

1 -----

2 DOE Environmental Impact Statement
3 Public Scoping Meeting
4 on Champlain Hudson Power Express
5 Transmission Line Project

6 -----

7 Date held: Friday, July 9, 2010
8 Time: 2:50 p.m. - 3:47 p.m.
9 Place: U.S. Environmental Protection
10 Agency
11 290 Broadway, Room 27A
12 New York, NY
13
14 Panel: Jerry Pell, Ph.D., CCM,
15 Environmental Scientist,
16 U.S. Department of Energy,
17 John Stamos, Loan Guarantee
18 Program, U.S. Department of Energy
19 Don Jessome, President & CEO,
20 Transmission Developers, Inc.
21 Coordinator: Andre Casavant, HDR DTA,
22 Senior Regulatory Specialist

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 1 | DOE Environmental Impact Statement Public Scoping | |
| 2 | Meeting on Champlain Hudson Power Express | |
| 3 | Transmission Line Project | |
| 4 | July 9, 2010 Agenda | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | Panel Speakers | Page |
| 7 | Moderator Jerry Pell, Ph.D., | 3 |
| 8 | Environmental Scientist, | |
| 9 | U.S. Department of Energy, | |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | Don Jessome, President & CEO, | 10 |
| 12 | Transmission Developers, Inc. | |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | Public Speakers | Page |
| 15 | Frank Eadie, Manhattan resident | 15 |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | Joel Kupferman, Esq., New York | 20 |
| 18 | Environmental Law & Justice Project | |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | Rose Van Guilder, Alliance for | 25 |
| 21 | Independent Long Island; Long Island - | |
| 22 | Rockaway Ratepayers Alliance | |

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 1 | Public Speakers | Page |
| 2 | Annie Wilson, Sierra Club, Chair of | 33 |
| 3 | Energy Committee, Atlantic Chapter | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | Alain Olivier, Director, Communications, Government | |
| 6 | Relations & Academic Affairs | 36 |
| 7 | , Gouvernement du Québec | |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | Don Matsis, Manhattan resident | 39 |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | | |
| 22 | | |

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 DR. PELL: Good afternoon. If I may, I'm going
3 to transition now to the more formal part of the
4 meeting this afternoon. I'm Jerry Pell, and I'm with
5 the Department of Energy in Washington. By way of
6 introduction, I'm an environmental scientist, and I've
7 been with the Department of Energy for 34 years.

8 I joined the federal government in 1975 just
9 after the original Arab oil embargo when energy was
10 very important. And over the years it's become even
11 more so every day that passes. It's been an exciting
12 tour of duty, and I haven't retired because of having
13 meetings just like this one.

14 It's great to be back in the Big Apple. I used
15 to live in New Jersey, Exit 9 off the turnpike, as
16 they say. I was teaching at Rutgers and was spending
17 a lot of time here. And now the real question I'm
18 asking is, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall"?

19 AUDIENCE: Practice, practice, practice.
20 (laughing)

21 DR. PELL: In any event, a little bit of why
22 we're here. Transmission Developers, regarding the

1 Champlain Hudson Power Express, has applied to the
2 Department of Energy for a Presidential permit, which
3 is required because they want to build a transmission
4 line that crosses the Canada - U.S. border. And they
5 want to transmit power over the border or build a
6 transmission line over the border.

7 There's a governmental requirement for this
8 permit process. And because it's a federal permit, it
9 becomes what's known in environmental circles as a
10 major federal action, which triggers the National
11 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, spelled N-E-P-A.

12 And under NEPA you look at the nature of the
13 project. And in this particular case, you determine
14 that the project warrants a full-fledged environment
15 impact statement, which is the highest level of
16 analysis available.

17 And part of the EIS, environmental impact
18 statement, process is meeting with the public in
19 meetings just like this one. At the very beginning of
20 the process these meetings are held, and what we're
21 doing is what's referred to as scoping. Scoping is
22 jargon that simply means we're just trying to define

1 the nature of the problem, and to make sure, as we
2 conduct our analyses, that we don't miss anything that
3 we should be looking at.

4 And the best way to find out is to meet with
5 the public that's along the potentially-affected
6 route. We're holding seven of these meetings on this
7 proposed project, which is the first time ever that
8 we've had one in Manhattan actually. So I'm very glad
9 to see you here.

10 I was questioning whether or not we should have
11 one in Manhattan because I wasn't sure there would be
12 interest. I'm glad we did and to see that you've made
13 it today especially in a very hot week on a Friday
14 afternoon, when I'm sure a swimming pool would be more
15 attractive than sitting in here. So thank you for
16 coming.

