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STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING  
PROCEEDING ON MOTION OF THE COMMISSION TO EXAMINE  
REPOWERING ALTERNATIVES TO UTILITY TRANSMISSION  
REINFORCEMENTS

CASE# 12-E-0577

Monday, July 15, 2013  
7:00  
SUNY Fredonia  
Williams Center Multipurpose Room  
280 Central Avenue  
Fredonia, New York

A.L.J. KIMBERLY HARRIMAN  
Administrative Law Judge  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223-1350

COMMISSIONER GREGG SAYRE

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2 (The hearing commenced at 7:36  
3 p.m.)

4 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: We're going to  
5 go on the record now. I'm calling case 12E0577,  
6 which is a case regarding the repowering  
7 alternatives to utility transmission reinforcements  
8 in the villages of Cayuga and Dunkirk.

9 Today this public statement  
10 hearing will address specifically the question of  
11 the repowering of the Dunkirk plant.

12 My name is Kimberly Harriman.  
13 I'm an administrative law judge with the New York  
14 State Department of Public Service.

15 And with me tonight I have a  
16 Commissioner Sayre from the Public Service  
17 Commission. And I'm going to turn it over to  
18 Commissioner Sayre for a few brief remarks before  
19 we proceed.

20 COMMISSIONER SAYRE: Hi. I'm  
21 Greg Sayre and I live in Rochester, Monroe County.

22 And I'm pleased to be  
23 representing Western New York on the Public Service  
24 Commission to the extent that I can.

25 Our standard in this case is what

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2 is in the public interest and as you've heard, it's  
3 a very complicated case with a lot of economics,  
4 very difficult to model. But one of the factors  
5 that goes into the public interest is what does the  
6 public think the public interest is. That's what  
7 I'm here for tonight to hear from you. And, I look  
8 forward to your remarks.

9 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Thank you,  
10 Commissioner Sayre.

11 So that we're clear, the comments  
12 received tonight are going to be transcribed and  
13 posted to the Public Service Commission's web site  
14 under this docket, along with all the other public  
15 documents that have been filed to date in this  
16 case.

17 That transcript will then be made  
18 available to the members of the Public Service  
19 Commission such as Commissioner Sayre for their  
20 deliberation as they proceed to resolution of this  
21 case.

22 The way we do the transcript  
23 tonight is through an audio recording. So I'm  
24 going to ask that each of you please clearly state  
25 your name and speak slowly into the microphone and

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2 loudly, not only for the benefit of the transcript,  
3 for also the benefit of all of the folks who are up  
4 at the back of the room, as well upstairs in the  
5 dias.

6 I'm going to call the first five  
7 names. We have over eighty speakers who have  
8 signed up to speak tonight. We got a late start.  
9 And I want every single person to be able to be  
10 heard, so I'm going to try to ask you to limit your  
11 comments to two minutes in duration.

12 If we get more time, we're all  
13 here till eleven o'clock tonight or later. We want  
14 to hear from you. And like Commissioner Sayre, I  
15 was born and raised in Buffalo and I have family  
16 out in this region. So I think that's why I got  
17 nominated to come down here and I'm happy to return  
18 home for this.

19 Okay. I'm going to call the  
20 first five people just to let you know so you can  
21 get prepared. We're going to have Senator Cathy  
22 Young, Assemblyman Andrew Goodell, Anthony J.  
23 Dolce, Gary Cerne and Ron Johnson.

24 Those are the first five and  
25 we're going to go with Senator Young first.

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2 Senator, if you'd please take the  
3 podium?

4 SENATOR YOUNG: Good evening.

5 I'm Senator Cathy -- Catherine Young and I  
6 represent the Fifty-seventh Senate District, which  
7 includes this region.

8 There are many people to thank  
9 including SUNY Fredonia president Virginia Horvath  
10 (phonetic spelling) and her team for their  
11 hospitality, the university police, state troopers  
12 and sheriff's deputies for providing security.

13 We especially welcome  
14 Commissioner Sayre. Thank you so much for being  
15 here to get public interest and public input.

16 I also sincerely thank  
17 Administrative Law Judge, the Honorable Kim  
18 Harriman for being here and also extend my deepest  
19 gratitude to the Public Service Commission for its  
20 responsiveness and concern, for gaining citizen  
21 input by holding this public hearing.

22 You see and you will hear from  
23 the people most affected by your upcoming decision;  
24 senior citizens living on fixed incomes who already  
25 are struggling to buy their groceries and pay their

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2 taxes, school children who need and deserve quality  
3 education, mothers and fathers who need to keep  
4 their jobs to support their families, police  
5 officers and firemen who want to be able to  
6 continue protecting the community, teachers who  
7 devote their lives to helping students learn, job  
8 seekers who are looking for the opportunity to work  
9 on an incredible construction project, leaders of  
10 industry who need a stable tax base and reliable  
11 and cost-effective energy so they can continue to  
12 provide jobs here, small business owners who want  
13 to grow our economy, even the little league showed  
14 up.

15 These are our families, our  
16 friends, and our neighbors who are here because  
17 they love their hometown and they care about our  
18 future.

19 And I'd just like to ask the room  
20 if you're here tonight in favor of repowering the  
21 Dunkirk N.R.G. plant, please at least raise your  
22 hands.

23 I want the people here tonight to  
24 know this is my proudest moment of the time I have  
25 represented you. From the bottom of my heart I

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2 want to thank you for coming together and being  
3 here tonight. Your community needed your help and  
4 here you are. It truly is your time to shine.

5 The possible loss of the N.R.G.  
6 plant is devastating. It's a blow from which this  
7 community would never recover. So much hangs in  
8 the balance. What will Dunkirk and Chautauqua  
9 County's future be?

10 Massive property tax hikes, the  
11 annihilation of the school, deep and painful cuts  
12 in essential city services, such as fire and  
13 police, private sector job losses, higher  
14 electricity bills, reliance on out-of-state power.  
15 Those are the very real consequences of the N.R.G.  
16 plant closing.

17 Or we could have a stable tax  
18 base, teachers kept on the job and our children  
19 receiving the education that they need and deserve,  
20 essential city services protected, existing jobs  
21 secured and five hundred new construction jobs  
22 added for three years while the new plant is being  
23 built, cleaner air to breathe, lower electricity  
24 bills and the expansion of our economy. Those are  
25 the incredible outcomes of repowering the N.R.G.

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2 plant.

3 Many months ago I received a  
4 frantic call from local leaders. The N.R.G. plant  
5 was going to be mothballed and was in grave danger  
6 of closing for good. The impact on the community  
7 was a forty million dollar loss in tax revenue,  
8 wages and goods and services spent in local  
9 businesses.

10 N.R.G. is by far the largest  
11 taxpayer in Chautauqua County, Dunkirk City School  
12 Districts and the city of -- of Dunkirk. The  
13 elimination of N.R.G.'s annual payment in lieu of  
14 taxes currently at eight point two million dollars  
15 per year has serious consequences for every county  
16 property taxpayer and particularly for those who  
17 live in Dunkirk.

18 Dunkirk's residents are by no  
19 means wealthy and in fact many people struggle  
20 financially. According to the 2010 U.S. Census the  
21 median income for households is thirty-three  
22 thousand eight hundred and forty-nine dollars while  
23 our poverty rate is twenty-five point eight  
24 percent.

25 Property taxpayers already are



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2 heavily overburdened. According to the tax  
3 foundation Chautauqua County already pays the  
4 eighth highest taxes in relation to the value of  
5 its homes in the entire country.

6 Imagine school property taxes  
7 exploding by another forty-seven percent and city  
8 property taxes skyrocketing by forty-two percent to  
9 make up for the loss from N.R.G. Add a countywide  
10 property tax on top and it is a recipe for  
11 disaster.

12 Our assessor says that the  
13 average value of a home in Dunkirk is fifty  
14 thousand dollars. Without the stable tax -- tax  
15 base provided by N.R.G. taxes on the average value  
16 home would have to spike by more than one  
17 hundred -- or I'm sorry, one thousand dollars  
18 annually to make up for the difference; something  
19 folks simply cannot afford.

