

1 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
2 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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5 CHAMPLAIN HUDSON POWER EXPRESS, INC.  
6 TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSAL

7 -----  
8

9 Taken at the Royal Regency Hotel, 165 Tuckahoe  
10 Road, Yonkers, New York, on July 12, 2010, commencing  
11 at 7:00 p.m.

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13

14 BEFORE: JERRY PELL, PhD, CCM; U.S. Department of  
15 Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC  
16 20585

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

2 (7:00 p.m.)

3 DR. PELL: Good evening. Perhaps we could  
4 get the evening started because there are a fair  
5 number of people that are going to be speaking this  
6 evening and so that they all have a chance to talk,  
7 perhaps we should start.

8 I'm Jerry Pell. I'm an environmental  
9 scientist with the Department of Energy in Washington.  
10 I've been working on -- just to tell you a little bit  
11 about myself, I've been working on energy and  
12 environmental issues for 40 years now. I've done  
13 everything from anthracite to wind in my 34 years,  
14 which was with the Department of Energy. I used to  
15 teach at Rutgers. So I lived in the shadow of New  
16 York City, just off Exit 9 of the Turnpike in the New  
17 Brunswick, New Jersey area. Spent a lot of time in the  
18 New York region, but I must confess, this is my first  
19 occasion to visit Yonkers. And I'm particularly  
20 grateful to have so many of you show up this evening,  
21 on a warm Monday evening. Thank you very much for  
22 taking the trouble to be with us here today.

1           As you know, the whole purpose of the  
2 meeting is the Champlain Hudson project. The nature  
3 of the analysis we're doing is an Environmental Impact  
4 Statement because the project requires a permit from  
5 the Department of Energy. The granting of that permit  
6 is considered a major federal action, which invokes  
7 the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA, N-E-P-  
8 A, as many of you are familiar.

9           Under NEPA there are several levels of  
10 environmental review. The Environmental Impact  
11 Statement, or EIS, is the most comprehensive and  
12 complete and that's what we're going to be doing for  
13 the Champlain Hudson project.

14           The process is fairly prolonged. We start  
15 with scoping, which is what this is, which is the  
16 formal name given to the process where we ask the  
17 public to help us make sure we don't miss anything in  
18 our analysis. The whole idea being, if you really  
19 want to know what to look at ask the people who live  
20 there, and that's why we're having seven of these  
21 meetings.

22           After tonight we go on to Kingston and then

1 Albany and Glens Falls, and then finally Plattsburgh.  
2 And the whole point being to give people all along the  
3 proposed route to have a chance to meet with us. I've  
4 never done seven meetings in a row before, so it's  
5 quite an interesting experience, but I'm glad to be  
6 doing it.

7 I'm going to introduce Don Jessome on my  
8 left, who is the Chairman and President of  
9 Transmission Developers, Incorporated, the man behind  
10 the project. He'll tell you a little bit about the  
11 project itself and then we'll start with the comments.

12 MR. JESSOME: Thank you Dr. Pell, and thanks  
13 so much for having this meeting here this evening.  
14 TDI had a meeting here back on May the 12th to  
15 introduce this project in a public format, and  
16 actually of the five days this week that Dr. Pell and  
17 I are going to be out talking to the public again  
18 under the EIS are all of the locations that we  
19 actually had our public meetings in March, April or  
20 May.

21 I'll tell you a little bit about  
22 Transmission Developers; Transmission Developers is a

1 company out of Toronto, Canada, that is developing  
2 transmission projects and sort of two key reasons or  
3 two key premises as to how we're developing our  
4 project. One is technology. We've chosen HVDC  
5 transmission technology and the reason we've chosen  
6 that technology is because you can put HVDC in buried  
7 cable format. And we think that's very important to  
8 us to be able to run these projects through  
9 communities in a very safe and out-of-sight way. And  
10 that's the real beauty of HVDC technology is being  
11 able to bury the cables.

12           And secondly, is just the way that these  
13 projects are paid for. The way our projects are paid  
14 for, the users of our line actually pay for the right  
15 to use the transmission on our transmission line. So  
16 the project we're here to talk about this evening is a  
17 project called, the Champlain Hudson Power Express  
18 Project. And sort of the first thing I have to  
19 mention is that on July the 6th, Transmission  
20 Developers announced publically that we are no longer  
21 going to be developing the Connecticut portion of this  
22 project. So this is now, it went from a 2,000 megawatt

1 project to 1,000 megawatt project. So instead of  
2 being four cables, we're now down to two cables. And  
3 the two cables come from the Canada/U.S. border, where  
4 they interconnect with Hydro-Québec's Trans-Energie  
5 system, down the Richelieu River, Lake Champlain,  
6 into the Hudson. We come out of the Hudson River  
7 around the PCB dredging area in Glens Falls. Around  
8 the capital district we go along two railway rights-  
9 of-way, one is CP, the other is CSX, and all buried  
10 back into the Hudson River, down the Hudson to  
11 Yonkers, where we're proposing to put a converter  
12 station. And then the AC cables come from the Yonkers  
13 facility to an interconnection point with New York  
14 City.

15           And that's why we're here this evening, to  
16 talk to the public about this project, to get your  
17 input. It's incredibly important to us to get public  
18 input. We've had very good meetings prior to this,  
19 that TDI was having. And I'm always amazed of the  
20 things that we think that we have thought about  
21 everything and there's always somebody in the room  
22 that comes up with something that we just haven't

1 thought about, and it's incredibly important to us to  
2 think about it now and not later on in the process.

