

In Re:
SEC 2015-05
SEC POST-APPLICATION PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Windham. New Hampshire
October 29, 2015

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

October 29, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.
Golden Brook Elementary School
112B Lowell Road
Windham, New Hampshire

IN RE: SEC DOCKET NO. 2015-05 PUBLIC
SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, d/b/a
EVERSOURCE ENERGY, and NEW ENGLAND POWER
COMPANY, d/b/a NATIONAL GRID: Public
Information Session held pursuant to
RSA 162-H:10 regarding the Joint
Application for a Certificate of Site
and Facility for the Construction of a
New 345kV Transmission Line in Southern
New Hampshire
(Presentation by Eversource Energy and
National Grid, followed by
Question-and-Answer Session and comments
received from the public.)

PRESENT: Michael J. Iacopino, Esquire
(Presiding Officer)

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, N.H. LCR No. 44

1 NOTED AS PRESENT:

2 On Behalf of SEC: Pamela Monroe, Administrator

3

4 Counsel for the Applicant: Barry Needleman, Esq.
(McLane, Middleton)

5

6 Counsel for the Public: Christopher Aslin, Esq.
N.H. Attorney General's Office

7

8

9 Also noted as present for the Eversource
10 Energy/National Grid Project Team who provided
presentation and answers to questions:

11 Jim Jiottis
(Manager, Transmission Engineering, Eversource)

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13 Bryan Hudock
(Project Manager, National Grid)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. IACOPINO: Good evening,
3 folks. We're here for the New Hampshire Site
4 Evaluation Committee Public Information
5 Session in Docket No. 2015-05, the Joint
6 Application of New England Power Company and
7 Public Service Company of New Hampshire, doing
8 business as Eversource Energy, for a
9 Certificate of Site and Facility for the
10 Merrimack Valley Reliability Project. My name
11 is Michael Iacopino. I have been appointed to
12 administer this proceeding tonight. I am the
13 outside counsel to the New Hampshire Site
14 Evaluation Committee. To my right is Pamela
15 Monroe, our brand new administrator for the
16 Site Evaluation Committee.

17 The agenda for tonight is
18 going like this: We're going to start off
19 with a presentation from me, on behalf of the
20 Committee, to tell everybody what the
21 Committee does and how we do it. That
22 presentation will be followed by a
23 presentation from the Applicants, and then we
24 will take questions. Everybody should be

1 aware that if you have questions, there are
2 comment cards or question sheets that you can
3 get at the back table. If you write out your
4 questions, we will keep them together by
5 categories, and we will -- once we have them
6 at the front table, we'll ask the
7 representatives from the Company or myself or
8 Pam to answer your questions, depending upon
9 what they pertain to, whether they pertain to
10 how the Committee operates or whether they
11 pertain to specifics about the Project. Once
12 we have gone through all the questions that
13 are asked, we'll open the floor. There is a
14 microphone in front of me. We'll open the
15 floor to anybody who has or wishes to make
16 public comment on the proposed project.
17 Please remember we're keeping a record. We
18 have a court reporter here. If you have the
19 opportunity to speak, please speak slowly.
20 When you identify yourself, please spell your
21 name so that we can get it all in the record.
22 And also, for the record to be complete, I'm
23 going to give a brief description of the
24 project and the process.

1 On August 5th, 2015, New
2 England Power, doing business as National
3 Grid, and Public Service Company of New
4 Hampshire, doing business as Eversource
5 Energy, filed a Joint Application for
6 Certificate of Site and Facility with the
7 Site Evaluation Committee. The application
8 seeks the issuance of a Certificate of Site
9 and Facility for a new 345kV electric
10 transmission line which will be constructed
11 in an existing, developed transmission line
12 corridor between New England Power Company's
13 Tewksbury 22A Substation, in Tewksbury,
14 Massachusetts, and Public Service Company of
15 New Hampshire's Scobie Pond 345kV substation
16 in Londonderry, New Hampshire. This corridor
17 traverses the towns of Pelham and Hudson in
18 Hillsborough County, and Windham and
19 Londonderry in Rockingham County.

20 On October 5th, 2015, the New
21 Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee found
22 that the application that was filed by the
23 two applicants contained sufficient
24 information for the Committee to carry out

1 the purposes of R.S.A. 162-H. And they
2 accepted the application, and that's why
3 we're here tonight to begin the public
4 information process.

5 Also present with us here
6 tonight is Counsel for the Public from the
7 Attorney General's Office, Christopher Aslin.
8 His role is to represent the public in these
9 proceedings. And I'll defer to him to make a
10 little -- to introduce himself and give you
11 the background of how he operates once we get
12 into the presentation here.

13 So what I'm going to do is, I
14 do have a PowerPoint here, and we're going
15 to -- I don't have a clicker, so I'm going to
16 speak from the here. But basically I'm going
17 to go through this PowerPoint to help you all
18 understand exactly what the Site Evaluation
19 Committee does. R.S.A. 162-H is the statute
20 which creates and enables the Site Evaluation
21 Committee. The purpose of R.S.A. 162 is to
22 basically do a balancing act, to balance the
23 benefit and impacts of energy facilities --
24 which transmission lines are considered to be