20 Recently I was speaking to a  
21 senior citizen from Dunkirk and she's here tonight  
22 with her husband. She said her current property  
23 taxes are five thousand dollars annually. There's  
24 not enough money left over from her fixed income to  
25 buy groceries, so she is forced to go to the food

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2 pantry to survive.

3 Her husband is having a hard time  
4 dealing with what he calls taking handouts. As she  
5 talked to me she began to sob, her shoulders  
6 shaking in despair as she told me she did not know  
7 what to do or where to turn.

8 Our residential taxpayers are not  
9 the only ones concerned. Our economy has suffered  
10 in western New York, job losses, companies closing.  
11 Dunkirk has seen it all. Enormous tax hikes -- tax  
12 hikes threaten the viability of the manufacturers  
13 and small businesses that we have left.

14 We could lose many more jobs and  
15 our economy will get even further behind. If taxes  
16 are not raised to make up the loss tax base from  
17 N.R.G., the school would be forced to lay off  
18 fifty-eight teachers. That decimates the school.

19 Don't our children need and  
20 deserve to have a quality education? The city of  
21 Dunkirk would have to make deep cuts in essential  
22 services. Fire employees may have to be  
23 eliminated. Don't our people deserve to have  
24 public protection?

25 Chautauqua County would have to

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2 look at cutting non-mandated programs for the aging  
3 and our veterans. Let me ask you don't our seniors  
4 and those who made so many sacrifices to safeguard  
5 our freedoms as Americans deserve to keep their  
6 services?

7 All of the current jobs at the  
8 power plant would be wiped out, taking away  
9 families' livelihoods. We would lose our ability  
10 to be energy independent by generating our own  
11 power right here in western New York, which would  
12 kneecap future job growth especially through  
13 manufacturing.

14 We would depend on dirty coal  
15 power generated in another state, Pennsylvania, and  
16 I'll get to that in a minute, exporting our jobs  
17 and tax base.

18 The solution, and in fact the  
19 salvation, is to repower N.R.G. to a clean natural  
20 gas plant. Repowering the Dunkirk station will  
21 stabilize our tax base, save existing jobs, and put  
22 five hundred New Yorkers to work for three years  
23 while they build the plant, give us much cleaner  
24 air to breathe, reduce energy costs for consumers  
25 and ensure that our electrical system is safe and

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2 reliable.

3 This year's final state budget  
4 language agreed upon by Governor Cuomo, the senate  
5 and the assembly, established certain requirements  
6 when evaluating power generation including a  
7 ratepayer cost, the environment, the economy  
8 including temporary and permanent jobs, economic  
9 development and tax revenue and electric market  
10 competitiveness.

11 The governor has shown great  
12 leadership through his New York State Energy  
13 Highway blueprint to upgrade the in-state  
14 transmission super highway in order to move power  
15 from upstate plants like Dunkirk to meet growing  
16 power needs downstate.

17 If we don't promote the continued  
18 development of generation in the region, the energy  
19 highway could be a bridge to nowhere. No one wants  
20 to see this. And a repowered Dunkirk, together  
21 with its ability to work in unison with wind in  
22 western New York is a perfect match for the energy  
23 highway.

24 The N.R.G. project meets the  
25 governor's energy highway goals to assure long-term

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2 reliability as the electricity service system is  
3 maintained, contribute to an environmentally  
4 sustainable future for New York, encourage the  
5 development of utility scale renewable generation,  
6 create jobs for New Yorkers and provide projects  
7 that connect western New York power to projects  
8 downstate.

9 We are here tonight because it  
10 has been determined that there is an energy  
11 reliability need in western New York. There are  
12 competing projects as we heard through N.R.G. and  
13 National Grid. And as you know, the Public Service  
14 Commission will decide between the two.

15 I have listened to National  
16 Grid's presentation and I have to disagree with  
17 much of what they said.

18 In 2000 National Grid, a  
19 foreign -- a foreign owned company from the United  
20 Kingdom, bought out Niagara Mohawk, which was a  
21 U.S. company which used to be one of our state and  
22 region's top employers.

23 Since that time National Grid's  
24 management has eliminated the jobs of hundreds of  
25 New Yorkers and moved its U.S. headquarters out of

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2 New York State to Massachusetts. Because it is not  
3 deregulated National Grid is a monopoly for  
4 transmission and distribution and the ratepayers  
5 are held hostage.

6 Unfortunately National Grid's  
7 proposal to the Public Service Commission regarding  
8 the future of the Dunkirk plant would place  
9 hardship on our economy, ratepayers and taxpayers.

10 It begs the question why would a  
11 company that makes its decisions out of the United  
12 Kingdom be dictating our future in western New  
13 York.

14 I have compiled quite a bit of  
15 material that leads to several compelling  
16 questions. I ask that the Public Service  
17 Commission answer these questions in a formal  
18 response, not tonight, but later, and take this  
19 information into -- into serious consideration  
20 through its decision-making process.

21 As stated in their report,  
22 National Grid's confidence in its solution to fully  
23 meet reliability needs is limited to the year 2021.  
24 And this is a key point to make. It's a period of  
25 only six years.

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2 Unlike the Dunkirk repower  
3 initiative, the National Grid option falls short of  
4 the Public Service Commission's stated minimum  
5 requirement for long-term solutions of at least ten  
6 years.

7 So here are some questions. Why  
8 shouldn't National Grid's proposal be rejected  
9 outright because they did not follow the Public  
10 Service Commission's requirement of showing  
11 reliability for ten years or greater? If National  
12 Grid still is considered, what upgrades need to be  
13 added to meet the full ten-year period?

14 Governor Cuomo's energy highway  
15 blueprint calls for upgrading aged New York State  
16 transmission systems and moving at least one  
17 thousand megawatts of power stranded in western New  
18 York down to the New York City area.

19 Question: Doesn't the Dunkirk  
20 proposal match up ideally with the transmission  
21 construction upgrades to -- to move more power from  
22 upstate to downstate?

23 According to the reports from  
24 both Grid and N.R.G. ratepayer benefits from the  
25 Dunkirk project go far beyond just western New York

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2 or National Grid's service area.

3 Questions: How does the P.S.C.  
4 divine which ratepayer benefits -- which ratepayers  
5 benefit from the project? How does the P.S.C.  
6 propose to allocate the costs of the project if  
7 there are benefits that extend across the state?

8 National Grid advertises the  
9 up-front cost of its transmission upgrades as being  
10 about sixty-six million dollars, but says in its  
11 report filed in this proceeding that the cost could  
12 be higher, as much as one hundred and fifty-six  
13 million dollars with a total cost over twenty years  
14 of nearly five hundred million dollars.

15 This seems like a bait and switch  
16 since National Grid maintains the option to recover  
17 its costs, no matter how much they are, from the  
18 ratepayers.

19 N.R.G. says it will commit to its  
20 bid up-front while National Grid will not. The  
21 real comparison of the transmission option should  
22 be up to the five hundred million dollar price tag.

23 National Grid stands to make  
24 enormous profits at the consumers' expense. Its  
25 most recent rate case before the P.S.C. allows for



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2 a nine point three percent return on equity for  
3 capital improvements, that would last for thirty  
4 plus years.

5 By contrast the N.R.G. plant is  
6 the most cost effective for ratepayers with  
7 millions of dollars in private investment and  
8 ratepayer benefits exceeding costs by three hundred  
9 million dollars a year.

10 Repowering Dunkirk will provide  
11 clean, reliable local energy at a guaranteed price,  
12 all the while benefiting our -- our local economy  
13 and putting our energy -- energy future in our own  
14 hands. That is the right choice for New York.

15 Question: National Grid's  
16 transmission will not produce any power, only  
17 transport it. Where will that power come from, how  
18 much will it actually cost and will it meet New  
19 York standards for the environment? Can National  
20 Grid guarantee that if their expenses exceed  
21 sixty-six million dollars that the ratepayers will  
22 not have to pay one more dime?

