseminate
11 to all concerns its objection, opposition, and
12 commitment to stop the construction project of
13 any portion of the 1200 megawatt high voltage
14 direct current transmission line. It's
15 basically the aboveground.

16 And in Article Seventh of 2012, it
17 specifically states more along the line of
18 Clarksville that it will not be allowed
19 overhead.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'm sorry,
21 Mr. Aslin. I'm going to have to interrupt you
22 for just a second. Off the record.

23 (Discussion off the record)

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'm sorry,

1 Mr. Aslin. You may continue.

2 BY MR. ASLIN:

3 Q So thank you, Mr. Coates. If I heard your
4 answer correctly, the original 2011 Stewartstown
5 resolution was in opposition to the project, and
6 then did you say that in 2012 there was a
7 separate resolution that was more specific?

8 A (Coates) Yes. There was another. It got
9 specific that there would be no, Northern Pass
10 would not be allowed in overhead.

11 Q Thank you.

12 A (Coates) No more overhead transmission lines is
13 basically what it was. No new overhead
14 transmission lines.

15 Q Okay. Thank you. Since the 2011 and 2012
16 resolutions, have there been any additional town
17 resolutions related to Northern Pass in any of
18 the three towns?

19 A (Coates) Not in Stewartstown.

20 A (Ellis) No.

21 Q Okay. And have there been resolutions brought
22 forward that were not approved regarding
23 Northern Pass?

24 A (Ellis) In Pittsburg, we did the following year

1 have a resolution come before us, and there was
2 concern about some of the language in it, and so
3 it was tabled permanently, and no action was
4 taken.

5 Q Okay. Thank you. Today is it your
6 understanding that the position of the
7 townspeople in Pittsburg, Stewartstown and
8 Clarksville remains consistent with the
9 resolutions that have been passed by the town?

10 A (Ellis) Yes. In Pittsburg it was a simple vote
11 that happened, I think, in '11 where a citizen
12 asked the Selectmen to oppose the Project.
13 There was conversation about the Project, and
14 then it was a simple hand vote, and my
15 recollection is everyone voted against it except
16 for one person.

17 Q Thank you. Mr. Coates, anything to add on that
18 point?

19 A (Coates) No.

20 Q Okay. In your testimony you also raised the
21 issue of control over municipal roads. Is that
22 correct?

23 A (Ellis) Correct. For some of the towns.
24 Pittsburg does not have that issue. The wires

1 are going to be coming in overhead entirely and
2 no roads will be affected.

3 Q On page 2 of the testimony there's a statement
4 that Northern Pass has never requested
5 permission from the towns for use of those
6 municipal roads. Is that still the case today?

7 A (Coates) In Stewartstown it is. Steve is
8 authorized, if I can make a point, Steve was
9 authorized to speak for all three towns so those
10 questions. I'm here as Stewartstown Selectman
11 and not authorized to speak really for
12 Clarksville and Pittsburg.

13 Q Okay. Thank you for that clarification. So Mr.
14 Coates, you just testified that there has not
15 been subsequent request by Northern Pass for
16 access to the roads?

17 A (Coates) Correct.

18 Q From the local. Are you aware of requests
19 regarding the opportunity to conduct
20 archeological surveys within the right-of-ways
21 of locally controlled roads?

22 A (Coates) Yes, sir.

23 Q And has Northern Pass made requests for that,
24 more limited access to the right-of-way?

1 A (Coates) Yes, sir.

2 Q What has been the town's position in response to
3 those requests?

4 A (Coates) We haven't signed the agreement to
5 allow it.

6 Q When you say you haven't allowed the agreement,
7 has the Board of Selectmen voted not to take
8 action or has it just in process still?

9 A (Coates) No. Not going to, we're not going to
10 sign the agreement. It was proposed to us.

11 Q So to the extent that you've, in your Prefiled
12 Testimony you're saying that there has not been
13 a request. That testimony is referring to a
14 request to build within the right-of-way and not
15 a request to conduct archeological surveys; is
16 that correct?

17 A (Coates) We've been asked to sign two different
18 agreements, both in regard to doing
19 archeological studies within our town roads. We
20 have refused to sign both of those agreements.

21 Q Okay. Thank you both. I have no further
22 questions.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Who else had
24 questions? Mr. Reimers?

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CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. REIMERS:

Q Good afternoon. My name is Jason Reimers. I represent the Forest Society, and I just have a few questions.

Throughout the hearings, we've heard about the various economic activities in Pittsburg, Clarksville and Stewartstown. Currently, how does the importance of manufacturing and forestry compare with the second home and tourism economies in your town?

A (Ellis) The tourism economy is by far the largest area that keeps our towns afloat, not only from people visiting our town, but what happens many times is that people come and visit our town, decide to buy some land and build houses for retirement. That keeps our carpenters and plumbers and electricians at work pretty diligently.

As an example, I asked one contractor last year what percentage of your new homes are from folks outside the town versus inside the town and he said 100 percent. So that has to do with getting people up there, enjoying such things as

1 snowmobiling. We're the largest snowmobile club
2 in New England. We have over 200 miles of
3 groomed trails. We're part of the Ride the Wild
4 ATV section so we get a lot of people up there.
5 We have tremendous trophy fishing in the
6 Connecticut River. We have folks visiting
7 there. So clearly tourism plays a huge, huge
8 part in our survival, and anything that could
9 adversely effect that is very concerning to us.

10 Q And I asked about manufacturing and forestry.
11 How would you compare the economic importance of
12 those two activities compared to tourism?

13 A (Ellis) Forestry, we do get some timber tax from
14 that. And clearly there is that activity going
15 on. And what was the other one? I'm sorry?

16 Q Manufacturing.

17 A (Ellis) There's virtually no business in
18 Pittsburg that has any manufacturing. It's
19 just, the reality is, you know, we live on the
20 Canadian border, and for a business to come in
21 and settle in Pittsburg, it's just, it's just
22 economically not feasible because of the
23 shipping costs, et cetera.

24 Q You would agree that if the Northern Pass is

1 constructed, it would bring increased property
2 tax revenue to your towns, wouldn't you?

3 A (Ellis) Yes.

4 Q Is it your opinion that maintaining the existing
5 conditions is more important to your town's
6 economies than the increased property taxes?