1 an energy facility -- to balance those
2 benefits and impacts on these very important
3 criteria that the Legislature has identified:
4 The general welfare of the population,
5 private property, the location and growth of
6 industry, economic growth, the environment,
7 historic sites, aesthetics, air and water
8 quality, natural resources, and public health
9 and safety. Another purpose of the statute
10 is to avoid undue delay in the construction
11 of new facilities. Another purpose of the
12 statute is to provide full and complete
13 disclosure, transparency, so that the public
14 knows what is going to be -- what is proposed
15 to be constructed and what the impacts and
16 benefits of the facility are. And finally,
17 to ensure that the construction, operation
18 and siting of energy facilities is treated as
19 an aspect of land-use planning in all
20 concepts involving environmental, technical
21 issues, economic issues, that they all get
22 resolved in an integrated fashion. In
23 essence, the Site Evaluation Committee is a
24 statewide planning board for energy

1 facilities. And, in fact, the Site
2 Evaluation Committee's process does integrate
3 a number of different permitting processes,
4 and it preempts local ordinances and
5 authority. In other words, the planning
6 board or zoning board in any particular town,
7 although the Site Evaluation Committee
8 listens to what their input may be, the Site
9 Evaluation Committee has the final authority
10 on approving the site and construction and
11 operation of an energy facility. Some people
12 have referred to the process as the
13 "supermarket" theory or "one-stop shopping,"
14 because what happens is when an Applicant
15 files for a Certificate of Site and Facility,
16 the idea behind the Site Evaluation Committee
17 is they go to one place for the purpose of
18 getting all the approvals that they need.
19 The Site Evaluation Committee is made up of
20 three PUC commissioners, the Commissioner of
21 DES, Commissioner of the Department of
22 Transportation, the Commissioner of the
23 Department of Resources and Economic
24 Development, the Cultural Resources

1 Commissioner, or the Director of the Division
2 of Historical Resource -- and usually it's
3 the director that is involved -- and two
4 public members, one of whom must be an
5 attorney and one of whom must have expertise.
6 In fact, one of our public members is seated
7 in the audience, Roger Hawk. I would
8 appreciate if nobody tried to ask him any
9 questions because he's not permitted to have
10 ex parte communications with people who may
11 have an interest in the application.

12 So that's what the Site
13 Evaluation Committee membership is made up of
14 statutorily. Oh, and there is an alternate
15 public member, too. In the event the one of
16 our public members cannot participate, we
17 have an alternate member who is then charged
18 with participating. The Committee today for
19 the Merrimack Valley -- I'm sorry. The
20 Committee consists today of these folks, and
21 those are the same offices that I've already
22 discussed. Marty Honigberg is the Chair of
23 the PUC. Tom Burack is the DES Commissioner.
24 And these are the other people who hold

1 offices that make them members of the Site
2 Evaluation Committee. And there is a copy,
3 if anybody wants a copy of this PowerPoint,
4 there's a printed copy on the table in the
5 back.

6 The Subcommittee that is going
7 to decide whether to grant or deny the
8 application in this particular docket is made
9 up of folks who have been appointed by
10 members of the Committee. First of all, the
11 Site Evaluation Committee can operate in
12 subcommittees. Anytime that an application
13 is filed, the Chairman of the Committee has
14 the authority to appoint a subcommittee. For
15 purposes of an application, that subcommittee
16 must consist of at least seven members. Each
17 one of the members, who is a state
18 commissioner or state office holder who sits
19 on the Site Evaluation Committee, does also
20 have the discretion to appoint a senior
21 administrator from their agency to sit in
22 their place. And that's been done in a
23 couple of our seats for this particular
24 application. And on the Merrimack Valley

1 Reliability Project Subcommittee, Anne Ross,
2 who's general counsel -- that's the top-dog
3 lawyer at the Public Utilities Commission --
4 will sit as the chairman of our subcommittee,
5 and she was appointed by the Chairman
6 Honigberg to take that position.

7 Commissioner Bailey from the Public Utilities
8 Commission will be on the subcommittee;
9 Commissioner Rose from DRED will be on the
10 subcommittee; Commissioner Burack from the
11 Department of Environmental Services
12 appointed Michelle Roberge, who is the SIP
13 administrator. And I forget what SIP stands
14 for.

15 MS. MONROE: State
16 Implementation Plan.

17 MR. IACOPINO: State
18 Implementation Plan administrator.

19 MS. MONROE: She's in the Air
20 Resources Division.

21 MR. IACOPINO: So she will be
22 sitting for Commissioner Burack.

23 Richard Boisvert, who is our
24 state archeologist and has sat on a number of

1 Site Evaluation Committee dockets in the
2 past, will be sitting for the Division of
3 Historical Resources for Elizabeth Muzzey.
4 And then our two public members, Mr. Hawke
5 and Patricia Weathersbee, will serve on this
6 subcommittee as well.

7 We also have a statutorily
8 appointed Counsel for the Public. Anytime an
9 application is filed and accepted by the Site
10 Evaluation Committee, the Attorney General is
11 required to appoint a senior attorney general
12 to serve as Counsel for the Public. Not to
13 the public, for the public. Counsel for the
14 Public. I got it wrong there. And his or
15 her job is to represent the public in seeking
16 to protect the quality of the environment and
17 to assure an adequate supply of energy.

18 Counsel for the Public becomes a party to the
19 proceedings, just like the Applicants are
20 parties to the proceeding. He or she can
21 participate to the full extent allowed by law
22 in the proceedings.

23 Mr. Aslin, I'm going to ask
24 you to introduce yourself. And if you want

1 to say a few words about -- actually, you
2 might want to come up to the mic. Want to
3 say a few words about who you are, where you
4 come from and how people can get in touch
5 with you?