23 In the Powerpoint presentation  
24 given to the New York State Independent System  
25 Operator, New York I.S.O., dated October 24th,

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2 2012, and this is it, I have it with me, National  
3 Grid outlined projects including reconductering of  
4 the Five Mile Road/Homer Hill, one one five K V  
5 lines for eight miles and reconductering of the  
6 Faulkner/Warren number one seven one one one five K  
7 V line for six miles in New York State and eleven  
8 and a half miles in Pennsylvania.

9 On page thirteen of the report  
10 National Grid states and I quote "Completion of the  
11 work described should eliminate dependence of the  
12 transmission system on Dunkirk's generation."

13 This -- these lines tie directly  
14 into Pennsylvania. These projects were not  
15 included in National Grid's alternative to  
16 repowering Dunkirk, yet there clearly is a linkage  
17 between the timing and the cost of these additional  
18 projects.

19 This information is a  
20 demonstration of evidence that National Grid's  
21 estimation of actual cost is grossly underestimated  
22 and should be reworked to include all expenditures  
23 because of the huge negative impact on the  
24 ratepayers.

25 So Question: These proposed line

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2 upgrades and the building of a substation in  
3 Humphrey will cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

4 If these additional costs are  
5 needed to eliminate power produced at the Dunkirk  
6 plant, why are they not listed in National Grid's  
7 submission to the Public Service Commission? Why  
8 isn't National Grid required to revise its analysis  
9 to include these additional costs? What is the  
10 true impact on the ratepayers?

11 National Grid's Five Mile  
12 Road/Homer Hill line and Faulkner/Warren line as  
13 outlined to the New York State I.S.O., would  
14 directly connect to the P.J.M. transmission system  
15 out of Pennsylvania and Ohio, which has a large  
16 share of its power generated by dirty coal plants  
17 that generate high amounts of pollution in sharp  
18 contrast to the clean and efficient natural gas  
19 repowering in Dunkirk.

20 P.J.M. has the highest CO2  
21 densities in the entire nation. Therefore  
22 importing power from P.J.M. will dramatically raise  
23 overall CO2 emissions when compared to Dunkirk.

24 National Grid claims in its  
25 report the emission reductions, both water and air,

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2 described in N.R.G.'s proposal are compared to the  
3 historic baseline of existing facility operating on  
4 coal.

5 However, if the existing facility  
6 is retired as planned, future emissions would be  
7 zero. And they said that tonight again. This  
8 statement by National Grid is misleading and  
9 entirely the wrong benchmark. In reality power  
10 transmitted from the P.J.M. system would double  
11 emissions, not have zero emissions.

12 On the other hand the Dunkirk  
13 repowering proposal clearly identifies dramatic and  
14 significant environmental benefits, reducing all  
15 major emissions including mercury by one hundred  
16 percent, sulfur dioxide by ninety-nine percent,  
17 nitrogen oxides by ninety-eight percent,  
18 particulates by eighty-three percent and greenhouse  
19 gases by seventy-three percent while greatly  
20 benefiting our local economy and putting our energy  
21 future in our own hands.

22 Repowering Dunkirk -- repowering  
23 Dunkirk will provide support for other renewable  
24 generating aspects, especially wind and solar power  
25 in western New York.

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2 The intermittent nature of wind  
3 resources can be a challenge for the western New  
4 York grid and the repowered Dunkirk plant will help  
5 balance the variability of the wind resources for  
6 grid operators because the combined cycle units can  
7 ramp up quickly and load follow as demand rises and  
8 falls on the system.

9 So question: National Grid's  
10 plan as outlined to the New York State I.S.O.  
11 connects to P.J.M. Why isn't National Grid  
12 required to include actual data in their proposal  
13 about power produced in the P.J.M. system including  
14 CO2 emissions in addition to the other coal  
15 generated pollutants, including mercury, sulfur  
16 dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates and  
17 greenhouse gases?

18 Another serious environmental  
19 flaw with National Grid's submission is that by  
20 importing power from out of state this power is not  
21 subject to the regional greenhouse gas initiative  
22 carbon tax. So the question is doesn't this fact  
23 defeat the purpose of the New York State RGGI  
24 system? Doesn't imported Pennsylvania energy  
25 create an unfair advantage?

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2 Some environmentalists will try  
3 to make repowering energy an issue related to  
4 allowing high volume hydraulic fracturing for  
5 natural gas in New York State, which is currently  
6 under consideration by the Department of  
7 Environmental Conservation.

8 This argument is a red herring  
9 because repowering Dunkirk would use existing  
10 supplies of natural gas and does not propose using  
11 gas produced from New York's Marcellus Shale.

12 Whether or not to hydrofrack in  
13 New York simply has no bearing on repowering  
14 N.R.G.. It is surprising that Sierra Club favors  
15 National Grid's plan to tie into the dirty P.J.M.  
16 system that has such high CO2 emissions and does  
17 not pay RGGI fees.

18 Sierra -- Sierra Club's record  
19 shows that they have opposed every major form of  
20 energy production in some form or another, even  
21 renewable energy projects. However, in January and  
22 February of 2013, and this is key, the Sierra Club  
23 signed-on in support of agreements with A.E.P. and  
24 Mid-American Energy to convert a number of existing  
25 coal units to natural gas. This is noteworthy as

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2 their opposition to repowering the Dunkirk facility  
3 here in New York appears inconsistent with their  
4 most recent actions in cases.

5 In addition to the environmental  
6 concerns raised by National -- National Grid  
7 linking to the P.J.M. system, another glaring flaw  
8 with National Grid's plan is that it increases our  
9 reliance on external markets while effectively  
10 transferring our own jobs and tax benefits out of  
11 the state.

12 It is risky to depend on power  
13 from other states as we unfortunately found out in  
14 2003 during a major blackout that left fifty  
15 million people in eight states in the dark. And I  
16 happened to be in New York City at that time with  
17 my daughter.

18 The economic and government costs  
19 were staggering, estimated to be up to eight point  
20 two billion dollars. The problem began when power  
21 lines in Ohio sagged into trees that had not been  
22 properly trimmed causing fires and forcing lines  
23 out of service, something that was out of New York  
24 State's jurisdiction.

25 Now National Grid's plan to

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2 connect to Pennsylvania transmission throws the  
3 ability to control our own destiny out of our hands  
4 once again. The aging condition of Pennsylvania's  
5 lines is unknown and not under the authority of New  
6 York State.

7 Question: If National Grid ties  
8 into the P.J.M. system what jurisdiction and  
9 recourse does the Public Service Commission have  
10 over Pennsylvania transmission to ensure that the  
11 reliability needs of New York State are met?

12 If our electrical grid is  
13 connected to Pennsylvania and the out-of-state  
14 system fails, what impact would that situation have  
15 on our economy and especially in western New York?

16 In summary, National Grid fails  
17 to provide the complete impact analysis on  
18 transmission upgrades that was required by the  
19 Public Service Commission's order and more  
20 specifically ignores the long-term impacts on the  
21 community, future economic viability of the region  
22 and does not consider certain factors that are sure  
23 to affect market projections. N.R.G.'s repowering  
24 meets and exceeds all of the P.S.C.'s requirements.

25 You see the overwhelming majority



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2 where we have hundreds and hundreds of local  
3 residents who are directly here. They are impacted  
4 and they are here in support of repowering Dunkirk.  
5 You see that most of the naysayers have traveled  
6 from outside our community. Those who are most --  
7 those who are most against repowering have no  
8 personal stake in this issue. Repowering Dunkirk  
9 will bring hope, opportunity and prosperity to our  
10 region. Our future depends on it. As a state  
11 senator I am responsible for fighting for my  
12 district. On behalf of my people I ask you, we all  
13 ask you, we urge you to choose repowering N.R.G.

14 Thank you, very much.

15 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Thank you,  
16 Senator Young.

17 We now have Assemblyman Andrew  
18 Goodell.

19 ASSEMBLYMAN GOODELL: Thank you  
20 very --.

21 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: If we can have  
22 some quiet, please, in the audience so the  
23 Assemblyman's comments can be recorded for the  
24 transcript? Thank you.

