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PSEG LONG ISLAND
PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION
LTV STUDIOS
75 INDUSTRIAL ROAD
WAINSCOTT, NEW YORK 11975
June 28, 2022
6:30 p.m.

ACCURATE COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
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PORT JEFFERSON, NY 11777
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2 A P P E A R A N C E S :

3 SY GRUZA, Senior Counsel Environmental for PSEG Long
4 Island

5 LARA POMI-URBAT, Permitting Specialist Supervisor

6 ERIN GORMAN, Manager Environmental Projects and
7 Permitting

8 JIM CAUSARANO, Project Manager

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2 (WHEREUPON, this portion of the
3 proceedings began at 6:38 p.m., after which the
4 following transpired:)

5 MR. GRUZA: So my name is Sy Gruza.
6 I'm the environmental attorney for PSEG Long
7 Island, and I want to welcome you to tonight's
8 public hearing.

9 As I'm sure you're all aware, LIPA
10 has proposed to install a 69kv underground
11 transmission line between the Buell and
12 Bridgehampton Substations, and PSEG Long Island
13 as agent for LIPA has prepared a Draft
14 Environmental Impact Statement that's available
15 online that you can review.

16 The public hearing tonight is an
17 opportunity for you to provide us with your
18 comments on the proposed action and on the
19 DEIS.

20 We have a court reporter with us.
21 She'll be creating a transcript for us. We'll
22 have a record of all of your comments.

23 We will provide a written response to
24 all of the comments as part of the Final
25 Environmental Impact Statement that we'll be

2 preparing after this hearing over the next
3 couple of months.

4 I want to -- this is not the end of
5 the public comment period. The public comment
6 period is actually going to run through
7 July 12th. So if you think of other statements
8 or comments or questions that you want to have
9 answered in the Final Environmental Impact
10 Statement you can submit them up to July 12th,
11 and we'll treat them the same way we would
12 treat any of the comments that are made here
13 tonight.

14 We're going to limit the comments to
15 three minutes per person in order to make sure
16 that everyone has an opportunity to speak.
17 We're going to call people to make their
18 comments in the order that they're listed on
19 the sign-up sheet. If you haven't signed up to
20 make a comment and you want to, the sign-up
21 sheet is over by the table to my left.

22 Also we probably have people
23 participating virtually, and at the end of the
24 comments from the people who are here in the
25 room, we will -- the people who are virtually

2 participating will have an opportunity to make
3 their comments, also.

4 I'd like to hand this over now to my
5 colleague, Lara Urvat, who'll give a brief
6 overview of the project.

7 MS. PUMI-URBAT: Thank you, Sy. I
8 apologize. Bill, does he have -- there's a
9 presentation that was supposed to be up on the
10 screen for everybody to see.

11 Apologies. We're just waiting to get
12 the presentation loaded up. Just bear with us
13 a second.

14 MALE VOICE: You have three minutes
15 to get it together.

16 MS. PUMI-URBAT: Bear with us.
17 Apologies. It's always technical difficulties.

18 So good evening, everybody. I just
19 want to give you a brief overview of the
20 project and what you'll be commenting on this
21 evening. Particularly if you didn't have the
22 opportunity to walk around during our public
23 information session and view the boards that
24 we've prepared.

25 So just a little bit of background on

2 the project. PSEG Long Island as agent for the
3 LIPA, the Long Island Power Authority, is
4 responsible to ensure that we provide safe and
5 reliable electricity to our customers.

6 The South Fork --

7 MALE VOICE: Speak into the mic.

8 MALE VOICE: Louder.

9 FEMALE VOICE: Can't hear you.

10 MS. PUMI-URBAT: Is that better?

11 The South Fork load has been growing
12 steadily over the past number of years, and we
13 have identified the need to be able to provide
14 additional power suites on the South Fork. So
15 that's the impetus for this project.

16 The project goes between our
17 Bridgehampton Substation and our Buell
18 Substation, and it's about 5.2 miles in length.

19 We're going to be using two
20 construction methodologies to install the
21 project. So horizontal directional drill, and
22 that's going to be utilized beneath the Long
23 Pond Greenbelt, and also for a portion of the
24 project that is beneath the Long Island
25 Railroad tracks close to our Buell Substation.

2 The remainder of the project will be installed
3 via open trench.

4 So due to the potential for
5 significant environmental impact, especially
6 with the Eastern tiger salamander, LIPA issued
7 a positive declaration on this project. That
8 positive declaration triggered the Draft
9 Environmental Impact Statement, which was
10 prepared and accepted by LIPA on May 18th.

11 The Draft Environmental Impact
12 Statement analyzes a variety of both natural
13 and human resources. That includes both soils,
14 topography, water resources, ecology, noise,
15 traffic impact, cultural resources, and impacts
16 to the coastal soil.

17 It also analyzed five alternatives,
18 which are available on the boards in the back
19 if you'd like to look at those in more detail.

20 In terms of some of the more
21 important points of the project we have
22 designed mitigation for any impacts to the
23 Eastern tiger salamander. That includes
24 revegetation and restoration of suboptimal
25 habitat for that species, and we have also

2 designed construction methodology to minimize
3 disturbance in the area.

4 So again, just to reiterate what Sy
5 had discussed. This is just one step of the
6 process. What we are here to do tonight is to
7 receive your comments. Those comments are
8 going to be recorded, and then we will address
9 them in the Final Environmental Impact
10 Statement. The comment period is open from
11 July 12th, and we do have a variety of ways
12 that you can submit comments. You can submit
13 them this evening, via email, or via mail, and
14 the way you can submit them is provided on the
15 fact sheets that are available on the round
16 table.

17 So at this point I think we would
18 like to invite our first commenter up to
19 provide their comments.

20 MR. GRUZA: So when you're called to
21 offer your comments you can make them from the
22 podium. There's a microphone there.

23 THE ANNOUNCER: Our first commenter
24 is New York State Assembly Member, Fred Thiele.

25 ASSEMBLYMAN THIELE: I'm going to get

2 close because it sounds like you need to with
3 the microphone.

4 So thank you very much, and it's an
5 important project we're here to talk about
6 tonight. My name is Fred Thiele. I'm the New
7 York State Assemblyman for the 1st Assembly
8 District, which includes all of the Town of
9 East Hampton, all the Town of Southampton, the
10 Town of Shelter Island, eastern Brook haven.
11 All of this project is included within my
12 Assembly District, and I'm going to use my
13 three minutes to kind of summarize my basic
14 feelings about this. I will be submitting more
15 detailed, written comments to you.

16 And let me just say at the outset
17 that when it comes to Long Pond Greenbelt I'm
18 protective of this resource because it is a
19 critical area of open space within my Assembly
20 District that I take very seriously, but it's
21 also extremely personal to me. I live in Sag
22 Harbor. I grew up in the Long Pond Greenbelt.
23 My introduction to nature really came from
24 walking in the Long Pond Greenbelt with my
25 father. I recognize what an important

2 recreational and ecological resource it is
3 because I live it and I continue to live it
4 every single day.

5 But in my role as an elected
6 official, I'm also mindful of the fact that
7 between the state of New York, the County of
8 Suffolk, the Town of Southampton, the Nature
9 Conservancy, the Peconic Land Trust, literally
10 tens of millions of dollars have been spent of
11 public money to protect the resource that is
12 the Long Pond Greenbelt, which is a chain of
13 coastal ponds that runs all the way from Sag
14 Harbor all the way to the ocean in Sagaponack.