7 A (Ellis) Absolutely. No question.

8 Q Thank you very much.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Baker?

10 MR. BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

12 **BY MR. BAKER:**

13 Q Good morning.

14 A (Ellis) Morning.

15 A (Coates) Morning.

16 Q As you know, I'm Bob Baker. I represent four
17 landowners, two of whom have properties in
18 Stewartstown. I'd like to just clear up one
19 question that was asked by Public Counsel, and
20 that is whether or not you have submitted the
21 actual resolutions in Stewartstown.

22 Calling your attention to the screen, this
23 is from an exhibit that my clients put in
24 earlier. CS 97 was a letter that was sent by

1 the town of Stewartstown to the Premier of
2 Quebec back in May of 2012. You were not on the
3 Board at that time, is that correct, Mr. Coates?

4 A (Coates) In 2012?

5 Q Right.

6 A (Coates) I was on the Board.

7 Q Did you sign this letter? I'll go to the
8 signature page.

9 A (Coates) No. I was just going to read it for a
10 little while. Yes, I did.

11 Q There it is in the middle. Yes. And to that
12 letter, did you attach a copy of the resolution
13 that was voted on by the town of Stewartstown?

14 A (Coates) I believe we did, yes.

15 Q Is that the resolution on page 3 of Exhibit CS
16 97?

17 A (Coates) Yes.

18 Q And is the bolded highlighted provision of the
19 resolution the directive that is governing your
20 activities here today?

21 A (Coates) Yes.

22 Q Now, I know that the town received a response
23 from the Province of Quebec which I have in
24 front of you now which is CS 98, a brief letter

1 saying that you would hear further from the
2 Province of Quebec with respect to the town's
3 concerns?

4 A (Coates) Yes.

5 Q Did you ever hear anything further?

6 A (Coates) I'm not sure.

7 Q Do you recall receiving anything in response to
8 this?

9 A (Coates) I'm sorry?

10 Q Do you recall receiving anything?

11 A (Coates) No, I don't. Because I don't recall,
12 doesn't mean that we didn't.

13 Q Okay. So the answer is you don't know
14 whether --

15 A (Coates) I don't know.

16 Q Okay. Exactly.

17 Now, Mr. Ellis, the town of Pittsburg has
18 an area highlighted on its website called the
19 Indian Stream Republic.

20 A (Ellis) Correct.

21 Q You're familiar with that?

22 A (Ellis) I am.

23 Q You're familiar with the town website and the
24 Historical Society?

1 A (Ellis) Yes.

2 Q Right? Earlier in these proceedings the
3 Applicant produced an expert witness who said
4 that she had not evaluated the Indian Stream
5 Republic for historical significance and whether
6 or not the Project would have an adverse impact.

7 Do you have opinion as whether or not the
8 Project would have an adverse impact on the area
9 involved with the Indian Stream Republic?

10 A (Ellis) It would definitely have an adverse
11 effect for many reasons. If I could elaborate?

12 Q Please do.

13 A (Ellis) Let me give you a little history on the
14 Indian Stream Republic. In 1783, the Treaty of
15 Paris ended the Revolutionary War, and it also
16 set up the boundaries between the British Empire
17 and the United States. It was a bit ambiguous
18 exactly what river they were referring to that
19 separated the two countries. The British Empire
20 thought it was the Connecticut River which
21 pushed it further east and gave them more land.
22 United States said no, it's clearly Halls
23 Stream.

24 The inhabitants within that area between

1 Indian Stream and Perry Stream were taxed twice
2 by the two separate nations. It lasted for
3 years, and finally in 1832 they said we've had
4 enough, and they formed their own sovereign
5 nation with its own charter, with its own
6 legislature, and they elected their first
7 President Luther Parker. It remained a
8 sovereign nation until about 1836 when the
9 militia from the State of New Hampshire came in
10 and took it over. In 1840 it was incorporated
11 into the town of Pittsburg, and in 1842 it was
12 memorialized in the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

13 We talk about this with our children in
14 school. If you think about it, how many places
15 in the country can say at one time this
16 territory was its own sovereign nation. So it's
17 very important to us. We use it as a marketing
18 device. As you come into the town, you'll see
19 welcome to Pittsburg, Home of the Indian Stream
20 Republic, 1832 to 1840.

21 We also have a relationship currently which
22 developed recently with our friends from Canada.
23 One of our marketing strategies was to try to
24 get people down from Canada to visit our town,

1 and, obviously, help the economy. There is a
2 trail called the Pioneer Trail in Canada which
3 is about 27 municipalities, and what you would
4 do is you would go into that town and they would
5 have a pioneer silhouette with two audios, one
6 in French, one in English, and you can sit down
7 and you could learn about the history of that
8 town. We're the first town in the United States
9 to add on the Pioneer Trail. So if you want to
10 complete it, you've got to come to Pittsburg.
11 And our pioneer is Luther Parker, President of
12 the Indian Stream Republic.

13 We've also worked with them in getting a
14 grant from the Neil and Louise Tillotson, grant
15 from New Hampshire Charitable in Concord, and we
16 were awarded about a \$200,000 grant to start to
17 put kiosks throughout our town talking about the
18 Indian Stream Republic, and we're in the midst
19 of determining what those should look like now
20 and where it should be. So it's not only a
21 piece of history that has been in effect,
22 untouched for 175 years, but it's also something
23 that we teach our children and it's also
24 something that we use heavily to market our town

1 to get people in to enjoy our beautiful town.

2 Q Now, are you familiar with where the Northern
3 Pass proposes to build its transmission line
4 through the southwest corner of Pittsburg?

5 A (Ellis) I am.

6 Q There's a map in front of you showing you, I
7 guess, this has been marked Municipal Exhibit
8 number 8. Does this duplicate the map that's on
9 the town website for showing where the Indian
10 Stream Republic is located?

11 A (Ellis) I believe that it does, but that's an
12 accurate map.

13 Q The 20 towers that the Northern Pass plans to
14 build, are they within the boundary of the
15 Indian Stream Republic in the southwest corner
16 of your town?

17 A (Ellis) Absolutely.

18 Q They run from Halls Stream to the Connecticut
19 River over a piece of terrain that is quite high
20 over the Connecticut River?