25 ASSEMBLYMAN GOODELL: Thank you

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2 very much for giving me the opportunity to testify  
3 before you.

4 Commissioner Sayre, thank you  
5 very much for coming to Chautauqua County. As you  
6 know, it's the best county in the state.

7 And Chairman, I can see that  
8 you're conferring with the Commissioner and  
9 confirming what I said. Welcome home.

10 I have to be honest, when the  
11 lights went out in the earlier presentation I was  
12 thinking to myself we need to repower now. And  
13 indeed there's no time for delay.

14 As you know, during the  
15 legislative session that just ended the New York  
16 State Senate and the New York State Assembly  
17 overwhelmingly enacted statutory provisions  
18 relating to the Public Service Commission's  
19 evaluation of this very issue.

20 In fact, the statutory language  
21 that Senator Young was so critical in getting into  
22 law and that was signed by Governor Cuomo,  
23 specifically mentions this rate hearing by number.

24 And so we have a very clear  
25 unequivocal statement of legislative intent as it

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2 relates to this repowering case.

3 And the state legislature by an  
4 overwhelming margin enacted a provision that  
5 states, and I quote, "It is in the public interest  
6 to develop clean power generation, near energy  
7 demand to meet the needs of ratepayers, to support  
8 local and state tax revenue stability, to promote  
9 economic opportunity, and to enhance the state's  
10 environment.

11 That is the statutory parameters  
12 on which this case should be evaluated.

13 I'm extraordinarily proud of the  
14 fact that we have an estimated twenty-five hundred  
15 residents who have come out in support of the  
16 N.R.G. project here tonight.

17 In addition to those who are on  
18 the first floor and the standing-room-only audience  
19 on the second floor, there's also many people in an  
20 overflow room listening to us electronically.

21 These people have come out  
22 because this project is critical to the future of  
23 Dunkirk, northern Chautauqua County and our entire  
24 county.

25 If the Public Service Commission

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2 approves the N.R.G. project, N.R.G. will invest  
3 about a half a billion dollars in Dunkirk. There  
4 will be an estimated five hundred construction  
5 workers for a three-year period. We will save a  
6 number of high-paying permanent jobs and we will  
7 stabilize and increase the tax basis in the city of  
8 Dunkirk, the school system and the county. Those  
9 are tremendous positive advantages.

10 On the other hand, if the Public  
11 Service Commission does not approve the project,  
12 N.R.G. will be forced to shut the plant down and  
13 that one plant accounts for forty-two percent of  
14 the tax revenue for the city of Dunkirk.

15 It's equivalent to the entire  
16 budget of the entire police and fire department  
17 combined. Now a few years ago N.R.G. invested over  
18 two hundred million in putting in pollution control  
19 equipment at this plant. And at that time they  
20 negotiated in good faith for a PILOT agreement,  
21 payment in lieu of tax agreement. The payments are  
22 based on production. So if there's no production,  
23 there's no payments. And it would bring the city  
24 of Dunkirk and the Dunkirk school system to  
25 bankruptcy or near bankruptcy. That is the issue

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2 that we're addressing.

3 Now, as I mentioned, through the  
4 efforts of Senator Young and I wanted to point out  
5 also Assemblyman Joe Giglio who drove over here.  
6 This used to be part of his district. It's no  
7 longer, but he feels so strongly about Chautauqua  
8 County he came here. Assemblyman Giglio supported  
9 it on the floor of the Assembly as I did. That  
10 statute sets forth a number of provisions that must  
11 be considered by the Public Service Commission.

12 I have a nine-page analysis and  
13 you'll be pleased to know I'm not going to read it.  
14 And apparently a number of people in this room are  
15 also pleased. But let me just hit the highlights.

16 The first issue, clean power  
17 generation. Even the Sierra Club and everyone who  
18 submitted comments acknowledges that this plant  
19 will be one of the cleanest plants ever built in  
20 the state of New York. We know that. And what's  
21 the alternative? The alternative is that we import  
22 power from P.J.M. or elsewhere. P.J.M. has half of  
23 its power produced by coal. The comparison is a  
24 state-of-the-art extremely efficient natural gas  
25 facility with a brand -- and the best -- brand new

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2 and the best environmental controls versus  
3 importing our power from Homer City or somewhere  
4 else with a horrific environmental record. And by  
5 the way, those plants, they're upwind from us.  
6 That's right.

7 National Grid wants you to shut  
8 down a local plant that will be a state-of-the-art  
9 facility so that we can import power from  
10 Pennsylvania and Ohio and breathe the soot that  
11 they produce to provide us with higher cost power.  
12 That's not a good option.

13 As was reflected earlier. Both  
14 N.R.G. and National Grid's consultant, P.A.  
15 Consultants Group, gave a determination that the  
16 N.R.G. project would result in tremendous savings  
17 to ratepayers, both locally and across the state.

18 The only issue is how much will  
19 we save with the N.R.G. project. And I urge you to  
20 read both the P.A. Consultants report commissioned  
21 by National Grid as well as N.R.G.'s report. We  
22 shouldn't be here fighting over how much savings,  
23 we should be fighting over how fast we can get  
24 those savings online.

25 There's absolutely no doubt that

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2 moving forward with the N.R.G. project will have a  
3 tremendous positive impact on not only the economy  
4 of Dunkirk and Fredonia and western New York, but  
5 the economy all across New York State. That is  
6 because this power will be the most cost-effective  
7 power produced from the newest, most efficient  
8 plant in the state of New York.

9 And we know if we're serious  
10 about economic development we need to be serious  
11 about having the most modern, efficient,  
12 cost-effective facilities online and that's the  
13 N.R.G. project.

14 The choice for the Public Service  
15 Commission, we believe, is clear. We can move  
16 forward with a private investment of about a half a  
17 billion dollars here in Chautauqua County in  
18 developing the state's most efficient, cleanest  
19 natural gas plant or we can move in a different  
20 direction and build transmission lines to import  
21 power from other states that do not meet our  
22 environmental standards.

23 As you know, both Pennsylvania  
24 and Ohio are not members of the Regional Greenhouse  
25 Gas Initiative. They're not part of RGGI. They do

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2 not meet our environmental standards. We breathe  
3 their air the next day, but they don't meet our  
4 standards.

5 It is important that we take a  
6 thoughtful, long-term approach. And as you know,  
7 most businesses enter into long-term contracts when  
8 the source of the material they're buying is the  
9 most efficient and cost-effective they can buy.

10 National Grid wants you to  
11 believe that a long-term contract is bad for the  
12 ratepayers. That's not true. A long-term contract  
13 with an inefficient producer that has to be  
14 subsidized is bad for the ratepayers. But, a  
15 long-term contract with the most efficient plant in  
16 the state of New York is good for the ratepayers  
17 because it provides long-term stability and  
18 predictability and that's what we need for economic  
19 development in New York State.

20 We know that when the State  
21 decoupled electrical generation with transmission  
22 that there were some unintended consequences. And  
23 the unintended consequence is that companies that  
24 are engaged in transmission want to transport  
25 electricity as far as possible and charge you the



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2 most to do so. Whereas before they had to look at  
3 the overall combined cost. National Grid doesn't  
4 buy electricity, it transports electricity. We  
5 shouldn't be asking National Grid what's in the  
6 best interest of ratepayers anymore than we'd ask a  
7 trucking company whether we should buy the T.V.  
8 that's made next door or one from across the  
9 country. We want the locally-produced power.

10 I am very mindful that I have  
11 about twenty-five hundred people and that over  
12 eighty have signed up to speak and so I want to  
13 thank you from the bottom of my heart for coming  
14 here to Chautauqua County and agreeing to hear  
15 testimony until eleven p.m. tomorrow.

16 And if you come to the same  
17 conclusion that I have that National Grid's  
18 proposal is not as good as N.R.G.'s and that N.R.G.  
19 is the best proposal for the ratepayers and for the  
20 state of New York, then let us know and just raise  
21 your hand and we can end sooner. Thank you so  
22 much.