6 MR. ASLIN: Good evening. So
7 as you heard, I'm Chris Aslin from the
8 Attorney General's Office. I'm an assistant
9 attorney general. I've been appointed as
10 Counsel for the Public in this proceeding.
11 And as you see, the statute defines my role as
12 representing the interests of the environment
13 and seeking to assure an adequate supply of
14 energy. So it's a dual role there. Not for
15 or against projects, but to make them as the
16 best they can be, and if need be, change them
17 or interpose them if we feel that that project
18 does not meet the standards for the state. My
19 role is to represent the public as a whole,
20 not any individual person's interests. So if
21 you have particular interests that are
22 specific to you as an individual and you wish
23 to participate in the process to bring that
24 interest forward, you might perhaps consider

1 being an intervenor and having your own
2 counsel. But as far as the public interest as
3 a whole, that is my role to represent as an
4 independent party in this docket. I'm not
5 connected with the Applicant or with the
6 Committee. And I am available to hear any
7 concerns that any member of the public has at
8 any time. I can give you my contact
9 information after the meeting if you're
10 interested. And it's also available through
11 the docket, where my appearance has been
12 entered in the docket in this proceeding. So
13 I'm happy to speak to anyone and hear your
14 concerns. And other than that, I will be
15 participating in the docket as we go forward.

16 MR. IACOPINO: Thanks, Chris.

17 Okay. So now, the next slide
18 is the one that really lays out the process
19 for you. And it's green and white. It's in
20 the printed-out materials in the back as well
21 so you can take it home. But I'm going to go
22 over this one in a little bit of detail.

23 The Site Evaluation Committee
24 is very, very much time- and deadline-based.

1 There are a number of things that have to
2 happen. Quite frankly, this slide and this
3 chart I actually have pinned up next to my
4 desk because it's very helpful to know what's
5 coming next and what has to occur in any one
6 of these dockets. Some of you may have
7 attended a meeting very much like this before
8 the application was filed with the Site
9 Evaluation Committee. That's called the
10 Pre-Application Public Information Session.
11 And all applicants that seek to build a
12 energy facility or transmission line have to
13 have such a public information session in
14 each county in which the facility is going to
15 exist. And that has to occur at least 30
16 days before they file with the Committee.
17 That was done in this case. Once an
18 application is filed, the chairman of the
19 Committee forwards that application to each
20 state agency that would normally have
21 jurisdiction on the project. So, for
22 instance, if it wasn't an energy facility,
23 but let's say a Wal*Mart, okay, the
24 Department of Environmental Services might

1 have permits that they have to grant. Well,
2 same thing applies here. So what happens is,
3 Chairman Honigberg, in this particular case,
4 forwarded the application to a number of
5 state agencies that would otherwise have
6 jurisdiction. Most of those agencies are
7 within the Department of Environmental
8 Services, but they also include the
9 Department of Transportation and the Division
10 of Historical Resources. And the idea is
11 he's supposed to do that right away so that
12 the state agencies that have the expertise
13 can weigh in on whether or not an application
14 is complete. There's also a preliminary
15 review that's conducted by the Committee
16 itself, and we did do that on October 5th at
17 a public meeting, and we determined on
18 October 5th that the application was
19 complete. The time line is we're supposed to
20 do that within 60 days of filing, and I
21 believe that we did do that in this
22 particular case. The chairman can designate
23 a subcommittee. That was done in this case.
24 And he can do that anytime once an

1 application is accepted. And then this is
2 where we are today.

3 After the application has been
4 filed and accepted, there has to be one
5 public information session in each county
6 within 45 days after the acceptance of the
7 application. There's our hearing today, and
8 then we have one next week in Hillsborough
9 County, in Pelham. And the purpose of
10 today's public information session is so that
11 you hear not only from the Applicant, which
12 you will in a moment, but also from
13 representatives from the Committee, myself
14 and Ms. Monroe, and, of course, Counsel for
15 the Public as well.

16 Within 90 days after
17 acceptance, the Committee itself, or the
18 Subcommittee in this case, has to hold a
19 hearing, where the Committee members are
20 actually present. And that will be done --
21 it hasn't been scheduled yet in this
22 particular docket, but it will be scheduled.
23 And that's a joint hearing. There will also
24 be representatives of other state agencies

1 who will be present for that hearing.

2 Within 150 days after the Committee has
3 accepted an application, state agencies have
4 to submit what we call "draft reports."
5 Basically, they're reports that say we would
6 accept this, we don't accept this, or we need
7 these conditions, or we need more
8 information. And they have to propose final
9 conditions and decisions for the Site
10 Evaluation Committee within 240 days after
11 the acceptance of the application.

12 So, all time frames began on October 5th
13 with the acceptance of the application.
14 After 240 days have gone by and we have the
15 agency final decisions, the Committee
16 undertakes what we call adjudicative
17 hearings, just like in court, like what you
18 see on TV. There actually will be the
19 parties to the case -- we'll probably use the
20 hearing room at the Public Utilities
21 Commission. It's the one that works the
22 best. And the parties will be there. There
23 will be witnesses on the witness stand;
24 they'll be cross-examined. There may be

1 opening and closing statements. And the
2 Committee will then deliberate and decide
3 whether or not to grant the application or to
4 deny the application. That decision granting
5 or denying the application has to be complete
6 within 365 days from the acceptance of the
7 application. If you look at that, that means
8 that really a lot of the hard work that the
9 Committee members have to undertake is right
10 in here, between Day 240 and Day 365. If any
11 of you have ever seen one of the decisions
12 that generally come out of the Site
13 Evaluation Committee when an application is
14 either accepted -- either granted or -- the
15 certificate is either granted or denied,
16 you'll know that they are very lengthy
17 orders. They often exceed a hundred pages.
18 They have numerous attachments to them,
19 including things like air permits with
20 conditions, wetlands permits, things like
21 that. It is quite an undertaking, and it's
22 got to be done in a relatively compressed
23 period of time.