15 And it is a critical resource. It is
16 not just the Eastern tiger salamander. I know
17 that that might have triggered in your mind the
18 need for an Environmental Impact Statement, but
19 this resource is so much more. It has species
20 of global significance. It is an area that
21 lends itself to not just the appreciation of
22 nature but recreation. It is one of a kind and
23 it can't be replaced.

24 And that is why in my comments with
25 regard to this particular project that, you

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2 know, the SEQRA process to me -- you know,
3 you've got 213 pages there. There's a whole
4 encyclopedia of information about the area.
5 But the critical part of any Environmental
6 Impact Statement is the mitigative measures and PH-2
7 the alternatives. And in my statements about
8 this project, because of the critical nature of
9 the Long Pond Greenbelt, this alternative
10 should be the alternative of last resort and we PH-3
11 should be looking -- we should be looking at
12 ways to avoid any impacts here in the Long Pond
13 Greenbelt.

14 And I hope that this SEQRA process is
15 a very interactive process between PSEG and
16 LIPA and the community. I've seen a lot of
17 times with the SEQRA process where you do the
18 draft, we have a hearing, we make comments, you
19 respond to the comments, there's a Final PH-4
20 Environmental Impact Statement, and the
21 decision is made.

22 I invite you, and I know County
23 Legislator Bridget Fleming feels the same way
24 and she'll speak for herself, but we want to
25 engage in a continuing process with you. As

2 you said we're at the Draft Environmental
3 Impact Statement process. We want you to come
4 back and work with us and work with the
5 community to look at all the options, all the
6 alternatives, all of the mitigative measures
7 that may be available here and to see if we can
8 find some consensus as to how to proceed with
9 LIPA and PSEG meeting its responsibility to
10 provide electricity to people here on the South
11 Fork.

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12 So, you know, I've read the
13 Environmental Impact Statement. I think
14 there's more to be done as far as, certainly as
15 I've said, mitigative measures. You know, I've
16 looked at the alternatives that you've
17 presented. I will acknowledge that all of
18 these alternatives have issues. But we need to
19 work together, and this needs to be a
20 collaborative process to reach a solution that
21 protects everything that is special about the
22 Long Pond Greenbelt.

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23 Too much work, too much effort by
24 people in this room that volunteer their time,
25 that work literally day and night and have done

2 so for decades. First to see the land
3 preserved, then to see it properly managed so
4 that the public can enjoy it. You can't have a
5 project coming in that destroys those efforts
6 that have been made for so many, many years.

7 So I invite you to work with the
8 community, to work with the elected officials
9 that represent the community, to look at
10 alternatives and solutions -- and I think
11 you'll hear some tonight, some other options
12 and some other suggestions -- so that when we
13 get to the Final Environmental Impact Statement
14 process and when it gets to the decision-making
15 time for a project like this, we have all
16 worked together and we've gotten what is not
17 just the best result for PSEG and its
18 stockholders, but what is the best result for
19 the community here on the East End and on the
20 South Fork. Thank you.

21 THE ANNOUNCER: Legislator Fleming.

22 LEGISLATOR FLEMING: Thank you, Fred,
23 for your continued leadership and for all
24 you've done to preserve open space here on Long
25 Island.

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2 I'm Legislator Bridget Fleming. I
3 serve this district in the Suffolk County
4 Legislature.

5 Beginning in 1968, 1968, through a
6 chain of land acquisitions Suffolk County, the
7 Nature Conservancy, and the Town of Southampton
8 have preserved and protected over 600 acres of
9 land that stretches from Otter Pond in Sag
10 Harbor to Sagaponack Pond in Sagaponack known
11 as the Long Pond Greenbelt. And I would
12 reiterate and echo what my colleague Fred
13 Thiele said. It's not only about the Eastern
14 tiger salamander.

15 The Long Pond Greenbelt is a unique
16 expanse of interconnected coastal plain ponds,
17 freshwater swamps, wetlands, fields, and
18 woodlands, supporting one of the highest
19 concentrations of rare species and natural
20 communities anywhere in New York State.

21 I'm sure you'll hear one of the
22 greatest things about representing this
23 community is we have an abundance of very
24 smart, committed scientists and
25 environmentalists. I'm sure you will hear from

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PH-11

2 them with regard to the alternatives and the
3 specific impacts to the aquifer to open space
4 to wildlife habitat and to the protected
5 species.

6 But I will say that looking at the
7 alternatives in the EIS I would agree that
8 there are no good alternatives to this project,
9 and I'm sure you're going to hear from others
10 on that. So I want to confine my comments just
11 so that the record is complete on just one
12 particular concern that I have.

13 The proposed action is claimed to be
14 needed to support forecasted electric load
15 growth. And I'll say that year in and year out
16 we have seen from LIPA consistent patterns of
17 dramatic projections of future load
18 requirements that are subsequently reduced.
19 Particularly, we have seen now dramatic
20 reductions that are driven by greater adoption
21 of energy efficiency and alternative sources
22 such as rooftop solar, which balance Long
23 Island's electric grid. And, in fact, in the
24 2017 Southampton Press reported that a house
25 built at that time in 2017 used less than half

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2 as much energy as similarly sized houses built
3 just 10 years prior. And a quarter less than
4 similarly sized houses in the 1980's.

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(cont'd)

5 As reflected in Long Island's peak
6 load forecast update, your document of
7 March 2020, we've already seen drastic
8 reduction from almost 75,000 megawatts
9 projected in 2013 to less than 5,000 megawatts
10 for what was 2020. And the new peak load
11 forecast for 2030 is approximately 340
12 megawatts lower than that years forecast.

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13 At the county level alone energy
14 efficiency projects are making drastic
15 reductions in the seven cogeneration projects
16 that are currently in planning or
17 implementation for large county buildings are
18 projected to reduce CO2 emissions by some 1,800
19 metric tons. We don't measure it in kilowatt
20 hours. But certainly that --

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21 (Noise disruption.)

22 MALE VOICE: That's another issue.

23 LEGISLATOR FLEMING: That's another
24 public hearing. Stay tuned.

25 I am, I have to say, I am concerned

2 that as Fred pointed out, you know, we've seen
3 this again and again and again. Careful
4 presentations, SEQRA analysis, and something
5 that we know is going to have a dramatic impact
6 on something that we love, something that is
7 rare throughout New York State, and I would say
8 throughout the entire region.

9 Since 1968, we have been working and
10 spending millions to preserve this, and it's
11 not just for the salamander. I am concerned
12 that I hear it already being talked about as a
13 fait accompli.

14 I do believe as Fred -- but I've also
15 been in many, you know, government projects
16 where I have seen subtle and nuanced approaches
17 to the specifics, whether it's the transmission
18 distribution that are your goals for this
19 project or whether it is the specific amount of
20 a peak load that you're trying to meet or
21 whether it is the specific technology that you
22 attempt to use for accomplishing these goals.
23 There are tweak and changes and nuances that
24 can be built into those programs if you don't
25 think of it already as a fait accompli.

2 What you are proposing here is going
3 to have a dramatic and I dare say unacceptable
4 impact to our natural environment, and it's got
5 to be rethought.

6 Thank you.

7 THE ANNOUNCER: Next we have Natalie
8 Ryan.

9 MS. RYAN: Hi. Good evening. My
10 name is Natalie Ryan. I'm a Long Island
11 Community Partnership Manager for the Nature
12 Conservancy.

13 Okay. The Nature Conservancy wishes
14 to express our concern regarding the proposed
15 PSEG Bridgehampton-To-Buell underground cable
16 project.