3 Appreciate your comments this evening, and  
4 with that, I'll pass back to Dr. Pell.

5 DR. PELL: Thank you, very much. Before I  
6 start taking actual comments, I guess I should say  
7 something about what the process is after this evening  
8 and after these scoping meetings. We will be  
9 producing a scoping report that will summarize all of  
10 the comments we've received during the entire scoping  
11 period. And that's not just the people that appear at  
12 the seven public meetings, but everything that comes  
13 in electronically or on paper between now and August  
14 the 2nd, which is the cutoff for the scoping comment  
15 period. So that report will summarize everything  
16 we've received. During which time we will also be  
17 working on preparing the draft EIS itself. When the  
18 draft EIS is ready, we will announce it publicly and  
19 there will be public hearings on the draft EIS, at  
20 which time you'll have the opportunity to actually  
21 comment on a document, not just like now where we're  
22 talking about scoping with no paper in front of you.

1 When the EIS comes out, you'll be able to look at how  
2 we've analyzed the project and whether we've done a  
3 good job or not. And you will then have the  
4 opportunity to comment on the actual analysis. And we  
5 then do a final EIS that incorporates your comments,  
6 and included in the final EIS we have what's called a  
7 Comment Response Document where we list all the  
8 comments that you've given us and how we responded to  
9 them, so that you will see your name in print. Unlike  
10 in Las Vegas, what happens here will not stay here.  
11 But it's a fascinating process. I'm glad to be part  
12 of it and I'm glad to have you be part of it tonight,  
13 as well.

14           There are quite a number of people that have  
15 asked to speak. What we usually do is we start with  
16 elected officials, of which there are two this  
17 evening, I believe, that have asked to speak. We then  
18 go to governmental officials. And then we take people  
19 in the order that they signed up, starting with people  
20 who pre-registered in advance of the meeting. I'm  
21 going to ask each person to try to keep it down to  
22 about three minutes or so, so that everybody has a

1 fair chance and so that we can leave here at a  
2 reasonable hour since tomorrow is a work day. And let  
3 me just point out, that it really doesn't matter if  
4 you say everything you want to say on the record, as  
5 long as you submit whatever you like in writing. It  
6 really doesn't matter how we get your comments,  
7 whether it's oral or in writing or electronically or  
8 by mail. The impact it's going to have on what we do  
9 is exactly the same. All comments get equal  
10 consideration, regardless of how it's submitted. So  
11 use the oral presentation time to basically go over  
12 the highlights of your thoughts and then use the time  
13 remaining to provide your comments in writing, at  
14 which time you can wax as loquacious as you like.

15 So we'll start with Mr. Chuck Lesnick, who  
16 is an elected official from Yonkers, I believe. He  
17 did not indicate here his precise position, and I'm  
18 sure he'll be happy to tell us. Mr. Lesnick.

19 MR. LESNICK: Thank you very much. My name  
20 is Chuck Lesnick, L-E-S-N-I-C-K. I'm the Yonkers City  
21 Council President. I'm glad that you're here.  
22 Although your desire to hear what the neighbors say,

1 and I just want to on a procedural note say, that  
2 Yonkers is a community of many neighborhoods. And it  
3 might have been more appropriate to have these public  
4 hearings down at the Riverfront Library, which is  
5 immediately adjacent to the proposed site that you  
6 want to come.

7 DR. PELL: How do you spell the name of that  
8 library?

9 MR. LESNICK: The Riverfront Library.

10 DR. PELL: Okay. I appreciate that comment  
11 because we will keep that in mind with regard to the  
12 meeting we have on the draft EIS itself. I had not  
13 known about that before this, so thank you.

14 MR. LESNICK: They have a large room and  
15 they have air conditioning, unlike City Hall, where  
16 you're welcome to meet any time you like, because we  
17 have no air conditioning tonight. Basically, when I  
18 look at stuff that goes down on the waterfront I look  
19 for things that are either water dependent or water  
20 enhanced. And when I look for things that are going  
21 to be placed in our downtown, I look at how much tax  
22 revenue it's going to bring in, but I also look at how

1 it's going to improve the infrastructure, how it's  
2 going to improve downtown. Is it going to bring  
3 people, either residents or workers in, that will  
4 shop, use the stores or try to improve the downtown?

5 Now, your project is a lot of hardware  
6 that's going very close to an area that we're trying  
7 to redevelop with our Sawmill. And also, we have  
8 tremendous parking needs downtown. So I'm concerned  
9 that you're taking up space in the Ipark that could  
10 better be used for office residential or parking.  
11 There are other places in Yonkers that might be more  
12 appropriate. I understand that you need to be as  
13 close to the water's edge as possible to minimize the  
14 expense of going from the water to your site and then  
15 back. And there are two locations that I thought of.  
16 One of them is the Glenwood Power Plant, and I  
17 believe, the owner is here. But it's a beautiful  
18 iconic structure, an old Tudor building, that the New  
19 York Preservation League has said a couple years ago  
20 is one of the seven most important buildings to  
21 preserve in New York State. We have been unable to  
22 find a good economic use there, in part because it's

1 sort of landlocked between the train tracks and the  
2 Kennedy Marina Park and water, but there is enough to  
3 put a roadbed there for a limited use such as this.  
4 And it almost has four acres flat, but if you  
5 certainly went up and did it on a two-story structure,  
6 it's a huge building, it goes up, I don't know, a  
7 hundred feet, it's pretty high, you could actually  
8 deck this thing. And in the economics of building  
9 inside a building might be enough to do the cosmetic  
10 repairs you need to the wall, it's structurally very  
11 sound and it would preserve an important piece of  
12 history for Yonkers. And who could complain about  
13 your putting a power plant on a power plant, it's  
14 already there on the water.