24 So, those are the time frames, and

1 that's the process that the Site Evaluation
2 Committee will use as we go through
3 determining whether to grant or deny the
4 certificate in this particular docket.

5 The state agencies -- there are state
6 agencies involved in our process,
7 particularly those that would otherwise grant
8 permits. As I said before, one of the things
9 that you can compare it to is a large
10 development in your town. Usually an
11 applicant who wants to build a large
12 development in any city or town will have to
13 go to various state agencies and get various
14 permits. That's all done in the Site
15 Evaluation Committee, under the umbrella of
16 the Committee. And the state agencies have
17 these duties and obligations, and basically
18 it is -- they can determine whether or not
19 there's enough information provided. They
20 can review the application and provide what
21 we call "draft permit terms or conditions,"
22 in other words, suggestions for the
23 Committee, as to what the Committee should
24 require. And that's, as I said before,

1 that's done within 150 days of the acceptance
2 of the application. So that gives everybody,
3 the Applicant and anybody else interested in
4 the project, the information that they need
5 to know as to what might be required of the
6 Applicant. The state agencies will identify
7 issues of concern with respect to the
8 application, or they could notify the
9 Committee, Hey, we don't have any problem
10 with this particular application. If there
11 are issues of concern, state agencies get to
12 present their own witnesses and have them
13 appear before the Committee to provide their
14 input and also to answer any questions from
15 other parties. They can be cross-examined
16 like any other witness. And one new thing in
17 the statute that's only come into effect in
18 the last year is that, if the Committee
19 intends to impose some certificate conditions
20 that are different than a particular state
21 agency has required, we have to give the
22 state agency the opportunity to come in and
23 advocate for essentially what their view on
24 that is, and to advise us as to whether or

1 not those conditions that the Site Evaluation
2 Committee is suggesting, different than what
3 the said agency wanted, are in conformity
4 with the law.

5 What you have here is you have a
6 situation where you have a pretty broad state
7 agency broadly constructed, and they're using
8 the expertise of the various state agencies
9 in order to make this very important decision
10 on whether or not an energy facility should
11 be allowed in any particular place.

12 There's a lot of stuff that goes into an
13 application before it's even filed with the
14 Committee. I'm sure the Applicant may talk
15 more about this. But there's all of these
16 various considerations that any Applicant is
17 going to have before they come to the
18 Committee. One is, can the grid take the
19 power that we're proposing to generate, or
20 should -- is our transmission facility
21 necessary for reliability? That's all done
22 through the ISO-New England, which is the
23 Independent System Operator. In all of our
24 cases, we see environmental and resource

1 studies about what impact will any particular
2 aspect of the project have on the
3 environment, fish and wildlife. Applicants
4 will engage in pre-permitting meetings with
5 the various agencies, both federal and state,
6 to find out in advance what kind of problems
7 are we going to have if we cite a facility in
8 a particular area. They should meet with the
9 regional planning commission and with the
10 towns or cities obviously where they intend
11 to construct the facility. If they're -- the
12 companies in this particular case are
13 transmission companies. But if they were
14 power generators, obviously you'd want them
15 to meet with the transmission company
16 beforehand to make sure that they can carry
17 the load. They negotiate power purchase
18 agreements. They have to get financing.
19 They have to determine if they're eligible
20 for tax credits. There's a lot of stuff that
21 goes into an application before it even gets
22 to the Site Evaluation Committee. And then
23 the Site Evaluation Committee's role is to
24 determine if, in balancing the impacts and

1 benefits, a particular application should be
2 granted or denied.

3 This is the application in this
4 particular case. As you can see, it's pretty
5 large. I believe it's five volumes. And
6 that's about an average-size application that
7 comes before the Site Evaluation Committee.
8 An application must have certain
9 requirements. It must contain certain
10 information, must have enough information to
11 satisfy the state agencies, and it has to
12 have all of the forms that you would normally
13 fill out. In addition, the Applicant also
14 has to pay all the fees, so that if there is
15 a wetlands permit, they have to pay the fee
16 for the wetlands permit. So they don't avoid
17 the costs by coming to the Site Evaluation
18 Committee. And these are in the handout.
19 I'm not going to go through each and every
20 one of them. But it's a fairly comprehensive
21 requirement of what must be included in an
22 application. That five-volume photograph
23 that I have there contains all this stuff and
24 more.

1 The last one is to provide such
2 additional information as the Committee may
3 require to carry out the purposes of the
4 statute. Well, we do have regulations that
5 are in addition to the statute, and those
6 regulations have additional requirements that
7 the applicants must fulfill in their
8 application.

9 There are a number of ways for public
10 participation. First of all, as you know,
11 Counsel for the Public, I think that's his
12 correct telephone number up there, or at
13 least it'll get you to the switchboard and
14 you can track Mr. Aslin down. In addition,
15 there's the prefiling public information
16 sessions, one of which we're having today.
17 I'm sorry. The prefiling ones, those were
18 held previously. The post-filing public
19 hearing sessions, which we're having today
20 and we'll have another one next week in
21 Pelham. There will be that post-filing joint
22 public hearing in each county. We'll have
23 two of those, one in Rockingham and one in
24 Hillsborough County. Again, at each one of

1 these hearings, the public gets to
2 participate. You get to participate by
3 asking questions. You get to participate by
4 giving public comment.

5 Cities and towns can request additional
6 informational meetings to be held, and we
7 have done that on the Committee. And
8 finally, we take written public comment at
9 any time while the case is still pending.