17 The Long Pond Greenbelt has a long
18 history of public support to protect it, as we
19 can see tonight, and together we have a
20 multitude of partners, including Suffolk County
21 and the Town of Southampton. The Conservancy
22 succeeded in preserving over 600 acres of this
23 unique and important continuous chain of
24 coastal plain ponds in an area of intense
25 developmental pressure.

2 The Long Pond Greenbelt is a unique
3 expanse of interconnect coastal plain ponds,
4 freshwater swamps, wetlands, fields, and
5 woodland as Legislator Fleming pointed out.
6 This supports one of the highest concentrations
7 of rare species and natural communities
8 anywhere in New York State, including at least
9 three known breeding ponds of the New York
10 State endangered tiger salamander.

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11 Additionally, the New York Natural
12 Heritage Program has identified significant
13 natural communities and reference of 14 rare,
14 threatened, and endangered species on or in the
15 vicinity of the proposed project route.

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16 While much of the proposed work is
17 subsurface, this project may impact the
18 hydrology of this important freshwater system
19 that many of these species are dependent upon.

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20 We urge every measure of caution to
21 mitigate this potential impact.

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22 The Conservancy understands and
23 appreciates the need for new electric
24 transmission infrastructure as we transition to
25 more renewable energy sources; however,

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2 ensuring that environmentally sensitive areas,
3 such as the Long Pond Greenbelt, are protected
4 must be considered inside the new transmission
5 projects to meet this increasing demand.

6 Especially when other, lesser damaging
7 alternatives exist, such as local road
8 right-of-ways.

9 The Conservancy requests that the
10 alternative routes be fully explored and
11 exhausted before consideration is given to
12 PSEG's preferred route from in the vicinity of
13 the environmentally sensitive Long Pond
14 Greenbelt.

15 Thank you.

16 THE ANNOUNCER: Bob DeLuca.

17 MS. BURMEISTER: Good evening and
18 thank you very much. My name is Bob DeLuca,
19 and I serve as President of Group for the East
20 End. On behalf of the Group I appreciate the
21 opportunity to provide comments on the Draft
22 Environmental Impact Statement for
23 Bridgehampton-Buell Transmission Line.

24 For the record, the Group for the
25 East End was founded in Bridgehampton in 1972,

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(cont'd)

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2 with the professionally staffed environmental
3 advocacy and educational organization,
4 representing in the conservation and community
5 planning interests of several thousand member's
6 households, community organizations, and
7 individuals from across the East End of Long
8 Island.

9 For my part I have served as a
10 conservation biologist professor and land-use
11 practitioner in this region for the last 40
12 years. I think I can probably save time by
13 stipulating that everything which has been said
14 I agree with, and I just want to drill down a
15 little bit more on a couple of the specifics
16 here.

17 First and foremost we would agree
18 that if there was a workable and economically
19 responsible strategy to redirect this proposal
20 away from the Greenbelt we would support that
21 measure. We also know that there's a lot of
22 considerations involved and we're sort of in a
23 position of looking at trying to get the least
24 worst alternative, which I understand is a
25 problem for everybody. But nonetheless, to the

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2 extent that this project can be moved outside
3 of the Greenbelt, that would be our first
4 priority.

5 Now that being said I've looked at
6 all the alternatives, and I hope that I can
7 narrow and focus you on a few of them.

8 With respect to the Northern
9 Underground Route, although it does get you
10 kind of outside the Greenbelt, one of the
11 things that is evident in the Impact Statement
12 is what you need to go through to get that the
13 Village of Sag Harbor, with the houses and
14 residential areas that you would need to go
15 through, is probably next to impossible. So
16 Alternative 2 from our perspective is probably
17 not something that we could support, and I
18 don't think it would work with your needs and
19 time limits.

20 With respect to the Southern
21 Underground Route that proposal, although it's
22 also operating in a right-of-way and clearly
23 there could be some impacted residences, it
24 does have an advantage over Alternative 2 due
25 to the less complicated route that it takes,

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2 fewer jurisdictional boundary issues, and its
3 greater confinement of major roadways, which
4 reduces potential impacts on residential areas.
5 That said, it's still 43 percent longer than
6 the action that you want to do but it is
7 outside the Greenbelt, and we suggest that this
8 alternative remain under consideration.

9 With respect to the Northern Hybrid
10 Route, take a look at that proposal. The
11 extensive replacement of poles and the
12 installation of more intrusive poles and
13 highway visibilities all along will create
14 complication and enhance through the Village
15 that I don't think most folks will find
16 acceptable. I think there's a higher visual
17 impact, and we don't support further
18 consideration of Alternative 4.

19 With respect to the Overhead Route
20 within LIPA Easement, this is Alternative 5,
21 this one seems to kind of have the worst of all
22 features if you take a look at it. And it's
23 got 134 new steel poles, 65 feet above grade,
24 50 feet below grade, coupled with construction
25 activities involving cranes and other

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(cont'd)

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2 equipment, and I would say that you would --
3 ask you to abandon further consideration of
4 that alternative.

5 But here's the thing. How does all
6 of that stack up against what it is you've
7 proposed to do? And I think here is where the
8 kind of narrowing needs to take place. As a
9 general statement, yeah, the route is shorter,
10 it probably is less obtrusive to individual
11 residences, you can make a case here for
12 directional drilling, and it can be more cost
13 effective than what I've seen represented in
14 the DEIS.

15 But think about what we're talking
16 about here, and if you didn't know it when you
17 got here you've probably heard. About 50 years
18 has been spent trying to take care of this
19 place. Trying to protect it. Trying to make
20 it a relic of a past natural history that has
21 been disappearing. And so, what I would say
22 very bluntly is if you seek to do work in that
23 area LIPA, PSEG, whoever is in charge
24 ultimately needs to consider what it is that
25 you're going through. Not that you can do it

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2 from an engineering standpoint, but that you're
3 doing it for this community, which has worked
4 for 50 years to preserve this area.

5 And one of the suggestions I would
6 make is that you consider a vital environmental
7 benefit fund or an environmental mitigation
8 fund. Something to demonstrate respect and
9 honor the tradition that took place to get the
10 Greenbelt where it is, and allow that
11 independent fund to offset potential impacts
12 directly related to the project and future
13 mitigation and management ease that the
14 Greenbelt has. And I say that only because I'm
15 trying to balance the equities here about
16 everything that you have to look at.

17 The big thing that I think is
18 missing, and I maybe wouldn't expect it from
19 folks that don't spend as much time here as we
20 do, is the honorable expedition of that
21 Greenbelt means something to people here.

22 MR. GRUZA: Four minutes.

23 MS. BURMEISTER: And so I would ask
24 you to really include that in your thoughts and
25 in your comments when you come back here to

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2 answer that. But ditch those other
3 alternatives. Please consider the
4 environmental benefit fund, and I thank you
5 very much for your time.

6 THE ANNOUNCER: Alice Wainwright.

7 No? Okay.

8 The next I have is Julie Burmeister.

9 MS. BURMEISTER: Okay. I'm just an
10 ordinary citizen. My family's been here for
11 over 100 years, and I think it says that we are
12 committed to this area as we can.

13 And this particular project really
14 horizontally -- I think there was something
15 about it. I had a man come and -- gas -- well,
16 I guess he is. I don't know whether he was.
17 He came and said -- he asked me if he could
18 turn off my gas. And I said, "Turn off the
19 gas? Why would I want to turn off my gas?" He
20 said, "We're installing a gas line along Ocean
21 Road." I said, "Well, I'm waiting for you come
22 because I can see all the yellow lines on the
23 pavement." And I said, "I don't see any
24 digging going on." He said, "Oh, ma'am, we
25 don't do it that way anymore."