17 I want to start by first acknowledging my
18 colleague on my left, John Stamos. John is with the
19 Loan Guarantee Program Office of the Department of
20 Energy. He is here because of his interest in the
21 project with regard to the project having submitted a
22 loan guarantee application.

1 That side of the house is completely separate
2 and independent from my office. The only overlap at
3 all is a mutual interest in the environmental impact
4 study. So John decided to come down here today and
5 meet with you also. There are four different kinds of
6 agencies involved in this EIS, and it's not just the
7 Department of Energy. We have four other partners,
8 one of which is the EPA, which is why we're here.
9 They are our host today, and I want to thank them for
10 that. Ms. Knutson is my contact here at EPA Region 2
11 and has been instrumental in arranging for this
12 meeting room today. Thank you.

13 We also have the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
14 as a cooperating agency. And we have two offices of
15 the New York State Government: one is the Department
16 of Public Conservation, and the other is the Public
17 Service Commission. There is a PSC representative
18 here with us today also; however, the other group was
19 not able to make this meeting.

20 We have five agencies involved in reviewing the
21 impacts from the project, so I can assure you there
22 will be a very thorough review. The process that we

1 follow once these seven meetings are over is that
2 we'll put out a scoping report. That scoping report
3 is actually optional and we're not required to do it,
4 but I believe we should do it.

5 The scoping report describes all the comments
6 that we've received, and it will be published on the
7 Website. And we engage in the actual hard work of
8 preparing the environmental impact statement itself,
9 and we are using a contractor for that job.

10 That contractor is a company by the name of
11 HDR, which has been my support, and it's been
12 instrumental in helping with all of the logistics for
13 these meetings and the people that you met at the
14 registration desk. So I want to thank them for all
15 their hard work in making this possible.

16 And then we will do the draft EIS and, when it
17 becomes available, it will be widely publicized. And
18 then we will have another series of meetings just like
19 this one, and at that time you'll actually be able to
20 comment on the analysis itself.

21 After the EIS is final there will be a record
22 of decision, which is the formal document which

1 decides whether or not a Presidential permit should be
2 issued. If we decide in favor, then there would also
3 be the issuance of the Presidential permit.

4 So it's a fairly lengthy and sometimes complex
5 process; the criteria for whether or not to grant the
6 Presidential permit go beyond simply the environmental
7 impacts. One of them is power grid reliability, and
8 we do an analysis outside of the legal process with
9 regard to how the project would potentially affect the
10 reliability of the existing electrical grid.

11 We also include concurrences from the U.S.
12 State Department and the U.S. Department of Defense.
13 And we also need to determine in general whether the
14 project is in the public interest. So the EIS is
15 simply part of the input but not the only one in
16 determining whether or not the project receives a
17 Presidential permit.

18 On my right is Don Jessome, who is Mr. TDI.
19 Don is the head of the company, and this Champlain
20 Hudson project is his baby. I asked him to join us
21 this afternoon to give us a brief description of what
22 the project is all about. I know that some of you

1 have spoken with him and his team already.

2 That will conclude the formal portion of the
3 meeting. I've asked him to linger afterwards so that,
4 if you want to talk to him again, after the meeting
5 that can also be done.

6 So, Don, welcome.

7 MR. JESSOME: Thank you, Dr. Pell, for speaking
8 a little bit about our project. My name is Don
9 Jessome, as Dr. Pell mentioned, and I'm the President
10 and CEO of Transmission Developers, Inc.

11 Transmission Developers, Inc., is developing
12 the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project that we've
13 been talking about here today. The original concept
14 for the project was a 2,000-megawatt project of HVDC
15 cables interconnecting New York City and into
16 Connecticut with the generation coming from the
17 Canadian system interconnecting with Quebec.

18 Transmission Developers, Inc., made a public
19 announcement on July 6th, Tuesday of this week, that
20 we are no longer developing the Connecticut portion.

21 So we're only developing the New York portion
22 of this project, and so it is now a 1,000-megawatt

1 project. Originally that involved four cables that we
2 were looking at putting into the system. Now it's
3 down to two cables.

4 I wanted to be clear today that that's what
5 we're talking about as far as the Champlain Hudson
6 Power Express project is concerned.

7 The concept for the project really was around
8 the development of the strategy of Transmission
9 Developers. The Transmission Developers strategy was
10 really looking to develop unique transmission projects
11 in highly congested markets in what we feel would be a
12 very environmentally-friendly manner.

13 And so very early on we chose a technology that
14 we felt met with that strategy. And the technology
15 that we chose is called High Voltage direct current
16 transmission, HVDC. And the reason that we really
17 like that particular technology is that you can run
18 very long distances with cable as opposed to overhead
19 lines. And what's very nice about that, of course, is
20 that you can bury them.