10 So, anytime that you wish to provide a
11 written comment, you just simply go on our
12 web site. And you'll get the address where
13 you can send written public comment to. You
14 know what I just realized? I forgot to put
15 the web site up here.

16 Finally, the way that some people decide
17 they want to intervene, the way they want to
18 participate in the adjudicative proceedings,
19 is to actually intervene. That means you
20 become a party, just like Mr. Aslin is a
21 party, just like New England Power and Public
22 Service are parties to the proceeding. If
23 you become a party to the proceeding by
24 intervention, you can call your own

1 witnesses. You can cross-examine the
2 witnesses for the other folks. However, in
3 order to intervene, you have to satisfy
4 the -- well, in this case, it would be
5 Ms. Ross -- that you have rights, duties,
6 privileges, immunities or other substantial
7 interests that may be affected by the
8 proceeding and that the interests of justice
9 and the orderly and prompt conduct of the
10 proceedings, will not be impaired by your
11 participation. Basically what that means is
12 that you have some interest above and beyond
13 what a member of the general public would
14 have and you can participate without bogging
15 things down, basically. So those are the
16 ways that the public can participate in our
17 proceedings.

18 Ultimately, the Committee will make a
19 determination as to whether the application
20 and the evidence provided in support of the
21 that application satisfies the statutory
22 requirements of Section 16 of our statute,
23 which means that the Committee will determine
24 whether or not the Applicants have sufficient

1 managerial, financial and technical
2 capability; whether or not, taking into
3 account consideration municipal and regional
4 planning commissions and boards and bodies,
5 whether or not there will be any undue
6 interference on the development of the
7 region. And the Committee will determine
8 whether or not there are any unreasonable
9 adverse impacts on the environment, wildlife,
10 aesthetics, historic sites, public health and
11 safety; and finally, whether or not the
12 granting of the certificate in any particular
13 case is consistent with the public interest.
14 That's the criteria that the Committee uses.
15 It is a lengthy -- it is a somewhat lengthy
16 process. But when you consider what the
17 Committee is charged with doing, it is a very
18 important process. And hopefully a year from
19 today the Applicant in this case will know
20 what the outcome of this particular case is,
21 as well everybody else.

22 If anybody ever has any questions, you
23 can always give me a call. The web site for
24 the Site Evaluation Committee is

1 www.nhsec.nh.gov. I'm sorry. I should have
2 put it up there. I should have put it on the
3 handout. It will be on the handout in
4 Pelham.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Repeat that,
6 please.

7 MR. IACOPINO: Www.nhsec.nh.gov.
8 So, with that, the next part
9 of the night is going to be a presentation to
10 be put on by the Applicant. Anybody who has
11 any questions that are developing in your
12 mind that you wish to ask either of the
13 Committee or of the Applicant, please write
14 them down and hand them to the folks in the
15 back. They will get them up to the table so
16 that they can be answered. What we're going
17 to try to do is categorize them so that if
18 there's three people asking the same
19 question, they only need to answer it one
20 time. And we'll do that after the
21 presentation by the Applicant. And then,
22 after we've gone through all the questions,
23 anybody who wishes to make any public
24 comments about the proposed project or the

1 process will be able to come up to the
2 microphone. There is a sign-in sheet in the
3 back so that we can get your name right, and
4 then we'll have you come up and make whatever
5 public comment you would like to make.

6 All right. So I guess at this
7 point, if we could have the representatives
8 of the Applicant up here. And I have to give
9 you this microphone.

10 MR. JIOTTIS: Good evening.

11 I'm Jim Jiottis. I'm the transmission manager
12 for New Hampshire Eversource. With me tonight
13 is Bryan Hudock. Bryan is the project manager
14 for this project from National Grid.

15 I'd like to run through a
16 quick little PowerPoint describing the
17 project with a little bit of background.
18 Some of it will be repetitive to what Mike
19 talked about it. Some of it might be a
20 little bit new.

21 First off, I just want to
22 re-emphasize our commitment to working with
23 the public. Open forms of communication, we
24 really want to get the public's input. We

1 really do value the public's input. We have
2 been -- this is our second information
3 session, as Mike talked about. We've also
4 been meeting with a lot of folks along the
5 project route. We want to continue that
6 project through the whole application. We
7 want to hear from folks. We want to hear
8 their suggestions, their comments, their
9 concerns. At the end of this PowerPoint,
10 there is a web site, another web site to go
11 to, to get ahold of folks. There's some
12 phone numbers so you can get ahold of folks.
13 There's people here you can see after the
14 meeting to talk to.

15 So, real quickly, MVRP, it's
16 an acronym for Merrimack Valley Reliability
17 Project. This is the project we're talking
18 about. The project is constructing a new
19 transmission line, 345kV, 345,000 volts. It
20 starts at Scobie Pond Substation in Derry
21 [sic], New Hampshire, runs down to a National
22 Grid substation in Tewksbury, Massachusetts.
23 The line is being constructed in existing
24 rights-of-ways. Some of the rights-of-ways

1 are National Grid, some of them are
2 Eversource. They've been in use as
3 right-of-ways, some of them dating back from
4 the 1930s to as recent as, say the 1960s.
5 They've been around for a while, they're
6 already in use. If you look at these
7 right-of-ways today, you'd see a number of
8 lines in there. When we talk about a
9 transmission line, it's -- I want to separate
10 it from the lines you see on the street. The
11 lines that feed your house are distribution
12 lines. The transmission lines that we're
13 planning to build are designed to move power
14 from one point to another, large amounts of
15 power; so, in other words, this line will be
16 built to bring power from Massachusetts to
17 New Hampshire and from New Hampshire to
18 Massachusetts. Really, no stops in between.
19 It's kind of an express route. You might
20 want to think of it in terms of, say, you
21 know, I-93 between New Hampshire and
22 Massachusetts. It's moving a lot of, in our
23 case, electricity either north/south or south
24 to north.