15           The second location is down in the southern  
16 part of Yonkers in the Ludlow area, in between the  
17 sewage treatment plant and the refined sugar plant.  
18 And I don't know if there's more than four acres in  
19 between at which side of that track you'd want to be  
20 on. But again, nobody is going to really complain  
21 about a piece of industrial hardware next to a sewage  
22 treatment plant. And if you were next to the sugar

1 plant, there might be some advantages with the heat  
2 that you produce that you would normally need to cool  
3 down, and that's one of the reasons why you might be  
4 near the river, you might be able to engage in some  
5 creative cogeneration with the power plant that needs  
6 to produce steam and other energy for the sugar plant  
7 itself. So there might be some great economies of  
8 scale in locating right next to the sugar plant. I  
9 don't know if they're interested, but those are two  
10 other locations that you might want to look at.

11 I guess the third location to look at would  
12 be any location outside of Yonkers. And I understand  
13 that you're looking in Queens and other locations, and  
14 while we do recognize the benefits in getting some tax  
15 revenue, I don't know how many jobs you're going to be  
16 providing. Again, our land is very scarce. It's  
17 becoming more and more valuable as our downtown and  
18 our waterfront is renovated and to put an industrial  
19 use like that in the middle of new plans might be  
20 contrapuntal to our desires. So thank you for letting  
21 me speak. I will be submitting written comments  
22 before the 2nd.

1 DR. PELL: Thank you, Mr. Lesnick. I  
2 appreciate that. We do look at alternatives. That's  
3 part of the EIS process. So these locations that  
4 you've mentioned will be considered and will be  
5 reviewed. And we also look at socioeconomic impacts,  
6 which include potential employment from the project  
7 itself. Typically there are two kinds of employment,  
8 as you know. There's the construction employment,  
9 which is fairly brief, just lasts for the period of  
10 the construction itself. And there is long-term  
11 employment from the people that actually operate the  
12 facility. And those are the kinds of analyses that  
13 are included in the EIS. So thank you for that.

14 I will mention that this is not -- by way of  
15 clarification, let me make it absolutely clear. This  
16 is not a Department of Energy project. It is a TDI,  
17 Transmission Developers, Incorporated, project. DOE's  
18 role is to consider whether it is in the public  
19 interest to issue a permit. In that consideration, we  
20 look at the environmental impacts, which is the EIS  
21 itself. But beyond that, we also look at the impact  
22 of the proposed project on the general electrical

1 reliability of the grid. We also require the  
2 concurrences of the State Department and of the  
3 Department of Defense. And we also look at the rather  
4 vague, but nevertheless important, concept of public  
5 interest. But DOE has no vested interest in the  
6 outcome of the project in terms of either whether or  
7 not it's constructed or how it's constructed, except  
8 that it be constructed with due and proper regard for  
9 environmental impact. It's what we call a merchant  
10 project. It's a third-party project, that is the  
11 proposal of a private sector entity, in this case TDI.  
12 And our job is to review it from the permitting  
13 aspects of it.

14 I should also say that, as you probably  
15 know, the project is also subject to the requirements  
16 of state and local authorities. And we have four  
17 cooperating agencies that are working with us on this  
18 EIS process that are going to be using the  
19 environmental analysis for their own purposes. They  
20 include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They  
21 include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the  
22 Region 2 office in New York City. They include two

1 offices of the State of New York, the Public Service  
2 Commission and the Department of Environmental  
3 Conservation. And one of the PSC people is in the  
4 audience tonight, and was also with us in Manhattan.  
5 So the document will also serve the needs of five  
6 separate and different governmental entities, two of  
7 which are state, and three of which are federal. So  
8 you can rest assured that the document will certainly  
9 touch on all of the important issues that each of  
10 these five agencies require for their own permitting  
11 and approval processes. But I want to make it clear  
12 because Mr. Lesnick was referring to it as, "your  
13 project," quote unquote. And I, just for the record,  
14 wanted to clarify that it is a TDI project, not a DOE  
15 project.

16           Having said that, let's proceed to the next  
17 speaker, Mr. Frank Stilo, who is also from Yonkers.  
18 And again, Frank, you did not indicate what your  
19 precise position is.

20           MR. STILO: Yes. Good evening. My name is  
21 Frank Stilo. I'm the President of Grassy Springs  
22 Civic Association, which encompasses this area. As

1 you know, we have had Con Edison in our city. It's  
2 disrupted our city streets. It's disrupted our  
3 traffic. It's done nothing but destruction in our  
4 city to get power to New York City with no benefit to  
5 this city. I see no reason why we should add another  
6 energy corporation to do the same. Thank you very  
7 much.

8 DR. PELL: Thank you, Mr. Stilo.

9 Mr. Lee Ellman is a governmental official  
10 with the Yonkers, New York, government, City of  
11 Yonkers Planning Department -- is it Planning and  
12 Development?