23 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Next we have  
24 the mayor of the city of Dunkirk, Anthony Dolce --  
25 Dolce. All right. He's making coffee right now.

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2 Sorry about that. I think I've given you a new  
3 nickname. I'm sorry about that.

4 MR. DOLCE: It's okay. I've been  
5 called worse.

6 Honorable Judge Harriman, I'm  
7 A.J. Dolce, proud mayor of the city of Dunkirk  
8 which just so happens to be the proud home of  
9 N.R.G. powered facility.

10 On behalf of the residents and  
11 the taxpayers of the city I would first like to  
12 thank Chairman Brown and the Commission not only  
13 for providing an opportunity for the public to  
14 comment, but for recognizing the need to provide  
15 this forum in a location that is convenient for  
16 those who will be most directly affected by the  
17 decisions that the Commission will make.

18 I believe convening here in  
19 northern Chautauqua County demonstrates the strong  
20 desire on the Commission's part to provide area  
21 residents and businesses with a reasonable  
22 opportunity to hear the facts surrounding the  
23 alternatives being considered for the N.R.G.  
24 facility in Dunkirk. It is an opportunity we  
25 greatly appreciate.

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2 Tonight I urge the Commission to  
3 support the N.R.G. conversion proposal, commonly  
4 referred to as the repowering. The N.R.G. facility  
5 is a critical component of the Dunkirk and  
6 Chautauqua County landscape. Its presence has been  
7 and under repowering will be a significant  
8 contributor to the local and regional economy.

9 The Commission has certainly  
10 received and reviewed volumes of technical data  
11 regarding repowering and transmission upgrades and  
12 non-transmission alternatives. I would just like  
13 to take a moment to reinforce the real life impact  
14 of the decision that is to be made by the  
15 Commission.

16 With repowering comes short- and  
17 long-term economic vibrancy, immediate construction  
18 jobs and their direct and ancillary spin-offs, as  
19 well as long-term facility employment.

20 Very rarely do we hear in New  
21 York State of a company ready, willing and able to  
22 invest five hundred million dollars. The benefits  
23 of such an investment are too clear to ignore.

24 Mothballing the facility will  
25 cause a countywide economic collapse, the loss of

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2 employees and the elimination of vendors spending,  
3 and the local economy will be immediately  
4 devastating to so many men, women and their  
5 families.

6 The loss of in lieu of tax  
7 payments will have an immediate and escalating  
8 negative impact on the city as well as the school  
9 district and county.

10 Furthermore, taxes will  
11 undoubtedly rise, rates likely will as well, and  
12 city services will face significant cuts. This all  
13 leads to a possible crippling effect on most, if  
14 not all, operations of city government.

15 Additionally, losing N.R.G.'s  
16 very positive community involvement will further  
17 negatively impact the region. The fiscal impact on  
18 the city cannot be overstated. The facility is an  
19 enormous economic engine with N.R.G. contributing  
20 fully eighteen point two percent of the city's  
21 entire general fund revenue stream.

22 The disruption of that income  
23 will create a huge void and will produce a  
24 multitude of negative impacts upon city services.  
25 Importantly, a decision by the Commission to

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2 authorize repowering is not only in the near- and  
3 long-term economic benefit to Dunkirk, but such a  
4 repowering is in line with the Commission's goal to  
5 ensure safe, secure and reliable access to electric  
6 services for the state's residential and business  
7 consumers at just and reasonable rates.

8 As you can see from the  
9 significant attendance here this evening, this is  
10 an issue that is critical to all stakeholders in  
11 the community. And the widespread and bipartisan  
12 support that has been present throughout the  
13 process and will continue here tonight is further  
14 testament to the necessity of maintaining the  
15 energy facility as a functioning component of the  
16 state's energy plan.

17 Simply put, the city of Dunkirk,  
18 our school district and the entire county need the  
19 repowering of N.R.G. We need the stability it will  
20 provide now and the positive possibilities it  
21 brings for our future. Again, on behalf of the  
22 residents and taxpayers of the city of Dunkirk I  
23 urge your support for the N.R.G. repowering  
24 proposal. And I thank you for your kind attention  
25 in providing this much appreciated forum.

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2 Thank you.

3 MR. CERNE: Good evening. My  
4 name is Gary Cerne, I'm the superintendent of  
5 schools for Dunkirk City School District. And, I  
6 stand before you tonight to represent our Board of  
7 Education.

8 You've heard a lot of numbers  
9 tonight and we even heard one of our speakers  
10 mention boy, I wish somebody would bring these  
11 numbers down into real terms. Well, I'm going to  
12 bring these numbers down to real terms for you.  
13 And I want you to know right now that the school  
14 board of the Dunkirk City School District, its  
15 teachers, its children, its staff urge you to  
16 support the repowering of the Dunkirk N.R.G. plant,  
17 please.

18 Now, the real numbers that  
19 everybody has been looking for. The payment in  
20 lieu of taxes given to the Dunkirk City School  
21 District by N.R.G. represents ten percent of our  
22 operating revenue. How do I make up ten percent in  
23 lost revenue?

24 Here's a way. I could raise  
25 taxes forty-two point two percent. And let's put

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2 that into real terms. That would cost an average  
3 person with a fifty thousand dollar home in the  
4 city of Dunkirk an additional four hundred and  
5 eighty-six dollars, some are in the town of  
6 Dunkirk, five hundred and forty-three dollars, the  
7 town of Sheridan, five hundred and seventy dollars.

8 I cannot do that to the citizens  
9 of our community.

10 There's a second alternative. I  
11 could eliminate fifty-eight teaching positions.  
12 Could you imagine a school district eliminating  
13 fifty-eight positions, especially a district our  
14 size? I can't do that to our teachers. We got  
15 high quality teachers that care about kids and they  
16 deserve to have jobs working with our children.

17 Now let's consider this. I  
18 mentioned we're looking at losing four million  
19 dollars should the PILOT payment go away. As a  
20 former social studies teacher let me give you a  
21 quick history lesson from the past four or five  
22 years.

23 Our district's already lost a  
24 million dollars because the PILOT payment has  
25 decreased. We've also lost a half a million

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2 dollars in state operating aid. As you know, New  
3 York State is famous for its unfunded mandates.

4 As you know, T.R.S. continues to  
5 go up, E.R.S. goes up, health insurance goes up.  
6 So, revenues are declining and costs continue to  
7 escalate. Over the past four or five years we've  
8 already had to cut thirty-eight teachers,  
9 thirty-two members of our C.S.E.A. force and three  
10 administrators. We cannot afford to cut anyone  
11 else.

12 Now, let me share some  
13 additional -- please let me share some additional  
14 financial burden that we've learned in the last six  
15 weeks. We've recently lost Twenty-first Century  
16 funding of five hundred and seventeen thousand  
17 dollars annually that goes to our elementary  
18 children.

19 This money is used for  
20 after-school programs, enrichment programs, much  
21 needed programs for our children. Hundreds of our  
22 elementary kids stay after school because of this  
23 funding. It's gone.

24 We've also lost almost three  
25 hundred thousand dollars of Twenty-first Century



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2 funding for our high school kids. That money was  
3 used for homework help, Regents review, things like  
4 that.

5 Last week I found out that our  
6 Title I funding is going down by another  
7 sixty-seven thousand dollars and we expect the rest  
8 of our federal funds, due to the situation there,  
9 to decrease another five to seven percent. So when  
10 you add that all up we've already lost two point  
11 five million dollars in revenue the last four  
12 years. How can we afford to lose another four  
13 million dollars of PILOT payments from N.R.G.?

14 We're a community that faces high  
15 levels of poverty. Sixty-five percent of my  
16 students are on free and reduced lunch. We have  
17 children that come to us that don't speak English.  
18 Our special -- our special education population is  
19 very large. We struggle daily to meet educational,  
20 emotional, nutritional and health needs of our  
21 students. If we lose the four million in revenue  
22 from N.R.G. it will be impossible for us to provide  
23 the needs of our students.