1 Just going over the route of
2 the project, a little more description of it
3 and a little bit of the background, why the
4 project's needed.

5 I don't think it's a surprise
6 to anybody. If you look around Southern New
7 Hampshire, Northeastern Massachusetts, this
8 whole area is growing. We're coming back
9 from the recession. Things are picking up.
10 We're seeing a lot of jobs opening up. We're
11 seeing companies moving in. With any kind of
12 growth comes the need for infrastructure to
13 support that growth. And that's really what
14 this project is all about is to support
15 what's going on here.

16 How we come up with project is
17 that ISO-New England -- and Mike referenced
18 them in his presentation -- they're in charge
19 of looking at the entire transmission system
20 in New England. They're responsible for the
21 operation and the planning of that system.
22 So they're always looking out and saying,
23 okay, more load comes in, what happens? If
24 new generation comes in, what happens? And

1 then they look at the pessimistic side of it;
2 you know, what happens if I lose this line?
3 What happens if this generator can't start
4 today? They're charged with taking all this
5 information and making sure the lights stay
6 on, no matter what happens. So the way this
7 project came about is it looked at those
8 criteria. They looked at load growth. They
9 looked at taking lines out of service. And
10 the conclusion was that the way we sit today,
11 we don't have enough transmission capacity to
12 ensure that the lights stay on for all the
13 different scenarios that may happen. And
14 that's really what's driving this project.
15 It's all about reliability. This isn't --
16 it's a need that's today. If things were to
17 go south, were to go terribly wrong, without
18 this line we could end up with problems on
19 our system. We could end up with overloads,
20 we could end up with power outages for folks.
21 And it could be severe. It's not just the
22 outage in your back yard. This would be an
23 outage over a larger area. So when ISO, when
24 they came up with this, they identified this

1 problem, they go out to the various
2 stakeholders involved and say, okay, come up
3 with a solution. In this case, National Grid
4 and Eversource worked together to come up
5 with a solution to say here's how we want to
6 fix the problem. We want to build a
7 transmission line, and we want to do it in an
8 existing right-of-way. We want to do it with
9 as much -- as minimal impact --

10 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

11 MR. JIOTTIS: Anyway, ISO-New
12 England came to National Grid and Eversource,
13 and we proposed a solution that we felt was
14 going to have minimal impact but maximum
15 benefit; in this case, it was a new
16 transmission line. And ISO looked at a couple
17 other solutions out there, and they decided
18 that our proposal was the best proposal, the
19 most effective to address the problems.

20 So, a little description about
21 the line. As I mentioned before, it runs
22 from Scobie Pond, our substation at Scobie
23 Pond, which is in Derry [sic], New Hampshire,
24 down to Tewksbury. It uses an existing

1 right-of-way. This slide gives you a little
2 bit of a breakdown of the miles per town. It
3 impacts four towns in New Hampshire.

4 A little bit about the
5 investment. It's not an inexpensive project,
6 by any stretch. We're talking a \$123 million
7 investment, and that's spread over the four
8 towns.

9 It's roughly 24-1/2 miles,
10 including some of the sections down in
11 Massachusetts. We're planning to start
12 construction in 2016. You'll notice the
13 asterisks on that. That's all dependent on
14 this process that we're in now. If it goes
15 according to plan, as Mike talked about, that
16 365 days, we'll be able to start in '16. If
17 something hiccups in that, the start of
18 construction will be pushed out. We're
19 looking to have it in service by 2017.
20 Again, that's dependent on when we start.

21 The benefits to this, as I
22 discussed earlier, it's really about
23 reliability. It's about strengthening the
24 transmission system. The transmission system

1 is the backbone for everything we have in New
2 England. That's what gets power from Point A
3 to Point B. That's what allows generators in
4 New Hampshire to supply their customers,
5 whether they're New Hampshire or whether
6 they're in Massachusetts. This project is
7 all about strengthening that, looking at,
8 well, you know, if we have a bad day and a
9 line comes out of service, we still keep the
10 lights on, that type of scenario.

11 Also, in addition to the
12 reliability benefit, it provides some
13 ancillary benefits. What really stands out
14 is that \$82 million investment in New
15 Hampshire. That's an investment into the
16 communities where the line's going to pass
17 through. It also creates jobs, both
18 construction jobs, temporary jobs, and also
19 the support crews for that. We have crews
20 that will come in to build the line. They're
21 going to need places to stay, places to eat,
22 all those types of things.

23 The final slide here is really
24 just a review, again, of some of the items

1 Mike talked about. It shows you the
2 timetable. It shows you where we are today.
3 I guess the key takeaway from this slide,
4 though, are those green arrows, where we're
5 looking for public input, opportunities for
6 public input. As I mentioned earlier, those
7 are form of public input. We're always
8 available by a phone call, by e-mail. If you
9 have a specific question, get in touch with
10 us and we can answer your question. This is
11 our web site for the project. You can go
12 online and you can submit questions there.
13 You can read about the project there.
14 There's more information. There's links to
15 get additional information. It's just
16 another opportunity. With that, I guess
17 we'll go on to the next phase.

18 MR. IACOPINO: Do we have any
19 written questions?

20 COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: We
21 don't have any back here. I know there are a
22 couple people who had taken forms to fill out
23 questions, but I have not gotten anything back
24 to me.