21 A (Ellis) That is correct.

22 Q How will that impact the view of the Indian
23 Stream Republic as you approach Pittsburg from
24 the west or the south?

1 A (Ellis) Well, right now we have a beautiful
2 entrance into our town. You cross over the
3 Connecticut River, and you come into our town
4 and it's just great riding into our village, and
5 the Connecticut River is on the right-hand side.
6 Those towers are going to be seen miles away
7 before you start coming into our town. So
8 that's the first visual impact you're going to
9 have concerning our town. So that clearly
10 concerns us that that could adversely affect
11 people coming in and enjoying our town.

12 Q Now, I'm looking at MUNI1NORTH Exhibit 10. I
13 guess this was just filed by the town recently;
14 is that correct?

15 A (Ellis) I'm not too sure what it is.

16 Q I'll put it on the screen.

17 A (Ellis) Yes. That's a picture, when we
18 dedicated the Luther Parker monument in our
19 park. We were surrounded by people from the
20 Historical Society. That's David Covell at the
21 bottom who's our President who really
22 spearheaded this effort with our friends from
23 Canada. And the other picture on top is folks
24 from the town and folks from Canada that came

1 over for the dedication.

2 Q Do you recall approximately when these
3 photographs were taken?

4 A (Ellis) I would suspect it was spring.

5 Q Of this year?

6 A (Ellis) Yes.

7 Q Okay. Could you tell the Committee what Muni
8 Exhibit #11 represents?

9 A (Ellis) Sure. That's a plaque on the silhouette
10 that we have in the park, and that's a map of
11 the Indian Stream Republic. Luther Parker is
12 our guy as far as the pioneer within our town,
13 and as we can recall he was also the first
14 President of the Indian Stream Republic. And
15 you can sit down on some granite benches, and
16 you can hit one of those two buttons. I hit
17 English because I can understand that. But
18 anybody coming down from Canada that wants to
19 complete the Pioneer Trail can sit there and
20 hear in French what our history is and
21 specifically on the Indian Stream Republic.

22 MR. IACOPINO: I want to point out for the
23 record that the exhibits you're referring to are
24 actually Muni Group #1 as opposed to the Joint

1 Muni exhibits just so that the record is clear.

2 MR. BAKER: Yes. Thank you. That's my
3 error. MUNI1 #11, I believe, is what we have
4 been looking at, and I'm going to put up now
5 MUNI1 #12.

6 A (Ellis) So that is the silhouette of Luther
7 Parker, and this is typical of all of the towns
8 when you visit them on the Pioneer Trail. This
9 is what you have. You have the silhouette, you
10 have the box that I just referred to and all of
11 them are in French and English.

12 Q Just briefly, has the Pioneer Trail also
13 memorialized Neil Tillotson?

14 A (Ellis) They have. They just did that a couple
15 of weeks ago. He was memorialized in, I think
16 it was Hereford or maybe East Hereford.

17 Q Showing you what has been marked as CS 103, this
18 is a multi-page letter from the North Country
19 Council addressed to the Department of Energy
20 and the Site Evaluation Committee. This has
21 been copied from the Site Evaluation Committee
22 website comment section. Have you seen this
23 letter before?

24 A (Ellis) I have.

1 Q And are you familiar with the position that the
2 North Country Council has taken on the Northern
3 Pass Project?

4 A (Ellis) I am.

5 Q What is that, sir? What's your understanding?

6 A (Ellis) They're suggesting that they bury it
7 from Pittsburg down to Whitefield in its
8 entirety.

9 Q Okay. There has also been a recent development
10 the end of September of this year where the
11 United States Environmental Protection Agency
12 Region 1 wrote a letter to the US Army Corps.
13 Are you familiar with that letter? I'm going to
14 put it up so you can see it.

15 A (Ellis) I am.

16 Q For the record, I believe MUNI1 Exhibit 13
17 duplicates another exhibit, and I just couldn't
18 find it, that the Applicants filed at the
19 request of the Committee. And I don't know if
20 we need the reference to that exhibit number,
21 but am I correct in that that that's already
22 been filed by the Applicants?

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr.
24 Needleman, do you know?

1 MR. NEEDLEMAN: I think you requested that
2 we file it, and I'm pretty sure we did.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Whether it is
4 or not, there's enough of a record here we that
5 we all know what we're talking about.

6 MR. BAKER: Right.

7 BY MR. BAKER:

8 Q I'm going to turn the page on this exhibit just
9 for a second. Actually, strike that. I'll
10 leave it.

11 Are you familiar with what the USEPA
12 District 1 has recommended to the Army Corps of
13 Engineers?

14 A (Ellis) Yes. I believe they were the ones that
15 recommended burial from Pittsburg to Whitefield,
16 but they both recommended significant burials.

17 Q And do you recall the route that the EPA
18 recommended burial?

19 A (Ellis) Yes. Down the Route 3 corridor.

20 Q Now, if Route 3, of course, doesn't come to the
21 border between Pittsburg and Canada, does it?

22 A (Ellis) No.

23 Q How would you get the closest route from
24 Pittsburg to Route 3 in New Hampshire?

1 A (Ellis) Well, my suggestion would be, and I
2 think it's been talked about, that this is
3 buried through Canaan, Vermont, and then that
4 would lead over to Route 3.

5 Q Do you know if there's been any discussions
6 between Northern Pass and Canaan, Vermont, with
7 respect to using that short stretch of road in
8 Canaan, Vermont, to get to Route 3 from East
9 Hereford?

10 A (Ellis) I know that a letter was written to
11 them, and within that content of that letter
12 they said we'd, in effect, like to sit down and
13 chat with you. That's the letter. About
14 potentially coming through our town. And it's
15 my understanding that they have not heard a
16 response back.

17 Q The letter that you were referring to is on the
18 screen in front of you; is that correct?

19 A (Ellis) That's correct.

20 Q What's on the screen, for the record, is an
21 exhibit that has just been marked CS 128. And
22 it will be put up on ShareFile. I'll represent
23 to the Committee that this comes from the
24 Committee's website, again, the comment letter

1 section, and it was apparently submitted by the
2 Selectmen of or the Selectboard of Canaan,
3 Vermont, and you've seen this letter before,
4 Mr. Ellis?