2 So I said, "Show me how you do it."
3 So he took me down and showed me horizontal
4 drilling along the surface area of the road and
5 I was amazed. But when -- and I guess every
6 500 feet or so they made, they dug it down, and
7 connected a chain and they dragged the pipe
8 through. And I thought that was, as a previous
9 science teacher, I thought that was pretty
10 cool.

11 But drilling horizontally on the Long
12 Pond Greenbelt, a preserve nature area of pond
13 and woods, to install an electrical
14 transmission cable is an attack on our
15 environment. It's one thing drilling along
16 Ocean Road. It's another going through a
17 protected -- well, that's already been said.

18 Protected area is so crazy. The only
19 appropriate place -- horizontal drilling to
20 install a gas and water line and our utilities
21 is a useful technology, but not in an
22 environmentally sensitive area.

23 There is an alternative route,
24 which -- there are alternative routes which are
25 longer and more expensive, but we are paying

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2 the highest electrical rates in the country and
3 I think somehow you can serve us better with a
4 more positive outreach to the community.

5 And I have one last thought that:
6 Has there been a risk analysis done on this
7 study and what would it cost if a mistake
8 occurs and the Long Pond Greenbelt is
9 irreversibly harmed? Has there been any kind
10 of risk analysis done?

11 It seems there's a big risk here.

12 MS. PUMI-URBAT: We're just here to
13 receive comments tonight so any comments are
14 going to be formally responded to in the Final
15 Environmental Impact Statement.

16 MS. BURMEISTER: That's fine.

17 I'm a member of the Southampton Town
18 Sustainability Committee and Bridgehampton
19 Civic Association, and I hope you all hear our
20 appeal.

21 MR. GRUZA: Thank you.

22 THE ANNOUNCER: Barbara Bornstein.

23 MS. PUMI-URBAT: And just before you
24 speak. Just for the folks to be aware. We're
25 going to ask that Erin raise his hand when

2 there's about 30 second left just so you're
3 aware of the time frame, because we do
4 recognize that we do have a lot of people that
5 wish to speak this evening and we want to hear
6 all of you.

7 MS. BORNSTEIN: Thank you. I'm
8 Barbara Bornstein. I live in Sagaponack and I
9 spend a lot of time in the Greenbelt and I'm an
10 ex-board member of Friends of the Long Pond
11 Greenbelt.

12 I probably don't do nearly as much
13 work as other people in this room do to
14 preserve it, but the man and woman hours spent
15 there, as well as the dollars that -- Fred
16 Thiele, thank you and Bridget Fleming and the
17 Nature Conservancy and talked about investing
18 and protecting this area are immense.

19 So they can all be much more eloquent
20 than I ever could be about the environmental
21 impact; about even the history of it and what
22 we have to lose here. So I'll just point to
23 who has the most to lose here, and it's those
24 two little boys in the back room. In the
25 future we'll be gone and then it's theirs, and

2 we can't clean up a habitat. What you said
3 earlier about, you know, who -- due acclimation
4 [sic], it doesn't happen. You can't restore a
5 vernal pond. You can't fix what is liable to
6 happen here. Even the plan disturbance is bad
7 enough.

8 Please reconsider. And I haven't had
9 time to look at all the alternatives, so I'll
10 make another statement later in writing. But
11 to quote somebody that I like. "Please don't
12 do it just because you can."

13 THE ANNOUNCER: Stephen Storch?

14 MR. STORCH: All right. Stephen
15 Storch. I live in Water Mill and I've been
16 living out here for 40-something years. And
17 this is just a representation of how little
18 respect you have for how hard people work out
19 here for the money that they make and that went
20 into paying taxes that we use to pay for this.

21 And, you know, there's always an
22 expression from Southampton: People from away.
23 You're not from around here. They always send
24 people that have no stake in what we've created
25 here to do damage. People cutting down trees

PH-42

2 to build houses and clearing lots and things
3 like that.

4 And, you know, for this extra
5 electricity are you talking about serving the
6 one percent? Because I don't see any of them
7 here, you know, speaking out against it or
8 speaking for it. They don't want to really
9 show their face in connection to things like
10 this, but they want to reap the benefits of
11 what we have here. You know, buy a lot, build
12 a house, then sell it for big profits on the
13 backs of people that -- you know, we all love
14 it for the same reason. But people that come
15 and sell out and leave, make out.

16 And we stay here and we're left with
17 more and more burden of traffic and big houses
18 that have to be served by hundreds of people
19 plugging up the roads, coming from away because
20 they can't afford to live here. They've got to
21 come from 40, 50 miles away. Some people come
22 from New York City and New Jersey to work here.

23 And, you know, it's just a
24 misunderstanding of who we are and what this
25 place is. You're talking about going there and

PH-43

2 digging into a place that it's taken nature
3 15,000 years after the ice age to lay down and
4 build; okay. If you can grok that. You know,
5 15,000 years ago we were under a two-mile thick
6 sheet of ice here when it stopped. And all
7 this is built up.

8 And, you know, I work in environment
9 remediation on an organic farm. I work with a
10 lot of different places with a lot of different
11 people and a lot of different environments, and
12 do you have any idea what happens when you
13 directional drill under a pond that's connected
14 to the groundwater? And you, like, put this
15 pipeline of wire through it? Is it gonna make
16 a leak and drain these ponds? You don't --

17 So these are question that you can't
18 answer because you don't know.

19 I yield back my time.

20 THE ANNOUNCER: Ken Dorph?

21 MR. DORPH: First of all, I can't
22 judge whether the need -- I think Bridget's
23 comment about the need for electricity was very
24 interesting. I can't judge that. Let's hope
25 that the extra electricity will go for

PH-44

2 electrical cars and other substitutes for
3 fossil fuel. But even so.

4 My name is Ken Dorph and I live on
5 one of the houses on Round Pond, which is in
6 the northeast corner of the Long Pond
7 Greenbelt. If you think of it like Central
8 Park, and the Greenbelt is just about the size
9 of Central Park, we live at 110th Street and
10 Fifth Avenue.

11 My spouse worked for the Nature
12 Conserve. He had been on the board of Friends
13 of the Long Pond Greenbelt, so he would have
14 been intimately involved with this treasure for
15 over 25 years.

16 Now to reemphasize; this is not just
17 about salamanders. Just one example. The
18 Greenbelt embraces a stream of coastal plain
19 ponds with their unique fauna. Plants that
20 might be underwater for 10 years and then come
21 up and flower when the water goes down, the
22 water level goes down. Really unusual species.

23 These coastal plain ponds exist in
24 only three places remaining in the United
25 States: Cape Cod, the New Jersey Pine Barrens,

PH-45

2 and right here. And that we would be
3 considering the risks of damaging such a rare
4 environment to me is appalling.

5 I'd like to also point out that the
6 PSEG information -- I tried to read it to make
7 sense of things -- was both unconvincing and
8 difficult to understand. And I'm not an idiot.
9 So there were things that I think your
10 presentation could have been a lot more easy to
11 understand. I don't know where it goes
12 underground, I don't know how it gets through
13 the areas within the Greenbelt.