1 MR. IACOPINO: Does anybody
2 have any written questions they want to
3 submit? We can take -- all right. Why don't
4 we just bring them right up here to the table.

5 (Pause in proceedings)

6 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. The first
7 question is: What is the schedule for a
8 community applying to be an intervenor in the
9 docket?

10 There is a procedural order --
11 do you have that?

12 MS. MONROE: Yes, I do. Yes.
13 It's November 13th.

14 MR. IACOPINO: November 13th,
15 2015 is the deadline for the filing of
16 interventions for everybody, whether it's a
17 community, an individual who believes that
18 they have a particular interest that is
19 implicated.

20 The second question we have is: Are
21 there quantitative measures justifying the
22 project?

23 And I'll turn that question over to you
24 all because that's about your project.

1 MR. JIOTTIS: Sure. I'll take
2 that. Again, my name is Jim Jiottis.

3 I guess quantitative measures,
4 I guess I'm not totally sure exactly what
5 you're looking for. But I'll start heading
6 down the road, and let me know if I'm on
7 track or off track.

8 When we looked at this, we
9 looked at how much power can flow across our
10 system. In basic terms, there's only a set
11 number of lines that go from northern New
12 England to southern New England. They all
13 cross New Hampshire and go south in
14 Massachusetts. Those lines, if you added up
15 their capacity, they have a capacity of
16 X-value. Say, for example, it's 1,000. What
17 we look at, okay, if I need 1,000 in
18 Massachusetts or I need a 1,000 in New
19 Hampshire, if I start taking those lines
20 out -- say there's five lines, each one of
21 those lines is 200 -- if I take those lines
22 out, I no longer have that 1,000 capacity.
23 I've got to make that up somewhere. So the
24 load might only be 500, so I can take out a

1 couple lines and it'll be okay. But I can't
2 take that next line out. And that's really
3 the quantitative analysis behind this, is
4 that we looked at how much was on either
5 side, and if we start taking lines out,
6 there's some point where you just don't have
7 enough to be able to ensure power can move
8 back and forth. I don't know if that's --

9 MR. IACOPINO: Sure. Go ahead.
10 Just come up to the mic, though, so that
11 people can hear you. I guess in terms of --

12 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

13 MR. IACOPINO: Tell us your
14 name, please, and spell your last name.

15 MR. KOVACS: My name is Mark
16 Kovacs, K-O-V-A-C-S. I was really asking
17 questions about has someone done a probability
18 analysis, in terms of failures that have
19 occurred in the New England area and why this
20 particular route would be subjected to higher
21 failure rates or could not handle the routine
22 failures. I guess, so a more probabilistic
23 question.

24 MR. JIOTTIS: Sure. Actually,

1 our ISO-New England folks really don't use a
2 probabilistic model. They look at if it did
3 happen. A lot of these items we talk about,
4 using multiple transmission lines, are low
5 probability. But the problem is that they're
6 high impact if they do happen. Generally, our
7 transmission system is a very robust system.
8 Even during some of the ice storms, our
9 transmission system really remains intact.
10 But that's not to say -- something could
11 happen, something catastrophic. And, you
12 know, when we have an ice storm, it's awful
13 for the individual customer. I mean, we've
14 all been through it. But when you start
15 losing transmission lines or transmission
16 systems, you lose large areas. So if you
17 think about, you know, if you were to lose
18 power to your house, you could go to a hotel
19 because there's a hotel somewhere to go to.
20 If we were to have a large transmission
21 problem, there may not be that hotel to go to
22 because that hotel may not have the power. In
23 this case, they really don't -- it's not a
24 probable. It's not what are the odds of it

1 happening. We're just being conservative. As
2 utility engineers, we tend to be that way. We
3 look at, well, this could happen. It used to
4 be that those things never happened. But I
5 think if you look in the newspapers recently
6 and watch the news, they have happened in
7 other parts of the country. Luckily for us,
8 you know, we think it's because of the job we
9 do. But stuff happens. If you look around,
10 this happened in California. If you remember
11 back in 2005, we lost a large chunk of the
12 Northeast and things fell apart. So, you
13 know, they're probably low-probability items,
14 but when they happen, they're high-impact
15 items. So I'm not sure if that's --

16 MR. KOVACS: Okay.

17 MR. IACOPINO: Do we have any
18 other questions? Yes, sir.

19 MR. THOMAS: Hi, I'm
20 Representative Doug Thomas from Londonderry.
21 I just have a question. I understand that
22 this is a reliability project. If memory
23 serves me correctly, New Hampshire's portion
24 to pay for this project runs about 9 percent

1 maybe, based on its power. So, have you
2 determined yet how much of that 9 percent will
3 be passed on to the customers, in terms of
4 commercial, residential and town type of
5 cost-per-kilowatt basis?

6 MR. HUDDOCK: So, that's
7 correct. My name's Bryan Hudock, from
8 National Grid. And as you were saying, the
9 way that transmission funding works, it goes
10 through a pool that's regionally funded. So
11 this project, even though it's constructed in
12 New Hampshire and in Massachusetts, it
13 actually comes out of a regional pool, where
14 ratepayers all the way from Rhode Island,
15 Massachusetts and New Hampshire, the entire
16 region pays for it. And as you mentioned, New
17 Hampshire's portion is approximately 9 percent
18 of the regional pool right now. So when we
19 did the calculations, it is an item that shows
20 up on everyone's bill in New England, as far
21 as the transmission portion of that. And this
22 project, while it's big, 'cause it's spread
23 out over such a large area, has a very
24 significant effect on the overall bills. So

1 we calculated it would be a couple dollars per
2 ratepayer annually is what we're expecting.