5 A (Ellis) I have.

6 Q I'm not sure if you can read the last paragraph
7 at the bottom of page 2 on the letter. With
8 reference to that, what's your understanding of
9 what the Selectboard of Canaan was asking or
10 stating in this letter that it wrote to Northern
11 Pass and other officials and to this Committee?

12 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection. Relevance.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Baker?

14 MR. BAKER: This paragraph, and I'll make
15 an offer of proof, will state, I think it states
16 that, and, again, we can read it, we can all
17 read it, that the Town of Canaan is open to
18 discussions with Northern Pass with respect to
19 the use of its roads to bring this Project down
20 from the Canadian border to Route 3 on the
21 shortest possible underground route.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: An
23 alternative that is not before the Site
24 Evaluation Committee, and I'm not sure is

1 something we can consider.

2 MR. BAKER: Well, I think that you can
3 consider it in conjunction with the EPA letter
4 which is in evidence suggesting the Route 3
5 corridor be used all the way to Whitefield.
6 This would make it possible to bring the Project
7 quickly into that road without having to disturb
8 areas that were not in an already existing
9 corridor.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: What is it
11 you want to ask of Mr. Ellis who is not from
12 Canaan about what Canaan is doing?

13 MR. BAKER: I'm going to ask him the
14 ultimate question which is would this solve most
15 of your concerns for the town of Pittsburg if
16 that route was picked.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Go ahead.
18 You can ask that question.

19 A (Ellis) Absolutely.

20 Q How about you, Mr. Coates? Would this solve the
21 problems that Stewartstown feels it's faced, and
22 especially in light of the directive that the
23 town is under from the voters from the 2011/2012
24 time period?

1 A (Coates) Without a doubt.

2 Q I'm sorry?

3 A (Coates) Without a doubt.

4 Q Thank you. I have no further questions.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Aslin?

6 MR. ASLIN: Just for the record, the EPA
7 letter was Applicant's Exhibit 224A.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Thank you. I
9 had no other Intervenors who indicated they
10 needed to ask questions of this Panel.

11 ADMINISTRATOR MONROE: Jeanne Menard.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Menard?
13 Sorry.

14 MS. MENARD: May I ask one followup
15 question, please?

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: By all means.
17 Just make sure they know where you are.

18 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

19 **BY MS. MENARD:**

20 Q Jeanne Menard on behalf of Deerfield Abutters.

21 You were asked earlier about property tax
22 benefits, and there's been a lot of testimony
23 the last few months about the potential benefits
24 of the Forward NH Fund and potential jobs during

1 construction. Even with those potential
2 benefits, are your towns still opposed to the
3 Project?

4 A (Ellis) Yes.

5 A (Coates) Our town's opposed to the Project
6 coming in overhead. Yes. They are.

7 Q Okay. Can you explain why?

8 A (Coates) I'll speak for Stewartstown.

9 Q Can you speak into the microphone, please?

10 A (Coates) Yes.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Menard,
12 isn't that what their testimony is?

13 MS. MENARD: Well, I thought it was
14 important for, I would like to better understand
15 the reasoning behind that.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Is there
17 something in the Prefiled Testimony that's not
18 clear?

19 MS. MENARD: It wasn't clear to me, sir.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I think you
21 need to be more specific. What in the Prefiled
22 Testimony do you need clarification of? Because
23 it is apparent that the Prefiled Testimony
24 expresses opposition to the Project as it's

1 proposed. So I'm not sure what it is you want
2 clarified.

3 MS. MENARD: Just the reasons why the
4 benefits are not obvious or they're not benefits
5 to these particular towns.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Okay. I
7 think you asked about the Forward NH Plan.

8 MS. MENARD: Correct.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: And they
10 responded regarding the Forward NH plan. Is
11 there something else you want to ask about?

12 MS. MENARD: The job construction.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: If you have a
14 question about that, go ahead.

15 MS. MENARD: I was just hoping to get a
16 clarification as to whether even though there
17 are potential jobs that it's not offset.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: That's a
19 different question.

20 MS. MENARD: I'm sorry if I wasn't clear
21 originally.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: If you want
23 to, I think what you want, I know what she wants
24 to ask, but what she can ask which is consistent

1 with the question she asked about the Forward NH
2 Plan is assuming that this Project brought in
3 jobs during the construction period, would that
4 in any way change the towns' perspective
5 positions regarding the Project?

6 A (Coates) Speaking for the town of Stewartstown,
7 I have to abide by the Article in 2012. So I
8 know at a meeting or two that I attended,
9 several meetings, that the job opportunities is
10 going to be available in the North Country, and
11 it didn't have any effect in changing their idea
12 that that line had to be buried.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Ellis?

14 A (Coates) That's all I can talk about.

15 A (Ellis) We looked at the long-term benefit, and
16 we just didn't think any short-term jobs that
17 may be created, not knowing in fact who would be
18 hired for those jobs would change our minds so
19 the answer has not changed.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Menard?

21 MS. MENARD: Thank you.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Any other
23 intervenors that I missed? Yes. Ms. Saffo?

24 MS. SAFFO: Can I ask one followup question

1 to that line?

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: You didn't
3 need to tell me what it was about. But you can
4 ask a question, and we'll see if it's a good
5 one.

6 MS. SAFFO: Thank you.

7 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

8 **BY MS. SAFFO:**

9 Q Have you heard that the order of who's going to
10 be hired has switched? Is that familiar to you?

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Ms. Saffo, I
12 don't think people can hear you well. Just
13 speak directly into the microphone and we'll be
14 good.

15 Q Okay. So previously there had been an
16 understanding that the hiring of people for this
17 Project would be New Hampshire union, then New
18 Hampshire nonunion and then Massachusetts union.
19 But we've since learned that that's been
20 switched to New Hampshire union, Massachusetts
21 union, and then New Hampshire nonunion. In your
22 area, do you think there's a lot of New
23 Hampshire union people looking for work?

24 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Objection. I think that

1 mischaracterizes the record.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I'm a little
3 concerned that it does, Ms. Saffo.

4 MS. SAFFO: Okay.

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I mean the
6 question itself was okay, but it was the
7 preliminaries that were a little bit off so do
8 you want to try the question without the
9 prelude?