13 MR. ELLMAN: Planning and Development, yes.  
14 Thank you, Dr. Pell.

15 DR. PELL: Thank you for joining us, Mr.  
16 Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you. It's nice to be on  
18 the other side of the table during the EIS. I'm  
19 usually sitting in your seat. As you said, I'm  
20 speaking on behalf of the City of Yonkers Department  
21 of Planning and Development to express the City's  
22 position on the proposed Champlain Hudson Power

1 Express project. This is our preliminary statement  
2 and we will follow it with amplified written comments.

3 Yonkers has worked hard over the last 20  
4 years and has achieved enviable success in the last 10  
5 years in its efforts to remake the downtown area to  
6 move Yonkers to what we think of as our proper place  
7 in the region of successful cities. And it feels to us  
8 as if this project will be putting a kink in much of  
9 the work that we've done.

10 DR. PELL: Sorry, did you say a kink?

11 MR. ELLMAN: A kink, a problem. Recent  
12 significant planning activities have taken place along  
13 the Yonkers riverfront, specifically, the Alexander  
14 Street area, which encompasses the Ipark Otis Elevator  
15 complex. Proposed, as Council President Lesnick had  
16 mentioned, is redevelopment in that area, both on the  
17 Alexander Street core for mixed use, commercial and  
18 residential projects...and then within the Ipark area as  
19 primarily a metro center and a transportation center  
20 and further commercial development. All of these  
21 plans, it's interesting to note, were made with the  
22 concurrence of the developer of that property. So I

1 think Yonkers was probably as surprised -- Yonkers in  
2 its official capacity, was probably as surprised as  
3 anyone that picked the paper up to see that the  
4 proposed converter station was being placed in a  
5 location that perhaps just months before we still had  
6 conversations with the developer as another land use.

7           One of the things I think that we need to  
8 look at in this area is a consideration of what is  
9 really happening in the Ipark Otis Elevator area  
10 versus perhaps what the local zoning is saying.  
11 Yonkers has a heavy industry industrial past. The  
12 elevator brake, I suppose, the elevator was in  
13 existence before Elisha Graves Otis figured out if you  
14 put a brake on it, people will actually use it more  
15 than two or three stories. So Yonkers history is one  
16 that has embraced heavy industry. The zoning in this  
17 area continues to look as if it's heavy industrial  
18 zoning. However, what I think we need to look past is  
19 the simple letter on the map, and understand what is  
20 happening in Ipark, what is happening in the Otis  
21 Elevator complex.

22           What we have there now is very clean

1 increasingly high tech industrial uses. One of our  
2 successes is a biotech firm doing cancer research,  
3 Aureon Labs. And even if you look at the Kawasaki  
4 facility. The Kawasaki facility, although it  
5 assembles rail cars, is really no more of a heavy  
6 industrial use than assembling Dell computers or air  
7 conditioners, because they're essentially taking large  
8 parts, putting them together and then shipping them  
9 out. So we have a very clean industry there yet we  
10 seem to be returning to a heavy industrial use with  
11 the proposed converter station.

12           With that as just a bit of preamble, the  
13 city asks that the following impacts be reviewed in  
14 the EIS; these are preliminary thoughts: the Otis  
15 Elevator complex, the site of the converter, is  
16 potentially eligible for the National Register of  
17 Historic Places. That is something that we believe  
18 needs to be looked at. One of the comment areas in  
19 the notice spoke about land use impacts. As I've  
20 said, existing land use plans and the city's momentum  
21 needs to be looked at in light of the proposed  
22 converter station.

1           We would ask that visual impacts from the  
2   Yonkers main train station, from the Philipse Manor  
3   Historic Site, visual impacts from the Palisades  
4   Interstate Park in New York and New Jersey, and visual  
5   impacts for users of the Hudson River be looked at.  
6   These are common issues that we bring up, as I was  
7   saying, when I'm sitting on your side of the table, we  
8   certainly ask that these be part of the review of any  
9   project.

10           We do ask that there be consideration given  
11   to environmental justice issues because Yonkers, as  
12   Mr. Milo just before me said, we have an overwhelming  
13   presence of infrastructure, regional serving  
14   infrastructure, that travels through the City of  
15   Yonkers with little or no discernible benefit to the  
16   City or its residents. And certainly, at the very  
17   least, if we did not want to argue long term regional  
18   issues, certainly the construction issues, as you can  
19   see still ongoing just outside of the hotel's  
20   entrance, have been murder actually, have been a real  
21   problem with the City.

22           The other thing that we ask that the EIS

1 consider is the City's ability to develop its harbor.  
2 Something that has been a part of our development  
3 plans, all of our waterfront development plans have  
4 considered the additional use of the Yonkers  
5 waterfront for marinas, for all sorts of water  
6 dependent uses.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today  
8 and we will be submitting formal comments.

9 DR. PELL: That's great, Mr. Ellman. I  
10 appreciate that. Let me just clarify for the record  
11 to make sure that our stenographer has it. Is that H-  
12 Y-D-E Park, the park that you were referring to, I  
13 wasn't sure what the actual name of it was.

14 Mr. Ellman: Ipark, I'm sorry. It's I small  
15 p-a-r-k. It's the real estate company's brand  
16 name. When I know you said Hyde Park, that's a  
17 town north of us.

18 DR. PELL: Just trying to make sense of the  
19 pronunciation. Thank you, Mr. Ellman. We'll look  
20 forward to your written remarks. And I should mention  
21 for the benefit of the audience, environmental justice  
22 is an important element of the Federal NEPA EIS

1 process, and we do look at that routinely in  
2 Environmental Impact Assessments. We also look at  
3 global climate change in case you were wondering, in  
4 terms of potential impacts on emissions.

5 The next speaker is an individual who  
6 preregistered in advance, so he gets the benefit of  
7 being next up, Phillip Musegaas. Forgive me if I  
8 didn't pronounce that correctly.