14 The last thing I just want to say is
15 that thinking again about Central Park. Can
16 you image if we decided to destroy Central Park
17 and put underground lines and cut through
18 Central Park? People would be appalled. Well,
19 this place to us is at least as valuable. It
20 is really our Central Park, and I want you to
21 think about how damaging it is. Most of us
22 here in this room think you should go -- maybe
23 everyone here in this room -- thinks that you
24 should go elsewhere. Try Alternative 3. It
25 make a lot more sense.

PH-46

PH-47

PH-48

2 Thank you.

3 THE ANNOUNCER: Frank Quevedo?

4 MR. QUEVEDO: Thank you. My name is
5 Frank Quevedo. I'm the executive director of
6 South Fork Natural History Museum, just located
7 south of the proposed area where you're going
8 to dig transmission lines under the Long Pond
9 Greenbelt. We do 300 interpretive educational
10 natural programs a year to families and
11 children of all ages.

12 First and foremost I just want to
13 thank Dai Dayton, Friends of the Long Pond
14 Greenbelt, for all of her efforts and her
15 group's efforts along with Assemblyman Fred
16 Thiele, Bridget Fleming, and Bob DeLuca, and
17 all the environmentalist here on the South Fork
18 who have worked so diligently over the years to
19 protect this significant and ecologically
20 sensitive habitat.

21 My background is marine science, and
22 I've been an environmentalist and a bay manager
23 specialist for the Town of East Hampton for
24 over a decade. And I've been the executive
25 director for this wonderful nature education

2 organization known as the South Fork Natural
3 History Museum for 12 years.

4 So we do surveys for the New York
5 DEC. We provide data about ecological habitats
6 here in the Long Pond Greenbelt for assessing
7 the sensitivity of the environment. The
8 Eastern tiger salamander breeds in many ponds
9 throughout the Long Pond Greenbelt and utilizes
10 a thousand or more feet from its breeding
11 ponds. I know I read something in an article
12 that the PSEG was proposing to do this project
13 500 feet away from the vernal breeding pond.
14 But in reality they utilize a thousand feet
15 around their breeding ponds.

16 Snapping turtles, box turtles, they
17 utilize the habitat. Also travel thousands of
18 feet to lay eggs in outlying areas. And, you
19 know, with all my experience taking people
20 through the Greenbelt for interpretive
21 programming it is without a doubt the most
22 rewarding place on the east end where I can
23 educate people about how important it is to
24 protect this natural resource.

25 These animals are -- have evolved

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2 here in this habitat and the animals are
3 glacial dwellers like the gentleman a few
4 speakers ago had said. It's taken thousands of
5 years to evolve and to have this particular
6 habitat, being as significant as it is, and I
7 think, you know, we just need to protect it as
8 best we can.

9 So on behalf of the entire South Fork
10 Natural History Society Organization I'm here
11 to officially oppose the project to run any
12 power lines through the Long Pond Greenbelt.

13 One of the things also that I would
14 like to hear about is the future, if this
15 project does go through, of what
16 electromagnetic field interference will do to
17 underground habitat. I don't think that people
18 speak about that. And the hertz -- the hertz
19 on the fauna that are positive in this
20 particular preserve are not, you know, they
21 don't usually hear noise and see things but
22 they react to vibration and transmission cables
23 and electricity, electromagnetic fields through
24 a habitat like this. So I just feel that it's
25 best to hear other alternatives than running

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2 cables through this preserve.

3 Thank you.

4 THE ANNOUNCER: Meghan Moore?

5 MS. MOORE: Hi. My name is Meghan
6 Moore. I'm a property owner with my husband at
7 21 Merchants Path in Sagaponack not far from
8 the Haines Path Trailhead to the Long Pond
9 Greenbelt, and a board member of the Friends of
10 the Long Pond Greenbelt.

11 I only just moved out here full time
12 two and-a-half years ago and discovered the
13 Long Pond Greenbelt on walks with my dog, which
14 offered much needed respite from the stress and
15 loneliness of work and working remotely during
16 2020 and 2021.

17 I'm here today to voice my opposition
18 to PSEG's proposal to drill through the
19 Greenbelt.

20 From a simple search of the New York
21 Department of State web site of Coastal Fish and
22 Wildlife Assessment Form indicates the Long
23 Pond Greenbelt is an ecosystem rare in Suffolk
24 County and provides important habitat for the
25 wide variety of fish and wildlife species. The

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2 Long Pond Greenbelt site is included in the
3 Southampton Greenbelt important bird area. The
4 Long Pond Greenbelt is recognized by the U.S.
5 Fish and Wildlife Service as a priority wetland
6 complex under the federal Emergency Wetlands
7 Resources Act of 1986.

8 The New York Natural Heritage Program
9 in conjuncture with the Nature Conservancy
10 recognizes the greater Long Pond Greenbelt
11 Complex, including the Long Pond Greenbelt,
12 Slate Pond, Black Pond Bridgehampton, and
13 little Poxabogue Pond, as priority site for
14 biodiversity.

15 And as we all know, the area that is
16 proposed drilling is a habitat to the Eastern
17 tiger salamander, which the New York Department
18 of Environmental Conservation web site says that
19 "Loss of habitat has been responsible for the
20 extirpation of this species from heavily
21 developed western Long Island. Recent surveys
22 have identified about 90 breeding ponds in New
23 York, confined to Nassau County and Suffolk
24 County. Its status at these remaining sites is
25 tenuous because of pesticides and other

PH-53

2 contaminants, threat of development, and other
3 land use patterns." Again, excerpts from the
4 Wildlife and Coastal Form.

5 Any activity that would substantially
6 degrade the water quality in the ponds,
7 streams, and wetlands of the Long Pond
8 Greenbelt would have significant impacts on the
9 biological productivity of this area. All
10 species of fish and wildlife would be adversely
11 affected by water pollution, such as chemical
12 contamination, oils spills, excessive turbidity
13 or sedimentation, waste disposal, and airborne
14 pollution. Significant changes in the water
15 quality or hydrologic regime of the coastal
16 plain ponds in the Long Pond Greenbelt would
17 result in loss of rare species and degradation
18 of the ecological character and value of pond
19 and pond-shore communities.

20 Elimination of water or wetland areas
21 through excavation or filling would result in a
22 direct loss of valuable habitat area. The
23 existing hydrology in the Long Pond Greenbelt
24 wetlands should not be disturbed.

25 The Town of Southampton has

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2 recognized the importance of the Greenbelt as a
3 high priority for acquisition.

4 When you read all of this, and to me,
5 it's just common sense that we should not
6 permit underground drilling through the
7 Greenbelt. While there is information saying
8 that HDD is the least disruptive form of
9 drilling, it is not without risk. And here,
10 even if the probability of unexpected
11 occurrences could reasonably be assessed as
12 low, the magnitude of the possible impact is
13 just too great.

14 Thank you.

15 THE ANNOUNCER: Lorena Patino.

16 MS. PATINO: Thank you. How is
17 everybody? I'd like to introduce myself. I'm
18 very pleased to meet you, my neighbors and
19 community. Thank you very much for this
20 lecture. I just come in from hearing about
21 this reunion. I feel comfortable coming here
22 and speak about the representation of the group
23 I have here [sic].

24 My name is Lorena Patino. I'm from
25 Mexico, but I work with four different schools

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2 in Europe, in Africa, Mexico, the west coast
3 and east coast.

4 In this time I'm having here working
5 in different projects and presentations. And
6 with Brunswick School and another firm in
7 Nassau and Bellport, independent with campers
8 [sic] and the farmer's workers and the
9 institution.

10 I feel like we don't understand that
11 this -- the column of real history, and I'm in
12 here because I found this Long Pond Greenbelt
13 for the greatest period that is here.