24 As superintendent, please know  
25 that I'm here representing the children of our

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2 community. Please, I beg you, support the  
3 repowering of the Dunkirk N.R.G. plant, so that our  
4 kids have a chance for a bright future. Thank you.

5 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening. My  
6 name is Ron Johnson and I live in Fredonia, New  
7 York. I'm a Chautauqua County businessman. I'm  
8 the owner and operator of Johnson Adult Homes. As  
9 a matter of full disclosure, I'm also the 2013  
10 democratic and independent candidate for county  
11 executive.

12 As a Chautauqua County  
13 businessman I fully support the plan put forward by  
14 N.R.G. to repower its electric generation station  
15 in Dunkirk. The cost and benefit of repowering has  
16 been carefully calculated by N.R.G.

17 As a taxpayer and a private  
18 sector businessman I urge that we simply get out of  
19 the way and let N.R.G. do their business of selling  
20 power. Get out of the way so we can allow  
21 Chautauqua County a permanent, stable and clean  
22 supply of electrical -- electrical energy.

23 The delivery system is designed  
24 for base-load generation in Dunkirk and the  
25 elimination of the Dunkirk plant makes reliable

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2 power in this region suspect. We must not create a  
3 situation in which our community, our region, our  
4 state is dependent on power generated in  
5 Pennsylvania, Ontario and other areas not subject  
6 to our strict environmental protections.

7 Chautauqua County will need power  
8 from N.R.G. plant in the years to come. I do not  
9 accept that a weak economy is our fate. Chautauqua  
10 County's economy can grow. Our existing industries  
11 can expand and new industries can be attracted to  
12 Chautauqua County. Industrial growth will mean a  
13 demand for more electricity in the N.R.G. plant in  
14 Dunkirk.

15 There is no reason that the  
16 population growth realized across our state will  
17 not come to pass in Chautauqua County.

18 Let's not assume decline and  
19 stagnation as the future of Chautauqua County and  
20 western New York. Let's assume instead growth and  
21 prosperity and all of the future of our community.

22 Without N.R.G. power right here  
23 in our county we cannot achieve our potential. You  
24 on the P.S.C. play an important role as New York's  
25 watchdog, protector and regulators of our

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2 utilities. I personally thank you for your  
3 service.

4 But today I ask for your support  
5 in this very important Chautauqua County and New  
6 York State business proposal. It is absolutely in  
7 the best interest of the economies of New York and  
8 Chautauqua County and of its people.

9 Thank you very much.

10 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Thank you. The  
11 next five speakers are going to be as follows;

12 David Wilkinson,  
13 Joe Sempolinski,  
14 Diane Ciurczak,  
15 James Miller and  
16 John Alff.

17 So we'll start first with David  
18 Wilkinson.

19 MR. WILKINSON: Good evening.  
20 I'm not quite as eloquent as the rest of the people  
21 that spoke before me. But I'll -- I'll keep to the  
22 two minutes.

23 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Thanks for  
24 writing that down.

25 MR. WILKINSON: My name is David

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2 Wilkinson and I reside at 7499 Putnam Road,  
3 Cassadaga.

4 I'm speaking this evening as a  
5 resident of the county regarding P.S.C. case number  
6 12-E-0577.

7 I have grave concerns regarding  
8 the impact of this hearing specific to the  
9 economics of my community. Dunkirk generation  
10 facility provides a stable tax base which is vital  
11 to our community, but it is more than taxes.

12 N.R.G. Dunkirk provides  
13 opportunities for our community to grow and to be  
14 self-sufficient. I believe a loss of the  
15 generation facility will have a negative impact  
16 upon our local economy. It will begin with a loss  
17 of tax revenue to the county followed by loss of  
18 good jobs at the N.R.G. facility, loss of control  
19 of New York energy resources, loss of ability to  
20 sustain life services, such as police and fire,  
21 loss of property values, loss of small business  
22 opportunities, loss of public education, loss of  
23 large business, loss of population, loss of the  
24 city of Dunkirk, loss of New York jobs period.

25 The national lobbyist group in

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2 attendance this evening would have you believe they  
3 have alternative ideas when in fact the plan they  
4 support allows the purchase of fossil fuel  
5 generation.

6 Let's make no mistake, they do  
7 not have a plan except to continue their use of  
8 electricity, national gas and carbon emitting  
9 vehicles.

10 The repower of the Dunkirk  
11 facility is an opportunity to lead the development  
12 of cleaner energy source here in western New York  
13 and it's the right choice to make. I have heard  
14 the statement and I quote "New York is for New  
15 York." I often wonder when that statement will  
16 mean western New York.

17 I ask your Honor and members of  
18 the P.S.C. to allow the residents of this community  
19 to decide its future and disregard the lobbyist  
20 bloggers and their scripted statements from  
21 Anywhere U.S.A. Thank you.

22 MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Thank you. My  
23 name is Joseph Sempolinski and I'm the district  
24 director for United States Congressman Tom Reed.

25 Congressman Reed couldn't be here

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2 tonight, but he wanted to make it unequivocal his  
3 support for the repowering of the Dunkirk N.R.G.  
4 facility.

5 To that end and to this point,  
6 the congressman has been in direct personal contact  
7 with the chairman of the Commission, Mr. Brown. He  
8 has written a statement regarding the repowering of  
9 Dunkirk and the facility in Lansing that has been  
10 submitted for the record to the P.S.C.

11 And on Friday he personally stood  
12 at the shore of Lake Erie in the shadow of the  
13 N.R.G. facility and held a press conference to make  
14 perfectly clear his support for the repowering.

15 At that press conference was  
16 President -- a coalition of the people that will be  
17 most directly affected by this particular decision  
18 that is going to be made. We had representatives  
19 of the federal government, the state government,  
20 the county government and the local government. We  
21 had representatives of the business community, of  
22 the labor community, of the education community,  
23 both secondary and post secondary.

24 We had democrats, republicans,  
25 members of the conservative party, members of the

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2 working families party, all standing together made  
3 with a single voice calling for the repowering of  
4 this facility.

5 As we all know, getting those  
6 particular list of groups to agree on any one  
7 particular thing in this day and age can be  
8 difficult. However, you see it before you here in  
9 Dunkirk and Chautauqua County. Why is that so?

10 Because every one of those groups  
11 and every citizen of Dunkirk and every citizen of  
12 Chautauqua County is directly affected.

13 The local people of Dunkirk will  
14 be affected by the jobs. They'll be foregone if  
15 the repowering doesn't happen. They will be  
16 affected for the jobs will be lost if the facility  
17 closes.

18 The taxpayers of Dunkirk, of the  
19 Dunkirk School District and of Chautauqua County  
20 will be impacted by increased payments that they  
21 will have to make on their tax bill.

22 But it goes even broader than  
23 that. The people of the state of New York will be  
24 deprived, increased infrastructure to power their  
25 own businesses, to power their own manufacturing,



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2 to power their own homes, to have the  
3 infrastructure to put in place a future where New  
4 York State can control its own energy destiny.

5 The people of the United States  
6 of America will also be deprived of that  
7 infrastructure, they will be deprived of a step  
8 toward energy independence, deprived a step towards  
9 saying to the rest of the world that we can take  
10 care of our own energy needs. How can we who have  
11 made a goal as a country to be energy independent  
12 be serious about that, if we shut down existing  
13 infrastructures and refuse to put in place the best  
14 and newest technology?

15 The Public Service Commission  
16 rightfully will make this decision based on what is  
17 in the public interest. The energy -- the energy  
18 independence of the United States of America is in  
19 the public interest. The green energy security of  
20 New York State is in the public interest.

21 The payments that will have to be  
22 made by the taxpayers of Dunkirk, the Dunkirk  
23 School District and the county of Chautauqua are in  
24 the public interest. And the workers, the loss of  
25 jobs, the foregoing of new jobs, those concerns for

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2 the workers of Dunkirk are in the public interest.