10 BY MS. SAFFO:

11 Q Why don't I just skip the prelude and just say
12 are you aware of many New Hampshire union
13 individuals in your area looking for work?

14 A (Coates) No.

15 A (Ellis) Obviously, I don't know everybody in
16 town, but I'm not aware of anybody.

17 Q Thank you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Anyone else?
19 Mr. Needleman, do you have questions for the
20 Panel? I'll take that as a yes.

21 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

22 **BY MR. NEEDLEMAN:**

23 Q Mr. Ellis and Mr. Coates, my name is Barry
24 Needleman. I'm an attorney representing the

1 Applicants in this matter, and I wanted to
2 start, Mr. Ellis with you, asking a couple of
3 questions.

4 Dawn, could we put up Applicant's Exhibit
5 357, please? And if you could take a look at
6 that on your screen, Mr. Ellis, and they are
7 going to be a couple of pages that will come up.
8 I think there's a third page which we'll put up
9 in a moment. This is a summary of the outreach
10 efforts that the Applicants have engaged in in
11 the town of Pittsburg. It includes things like
12 open houses, public information sessions,
13 letters sent to town officials, meetings that
14 have occurred with other officials, and I wanted
15 to ask whether this summary based on a quick
16 review is consistent with your knowledge of this
17 topic?

18 A (Ellis) It is not.

19 Q And why is that?

20 A (Ellis) There's too many things that appears to
21 have been said that I don't agree with.

22 Q Do you have personal knowledge of each one of
23 those issues?

24 A (Ellis) No.

1 Q Is it possible that these things could have
2 occurred and you weren't personally aware of
3 them?

4 A (Ellis) It's possible.

5 Q Okay. Are you also aware that in addition to
6 what's on this summary there have been outreach
7 efforts in Pittsburg with individuals in the
8 community?

9 A (Ellis) No.

10 Q I want to direct your attention to the bottom of
11 the first page. There is a bullet there that
12 notes that on March 14th, 2017, Northern Pass
13 sent the town a letter asking if it would be
14 interested in a discussion about a stipulation
15 or a Memorandum of Understanding. Do you have
16 knowledge of that?

17 A (Ellis) I do not.

18 Q So if you look on page 2, there was a followup
19 on May 16th, 2017, about this issue. Then it
20 also indicates that on August 15th, 2017, a
21 meeting occurred with the Town Administrator and
22 the Chair of the Selectboard to discuss the MOU.
23 I understand that you're not currently a
24 Selectman there. Do you have any knowledge of

1 these meetings?

2 A (Ellis) I don't.

3 Q My understanding is that as we sit here today
4 the town of Pittsburg is still considering the
5 MOU. Do you have any knowledge of that?

6 A (Ellis) I don't.

7 Q I'm going to ask you some questions, Mr. Ellis,
8 about Clarksville.

9 Well, actually, Dawn, is there a third
10 page? All right. I just didn't want that to
11 not be in the record, and these will all be
12 submitted.

13 I want to try to ask you, Mr. Ellis, some
14 questions about Clarksville. I understand
15 you're here on behalf of all three towns. If
16 you can't answer them, just let me know.

17 A (Ellis) Okay.

18 Q I'm going to call up Applicant's Exhibit 355.
19 Again, a summary. I'm going to gather that you
20 probably have no personal knowledge of this
21 summary of meetings in Clarksville; is that
22 right?

23 A (Ellis) I do not.

24 Q Okay. Is it also fair to say then that you

1 don't have any knowledge of the March 14th,
2 2017, letter sent to Clarksville inquiry about
3 an MOU?

4 A (Ellis) I know that Clarksville was sent several
5 letters and that they were not going to sign
6 them, but I don't know if it was an MOU or not.

7 Q And I'm talking about the MOU. I'm not talking
8 about the archeological information.

9 A (Ellis) Fair enough.

10 Q Do you have any knowledge about an MOU request
11 for Clarksville?

12 A (Ellis) No, I don't.

13 Q Mr. Coates, I'll just ask you. Do you have any
14 knowledge of that?

15 A (Coates) For Stewartstown or for Clarksville?

16 Q For Clarksville.

17 A (Coates) No.

18 Q My understanding is that Clarksville indicated
19 it was not interested in having a discussion
20 about an MOU. Do you know anything about that?
21 Coates?

22 A (Ellis) Me?

23 Q Mr. Ellis.

24 A (Ellis) I'm not aware of that.

1 Q Given that the town is not interested in
2 discussing an MOU, I'm wondering, Mr. Ellis,
3 since Mr. DeMaio is not here, if you'd be
4 willing to check with Mr. DeMaio and see whether
5 the town would still be interested in having
6 discussions with the Project about ways that
7 impacts could be minimized if the Committee
8 granted a Certificate, even if they don't want
9 to have a discussion about an MOU; is that
10 something you could do?

11 A (Ellis) Yes. I can talk to him. I'm sure.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Before we
13 leave that subject, how are we going to close
14 the loop on that followup?

15 Q I would ask, Mr. Ellis and I, I think, have
16 talked at least once before. I would ask you if
17 you could, whatever the answer is, if you could
18 let me know.

19 A (Ellis) No problem.

20 Q Thank you.

21 A (Ellis) I'll call you.

22 Q Sounds good.

23 Mr. Coates, couple of questions for you,
24 sir. I want to put up Applicant's Exhibit 145

1 which is the Outreach Summary for the town of
2 Stewartstown and give you a chance to take a
3 look at it. And I'll ask you, Mr. Coates, is
4 this generally consistent with your knowledge
5 about this topic?

6 A (Coates) It very well could be.

7 Q If you could speak up a little, please, sir?

8 A (Coates) It very well could be.

9 Q Are you also aware that in an addition to the
10 information present on here there have been
11 outreach efforts by the Project to individuals
12 in Stewartstown?

13 A (Coates) Yes.

14 Q At the bottom of page 1 of this Outreach
15 Summary, this also indicates that Northern Pass
16 contacted Stewartstown to inquire about the
17 town's interest in entering into an MOU on March
18 14th. Do you see that?

19 A (Coates) Yes, sir.

20 Q It's my understanding that the town of
21 Stewartstown indicated that it does not have an
22 interest in having that discussion. Is that
23 correct?