14 For me is like this is a call of
15 mother nature. To me to show this globally as
16 a piece of the rarest places in the world.
17 That's for you comment like a swamp or like a
18 trail. But for nature, this is example of that
19 too big title feeling; the most incredible
20 architectures in the world.

21 How tragic to degenerate. I try to
22 create in the looks and the feeling.

23 I work in Greece. I work also in
24 Poland, in Ukraine. And it is absurd that you
25 don't understand that you have in New York, and

2 we are not going to allow that you are using
3 the electricity for the wealthy house.

4 I have a solution for you. Sustain
5 the solar. Educate. You want to start a
6 conversation that you want to show this to your
7 customers. You have customers in location.

8 We are in the most rare place in the
9 world. That people is creating community with
10 Japan, with Taiwan, people from really high
11 levels of education. And we are also
12 threatened that they are here with us.

13 Thank you.

14 I also wanted to reach out. I also
15 wanted to reach in the communion [sic] and we
16 are trying to create a community and you have
17 the option to upgraded yourself for the
18 community.

19 Thank you.

20 THE ANNOUNCER: Tom Oleszczuk.

21 MR. OLESZCZUK: Thank you. Yes, I
22 think this is better. Okay. My name is Tom
23 Oleszczuk, and my wife and I have been
24 year-round residents for 10 years plus. We
25 were drawn here from New York because of its

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2 natural beauty, and what you've heard so far is
3 a community saying we are concerned. We don't
4 want to risk it.

5 Now there is, in addition to the
6 natural beauty, there is the Lakota saying
7 (speaking in foreign language) wonders of life.
8 And clearly the natural world out here is
9 partially fed by the ponds that are at risk.

10 Now I've heard the arguments that,
11 "Well, you're just drilling through clay and
12 horizontal drilling -- everything will be
13 fine," but there is a contemporary warning
14 here. We heard this argument from the oil
15 industry when they said, "We have this new
16 technique. It's called fracking."

17 Okay. Not to say that you're going
18 to be forcing water into the ground. But the
19 fact of the matter is that this is a sensitive
20 area, and if it's lost because of this
21 technology it really can't be replaced.

22 But what I would like basically to
23 say is that how many people have you heard
24 speak already? How many have said, "Hey, this
25 is a great idea. Let's go ahead." Now there

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2 may be one or two later on. I don't know. I
3 can't predict that. But the overwhelming
4 opinion of those of us who took time out of our
5 day to come here, the overwhelming opinion is
6 this is not a good idea drilling through.

7 And what I would like to suggest is
8 take another look at going along established
9 roadways. Okay, so it will cost \$40 million
10 more. We're already paying the highest rates
11 anywhere and it's not as if you're a small
12 company and \$40 million is half of your income.
13 You can do it. And I think it would be a gross
14 disservice to our community if you should
15 proceed as is and drill underneath the Long
16 Pond Greenbelt.

17 Thank you.

18 THE ANNOUNCER: We have speakers who
19 have signed up previously. If you're
20 interested in speaking and you haven't signed
21 up, please come over here and I will take your
22 name.

23 The next person Dai Dayton.

24 MS. DAYTON: Hello. I'm Dai Dayton
25 from Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt. We

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2 are representing more than 400 members.

3 The Long Pond Greenbelt, as you've
4 heard, is irreplaceable and your statements
5 that you can fix anything that goes wrong; it's
6 not possible.

7 First to the west of the turnpike
8 you're going to be affecting the Great Swamp. PH-62
9 This is the hydrological area of the Long Pond
10 Greenbelt. This feeds the Long Pond Greenbelt.
11 Your plan is to clear nearly an acre of land
12 and stage this machine that will shoot a drill
13 down an easement, an easement that has a vernal
14 pond right on the easement. You'll be shooting
15 under that and then between Long Pond and Deer PH-63
16 Drink and Crooked Pond, which has an active
17 running stream and, again, they are coastal
18 vernal ponds. Then your plan is to continue on
19 and put in a big vault to make the connection
20 from the other side. That will pass right
21 through the wetlands and Long Pond Greenbelt,
22 the actual Long Pond of the Greenbelt.

23 There is no way you can repair
24 anything that goes wrong with this and you
25 cannot guarantee that something will not go PH-64

2 wrong. So please consider Alternative Number
3 3.

4 Fred Thiele has helped in the past
5 when these issues come up on Scuttle Hole Road.
6 Giant towers were going to be put in and he
7 worked out something that worked that they
8 could put it underground. We all paid for it,
9 we were all happy to pay for it. And I hope,
10 actually, that Fred could explain how this
11 could be done to pay the extra amount of money
12 to save our Long Pond Greenbelt.

13 Thank you.

14 THE ANNOUNCER: Shawn Lawrence.

15 MR. LAWRENCE: First I wasn't going
16 to give my real name so they didn't turn off my
17 power. Thank you. It is wonderful to be here
18 in the community with everybody here. I was
19 born and raised in Suffolk. Live in Sag Harbor
20 with my family. I'm here for my two daughters,
21 Isabelle and Rosie, who love the Greenbelt very
22 much.

23 I want to thank our political leaders
24 for standing up for every-day citizens and our
25 environmental leaders, Dai, who is the legend

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2 of this group. Thank you for everything you're
3 doing.

4 So I run a communications company.
5 I've been in these rooms, I've looked at this
6 table, and we all know. We see the looks on
7 your faces. We know. You talked about this as
8 a done deal. We know. You guys didn't even
9 introduce yourselves to the room. You don't
10 care.

11 This is our community. You don't
12 live here. We don't want this thing. We don't
13 want this built like this, and we're going to
14 fight you. And we're going to continue to
15 organize. You have to put out more chairs.
16 You're going to have to get some more. We're
17 not going to stop. We're not going to stop.
18 This place is too important. This place is too
19 important to our community, and I think you'll
20 find that this is just the beginning of how
21 we're going to push back and come together and
22 fight this.

23 So I beg of you to prove me wrong.
24 Prove to me that you are listening. Prove to
25 this room and our community. I wish, I wish, I

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2 wish you guys spent a little more time on solar
3 power. I wish I could put more solar on my
4 roof, but I'm told you guys kept me from doing
5 that. I mean, come on guys.

6 So, please, prove us wrong. Work
7 with us. Help protect this really important
8 place.

9 Thank you very much.

10 THE ANNOUNCER: Trustee Ann Welker.

11 TRUSTEE WELKER: Good evening. My
12 name is Ann Welker. I'm a Southampton Town
13 Trustee. I'd like to thank not only PSEG for
14 being here this evening and for granting us the
15 opportunity to speak, as you've heard our
16 community is speaking loudly. I'd also like to
17 thank Dai Dayton and the Friends of the Long
18 Pond Greenbelt. 25 years of environmental
19 advocacy. That's a long record. And it would
20 be a shame to ruin it with this proposed
21 project.

22 It's interesting that as a connector
23 for the wind farm to western power sources
24 there is the potential here to have things go
25 wrong and the -- I don't really like this word,

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2 but the optics of that for PSEG, I hope that
3 you're considering that.

4 I took a moment -- so the Town
5 Trustees, Southampton Town Trustees, were
6 created by a land grant from the King of
7 England back in 1686, and as part of that
8 doctrine the bottomlands of freshwater bodies
9 and streams are under the custody and care and
10 control of the Town Trustees. So in looking at
11 the water and the issues with the coastal ponds
12 and the potential for problematic situations I
13 especially looked at Appendix 1 [sic].