21 That's why we chose that technology, and we
22 feel it's a great technology for unique circumstances,

1 and certainly this project we think fits into that
2 strategy.

3 The other area that we look for when we're
4 looking to develop a project is to look for where
5 we're interconnecting from a supply side. And
6 certainly when we looked at the requirements of New
7 York State or renewable energy or green energy, we
8 looked north to some of the developments in Canada and
9 certainly in some of the higher wind fronts. We felt
10 that that was a very good fit for this type of a
11 project.

12 And then ultimately, you know, at the end of
13 the day you have to pay for the project. So we have
14 to make sure there are customers who are willing to
15 sign up for this transmission.

16 And when we looked at the very, very congested
17 marketplace of New York City, we felt that was a very
18 strong and compelling reason commercially for a
19 project like this. So that's why we are here today.
20 We have been working on this project for about two
21 years.

22 We made our submission for the Article 7, which

1 is the largest state agency in the Public Service
2 Commission, and filed that back in March and will be
3 making a supplement to that in July.

4 It's a very public process with a tremendous
5 amount of information about our project available to
6 the public. We've developed a Website that we
7 encourage concerned people to sign up for and to also
8 periodically look at. We put a lot of videos up
9 there, and there's been a lot of work that's been done
10 from an environmental perspective in terms of bottom
11 sampling, side scan sonar and other information that's
12 available on our projects and technology.

13 So we really believe in providing as much
14 information as available in real-time to the public as
15 we can. These meetings are very important to us. We,
16 TDI, already had five other public meetings, and all
17 next week I think we'll be in the same cities as the
18 meetings also.

19 So it's very helpful for us to come to these
20 types of meetings because it brings up issues we don't
21 think about. And that's why we come to public
22 meetings because we believe in getting all the

1 information we can get from the people who live in the
2 communities and getting the services we can provide.
3 So I appreciate all the people coming and your
4 comments.

5 DR. PELL: Thank you very much, Don. As I said,
6 Don will stay here after the formal portion is through
7 so you can chat with him if you would like.

8 Are there any elected officials that would like
9 to be acknowledged or will be making comments who are
10 with us this afternoon?

11 Are there any government officials -- federal,
12 state, or local officials -- who would like to be
13 acknowledged or will be making comments?

14 (No response) Okay. What we'll do then is we
15 have had three people who signed up to speak, and I'll
16 take them in the order in which they signed up. Then
17 anyone who wants to speak can do so; just put your
18 hand up, and you're welcome to speak. I should also
19 mention that you're welcome to submit written comments
20 through August 2nd. They can be submitted to me
21 directly or through our project Website. It doesn't
22 matter how they come to us: either in person today or

1 in writing or by e-mail or by carrier pigeon.

2 They are all going to be treated with the same
3 respect and with the same regard. How they're
4 communicated with us is not important; what is
5 important is that you do communicate.

6 The first person who asked to speak is Rose Van
7 Guilder.

8 MS. VAN GUILDER: May I have a few moments
9 first before I speak to look this over further?

10 DR. PELL: Absolutely. But I'm afraid, Rose,
11 that if I do that, you're going to become too
12 knowledgeable, and we won't have enough time.

13 (Laughing).

14 DR. PELL: We'll move on to Mr. Frank Eadie. I
15 hope I pronounced your name correctly.

16 (Discussion about different microphones).

17 MR. EADIE: Okay. My name is Frank Eadie, and
18 I've been living in Manhattan for 30-odd years. I'm
19 speaking from the basis of a lot of experience with
20 this kind of issue.

21 Going back to 1988, I think it was, when New
22 York State was making a very serious proposal; rather,

1 it had a very serious proposal made to it to purchase
2 Canadian power. Surprisingly, or perhaps not, it was
3 from hydro dams that would be built in what's called
4 James Bay.

5 You may remember James Bay, for those of you
6 who studied geography, as the heart of Hudson Bay that
7 sticks down. It's narrow is how it looks on the map.

8 Anyway, they were going to flood, Hydro-Québec
9 was going to flood several hundred thousand acres.
10 And we need to understand what we're talking about,
11 folks. We're talking about cables to bring power and
12 light to New York City.

13 Now, the place that this is going to come from
14 is a good thousand miles from Montreal. It's not a
15 385-mile cable that we're talking about here. We are
16 talking about maybe fifteen hundred miles of cable to
17 get the power from the source to New York City.

18 And it's called cheap power, and it will be
19 cheap because Hydro-Québec is a good source of cheap
20 power. They have lots of externalities that are never
21 priced into Hydro-Québec's power; like, for example,
22 what it does to the people of Québec when they build

1 their projects.