9 MR. MUSEGAAS: Musegaas. That's fine, it's  
10 a hard name.

11 DR. PELL: Sorry about that. Phillip  
12 Musegaas is with Riverkeeper.

13 MR. MUSEGAAS: Just to start, Riverkeeper,  
14 for context, is an environmental organization. We're  
15 a membership supported nonprofit environmental group  
16 in the Hudson valley. We've been working for over 40  
17 years. And our mission is to protect the ecological  
18 integrity of the Hudson River and the Hudson River  
19 watershed.

20 What I'd like to do is give an overview of  
21 the four or five main topics that we'll be commenting  
22 on. We will be filing more detailed written comments

1 by the August 2nd deadline. So to begin with, just to  
2 go back to something you said about the alternatives  
3 analysis, we would urge the DOE to take a very hard  
4 look at the alternatives that are available, and  
5 particularly, the alternative routes that are  
6 available for the cable to take. We know that the  
7 cable project as it's proposed is actually going to be  
8 using about 60 or 70 miles of railroad right-of-way in  
9 the upper part of the Hudson to avoid the General  
10 Electric dredging site, and we're very happy about  
11 that, of course. So we would like to see a real  
12 careful in-depth analysis of the environmental impacts  
13 and the costs of running the entire cable project  
14 underground, whether it's in the railroad right-of-way  
15 or some other land portion of the west of Hudson area.  
16 And so that's a key piece to us. Can these impacts to  
17 the river be offset? And also, a good comparison of  
18 the impacts in the Hudson from the proposed route as  
19 opposed to the impacts to a land route.

20 Second, just in very general terms, if the  
21 cable is going to be run through the Hudson, the  
22 Hudson River in the estuary portion, which goes from

1 the Yonkers area, certainly, all the way up to the  
2 Troy Dam near Albany, is a tidal estuary and it has a  
3 number of special habitats for fish and for wildlife,  
4 both federal essential fish habitat, as well as state  
5 designated significant coastal essential wildlife  
6 habitats. Those are official designations by state  
7 and federal agencies. So in terms of assessing the  
8 impacts to those particular areas of the river like  
9 Haverstraw Bay, like some areas on the upper Hudson,  
10 it's very important that the impacts have the  
11 construction and laying of the cable, as well as the  
12 operation of the cable, be carefully assessed.

13 In addition, another aspect that -- of the  
14 cable construction that needs to be looked at very  
15 carefully is the -- in the dredging process, whatever  
16 type dredging they use, and there's a variety of  
17 techniques, I think, some that result in some sediment  
18 resuspension and some that result in less, it's very  
19 important to minimize the amounts of sediment  
20 resuspension and the resuspension of contaminants that  
21 are actually in the sediment. And as many people  
22 know, the Hudson River has high levels of PCBs in the

1 sediment in different areas of the river. So that has  
2 to be looked at, the impact of the resuspension of  
3 sediments.

4 Finally, the electromagnetic field that it  
5 generated by -- to a lesser degree, I believe, by the  
6 high voltage DC cable, but in particular by the AC  
7 cable, which there is a portion of the project that is  
8 AC cable going through the Harlem River, and I  
9 believe, the East River. And so that the impacts of  
10 that AC cable and whether or not there are impacts  
11 from the electromagnetic field generated by the cable  
12 on fish and other wildlife and bentic life in the  
13 river, need to be assessed.

14 And also, just a couple of quick points. I  
15 would urge the DOE to really make every effort to make  
16 the public participation process as open as possible  
17 and as informed as possible. And if it is possible to  
18 give a little more information about the project  
19 itself at the beginning of the meeting, I think that  
20 might be useful for people. I think that's it. Thank  
21 you very much.

22 DR. PELL: Thank you very much Mr. Musegaas.

1 Let me just tell you, especially that point about the  
2 public, that's near and dear to my heart, the Federal  
3 Register notice, which we have copies of at the back  
4 of the room at the registration desk, includes a  
5 website that was designed and is being operated  
6 specifically for the purpose of this Environmental  
7 Impact Statement and review process. It's  
8 CHPEXpressEIS.org. You will find an incredible volume  
9 of material that's on that site, some of which is not  
10 actually on the site itself, but available through  
11 links to other sites as well. The applicant, the  
12 Transmission Developers people, have filed a very  
13 large quantity of documentation with the State of New  
14 York Public Service Commission, and the link to that  
15 is available on the website. So if you're interested  
16 in more details with regard to the project, I assure  
17 you, the one thing that is not lacking is a great deal  
18 of information.

19 Also, the website has an opportunity for you  
20 to submit your e-mail address on that and we will be  
21 maintaining a list of people that have registered on  
22 the site and we will be issuing notices as new

1 documents are posted, so that if there's anything new  
2 there, you'll be advised of it. For example, when we  
3 issue the scoping report, you'll get an e-mail saying  
4 the scoping report is now available on the website.

5           And last, but not least, you're always  
6 welcome to call me, and if I don't know the answer  
7 we'll certainly try to track it down with the  
8 applicant. So I think you'll find, if there's one  
9 thing that there's an adequate quantity of, even in  
10 advance of the EIS, is a great deal of detailed  
11 information on the project. The EIS website is  
12 CHPEXpressEIS.org. So that's C-H-P-E-X-P-R-E-S-S-E-I-  
13 S dot org. And if you pick up a copy of the Federal  
14 Register notice in the back of the room, it's in that  
15 Federal Register notice. I made sure to advertise it  
16 as broadly as we could, and I think I also made sure  
17 that we included it in all our newspaper ads. So we  
18 are striving very hard to keep this process open. And  
19 that's, of course, why I said earlier, we're having as  
20 many as seven public meetings and also providing the  
21 45-day open comment period. In the past we've been  
22 more inclined to hold the scoping period down to only

1 30 days. So we're making great efforts toward  
2 openness.