24 A (Coates) Yes, sir.

1 Q And I'll ask you the same question, and you can
2 get back to me if you want as well.

3 Understanding that the town does not want
4 to talk about an MOU, would the town still be
5 willing to discuss with Northern Pass ways that
6 impacts in the community could be minimized if
7 the Committee were to grant a certificate? And
8 if you would prefer to get back to me on that,
9 that's fine also.

10 A (Coates) Okay. Thanks.

11 Q I'll ask you to do the same thing. Could you
12 just let me know by phone or email?

13 A (Coates) Give me your phone number.

14 Q I will do that right after we're done.

15 A (Ellis) How quickly would you like that answer?

16 Q Whatever pace you can get it done.

17 A (Ellis) Thank you.

18 Q So let me move to a different topic.

19 On page 2 of your Joint Testimony, you both
20 stated or you all stated that, quote, we have
21 concerns that the Project as proposed will
22 adversely affect the orderly development of our
23 region. And I'll direct it to you, Mr. Ellis,
24 and you can certainly weigh in if you'd like,

1 Mr. Coates.

2 Sir, were you aware of the things that the
3 Site Evaluation Committee needs to consider with
4 respect to orderly development? Things like
5 land use, employment, and the economy of the
6 region?

7 A (Ellis) The technical stuff, no.

8 Q Did either of you have the chance to listen to
9 or review the testimony of someone named Allen
10 Bouthillier?

11 A (Ellis) I have not.

12 Q Do you know Mr. Bouthillier?

13 A (Ellis) I don't.

14 Q Were you aware that he's operated an excavation
15 company and a sand and gravel business in
16 Lancaster for 33 years?

17 A (Ellis) Am I aware of that? No.

18 Q Did you know that Mr. Bouthillier testified that
19 he thought the Project would provide additional
20 work opportunities for him and his employees and
21 would increase business to surrounding
22 restaurants, lodging establishments,
23 establishments and other businesses? Did you
24 know about that testimony?

1 A (Ellis) I was not aware of it, but I don't agree
2 with it.

3 Q He also said that the Project might offer
4 opportunities for other people to get started in
5 business and create new businesses. I assume
6 you were not aware of that testimony?

7 A (Ellis) I was not.

8 Q So having in mind Mr. Bouthillier's view, do you
9 think that it's reasonable to conclude that
10 these same types of things might happen in your
11 three communities during the Project's
12 construction?

13 A (Ellis) I think the general opinion in our
14 community is those are short-term opportunities,
15 and we are looking long-term so we don't think
16 that those are long-term benefits if in fact
17 construction is going to adversely affect our
18 landscape which could adversely affect our
19 economy.

20 Q I want to pull up Applicant's Exhibit number 1,
21 Appendix 44, Dawn.

22 And just to orient the two of you, there's
23 an expert we have in this case named Dr. Lisa
24 Shapiro who has provided testimony on tax

1 impacts in various communities, and this is from
2 Page 12, Figure 6 of her report. And Mr. Ellis,
3 if you can locate Pittsburg on here. It's right
4 at the top. Were you aware that -- first of
5 all, have you seen this before?

6 A (Ellis) I don't believe that I have.

7 Q Were you aware that Dr. Shapiro offered the
8 opinion that if the Project were built, the tax
9 base would increase by about 4.3 percent in
10 Pittsburg?

11 A (Ellis) I knew there was going to be a slight
12 increase.

13 Q Were you also aware that she testified that she
14 expected the property taxes in the first year
15 for Pittsburg would be about \$108,000?

16 A (Ellis) I thought it was around 90 but 108 is
17 close enough.

18 Q I'm going to ask you about Clarksville, too, and
19 again, if you can answer, please do. Looking
20 quickly at Clarksville on the chart, the impacts
21 there are, according to Dr. Shapiro, there would
22 be a 60.5 percent increase in the tax base and
23 in that last column it indicates that over 37
24 percent of the taxes in town would be paid by

1 Northern Pass. Were you aware of that?

2 A (Ellis) That particular number, no.

3 Q I'm going to call up another exhibit. Well,
4 actually, Dawn, let's go to Applicant's Exhibit
5 356.

6 While we're doing that, Ms. Shapiro
7 calculated that Northern Pass would pay about
8 \$139,000 in property taxes in the first year in
9 Clarksville. I take it you weren't aware of
10 that?

11 A (Ellis) No.

12 Q Okay. So this exhibit shows the top 25 highest
13 taxpayers in Clarksville. Is this something
14 you've seen before?

15 A (Ellis) No.

16 Q This is, I think, for the 2016/2017 tax year.
17 Were you aware that if Northern Pass were
18 constructed and paid the property taxes that Ms.
19 Shapiro was talking about that it would be
20 paying more in taxes than the top 20 taxpayers
21 in Clarksville combined?

22 A (Ellis) I was not aware of that.

23 Q And then, Mr. Coates, just a couple of questions
24 for you.

1 I want to go back to that other exhibit if
2 we could, Dawn. Let's focus on Stewartstown.

3 Mr. Coates, is it correct according to this
4 chart that the local property tax base in year
5 1, if the Project were constructed, would
6 increase by 81 percent?

7 A (Coates) I knew it was going to increase. We
8 haven't had you folks give us these figures as
9 far as I know. I don't remember the 81.1
10 percent. I do know that it was a considerable
11 increase.

12 Q On the far side of that chart, that means that
13 Northern Pass's share of the tax base in
14 Stewartstown would be almost 45 percent; is that
15 right?

16 A (Coates) Yes. I knew that was going to
17 increase, though, but I don't remember 44.8.

18 Q So that effectively means that for taxpayers in
19 Stewartstown, they could get their tax bill cut
20 almost in half if all the money were put into
21 that; is that right?

22 A (Coates) If those figures are correct, I guess,
23 yes, sir.

24 Q I think Dr. Shapiro provided information saying

1 that the assessed value of the infrastructure
2 from Northern Pass in Stewartstown would be
3 close to \$70 million. Does that sound right?

4 A (Coates) It was considerable. Yes, sir.

5 Q So I just want to show you Exhibit 358. And
6 this is the list of the top 25 taxpayers. It's
7 a little bit different than the last one because
8 it's not taxes paid. It's expressed in terms of
9 assessed value. Have you seen this before?