2 For example, the one that we were looking at
3 there would have flooded most of the homeland of two
4 or three Canadian Indian tribes. Okay. Just flooded
5 them, and this is typical. This is what will happen
6 one thousand miles from Montreal. It's a thousand
7 miles probably in part because the Hydro-Québec cannot
8 go anywhere closer because those Indians already know
9 what Hydro-Québec does to the land where they build
10 their projects and to the people who have moved and
11 who lose their way of life.

12 It's also probably because it's harder for the
13 people one thousand miles from Montreal to protest to
14 their people in Montreal and here, to describe what it
15 is that's going to be happening to them.

16 It's also the land. Hydro-Québec has dozens of
17 reservoirs all along the St. Lawrence River along
18 Québec and the surrounding regions to the north and
19 east of Montreal. These are tremendously disruptive.
20 Now, one of the things that I want to see in the scope
21 is an analysis of whether or not the projects that are
22 going to provide the power are in fact green projects.

1 Okay.

2 I know it's not necessarily in the scope as of
3 now, but if the justification for building this
4 project is that it's green power delivered cheaply,
5 then it needs to be green power. And we expect the
6 government to take that into account even if it's not
7 in the law. Okay. There are a lot of other questions
8 that need to be asked and answered in a different way.
9 First off, what is the justification for building this
10 project at all? That's the critical question, and
11 there doesn't seem to be any very good answer to that
12 question.

13 This, again, 22 years ago that's the exact same
14 question that was asked: What was the justification?
15 Well, cheap power and there's a growing population
16 that's going to need electricity. Well, that project
17 was never built. Okay. I don't remember any point in
18 the last 22 years where New York City ran out of power
19 except when the grid went down in Ohio, and everything
20 was cut off.

21 But that was not a problem with the amount of
22 electricity in New York City; it was about a grid

1 problem, which basically has been the cause of any
2 problems before and since. It's never been a problem
3 with the amount of power that's being delivered;
4 there's always been enough power in New York City to
5 do it's business no matter how hot it's gotten.

6 We just finished the fourth hottest June on
7 record going back 170 years or so. In June there
8 wasn't a single blackout, you know. There's plenty of
9 power available to us; there's no shortage. There
10 hasn't been and there isn't anybody knowledgeable on
11 the topic that says there is.

12 The only possible justification is that it's
13 green power and not polluting. Okay. But is it not
14 polluting? Okay. We have to -- the EIS has to answer
15 that question. Okay.

16 The other is that it's going to be cheaper.
17 Well, maybe it will be cheaper or maybe it won't be
18 cheaper. Generally, when there's a lot of power
19 available, that may be the case. But there is lots of
20 power available, and in fact there's a lot of power
21 that's available that isn't used most of the time.
22 There are power developers whose power is not used,

1 and it's simply wasted.

2 If you have a thousand miles to fifteen hundred
3 miles of transmission cables producing nothing but
4 heat, you know, they have to get that current from
5 fifteen hundred miles away to here, so that means 30
6 or 40 percent loss. So that's loss for producing heat
7 that warms the atmosphere and does nothing else. So
8 that needs to be looked at in terms of costs.

9 Thank you very much.

10 DR. PELL: Thank you, Mr. Eadie, and I
11 appreciate what you have shared with us and for your
12 being here with us this afternoon.

13 (Brief off the record discussion as speaker
14 leaves the podium.)

15 DR. PELL: The next person who asked to speak
16 is Joel Kupferman. Joel is with an organization
17 called New York Environmental Law and Justice Project.

18 MR. KUPFERMAN: Thank you for letting us speak
19 today at this hearing in New York. I guess one thing I
20 want to say is that it's because of a heightened
21 concern that the New York Environmental Law and
22 Justice Project is here today. And also we cannot

1 avoid the fact that we have a major problem now with
2 the BP oil spill in the Gulf.

3 I would like to submit this into evidence and
4 read a portion of an article just published in The
5 Nation all about the BP spill called, 'A Hole in the
6 World,' by Naomi Klein. This has to do with BP's
7 failure to prepare for what happened down there.
8 "Imagining and preparing for what would happen if
9 these experiments went wrong occupied precious little
10 space in the corporate imagination. As we have all
11 discovered, after the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded,
12 the company had no systems in place to respond
13 effectively. Explaining why it did not have even the
14 ultimately unsuccessful containment dome waiting to be
15 activated onshore, BP spokesman Steve Rinehart said,
16 'I don't think anybody foresaw the circumstances that
17 we're faced with now.' Apparently, it 'seemed
18 inconceivable' that the blowout preventer would every
19 fail -- so why prepare?