3 The next speaker I have on the list is  
4 Hayley Mauskapf?

5 MS. MAUSKAPF: As I said, my name is Hayley  
6 Mauskapf. I'm an environmental advocacy associate  
7 with Scenic Hudson, a 47-year-old nonprofit  
8 environmental organization and separately incorporated  
9 land trust, dedicated to protecting and enhancing the  
10 scenic, natural, historic, agricultural and  
11 recreational treasures of the Hudson River and the  
12 Hudson Valley. We understand and appreciate that our  
13 future depends on a shift towards clean renewable  
14 energy. And for that reason we believe that the  
15 proposed transmission line project could have some  
16 potential positive environmental impacts. It could  
17 have the potential to help make the transition to a  
18 greener future, powered by clean renewable energy,  
19 would improve our air and water quality and help avert  
20 the consequences of global climate change and of sea  
21 level rise. However, a project of this magnitude,  
22 which is unprecedented in the Hudson Valley, must be

1 designed and implemented in a manner that not harm the  
2 sensitive Hudson River estuary or the communities  
3 through which the power transmission lines will pass.

4           We urge the Department of Energy to  
5 carefully assess the potential negative environmental  
6 effects of the proposed project and the EIS. I just  
7 have a quick overview of some of our main concerns.  
8 We will also be submitting formal written comments  
9 later on. One would be the issue of potential  
10 resuspension of PCBs in the sediments in the mid and  
11 lower Hudson River. The proposed route specifically  
12 does avoid burying the cable on the upper Hudson where  
13 the concentration of PCBs is highest, however, there  
14 is contamination in the sediment in the mid and lower  
15 Hudson River where the power line is proposed to be  
16 laid. Some areas of cable will be buried using  
17 methods that might be less likely to disturb the  
18 sediment, but there are areas that are going to need  
19 to be either mechanically plowed or dredged which  
20 would greatly increase the likelihood that some of  
21 that sediment is going to be disturbed.

22           The recent suspension of PCBs would not only

1 impact wildlife and aquatic species but also would  
2 impact human health. In addition to recreational uses  
3 of the Hudson, such as swimming boating and fishing,  
4 there are several communities that have drinking water  
5 on the river in areas where the cable is supposed to  
6 be installed.

7 Also, the Hudson River and its surrounding  
8 tidal wetlands are habitat to a number of sensitive  
9 species, including some that are protected by federal  
10 and state law, including Shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic  
11 sturgeon and bald eagle. We believe that the  
12 potential detrimental effects of the construction,  
13 installation and maintenance of the cable on aquatic  
14 resources and wildlife must be thoroughly evaluated,  
15 and especially the potential cumulative impact of the  
16 construction, installation and operation.

17 The impact of the siting and installation on  
18 subaquatic vegetation near shore marine habitat and  
19 riverfront riparian habitat as well as potential  
20 shoreline erosion and destruction of wetlands should  
21 be evaluated. The potential of the installation  
22 process to possibly spread invasive species in the

1 river should be investigated, as well.

2 In addition, the EIS must address the  
3 effects of each permanent alteration affecting habitat  
4 in those areas where riprap or concrete mats are going  
5 to be placed over the cable. We also believe the EIS  
6 must evaluate how the electromagnetic field and  
7 thermal effects of the cable could affect sensitive  
8 aquatic species, including the segment of the  
9 transmission line downstream from the converter  
10 station, along which the AC current will flow which  
11 increases potential impacts of the EMF.

12 Finally, while we understand the potential  
13 economic benefits that the proposed converter station  
14 here in Yonkers could potentially bring to the city,  
15 we believe every effort to be made to ensure that the  
16 converter station is designed in a manner and sited in  
17 a manner that contributes to, rather than stifles, the  
18 successes building from the recent revitalization on  
19 the downtown waterfront. The developer proposed this  
20 site near Wells Avenue and Alexander Street, which is  
21 within the area covered by the Alexander Street master  
22 plan. This area is also near Yonkers Station and ripe

1 for development with transit-oriented uses. The master  
2 plan includes a vibrant new waterfront of residences,  
3 businesses and open spaces, to promote a pedestrian  
4 cyclist friendly streetscape, and to increase public  
5 access by foot and by vehicle into this area.

6 The construction of the proposed converter  
7 station, which is an industrial facility taking up  
8 approximately three acres of land which will then be  
9 devoid of these public uses, could reflect on the  
10 redevelopment effort.

11 So Scenic Hudson urges that the EIS evaluate  
12 the effects the proposed converter station will have  
13 on the land use goals of the city, and consider viable  
14 alternatives for the design and the siting of the  
15 converter station. One potential alternative site  
16 that we had identified, I believe, was also brought up  
17 by Mr. Lesnick before, the old Glenwood Power Station.  
18 And if no other viable alternative can be identified,  
19 another possibility would be to construct retail  
20 and/or office space that would wrap around parts of  
21 the converter station facing south and west in order  
22 to activate the street and generate pedestrian uses in

1 conformance with the master plan. This way the  
2 converter station could further the goals of the plan  
3 and avoid the creation of areas devoid of retail and  
4 commercial activity.