3 MR. THOMAS: Can I follow up?

4 MR. IACOPINO: Sure.

5 MR. THOMAS: As a ratepayer, do
6 you mean there's different rates for
7 commercial, residential, and I believe town as
8 well --

9 MR. HUDDOCK: Right. So that
10 calculation was based on more your typical
11 residential ratepayer, as far as that goes.

12 MR. THOMAS: And that \$2 figure
13 was like the total for the entire year?

14 MR. HUDDOCK: Correct.

15 MR. THOMAS: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. IACOPINO: Do we have any
17 other questions, or does --

18 MS. HUARD: I want to speak.

19 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. Well,
20 that's what I was going to move on to. Does
21 anybody wish to make any public comment?

22 Okay. Did you sign in?

23 MS. HUARD: I did.

24 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. Why don't

1 you come up. And please make sure you tell us
2 who you are and spell your last name.

3 MS. HUARD: My name is Peggy
4 Huard. It's H-U-A-R-D. I wanted to draw your
5 attention -- I've made several comments to the
6 docket. But I wanted to highlight a few of my
7 points tonight, not only for the Committee,
8 the Applicant, but also for the audience.

9 First and foremost, this row
10 is in competition for a high-pressure,
11 fast-moving, natural gas pipeline project.
12 They're proposing to put their 30-inch
13 pipeline in the same row that you're talking
14 about putting this fifth transmission line.
15 I want to emphasize that a transmission line
16 is not a single wire. It is a series of the
17 same transmission towers we see now next to
18 four already overbuilt transmission row.
19 There are two other alternatives that are not
20 going to potentially undergo this pipeline
21 project. Your reason for considering our row
22 was cost. You don't seem to be factoring in
23 a lot of costs, such as the consecutive
24 construction between your construction and

1 the pipeline construction. If you could
2 explain how the pipeline is going to
3 coordinate with your project, the fifth
4 transmission line and/or the already four
5 existing transmission lines. These
6 transmission lines and towers are long-range,
7 high-voltage transmission lines. My
8 understanding is we have some that come all
9 the way from Canada, or are affiliated with
10 the Canadian hydropower, and go all the way
11 down to Massachusetts, to some place that
12 will lower the voltage and then come back up
13 to us and everybody else.

14 So I guess with that, I'd like
15 to know, Scobie Pond and Tewksbury are two
16 substations. To my knowledge, substations
17 don't generate power. So, what power plant
18 is going to feed this wire? Existing ones?
19 Are we moving power from other lines to this
20 line? Or is it going to be coordinated with
21 one of several new proposed power plants
22 such, as the Salem Harbor natural gas power
23 plant?

24 It is claimed that the need

1 comes from an evaluation made by ISO-New
2 England. I've looked at the daily reports on
3 ISO-New England's web site, and I'm having a
4 hard time, because they take off -- the grid
5 is supposed to generate 30,000, I'm going to
6 say I think it's megawatts --

7 MR. IACOPINO: Megawatts.

8 MS. HUARD: -- and they're
9 taking off half, maybe 10,000 of that before
10 they import from other places. Maybe I'm
11 missing something. I want to know why aren't
12 they using these 10,000 that our grid is able
13 to produce, and how is that affecting -- how
14 does that pertain to this project?

15 I have a question on the
16 engineering drawings and bring it to your
17 attention and ask you guys. I took a picture
18 of it. What is the area, the horizontal
19 width that your towers will take up? And now
20 a new road will have to be made because your
21 existing driveway that you use to drive your
22 trucks up to take care of the trees and the
23 power lines will now be gone from this new
24 transmission line. They'll have to put in a

1 new road with it, I would imagine.

2 On the engineering drawing,
3 there is a scale. There's a horizontal scale
4 that shows two blocks to be 200 feet and the
5 vertical scale to be 40 feet. Then, when you
6 look at the drawing of the transmission
7 towers that are going to go into the row, one
8 of the -- I live on David Drive, by the way,
9 the demarcation where the -- the point of
10 demarcation. So one side has a tower that
11 looks like it's going to be 200 feet, which
12 can't be, but it's taking up two blocks. And
13 a 200-foot tower would be outrageous, or
14 you're coming in with something astronomical.
15 And the other one looks like it's supposed to
16 be 100 feet. So I need some clarification
17 for that scale.

18 And I'll close with this:
19 Instead of new lines, a new transmission or
20 power generation, maybe we should look at
21 ISO-New England and their ability to manage
22 our electricity. Thank you.

23 MR. IACOPINO: Is there anybody
24 else that wanted to make any public comment?

1 (No verbal response)

2 MR. IACOPINO: Okay. Well,
3 hearing none --

4 MR. JIOTTIS: Could I just make
5 one clarification on a statement I made?

6 MR. IACOPINO: Sure.

7 MR. JIOTTIS: Earlier, when I
8 said that Scobie Pond was in Derry, New
9 Hampshire, it's actually in Londonderry. It
10 straddles the town line. But the portion that
11 this is going to be connected to is on the
12 Londonderry side. So I just wanted to make
13 that clear. Thanks.

14 MR. IACOPINO: Anybody else
15 wish to make a comment, ask a question of
16 either the Committee or the Applicant?

17 (No verbal response)

18 MR. IACOPINO: Well, hearing
19 none, we can all go watch the Patriots.

20 MS. MONROE: Thank you all for
21 coming.

22 MR. IACOPINO: Thank you.

23 (Whereupon the Public Information
24 Session was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public
of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
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Windham, New Hampshire - October 29, 2015
SEC 2015-05 SEC POST-APPLICATION PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

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