20 "This refusal to contemplate failure came
21 straight from the top. A year ago Hayward told a
22 group of graduate students at Stanford University that

1 he has a plaque on his desk that reads, 'If you knew
2 you could not fail, what would you try?' Far from
3 being a benign inspirational slogan, this is actually
4 an accurate description of how BP and its competitors
5 behave in the real world. In recent hearings on
6 Capitol Hill, Congressman Ed Markey of Massachusetts
7 grilled representatives from the top oil and gas
8 companies on the ways they had allocated resources.
9 Over three years, they had spent '\$39 billion to
10 explore for new oil and gas. Yet the average
11 investment in research and development for safety,
12 accident prevention and spill response was a paltry
13 \$20 million a year.'"

14 So my comments will be further explored in
15 written comments, but this is one of the main points I
16 want to bring out, and that's how much is being
17 allocated in resources in this whole budget to the
18 health and safety and also to contingency planning and
19 safety response plans in case they're required.

20 Also, we are concerned about public input. I
21 have been involved in a lot of disasters, from 9/11 to
22 fighting to get information from the EPA right from

1 this building here, to Katrina, and also recently with
2 the problems we've been working on in Haiti.

3 If you look out the window right now, you'll
4 see the Western Union building, the building outside
5 to the left with all the antennas on top. We were
6 contacted by people who work in an international media
7 company there, and they were fearful of being -- they
8 were getting sick in that building.

9 We could not find out what was in the building.
10 There were diesel storage tanks that were above ground
11 which is above New York City code. We filed four
12 requests and we could not find out how much fuel was
13 being stored in them.

14 I was the environmental attorney for the
15 firefighters' union at the time, and we felt that it
16 was a safety issue, and the city would not release
17 that data.

18 So, we're concerned with any type of
19 environmental project conducted by a private company
20 that would have problems getting information. And so
21 we want to make sure that requirements are imposed,
22 and also that the public has a real source of

1 information from the inception of putting the pipeline
2 in. And also we had problems after 9-11 getting
3 monitoring reports -- the full monitoring reports.

4 We want to make sure that if anything does
5 happen, that the public has access to those records,
6 and that they're put online to a Website, or something
7 along those lines.

8 Also we want to make sure that the construction
9 workers that are working on this, that their full
10 health and safety is protected. We want to make sure
11 that the full environmental impact studies that are
12 conducted include health evaluations of these workers
13 before they're hired. We have had many problems after
14 disasters when workers went to try and prove they were
15 hurt by the disaster, and they were told we don't have
16 a baseline evaluation of their health, and they're
17 denied. So we want to make sure that there's full
18 accountability and full medical evaluation.

19 Thank you, Dr. Pell.

20 DR. PELL: Thank you, Joel. And by way of
21 responding to the openness question, I know that I
22 informed some of you, and I'm hoping I explained it

1 adequately in print.

2 The NEPA process is a very open and transparent
3 process. Everything we do, all the documents
4 received, our analyses, all of your comments will be
5 on our Website. The Website address is
6 chpexpresseis.org. We post documents as soon as we
7 physically can once we receive and review them.
8 There's an opportunity to subscribe on the Website and
9 get e-mail notices of new developments and new
10 documentation that you might want to look at.

11 One of the things that I cherish about this is
12 that it is such an open process. It's one of those
13 things that 'what you do in Las Vegas does not stay in
14 Las Vegas.'

15 MR. KUPFERMAN: Thank you, Dr. Pell. We just
16 want to make sure that none of what's happening with
17 the BP spill happens, you know, in this process in the
18 building of the pipeline and also during the life of
19 the pipeline.

20 DR. PELL: Rose, you're up.

21 MS. VAN GUILDER: I would like to touch on what
22 he said.

1 DR. PELL: Your turn, Rose.

2 MS. VAN GUILDER: Thank you.

3 DR. PELL: Rose Van Guilder represents two
4 organizations: Alliance for Independent Long Island,
5 and the Long Island - Rockaway Ratepayers Alliance.
6 Rose, if you could keep it to five minutes, we'd
7 appreciate that.

8 MS. VAN GUILDER: Thank you very much, and
9 thank you for the opportunity of speaking here today.
10 I read the material and I don't read that fast. I
11 didn't absorb everything that was written but I do
12 have a few questions that I'm hoping that you can
13 address.

14 I would like to know what the cost of the
15 project is projected to be; do you have an idea? Does
16 anyone know the projected cost of the project?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: One point nine billion
18 dollars.

19 MS. VAN GUILDER: All right. I projected two
20 billion but I was close. All right. And who's going
21 to bear the cost of the project? Will the federal
22 government be paying?

1 DR. PELL: Rose, we're trying not to have a Q&A
2 session. We want to hear your comments now. For
3 questions, there will be people to speak with after
4 the meeting.