5           Scenic Hudson seeks to find creative  
6 solutions to the impact associated with large  
7 utilities on prime real estate and downtown on  
8 waterfront that could otherwise be used for transit-  
9 oriented development. In addition, the visual impact  
10 of the converter station should be assessed and the  
11 visual impact mitigated. A thorough visual analysis  
12 determining places from which the converter station  
13 could be seen should be prepared. This should include  
14 a computer-generated visual simulation in order to  
15 understand how the converter station would look from  
16 various important vantage points. We hope that these  
17 comments will inform the Department of Energy's EIS  
18 and that the EIS will allow Scenic Hudson and the  
19 other intervening parties to better understand the  
20 scale of any potential environmental impacts it could  
21 have. Thanks for the opportunity to present comments  
22 and we'll be submitting formal written comments at a

1 later date.

2 DR. PELL: Thank you very much. Visual  
3 impacts are an integral part of the EIS analysis, and  
4 we'll certainly be looking at exactly the issues that  
5 you've raised, so thank you for that.

6 Next name I have is it Susan, L-E-I-F-E-R.

7 MS. LEIFER: That's correct.

8 DR. PELL: Thank you. Susan Leifer.

9 MS. LEIFER: Thank you, Dr. Pell. I know  
10 one of the possibilities of an EIS is a no-build  
11 possibility, and I've just been reading that oil and  
12 gas get 36 billion in subsidies and incentives and  
13 perks. And my question is, when is our stimulus money  
14 going to end up in New York State for the benefit of  
15 New York State. This is a proposal to export our  
16 energy from a dam that has not been built yet, a  
17 thousand miles away, that does not meet sustainable  
18 criteria because it floods, that's a detriment to its  
19 community, in terms of environmental justice. And I  
20 would like us to spend the money in New York State  
21 with a sustainable wind solar retrofit conservation  
22 smart grids. And this would give us many thousands of

1 jobs instead of the 200 or so that are projected from  
2 this. And what I'd like to know is, when is our tax  
3 money going to benefit us? The oil and gas companies  
4 get our tax money. The banks get our tax money. This  
5 is stimulus money that's supposed to go to benefit New  
6 York State. And so my proposal is a no-build. We can  
7 use solar and wind locally. It does not have to go a  
8 thousand miles up to Canada and come back to us.

9 DR. PELL: Thank you, Ms. Leifer. And as a  
10 matter of fact, you are correct. We do look at the  
11 no-action alternative, as we call it, which is  
12 essentially the no-build alternative. But again, let  
13 me clarify. There are no federal funds supporting  
14 this project. There is an application to a separate  
15 office of the Department of Energy for a loan  
16 guarantee, which does involve stimulus funds, that's  
17 totally independent of the Presidential permit process  
18 that I'm personally involved in. That's an entirely  
19 different process that overlaps my process only to the  
20 extent that they would both use the Environmental  
21 Impact Statement. But there are no tax dollars being  
22 used to build this project. As a matter of fact, in

1 terms of detail, the cost of the Environmental Impact  
2 Statement is borne by the applicant. Your tax dollars  
3 are not paying for this analysis either. So you may  
4 want to know that.

5 Next speaker is George Klein with Sierra  
6 Club Lower Hudson Group.

7 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Dr. Pell. The Lower  
8 Hudson Group of the Sierra Club covers Westchester  
9 County, Putnam and Rockland County. And we have  
10 thousands of members distributed over these counties.  
11 The Sierra Club itself is America's oldest  
12 environmental organization, and we have many issues  
13 that we pursue at once, at any given time. We ask you  
14 to consider in this scope -- in the scoping, that this  
15 project perpetuates reliance on a traditional type of  
16 energy, and thereby helps us fail to encourage  
17 domestic renewable energy sources which is what we  
18 urgently need to combat climate change. This is a  
19 negative impact because it does not help us in  
20 stimulating renewable energy, in creating markets for  
21 renewable energy, technologies or bringing costs down  
22 by building scale, as soon as possible. So it's not

1 in the public interest.

2 The project will encourage dam-powered  
3 hydro, which is not defined as a renewable energy  
4 source for purposes of New York State's renewable  
5 portfolio standard. Other types of hydro, free-  
6 flowing hydro, are considered renewable sources for  
7 the RPS. Enabling the purchase of energy from outside  
8 the state is bad for the state's balance of payments,  
9 long term, and bad for the U.S. balance of payments.  
10 The socioeconomic impact of this is fewer jobs in New  
11 York State than would result from domestic energy  
12 production, especially renewables. So the project  
13 from that perspective is not in the public interest.  
14 So please consider these potential impacts as you  
15 define the project's scope. Thank you.