10 A (Coates) I've seen probably most of those
11 figures, not written 1 through 25 before.

12 Q Okay. I added all these figures together of the
13 top 25 taxpayers, and would it surprise you that
14 Northern Pass's assessed value would be more
15 than twice as much as the top 25 payers
16 combined?

17 A (Coates) Would it surprise -- yeah, I guess.

18 Q So you would agree with me that that would be a
19 significant influx of money into the community
20 of Stewartstown?

21 A (Coates) Yes, sir.

22 Q Thank you. I don't have anything further.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.

24 Members of the Committee. Any questions for

1 this Panel.

2 Ms. Weathersby?

3 **QUESTIONS BY MS. WEATHERSBY:**

4 Q Good afternoon, gentlemen.

5 When we were talking about the resolutions
6 you indicated that Pittsburg had tabled a
7 resolution? Was that resolution that did not
8 get voted on, was that in favor of or in
9 opposition to the Project?

10 A (Ellis) It was in opposition.

11 Q And, again, in those resolutions, it seemed as
12 though the -- let me back up.

13 You talked here today about the primary
14 concern being the effects on tourism in the
15 area, but in the Stewartstown resolution it was
16 also noted that there was opposition due to
17 health concerns. Is that still a concern of the
18 people of Stewartstown?

19 A (Coates) It would be health concerns because of
20 the closing of any roads and so forth during the
21 process of building when people would be left
22 stranded in their residence. I think the
23 McAllasters brought it up and so forth out in
24 Bear Rock country.

1 Q Thank you. And the Clarksville resolution
2 stated that that town was also opposed due to a
3 decline in its property values. Do either of
4 you know whether that is still a concern of the
5 people of Clarksville?

6 A (Ellis) I am not aware of that.

7 Q Okay. I have nothing further.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Commissioner
9 Bailey?

10 **QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:**

11 Q Mr. Ellis, you stated that maintaining tourism
12 is absolutely more important than increased tax
13 revenue. Do you remember that?

14 A (Ellis) Yes.

15 Q When you said that, were you speaking on behalf
16 of town of Pittsburg or all three towns?

17 A (Ellis) I'll just say for the town of Pittsburg.

18 Q Okay. Thank you. That's all I have.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Iacopino?

20 MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.

21 **QUESTIONS BY MR. IACOPINO:**

22 Q Gentlemen, in your Joint Prefiled Testimony, you
23 reference the use of your roads for utilities,
24 and I just wanted to ask for each town. I

1 understand your concern about the Application of
2 the statute. That's a legal issue. I'm not
3 asking you about that. But in each of your
4 towns, do you have any type of regulations,
5 whether it be ordinances or other regulations
6 regarding the burying of utilities in town
7 roads?

8 A (Coates) Stewartstown does not.

9 Q Do you know if Pittsburg or Clarksville do?

10 A (Ellis) I don't believe Pittsburg or Clarksville
11 have that.

12 Q Okay. This is going to sound like an odd
13 question, I guess, but does your Highway
14 Department or Road Agent, has he put out any
15 kind of guidance for construction in the
16 right-of-way as far as you know?

17 A (Coates) Town of Stewartstown goes by what goes
18 on in the right-of-way, we are governed by state
19 RSAs. Disturbing the surface of the highway,
20 emergency situations when we close down a road
21 or when we can't close down a road. It's all
22 governed by RSA. Our Road Agents came up with
23 those RSAs, and we confront any violations of
24 the RSAs.

1 Q But you have nothing separate other than the
2 state laws is what you're saying?

3 A (Coates) Correct.

4 Q Do you know if there are any, if the Committee
5 were to grant the Application, do you know if
6 there are any conditions that any of the three
7 towns may wish to see with respect to
8 underground construction?

9 A (Coates) Speaking for the town of Stewartstown,
10 we will have to, we'll revert back to what the
11 RSA says about disturbing the surface of our
12 road and where that authority lies.

13 Q Okay. And Mr. Ellis, do you know if Clarksville
14 or Pittsburg has any conditions that they would
15 suggest to the Committee if the Committee were
16 inclined to grant the Application to allow the
17 Application for construction in the roads in
18 those towns?

19 A (Ellis) Pittsburg has no issue with roads
20 because everything is going overhead. The way
21 that the Road Agent works, as Allen said, he has
22 to comply with certain state rules and regs.
23 And if there's going to be a project within the
24 town, that's normally brought before the Board

1 of Selectmen prior to that being done, and if
2 there's any concern about what he's doing,
3 that's going to be voiced by the Board of
4 Selectmen. But in my six years there, I can't
5 think of one issue that was a real issue that we
6 would have to challenge them on doing something.

7 Q Okay. Well, thank you.

8 A (Ellis) Thank you.

9 A (Coates) Thank you.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I think the
11 only thing left to do is to give you an
12 opportunity to add anything you feel -- is
13 Mr. Samson in a position to do that?

14 MR. IACOPINO: I understood he was going
15 to.

16 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Commissioner
17 Samson, are you in a position to offer these
18 witnesses a brief redirect? Off the record.

19 (Discussion off the record)

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Commissioner
21 Samson, you may proceed.

22 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

23 **BY MR. SAMSON:**

24 Q I'm a little bit confused, I might say, and Mr.

1 Iacopino and Pam have tried to direct me in the
2 direction that I should go. As you are well
3 aware, I'm also an Intervenor in this case. I
4 also did submit Prefiled Testimony, withdrew it,
5 thought I resubmitted it, not sure if it was
6 withdrawn, lost or whatever. So my questions
7 will be the notes that I have taken today if
8 that is okay.

9 I guess my first question to the two
10 gentlemen would be are either of you aware that
11 Dr. Shapiro that was referred to earlier is not
12 only a paid consultant for this Project but has
13 been a lobbyist for a number of years for PSNH,
14 now Eversource?

15 A (Ellis) I'm not aware of that.

16 A (Coates) No, sir.

17 Q Okay.

18 A (Coates) I take that back. We were told, the
19 attorney right here told us who he was. That's
20 the first I really knew of who he was. You
21 introduced him when you drew up that chart,
22 correct?