5 MS. VAN GUILDER: Okay. Thank you. That's fine
6 because I have several questions.

7 DR. PELL: You're certainly welcome to say what
8 your questions are, but I don't want to get into a Q&A
9 at this point.

10 MS. VAN GUILDER: No problem.

11 DR. PELL: Thank you, Rose.

12 MS. VAN GUILDER: One of my concerns with this
13 project at this time, I feel, is that there are other
14 means of obtaining electricity, as some of the other
15 gentlemen mentioned. So why are we going to Canada to
16 obtain additional electricity?

17 I would like to know why are we not looking at
18 other avenues of obtaining electricity rather than
19 going to Canada; options that are a lot less expensive
20 -- this is why I wanted to know what the cost was --
21 and a lot more cost effective. And I feel that we do
22 not need to pay this amount of cost to get this

1 electricity.

2 We have a plant in Long Island that's called
3 Caithness, and it produces 350-megawatts of
4 electricity.

5 DR. PELL: Rose, would you please spell that?

6 MS. VAN GUILDER: Caithness, C-a-i-t-h-n-e-s-s.

7 DR. PELL: Thank you.

8 MS. VAN GUILDER: It's a brand-new plant that
9 just came online. It's Caithness Long Island Energy
10 Center, and it's an energy efficient and
11 environmentally-friendly power plant on Long Island
12 that produces up to 350megawatts of electricity
13 utilizing its combined cycle design so you may have
14 this. And it is a brand-new plant that just came
15 online.

16 There are so many other ways of obtaining
17 electricity that I am appalled at the idea of going to
18 Canada for getting two gigawatts; is that what this
19 is?

20 MR. JESSOME: It's 1,000-megawatts.

21 MS. VAN GUILDER: 1,000-megawatts?

22 MR. JESSOME: 1,000-megawatts or one gigawatt.

1 MS. VAN GUILDER: One gigawatt is a lot less
2 than I thought that this was going to be. The cost
3 does not warrant this kind of expenditure. This is
4 not worth the dollars that this is projected to cost
5 to build.

6 There are manufacturing plants that use a lot
7 of heat, that if you implement those -- I've seen this
8 on the science channel -- and with the heat you can
9 produce electricity. There are chemical plants right
10 now that are existing, and with those chemical plants,
11 as a by-product, you can produce electricity.

12 I myself am going to implement chemical plants
13 that are going to produce electricity. They're going
14 to produce 1,000 megawatts, and that's as a by-product.
15 And they are only going to cost two hundred million
16 dollars.

17 The cost of this plant, this cable, I feel is
18 phenomenal and is not necessary. We do not need this
19 cable. It is absolutely unnecessary, and I do not
20 favor this whatsoever.

21 I feel that this may impact the fish industry.
22 These are cables that are going to go into the water,

1 and it may be environmentally not sound. And also we
2 don't know what the outcome of this is going to be in
3 the future.

4 What if one of these cables breaks? What is
5 going to happen with the electricity, and how is it
6 going to be fixed? How long is it going to take to
7 fix?

8 Why is the federal government getting into the
9 electricity business? Is this going to be another
10 federal takeover? This is my fear. We have had the
11 federal government take over the banking industry, the
12 car industry, the college business.

13 How many more other businesses is it going to
14 get into? We don't need the federal government
15 getting into the electricity business. I do not
16 approve of this. This is not what we need the federal
17 government getting into. We don't need the federal
18 government taking over the electricity business. We
19 have done well up until this point, and I do not think
20 that this is necessary. We have many other businesses
21 that the federal government is into.

22 I did not realize that this had an executive

1 order until the moment that I read this paper. And it
2 just dawned on me that I didn't think of it. And so I
3 am going to do further research, and I am going to
4 give you information on so many power plants that are
5 currently providing electricity that have so much
6 power that you can access so that you will not have to
7 do this.

8 And regarding the statement that this gentleman
9 made, I'm not completely finished but I'm in the
10 process of reading not one drop which has to do with
11 the Exxon Valdez oil spill. And I have to tell you
12 that the Exxon Oil Company, it was documented that the
13 Valdez tanker did not have a double hull, and
14 therefore it spilled so much oil as a result of that.

15 Exxon was extremely not up front with the
16 people, and it misrepresented the amount of oil that
17 was spilled, which is going on right now with BP in
18 that they did not represent the amount oil that was
19 spilled. The Exxon Oil Company has the politicians in
20 their pockets, and they have the agencies in their
21 pockets. And it's taken ten years for the fisheries -
22 - for the fish to come back and regenerate.

1 DR. PELL: Rose --

2 MS. VAN GUILDER: This is the end. And this is
3 what's going to happen on the Gulf Coast. The
4 vacation areas and the industries are all going to be
5 devastated as a result of the oil spill. It's going
6 to be catastrophic for them, and it's going to take 10
7 to 15 years for that area to come back.