3 On behalf of the seven hundred and  
4 eighteen thousand constituents of New York's 23rd  
5 Congressional District and United States  
6 Congressman Tom Reed I urge the Public Service  
7 Commission to allow the repowering of the N.R.G.  
8 Dunkirk facility.

9 MS. CIURCZAK: Good evening. My  
10 name is Diane Ciurczak and I'm the energy chair of  
11 the Niagara Group of the Sierra Club. Niagara  
12 Group represents Chautauqua County as well as many  
13 other counties in western New York.

14 On behalf of the Niagara Group's  
15 Sierra Club I'm here to testify in support of  
16 National Grid's proposal for transmission system  
17 upgrades.

18 We also support investments in  
19 efficiency and clean, renewable energy. Renewables  
20 are doable now. Wind turbines are generating  
21 electricity across the state from Lackawanna to Tug  
22 Hill. And a very successful solar energy feed in  
23 tariff program run by LIPA in Long Island just  
24 announced a second expansion.

25 Effective renewable energy

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2 programs have led to millions of dollars in  
3 investments in New York and around the world. The  
4 Sierra Club Niagara Group has been advocating for  
5 the adoption of a feed-in tariff program known as  
6 FIT in Western New York. Places that have adopted  
7 the FIT have effectively jump-started investment in  
8 renewable energy and created thousands of jobs in  
9 the process.

10 The feed-in tariff also makes it  
11 possible for schools, farmers, homeowners and  
12 community organization -- organizations to generate  
13 income by producing renewable energy that is sold  
14 to consumers through long-term contracts.  
15 Moreover, the FIT has proven to be the most  
16 cost-effective way to get renewable energy.

17 The feed-in tariff program in  
18 Ontario, Canada, that was adopted in 2009 generated  
19 twenty billion dollars in new investments and more  
20 than twenty thousand new jobs in two years.

21 One in six farmers in Canada are  
22 receiving income by generating electricity. In  
23 Germany over three hundred sixty-seven thousand  
24 stable, high-wage jobs were created in twelve years  
25 by adopting this kind of a financing mechanism

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2 to -- to promote renewable energy and we can do it  
3 here.

4 The Public Service Commission  
5 should reject converting any coal plants from  
6 risky, dirty fuel -- from one risky, dirty fuel to  
7 another. New gas plants will require new pipelines  
8 and increase the demand for dangerous fracking,  
9 contributing to worsening climate disruption.

10 Climate disruption puts working  
11 families at-risk from costly and dangerous extreme  
12 weather events like flooding, heat waves, wind  
13 storms and draughts that threaten public health,  
14 local farms and the economy.

15 The loss of an important tax --  
16 tax base is an important concern. Short-term  
17 programs exist to provide payment in lieu of taxes  
18 and funding should come from a variety of sources  
19 to assist Chautauqua County, including regional  
20 economic development agencies, workforce training  
21 grants and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

22 A renewable energy economy will  
23 spur investment in high-paying, local jobs,  
24 increase union career opportunities, and facilitate  
25 new regional manufacturing. Local economies will

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2 benefit because renewable energy is installed by  
3 local workers who maintain it during its lifetime.

4 Energy efficiency benefits  
5 families and community businesses by reducing costs  
6 and creating jobs through green jobs, green New  
7 York programs.

8 Combined with smart investments  
9 in the way we transmit our energy, these local  
10 investments will increase home-grown jobs and put  
11 critical cash directly back into local economies.

12 In closing we are presented with  
13 a clear choice between last year's energy and the  
14 Twenty-first Century solutions that will lead to  
15 greater prosperity and security. We can do it now.  
16 We don't need transition gas-fired power plants.

17 We urge New York State to create  
18 healthy, local economies by simultaneously  
19 investing in workers, communities and environmental  
20 security. Thank you.

21 I curtailed my comments. I'd  
22 like to hand the full statement in.

23 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Sure. James  
24 Miller?

25 MR. MILLER: Thank you. Yes, I

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2 am James known more as Sam Miller. I am for the  
3 record a member of the Sierra Club, but I'm not  
4 speaking for the Sierra Club. I am not. I'm going  
5 to disregard my comments as an electrical engineer  
6 well degreed and not submit the testimony in favor  
7 of National Grid's proposal unless -- unless New  
8 York State who will benefit overall from the  
9 closing in the future -- near future of coal plants  
10 and nuclear plants that local residents such as  
11 residents of Chautauqua County and Dunkirk right  
12 here, are not made sacrificial lambs for their  
13 economy.

14 There should be a way that since  
15 the benefits of converting from fossil fuels to  
16 clean green energy is going to be shared statewide  
17 by all the residents that the overall budget for  
18 New York State should include in some way of  
19 replacing the lost tax revenues in these local  
20 communities that are affected.

21 So I'm going to just turn in my  
22 technical remarks for your consideration. Thank  
23 you.

24 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Thank you.

25 John Alff?

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2 MR. ALFF: My name is John Alff.

3 I live at 19 Lemming Street in Dunkirk, New York.

4 And I want to address the Public  
5 Service Commission in regards to my personal  
6 feelings as far as closing the plant. Anybody  
7 pre-organizing to have a plant closed, thus losing  
8 jobs, and our taxes to be raised for all the  
9 citizens and the residents in the city of Dunkirk  
10 and Chautauqua County, I think anyone proposing or  
11 screaming to cause that action should be tried in  
12 court of law.

13 I thank you.

14 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: The next five  
15 speakers will be:

16 Phil Julian,

17 James Christy,

18 Diane Hofner and

19 Kevin Morabito, and sorry,

20 Robert Donado -- Dando.

21 MR. JULIAN: Good evening. My  
22 name is Phil Julian. I'm a lifelong resident of  
23 Dunkirk. That's over thirty-nine years now -- well  
24 over thirty-nine years.

25 I think it's obvious that N.R.G.

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2 has a lot of support here this evening. As a  
3 lifelong resident of the city, I've seen the  
4 closing of schools and churches.

5 We -- our population has dropped  
6 just in my lifetime from twenty thousand down to  
7 thirteen thousand. The very last thing we need is  
8 to lose one more industry. N.R.G. should remain in  
9 Dunkirk.

10 You know, Governor Cuomo and  
11 state leaders have been very vocal in their pursuit  
12 of bringing new industry to the state. Shouldn't  
13 we be doing everything possible to preserve the  
14 jobs and industry that we already have? Doesn't  
15 that make sense? It makes sense to me.

16 Am I allowed to ask you a  
17 question, ma'am? Okay. To the officials from  
18 N.R.G., we know that the PILOT program is expiring  
19 and up for renewal in 2014. What do you see as the  
20 future of the PILOT program? Should the city  
21 school and county expect the same level of  
22 contributions from N.R.G. should you be able to  
23 repower?

24 N.R.G. REPRESENTATIVE: Yes, the  
25 PILOT program actually does not expire. It



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2 continues in force. So one of the things that  
3 we've talked about with the Chautauqua County  
4 I.D.A. in principal is to be able to extend the  
5 same level of payments. And so in the economics  
6 that we've presented to National Grid and the  
7 P.S.C. we have property tax payments in the same  
8 level that we have today to be able to sustain the  
9 property tax levels.

10 MR. JULIAN: That's what I wanted  
11 to know. Thank you for being with us this evening.  
12 We appreciate your help and your attention. Thank  
13 you.

14 MR. CHRISTY: Good evening. My  
15 name's James Christy. I have been an employee of  
16 N.R.G., National Grid slash Niagara Mohawk.

17 I started my career with this  
18 wonderful company close to thirty-five years ago  
19 and I've been retired for eleven. So it -- it was  
20 a wonderful career. And I have a solution to all  
21 your problems. It's all in the size of the  
22 conductor. Electricity is transmitted by the  
23 diameter of the conductor. In other words the size  
24 of the conductor. I put National Grid on -- on --  
25 on the podium the last time I was up here because

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2 back in 1990 or 1986 or 7, Niagara Mohawk at that  
3 time was in generation and in distribution.