14 The title of Appendix 1, being a
15 Frac-Out Contingency Plan. And there are many
16 concerning issues to me when I'm looking at
17 this contingency plan. And I just wanted to
18 make sure that as you're going through and
19 making statements such as, "The primary
20 environment impact potentially associated with
21 HDD is the inadvertent release of drilling
22 fluids or mud (water/bentonite mixture) to the
23 surface during construction (sometimes referred
24 to as "frac-out")."

25 In reading further to discover what

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2 frac-out is and what the potential could be for
3 that to these fragile, as you've heard many
4 times tonight, very environmentally sensitive
5 coastal plain ponds and the critters and plants
6 that live in them. There's a great danger
7 here.

8 So I strongly urge you to, on part of
9 this community -- and you can hear. This is a
10 passionate community. And we are just a small
11 snapshot representing others who could not be
12 here this evening. I strongly urge you on
13 behalf of the Southampton Town of Trustees and
14 many others in this community, to consider
15 Alternative Number 3, The Southern Underground
16 Route.

17 Thank you.

18 THE ANNOUNCER: Kate Emilio.

19 MS. EMILIO: My name is Kate Emilio.

20 As someone said earlier, I come from away. And
21 22 years ago we purchased a place here in Sag
22 Harbor, and we've become acquainted with what
23 everyone loves about this place. And this
24 whole thing reminds me of a story.

25 The place we come from away from is

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2 place called Willistown. And I remember
3 getting a phone call -- we lived outside of
4 Philadelphia in an agricultural area. It was
5 just beautiful. Hard to leave but this place
6 allured us here.

7 And one of the farmers allowed
8 Philadelphia Suburban Water Company to come in
9 and drill test wells. Well, all of a sudden
10 folk's ponds were getting lower and the water
11 table was changing and all kinds of things
12 going on. And I worked in the neighborhood. I
13 worked for a place called Smith Pine Animal
14 Health Products. I was a physiologist there
15 and designed artificial animal models. And I
16 didn't know a lot about ecology but I knew
17 different environmental assessments and all
18 kinds of things when we would send stuff to the
19 Center of Preventive Medicine and the FDA.

20 So I said I'd take a look at it and
21 basically what they were doing -- these test
22 wells were turning into profit centers where
23 they were sending water elsewhere. And, you
24 know, we went to a PSEG -- not a PSEG. Excuse
25 me. We went to Philadelphia Suburban Water and

2 they looked at me and they said, "Oh, yeah.
3 Well, we're -- tell you what, Katy. If you've
4 got the money we've got the time." And I said,
5 "Okay."

6 So we decided that we'd take the time
7 to reach out to their shareholders. And we
8 found that a lot of their shareholders were
9 stakeholders. And they cared. They were away
10 from where we lived, but they did care. And
11 Philadelphia Suburban and Water, the burden of
12 proof was changed so that they had to prove
13 that they weren't causing the environmental
14 damage and Willistown Conservation Trust was
15 born and it's an absolutely fabulous, pristine
16 area because some of the from-away shareholders
17 cared.

18 THE ANNOUNCER: Jose Arandia.

19 MR. ARANDIA: Good evening, and I'm
20 glad you're here to listen today. I'm a
21 Wainscott resident. I'm not going to speak
22 about any of the scientific elements of this
23 project that other neighbors, and residents
24 have spoken about. But I am going to speak
25 about the four points that I think are a sense

2 of the obvious and common sense.

3 The first one being that the need for
4 this additional cable project is not proven.
5 Not from your presentation, not from what's
6 been said. I've sat at your side of the table.
7 My life has been in marketing. So I have
8 created those presentations. I've made the
9 selling points. You have not made your selling
10 point. Certainly not with what we've seen here
11 tonight.

12 Number two. The need for -- sorry.
13 Any kind of ground disturbance, no matter how
14 minimal, is still going to be a ground
15 disturbance. And a little ground disturbance
16 will have an impact. Maybe not seen on the
17 surface right away, but it's impossible to
18 disturb the land underneath, especially by
19 bodies of water, and not anticipate that this
20 is going to have a very serious impact. And
21 will in some one -- in some form collapse and
22 hopefully it's not going to collapse on us.

23 My third point, and this is very
24 important because we've had any number of
25 corporations come into the area of Suffolk and

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2 the area east of the canal wanting to do
3 improvement projects for us. Not the least of
4 which is the wind project, but that's for
5 another meeting. The mitigation which is
6 offered is not a viable option because there's
7 no way that we will know exactly what it's
8 going to cost. And I don't want you to put
9 more money into it than you need to for a
10 mitigation factor, but I also don't want you
11 putting in any less money than would be
12 necessary. So I don't think it's even a
13 consideration that you're offering mitigation
14 because that will not be viable.

15 Fourth. The best mitigation is to
16 not disturb the environment. This is -- this
17 cable system is not necessary.

18 So with those four points I end with
19 I do not support this project.

20 THE ANNOUNCER: Carolyn Logan Gluck.

21 MS. LOGAN GLUCK: My name is Carolyn
22 Logan Gluck. I live in Wainscott, and I just
23 wanted to comment briefly because I've spent
24 since January of this year serving a company
25 contractor like PSEG, installing conduits for

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2 an electrical cable. And I've watched vaults
3 being installed and I've watched trees being
4 taken down along the Long Island Rail Road in
5 order to accommodate what was needed for
6 transportation to continue the cable to the
7 Cohalan [phonetic] Substation.

8 To think that work of this nature
9 would be conducted through the Long Pond
10 Greenbelt and along the -- what you claim to be
11 the right-of-way where the overhead power line
12 is is disturbing to me because even if it is a
13 right-of-way, even if there are already
14 established infrastructure going through part
15 of the route that you've outline, it still will
16 be immensely disturbing to the natural ecology
17 that's there today.

18 Like my predecessors here at the mic,
19 Jose, I, too, question the need of this
20 project. But if, in fact, that's not enough to
21 stop it, which I doubt it is, I do hope that
22 you would go to the expense of installing the
23 cable along the Montauk Highway where it would
24 be the least disturbing to our ecology.

25 Thank you.

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2 THE ANNOUNCER: We'll now be engaging
3 with our zoom participants. One moment please.

4 MS. PUMI-URBAT: Can we also address
5 the volume of the zoom participants, please,
6 just so the reporter can hear and adequately
7 record the comments.

8 THE ANNOUNCER: One moment please.
9 State your name for the record please.

10 MS. POWERS: My name is Jess Powers.
11 Thank you to everyone who is there in person.
12 I wasn't able to be there due to an injury and
13 otherwise I definitely would.

14 I live in a house that my great
15 grandfather bought in Noyack in the 60's. I'm
16 a member of the Friends of the Long Pond
17 Greenbelt and the South Fork Natural History
18 Museum, and in my daily work life I see a
19 downstream of shortsighted decision like this
20 on the environment and on the communities
21 across the country.

22 There is a viable alternative, and I
23 ask that you go with option number three. And
24 that's all that I have to say.

25 Thank you so much.

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2 MS. PUMI-URBAT: Do we have any other
3 participants?

4 THE ANNOUNCER: We are currently
5 waiting on zoom participants.

6 Could the zoom participant please
7 state your name.

8 MR. MARTIN: Nick Martin.

9 THE ANNOUNCER: And you are live.

10 MR. MARTIN: Thank you. Thank you
11 everyone for this effort. And as a person who
12 lives in the Long Pond Greenbelt and raising a
13 family of five here, someone who's involved in
14 construction and architecture, I believe that
15 the public may deserve to see additional
16 proposals that would allow for variable options
17 that do not disturb the Long Pond Greenbelt and
18 also access to addition Environmental Impact
19 Statements that show the potential issues and
20 ways that this kind of work may disturb our
21 fragile ecosystem.