23 Q Okay. Yes. Okay. Thank you.

24 Are either one of you aware that Public

1 Service Company or Eversource has filed over 50
2 requests for abatements on utilities against a
3 number of small municipalities in Coos County;
4 Stewartstown and Pittsburg being two of those
5 municipalities?

6 MR. NEEDLEMAN: Mr. Chair, I think this is
7 beyond the scope of the questioning.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Samson?

9 MR. SAMSON: I'll withdraw that question,
10 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

11 MR. SAMSON: As a side note, Mr. Iacopino,
12 I think your reference to Pittsburg being a
13 small part of the state was in reference to the
14 Project?

15 MR. IACOPINO: My reference was to the very
16 small area in Pittsburg where it goes
17 underground. That's why I said small part.

18 MR. SAMSON: Because I'm sure you're not
19 aware that Pittsburg is the largest township
20 east of the Mississippi River.

21 MR. IACOPINO: That was not what I was
22 trying to ask about.

23 MR. SAMSON: Okay. Thank you.

24 BY MR. SAMSON:

1 Q Mr. Coates, are you aware of any overhead
2 transmission lines currently in the town of
3 Stewartstown?

4 A (Coates) No.

5 Q Mr. Ellis, the same for Pittsburg?

6 A (Ellis) No.

7 Q Are you aware or do you know if there ever have
8 been transmission lines in either Pittsburg or
9 Stewartstown?

10 A (Ellis) You're referring to other than those on
11 a telephone pole?

12 Q No, I'm referring to the big lines. Not the
13 distributions that goes to the houses and
14 businesses.

15 A (Ellis) I have no knowledge of that.

16 Q Mr. Coates?

17 A (Coates) The lines that come out over the added
18 gray place or what? What are you classifying
19 them as?

20 Q May I explain the difference between the
21 transmission and distribution, Mr. Chairman?

22 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I don't think
23 so.

24 Q No. That's fine.

1 A (Coates) Okay.

2 Q Let me rephrase the question, if I may.

3 Are you aware of any big lines that go
4 north of Stewartstown through Pittsburg and or
5 Clarksville?

6 A (Coates) No.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Mr. Chair, I
8 think we're beyond the scope of the questioning
9 again.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: The purpose
11 of redirect is on the questions that these
12 gentlemen were asked today.

13 MR. SAMSON: Okay.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: By Mr. Aslin,
15 Mr. Reimers, Mr. Baker, Ms. Menard, et cetera,
16 and then Mr. Needleman, and the Committee.
17 That's the purpose of redirect to give you or
18 them an opportunity to clarify or expand on
19 something that the witnesses needed to deal with
20 or you felt they needed to deal with from that
21 round of questioning. Okay?

22 MR. SAMSON: Okay. Thank you.

23 Q Do you, Mr. Coates, know of any contractors in
24 the Stewartstown/Clarksville area, not including

1 Pittsburg, that are in the excavation business
2 that was referred to earlier in your questioning
3 about AB Excavating in Lancaster?

4 A (Coates) No.

5 Q There are no contractors in Stewartstown or
6 Clarksville in the excavation business?

7 A (Coates) Oh, yes. There are. Yes.

8 Q Okay. Thank you. And in Pittsburg, Mr. Ellis,
9 do we have contractors there as well?

10 A (Ellis) We do.

11 Q Do you know if the Applicant has questioned any
12 of those contractors in Stewartstown,
13 Clarksville or Pittsburg?

14 A (Ellis) I'm not aware of that.

15 A (Coates) I'm not aware.

16 Q So you're not aware that the Applicant has
17 questioned anybody in the most affected area of
18 the Project?

19 A (Coates) No.

20 Q Okay.

21 MR. SAMSON: I think that's all the
22 redirect that I have, Mr. Chairman.

23 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: All right.

24 Thank you, Commissioner Samson. We are then --

1 MS. SAFFO: Excuse me?

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Yes,

3 Ms. Saffo?

4 MS. SAFFO: One question on redirect?

5 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: These are not
6 your witnesses.

7 MS. SAFFO: I realize that.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: If you were
9 going to be allowed to ask a question, what
10 would it be?

11 MS. SAFFO: So I think the withdrawn
12 question by Mr. Samson regarding the abatements
13 was, the objection should have been overruled
14 because Mr. Needleman specifically discussed tax
15 values. So I think a question on tax values and
16 abatement is more than reasonable, and so I felt
17 that that would be the question I would ask.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Just a
19 moment.

20 (Discussion off the record)

21 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: I don't think
22 so, Ms. Saffo. If you were allowed to ask that
23 question, what do you think the answer would be
24 if you'd like to make an offer of proof?

1 MS. SAFFO: I think Mr. Samson obviously
2 presented the question and had the information
3 on it. I'm presuming based on his question that
4 there was abatements. It's just a situation
5 where there was an objection, and this is where
6 we have a lot of pro se people who aren't
7 attorneys, there wasn't a response to the
8 objection. There wasn't a ruling on the
9 objection. It was something that --

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: The question
11 was withdrawn. I understand, I understand the
12 difference and lawyers may behave differently,
13 but a lot of lawyers have been withdrawing
14 questions in response to objections so it
15 couldn't surprise anyone when it happens. I'm
16 going to not allow the question. You've
17 preserved the issue to the extent it needs to be
18 reserved.

19 MS. SAFFO: Thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HONIGBERG: Gentlemen,
21 thank you for your testimony. You're done now,
22 and we're going to break for lunch and return at
23 two o'clock.

24 A (Ellis) Thank you.

1 A (Coates) Thank you for your patience.

2 (Lunch recess taken at 1:02
3 p.m. and concludes the **Day 49**
4 **Morning Session**. The hearing
5 continues under separate cover
6 in the transcript noted as **Day**
7 **49 Afternoon Session ONLY**.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I, Cynthia Foster, Registered Professional
3 Reporter and Licensed Court Reporter, duly authorized
4 to practice Shorthand Court Reporting in the State of
5 New Hampshire, hereby certify that the foregoing
6 pages are a true and accurate transcription of my
7 stenographic notes of the hearing for use in the
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9 transcript was duly ordered;

10 I further certify that I am neither
11 attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed
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16 interested in this action.

17 Dated at West Lebanon, New Hampshire, this 30th
18 day of October, 2017.

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Cynthia Foster, LCR
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