8 And, yes, we have a crisis, but we can remedy
9 it in many different ways. And I will come up with
10 solutions; I promise you. But it's going to be
11 environmentally safe, and fisheries do not have to
12 suffer; neither do the birds or people.

13 I'm going to do the best I can because I want
14 to find solutions, but good solutions. Thank you very
15 much.

16 DR. PELL: Thank you very much, Rose.

17 MS. VAN GUILDER: You're welcome.

18 DR. PELL: I appreciate that. These are the
19 only three people who originally asked to speak.

20 MS. VAN GUILDER: Oh, here is some information
21 on Caithness.

22 DR. PELL: Thank you very much. Now, if

1 anybody else wants to talk, we'd be more than
2 interested to listen to you. Just come on up, take
3 the microphone, and tell us who you are.

4 MS. WILSON: Hi, I'm Annie Wilson. I'm with the
5 Sierra Club, chair of the energy committee, Atlantic
6 Chapter. We will be submitting written comments by
7 the August 2nd deadline.

8 But I just wanted to share with everyone here
9 in the room a couple of thoughts on this cable
10 proposal. First of all, it's being promoted as
11 renewable energy. How many people in the room know
12 what the RPS is for New York State -- the renewable
13 portfolio standard? Okay, we have two here today.
14 How many know what the standard is for electricity for
15 New York State for renewable energy? Anyone know?
16 You don't know.

17 The New York State RPS, renewable energy
18 portfolio standard, for renewable energy as it relates
19 to electricity does not allow for flooding, and no
20 project over 30-megawatts.

21 These imports in this proposed cable of
22 electricity from dams will not come from hydroelectric

1 projects that are so-called run of the river. They
2 will come from projects that involve a lot of
3 flooding. That's the first point that I wanted to
4 make as for information for everyone to know.

5 And I think that the promotion of this as
6 renewable energy is extremely misleading and should be
7 at least corrected and/or there should be an
8 explanatory memo explaining that it does not comply
9 with New York State standards, but that it has been
10 given this title of renewable energy because they have
11 chosen to do so.

12 As regards job creation, which is another
13 aspect of this proposal that the project has been
14 promoting itself as, there was recently a bill that
15 didn't get passed by the state legislature; although,
16 it will be reintroduced in the fall.

17 It's a 5,000-megawatt purchase requirement of
18 solar energy by the utilities in New York State by
19 2025. This requirement would create, according to the
20 studies, approximately two thousand jobs. However,
21 this cable proposal has offered somewhere between
22 fifty permanent jobs or up to two hundred jobs for the

1 installation of this so-called cable.

2 If you look at the type of job creation that we
3 need, we should prefer solar energy over this cable.
4 Solar energy also, of all the forms of energy
5 available to us today, creates for the capacity
6 created the biggest amount of jobs per megawatt. It's
7 very important to know that.

8 Now, relating to the requirements of this
9 Presidential permit and the components of
10 environmental impacts and the impacts of electrical
11 reliability, it must be considered.

12 Can we propose alternatives to this cable that
13 will be much more reliable? Distributed generation
14 throughout the state will be a much more reliable
15 option. Imports from a thousand miles away should not
16 be an option when we can be generating this potential
17 of 1,000 megawatts within the state.

18 As stated earlier while there is no need for
19 this proposal, we will submit our written comments by
20 the August 2nd date. Thank you very much.

21 DR. PELL: Did we get your name and
22 affiliation?

1 MS. WILSON: Annie Wilson, Sierra Club, Energy
2 Committee Chair, Atlantic Chapter.

3 DR. PELL: Thank you very much. Anybody else?

4 MR. OLIVIER: Yes, thank you very much. My
5 name is Alain Olivier, and I'm with the Québec
6 Government's office located here in New York.

7 DR. PELL: Can you give us your business card?

8 MR. OLIVIER: Yes, certainly.

9 DR. PELL: Thank you and sorry for the
10 interruption.

11 MR. OLIVIER: I think the comments this
12 afternoon are testimony to the quality of the
13 consultative process in the U.S. And the fact there
14 is a free and open debate, and that everyone can
15 express their views in an open and objective fashion
16 is testimony to American democracy. I would just like
17 to make a few points of information on Québec Power
18 since some of the previous comments have covered the
19 issue. It's important to point out, as is the case in
20 New York State, that power projects in Canada and in
21 Québec go through both a provincial and federal
22 environmental process.

1 And that's the case for such projects;
2 although, previous projects such as the Great Whale
3 that was referenced earlier did not take place.
4 There's been a lot of learning and experience that has
5 been accumulated since that date.