22 It's the very reason why we live here
23 and the very reason why we are all so concerned
24 with this project. I believe that we each
25 deserve a sense of different ways of getting to

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2 the same means.

3 Thank you for your efforts.

4 THE ANNOUNCER: We currently have no
5 other zoom participants at this point who wish
6 to talk. We will -- Oh, we have one more.

7 Could the zoom participant unmute and
8 start their video, please. Please state your
9 name.

10 MR. SCHNEIDER: My name is Jay
11 Schneider.

12 THE ANNOUNCER: You are live.

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. I have been a
14 resident of the Greenbelt for 25 years. I have
15 really not much to add to what's been said
16 before. I'd like you to take a look. This is
17 Lily Pond. This is the Greenbelt. This is one
18 of the most beautiful places in the world.
19 Leave it alone.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. DODDS: Hi. Thank you. I'm
22 Kelly Dodds. I'm a resident of Sag Harbor,
23 Noyack, and my family's here with me, Jackson
24 and Rowen, my boys. And they are -- we're all
25 members of the Friends of the Long Pond

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2 Greenbelt, all four of us. Rowen actually
3 became a member when he was seven weeks old.
4 That was his first treck, as you might
5 remember.

6 So, yeah, we spend a lot of time in
7 the Greenbelt. And I'm not just here to
8 represent my family, but I'm here to represent
9 the many families of Sag Harbor and the East
10 End that come together as a community to use
11 and share and just take a stroll or if we're
12 out there and we see our friends, our
13 neighbors, plenty of dogs and happy people.
14 But we come together probably -- I think
15 there's a hike that's planned maybe once a
16 week, if not more, between SoFo, the South Fork
17 Natural History Museum, and Friends of the Long
18 Pond Greenbelt, and Dai Dayton. We go to,
19 every year, the walk and off-walk the day after
20 Thanksgiving. It's a family tradition, 30
21 years, whoop whoop.

22 So, yeah, I'm taking it light but the
23 point that I want to make is that it's not --
24 yes, of course, it's about the Greenbelt and
25 it's about all of the beings, the living

2 creatures that are there, but it's about the
3 community. It's about the people; us, you
4 know. This is our community. We're
5 representing a sliver of it. You know, there's
6 hundreds of kids that come out and use the
7 Greenbelt, and that's our place where we
8 gather.

9 And the thought of having it be
10 disturbed in any way, it does feel appealing.
11 Somebody else said that before. And, you know,
12 I noticed one of your options is to not do it.
13 So that's an option, too.

14 But, you know, to talk about it, you
15 know, like it's happening or to say -- I heard
16 you say earlier, you know, you'll get our
17 follow-up Environmental Impact Statement or
18 whatever it is. Like, we're humans here
19 talking to you. I'm not giving you 30 pieces
20 of paper. I'd like you to come and meet with
21 us, a conversation. Come take a hike with us
22 on the Greenbelt. See what it's all about.

23 You know, I appreciate that you've
24 done the work here and I've read it and, you
25 know. I just -- I still don't see how the

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2 Greenbelt is a viable option. But yeah, the
3 kids can't really get up here and speak --

4 Do you guys want to say anything?

5 CHILD VOICE: No.

6 MS. DODDS: No. All right. So I'm
7 saying it for them, you know, for our kids.
8 Please find another way to accomplish what you
9 need.

10 MR. GRUZA: Are there any other
11 speakers?

12 MS. FOSTER: Hi. Good evening. My
13 name is Robin Foster, and I actually have been
14 blessed to live in the community for 56 years.
15 I actually grew up on Sag Pond, an eighth of a
16 mile from the beach. And now I live for over
17 30 years, I live 4 miles north on Crooked Pond.

18 So my family has been a part of this
19 community for over a hundred years, and we have
20 worked tirelessly as a farm family to preserve
21 those pristine, amazing acres so that it will
22 be here forever and ever. This was not an
23 expense that somebody just came along and said,
24 "Well, we're just going to pay you to stay on
25 this property." We had to fight to keep it.

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2 My father was actually instrumental
3 in gathering farmers to fight the Shoreham
4 Project for LIPA -- against LIPA. Now I see
5 the actual change in the aquifer on Crooked
6 Pond because I am an aware human being. I
7 don't have to be a scientist but I see the
8 immense amount of construction and I've seen
9 ponds dry up, including Crooked Pond. We've
10 had some issues there. And I think it's
11 because there has been cement that has actually
12 been put in everyone's backyard and that water
13 has to go somewhere and that's where it's
14 going.

15 And I just feel like if you are not
16 sensitive and don't care, this will certainly
17 go away. And I invite you to see any
18 disturbance, you know -- excuse me. You talk
19 about the money it's going to cost if you do a
20 separate, you know, Number 3. Well, I'll tell
21 you something. If there is a mistake it will
22 be absolutely priceless. You won't be able to
23 spend enough money to fix what you've ruined.

24 So spend the extra money and please
25 leave the Greenbelt alone because it is just

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2 the most precious thing that we have right now.

3 Thank you.

4 THE ANNOUNCER: Leslie Schultz.

5 MS. SCHULTZ: Hi. My name is Leslie
6 Schultz. I actually live diagonally across the
7 street from Robin. I came to listen tonight
8 and as I sat and I listened to everyone's
9 comments it just occurred to me that we just --
10 this is just a nuts situation. This is just
11 absurd that we are even talking about this kind
12 work.

13 So I live across the street from
14 Crooked Pond, and I have -- when the property
15 was first built in the 1950s's the road was
16 sand and there was a clear view from my -- what
17 is now my house to the pond. It was a beach.

18 Now it's really grown up and it's,
19 you know, beautiful, green, lush. It also
20 blocks our view. So we called Robin and said,
21 "Robin, what do you think if we do a little
22 trimming?" And she said, "No, no, no, no, no.
23 That's habitat. It's against the law." And we
24 learned from that.

25 And I see every couple of years PSEG

2 come along Crooked Pond and clear some of the
3 overgrowth so it doesn't interfere with the
4 electrical lines, the aboveground electrical
5 lines. And you so -- your guys so -- woman and
6 guys -- so carefully trim those trees because
7 it's a habitat. Because you can't, as a legal
8 matter, disturb the habitat of this land that
9 has been so carefully preserved.

10 So the idea now that you are going to
11 drill -- horizontal, vertically, whatever
12 you're going to do -- is just one of those
13 absurdities of life. You can't do it. The
14 world is already on fire. We know that. And
15 this is preserved land.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. GRUZA: It looks like there are
18 no additional speakers and if so we're going to
19 close the public hearing.

20 I'd like to thank you all for coming
21 and for expressing yourself. Thank you.

22 (WHEREUPON, this public information
23 session was concluded at 8:02 p.m.)

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2 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

3 STATE OF NEW YORK

4 Ss:

5 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

6 I, NATASHA SNOOK, Court Reporter and
7 Notary Public of the State of New York, do
8 hereby certify:

9 That the within transcript was prepared by
10 me and is a true and accurate record of this
11 hearing to the best of my ability.

12 I further certify that I am not related to
13 any of the parties to this matter by blood or
14 by marriage and that I am in no way interested
15 in the outcome of any of these matters.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
17 hand this 6th of July, 2022.

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NATASHA SNOOK

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