16 DR. PELL: Thank you, Mr. Klein. Are we  
17 looking forward to receiving anything from you in  
18 writing?

19 MR. KLEIN: Yes.

20 DR. PELL: Next speaker is Tarantelli; is  
21 that correct?

22 MR. TARANTELLI: Yes.

1 DR. PELL: I'm sorry, I can't make out your  
2 first name.

3 MR. TARANTELLI: Richard.

4 DR. PELL: Richard, okay.

5 MR. TARANTELLI: Thank you, Dr. Pell.

6 DR. PELL: Thank you.

7 MR. TARANTELLI: My main concern is bringing  
8 another energy company through the City of Yonkers.  
9 We're living in like a nightmare with Con Edison. I  
10 live up on Kingston Avenue, and for the past 11 years  
11 that I've lived there they've been digging, making  
12 noise, we've had two explosions recently, it's been a  
13 total disaster for the community. And that is like my  
14 concern of the safety factor of this project. I'd  
15 like to know more about it. When it gets to its final  
16 destination in the Hudson, at Yonkers, where does it  
17 go from there, how does it go from there. I hope to  
18 God it doesn't go by land up to any other Con Edison  
19 power station around my neighborhood, because we're  
20 really frustrated with the power authority for the  
21 last 11 years, like I say, it's been hell, you know.  
22 That's my concern. And I hope you choose to put this

1 in another place, other than Yonkers. Yonkers for  
2 some reason, is always getting dumped on. And it's  
3 unfair for the people here who are paying fairly high  
4 taxes and they're going to go up. We're paying more  
5 money and getting less. So I would appreciate, you  
6 know, if you could think of putting this project in  
7 another location, other than Yonkers. And thank you,  
8 Dr. Pell.

9 DR. PELL: Thank you very much. As noted  
10 earlier, we do look at alternatives, so we'll  
11 certainly take a look at your comments.

12 That completes the people whose names I had  
13 as speakers. And now it's open to anybody that would  
14 like to speak, all you have to do is raise your hand  
15 and come on up.

16 Sir, if you would be kind enough to take the  
17 mike and tell us who you are.

18 MR. SCHNEIDER: I'm Cliff Schneider, and I'm  
19 the executive director of Beczak Environmental  
20 Educational Center.

21 DR. PELL: Can I trouble you to spell both  
22 your last name and the name of the center.

1 MR. SCHNEIDER: Schneider, S-C-H-N-E-I-D-E-  
2 R. I filled out a yellow sheet there, but not to  
3 speak.

4 DR. PELL: That's why I don't have it.

5 MR. SCHNEIDER: And it's B-E-C-Z-A-K. I'm  
6 sorry, I don't have any prepared notes, but I just  
7 found out about this later today -- earlier today. We  
8 have an environmental center and I've worked with  
9 almost all the groups in the room at one point or  
10 another, Scenic Hudson helped develop us. We work with  
11 the City Council. We work with the planning  
12 department. And right where this is projected to come  
13 in the options are kind of limited. And we have a 2.2  
14 acre park right at the point where this is projected  
15 to enter into Yonkers. And there's been a lot of  
16 planning, as mentioned earlier, with the Alexander  
17 Street development and it doesn't seem like this fits  
18 into anybody's plan, anybody's zoning, anybody's  
19 discussions, about the future of what's supposed to be  
20 happening down there. I would like to know -- I guess  
21 if I go to the website that you mentioned, they'll  
22 have more specific details, but is it in enough detail

1 that shows exactly where this is planned to come into  
2 Yonkers? We've heard where it's planned on being  
3 located, but you're sort of limited as to -- unless  
4 you want to go through brand new high-rise apartment  
5 buildings or my 2.2 acres of park or one street that  
6 has a straight shot into that. So I'm concerned about  
7 that for my own self interest and my motives. But I'm  
8 also concerned about, there's a lot of recreational  
9 activity that takes place in this exact spot. And  
10 it's not the kind of thing that's going to show up in  
11 any studies or any evaluations or anything, but it's  
12 one of the oldest paddle rowing clubs in the country,  
13 and it's exactly at this location where it's projected  
14 to be entering. And my last sort of question is, as  
15 much as I can agree with the previous speaker about  
16 the disruption of Con Ed on our streets and the havoc  
17 that it's raised in this town for years and years and  
18 years. Seems like they dig up one street and they  
19 bury it and it's just a series of potholes and then it  
20 gets paved up and then they decide another project and  
21 rip it all up again. So I'm worried about, what's  
22 this going to do for the commercial trade on the

1 Hudson River? I don't know how a project this large -  
2 - that there's now a lot of really interesting barge  
3 traffic and recreational traffic and everything. So  
4 does this disrupt barge traffic and commercial  
5 shipping that is going up and down the Hudson River?  
6 What's it do to recreational people while it's being  
7 done? And if it's all approved, how long does it  
8 take? I guess, I'll read all that in the guidelines.  
9 But it's really important to say that there's a lot of  
10 little people that depend on the Hudson River, and I  
11 hope they'll look at them, because you're not going to  
12 have many people that are speaking for them. So thank  
13 you.

14 DR. PELL: Thank you, Mr. Schneider. We do  
15 look at recreational impacts, as a matter of fact. So  
16 we will be considering your comments in that regard.  
17 If you have any details that you would like to provide  
18 subsequent to today in writing we would sure  
19 appreciate that.

20 Anybody else? Come on, don't be shy, we're  
21 all friends here. Nobody? I'll tell you what, if  
22 you're really sure nobody else wants to talk, we'll go

1 off the record. I'll ask Debbie, our stenographer to  
2 stay with us a little bit longer in case somebody  
3 suddenly changes their mind.

4           It's about 8:30 now. We'll hang around just  
5 a little bit in case you want to talk to any of us in  
6 person. That includes me, the Transmission  
7 Developer's people and our contractors that are  
8 preparing the EIS. Those are the gentlemen that have  
9 been manning the registration desk. And I just want  
10 you to know, this has been a very productive and  
11 useful meeting. And the sum total of which has been  
12 bringing to our attention a number of substantive  
13 issues that we will look at. So your being here  
14 tonight has been very worthwhile and we appreciate  
15 that. Thank you very much and good night.

16           (Wherein the proceedings concluded at 8:45  
17 p.m.)

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