6 Since the 90s -- in fact, in 2002 -- the
7 government of Québec entered into agreement with the
8 Cree Nation which provided benefits to the Crees of
9 two billion dollars over a fifty-year period that
10 would lead to the joint development of hydro projects
11 with the full partnership with the Cree Nation. And
12 that got the government to recognize the Crees as a
13 nation in parallel to the agreement.

14 The same goes with current projects where
15 consultations with other native groups such as the
16 Innus are underway.

17 DR. PELL: Is that the Inuit?

18 MR. OLIVIER: No, the Innu, I-n-n-u. It's not
19 the Inuits but another native group. So those
20 consultations have gone through on the Romaine
21 project, which is Hydro-Quebec's most recent project.

22 The Innu bands that were directly affected by

1 the project had the opportunity to vote by referendum
2 in each of the bands on the project, and they got in.
3 So by popular referendum they said yes to the Romaine
4 project.

5 I'd also like to put into perspective what
6 hydropower means from an environmental perspective.
7 When you compare it to other sources of energy -- for
8 example, gas-fired or coal-fired power plants --
9 hydropower produces 35 times less GHG emissions than
10 gas-fired power plants, and 70 times less GHG
11 emissions than coal-fired power plants.

12 And it should be noted that Hydro-Québec
13 observes all FERC rules and regulations and provides
14 free and open access to its transmission lines for its
15 users at market rates. In a nutshell, without
16 commenting on the project that's before the committee
17 today, it should be noted that hydro, wind, solar,
18 geothermal, and other sorts of renewable energy are
19 part of a portfolio. And in Québec we don't -- there's
20 no wish to substitute hydro for all other renewables.
21 I think we all have an interest in that the power
22 portfolio be as diverse as possible, that local power

1 producers in New York State and other states in the
2 U.S. have the opportunity to benefit from the RPS
3 program, and that hydro should be seen as one among
4 many sources of energy that are out there for U.S.
5 consumers to benefit from.

6 And finally, a point that should be noted,
7 hydro, in a context where New York State pays among
8 the highest rates in the country for its power, I
9 think a lot of people with good will are looking at
10 alternatives, whether it's solar, wind, hydro or
11 others that can provide energy at cheaper rates for
12 consumers. And I think that hydro should be
13 considered among others available for that purpose.

14 DR. PELL: Thank you very much. We do
15 appreciate hearing from you this afternoon. Can I have
16 the microphone back? Thank you for joining us.

17 All right. Would anybody else like to come up?

18 MR. MATSIS: Thank you. My name is Dan Matsis.

19 DR. PELL: Please spell your name for us.

20 MR. MATSIS: Dan Matsis, M-a-t-s-i-s. I live on
21 the upper west side of Manhattan. I just want to
22 address some things. We are on the verge of progress

1 in this area where we have appliances that rely on
2 electric power. In fact, Chevrolet will be coming out
3 with an electric automobile, the Chevrolet Volt, this
4 November. There are home heating systems that are
5 available, and stoves that are available.

6 And there are even now wind turbines available
7 in a small size that can be used in individual homes.
8 That may not apply to the congested areas of New York
9 and Manhattan and so forth, but there are some people
10 that may have the space for these systems.

11 These will displace the need for this
12 particular project. And it has to be considered that
13 the Blackstone Group may be wasting their money on
14 this, and may also be putting the Hudson River at risk
15 while doing so.

16 And the second issue I see is this: Are the
17 Blackstone Group and TDI capable financially of curing
18 any environmental problem they may cause? If not,
19 they should have an insurance bond for that.

20 And as far as the third issue, I'm wondering
21 why there even exists a proposal for another pipeline,
22 for another transmission line down the Hudson River,

1 when we have at least two already.

2 One comes from the Buffalo area along the Erie
3 Canal down the Hudson River. And the other, I guess,
4 is the one that comes from the Canadian border down
5 the Hudson River.

6 Why can't Quebec Hydro just sell its power to
7 the existing lines? Is there some technological
8 problem that prevents this? I think the environmental
9 impact statement should address that.

10 Those are the points I think the environmental
11 impact statement should cover. Thank you.

12 DR. PELL: Thank you, Dan. We still have a
13 little bit of time. If there's anybody else who would
14 like to speak, please come up. Are you sure? Last
15 chance until the draft of this comes out.

16 Well, thank you again for joining us here. We
17 appreciate seeing you here, and hopefully we'll see
18 you again when we have the public hearings on the
19 draft. And we will be here a little bit longer if you
20 want to talk to us personally or to our consultants
21 and the TDI people.

22 So, again, have a great weekend everybody, and

1 thank you.

2

(Time noted: 3:47 p.m.)

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22