4 And they requested a rate  
5 increase which the Public Service Commission  
6 granted and instead of putting that one sixty-one  
7 and one sixty-two line and the one forty-one and  
8 one forty-two line, instead of putting the money  
9 into reconductering at that time, they put it into  
10 capacitors, exactly what National Grid's answer is  
11 today. And I had the opportunity to build the big  
12 capacitor bank over on New Road.

13 Now National Grid has N.R.G. in  
14 their clutches because they can make it, but they  
15 can't distribute it.

16 I urge the Public Service  
17 Commission to think about the size of the conductor  
18 because it will -- the larger the conductor, the  
19 more power N.R.G. can create. If they create a lot  
20 of power and they build their plant, the tax base  
21 goes up for the city of Dunkirk, the wheeling costs  
22 for National Grid, they push a lot more power  
23 because their conductors are bigger, they invest,  
24 the tax base goes up for National Grid, the tax  
25 base goes up for N.R.G., we're making it in New

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2 York.

3 We can make it in New York, we  
4 can transport it in New York and we can sell it to  
5 Pennsylvania and Ohio and create jobs. That is the  
6 solution to this whole problem.

7 We have to not put capacitors on  
8 the line. We have to rebuild those lines. They're  
9 inadequate, they've been inadequate for years. The  
10 man on Putnam Road, if he looks out the back window  
11 on a -- on a foggy night in the spring those  
12 insulators are leaking. There's a glow all through  
13 Kabob Swamp because I've been out there and put the  
14 wires up after they burned down. I made a lot of  
15 money doing it, but that's the story.

16 Thank you very much for your  
17 time. And when you go back and have your Public  
18 Service Commission think about reconductering the  
19 transmission network in New York State and then our  
20 utilities can increase their -- their transmission,  
21 they can increase their production, everything --  
22 we'd all get more jobs, everybody gets good paying  
23 jobs, that is the answer to the question.

24 MS. HOFNER: Good evening. My  
25 name is Diane Hofner. And before I begin my

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2 abbreviated comments, again I would ask that my  
3 full five-minute preparation be entered into the  
4 record and docket.

5 As co-founder of Cropplus and as  
6 a Chautauqua County resident I would like to voice  
7 my support for the cost-effective transmission  
8 proposal by National Grid. I am also advocating  
9 for efficient and renewable energy investments.

10 I cannot support our community's  
11 continued reliance on expensive and harmful fossil  
12 fuels. Scientific studies show that the life cycle  
13 of natural gas from extraction to transportation,  
14 consumption and getting rid of the waste is just as  
15 damaging as coal. Given the choice between natural  
16 gas extraction and renewable energy development in  
17 our backyards, the safe and profitable choice is  
18 clean renewable energy.

19 N.R.G. has already aggressively  
20 invested in renewable energy projects across the  
21 country. It's time to bring them here to western  
22 New York.

23 On July 11th, 2013, Senator Dean  
24 Skelos communicated quote, "You will be pleased to  
25 know that the New York State Senate unanimously

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2 passed legislation creating a solar incentive plan  
3 that would continue the New York Sun Program  
4 through 2023.

5 The Republican Senate Conference  
6 understands that we must take steps to help  
7 businesses in New York through incentive programs  
8 that would make this state a leader in the solar  
9 industry through a cleaner delivery system," end  
10 quote.

11 Thank you, Senator Young, for the  
12 unanimous vote for solar incentives.

13 Like everyone here, I am  
14 concerned about the availability of stable,  
15 good-paying jobs in our community. The jobs  
16 created by wind, solar and energy efficiency  
17 projects dwarf the potential of natural gas. A  
18 million dollars invested in wind can create  
19 thirteen jobs, but that same million dollars  
20 invested in natural gas produces only five.

21 It's time to build a renewable  
22 energy economy in New York State. Chautauqua  
23 County has been powering New York State since the  
24 1950s and it's time for New York State to return  
25 the favor by offering their many programs for

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2 making our community and workers whole, while we  
3 embrace our new role in energy transmission and  
4 production.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. MORABITO: My name is Kevin  
7 Morabito. I'm a lifelong resident of Chautauqua  
8 County and I also am an employee for N.R.G.

9 On behalf of the other employees  
10 I'd like to thank Senator Young for being so  
11 instrumental in making this happen tonight.

12 You guys say that you -- you  
13 employ ten thousand people in New York State. I  
14 can bet my bottom dollar if you were to give them a  
15 choice between a three percent increase in their  
16 bill or a forty-seven percent increase in their  
17 taxes, I can guarantee they'll let their bill go up  
18 three percent.

19 Thank you.

20 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Robert Dando?

21 MR. DANDO: I'm Robert Dando. I  
22 am a member of the Working Family's Party and a  
23 logger. I live on Fredonia/Stockton Road in the  
24 town of Mumford. I've been a member of labor for  
25 over forty years now.

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2 And I am for this repowering  
3 project. I remember coming to this facility --  
4 coming to this area back in '67, when I first  
5 attended Fredonia State back before this  
6 magnificent building was even here.

7 I think it was a field of grass  
8 back then or a sea of mud, one of the two. I've  
9 found that over the years I've enjoyed being in  
10 this area. I met a local girl, we were married for  
11 thirty-seven years before she passed away. I have  
12 four children that still live in this area. I have  
13 six grandchildren that live in this area. I want  
14 them to stay in this area.

15 But if we don't repower Dunkirk  
16 and keep the jobs and keep that plant in this  
17 county and in the city of Dunkirk what is going to  
18 be left? Nothing.

19 All the businesses that are  
20 presently, you know, in Dunkirk, are they going to  
21 take this forty percent tax increase and keep their  
22 business here? Not likely.

23 I worked at Carriage House for  
24 all those years and I mean we just slowed down our  
25 plant in Dunkirk.

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2 Fortunately our new owners aren't  
3 doing too much towards, you know, getting rid of  
4 jobs as much as they could have. And in fact we  
5 still have hopes that maybe they'll regenerate the  
6 work at our other plant in Dunkirk. But if the  
7 taxes go up, what incentive do they have? They  
8 don't.

9 They're going to look and move  
10 those jobs down to Kentucky where they have moved  
11 some of the jobs already. The taxes go up in this  
12 county, that business is probably going to move  
13 down to Kentucky and we're going to have four  
14 hundred and some people out on the streets looking  
15 for work and there's no work going to be here.

16 I already had a couple of my kids  
17 say that things are getting really expensive in New  
18 York State. If their taxes keep going up on their  
19 houses and everything they're going to move to  
20 Pennsylvania or other places. And this is why --  
21 you know, I'd like to keep my family here. So I'm  
22 hoping that the Commission in their wisdom will  
23 side with repowering Dunkirk and keep out these  
24 possible fumes from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

25 This slight of hand that National



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2 Grid is trying to throw at us, it should be  
3 ignored. And quite -- all it's going to do is  
4 bring in this power that's already being made by  
5 coal.

6 Personally I happen to pay my  
7 dues every year to Sierra Club, but I have to look  
8 at the reality of the situation. Yes, the people  
9 have come forth and said, yeah we should be pushing  
10 more for New York State to do all those things, but  
11 that's some time in the future. It's not now.

12 We have to realize that we have  
13 to deal with the present and work for the future.  
14 And, yes, I really hope that someday we will have  
15 renewable energy as the main source of our power in  
16 the state. We have to look at our reality of what  
17 it is now. We need to keep this plant going for  
18 our community and hopefully for the rest of the  
19 state. Thank you.

20 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: I'm just going  
21 to remind folks while we're here till -- we  
22 promised to be here till eleven tonight, we are  
23 about fifteen speakers through eighty.

24 So please try to keep your  
25 comments to two minutes. Any comments that you

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2 have written out I'm more than happy to take back  
3 and I will ensure that they're inserted in the  
4 record and you will see them on the web.

5 The next five speakers are Gus  
6 Potkovich. You told me that.

7 Raphael Muller,  
8 Ellen DiTonto,  
9 Dan Kavanaugh and  
10 Jeff Bulger.

11 Sorry, Gus.

12 MR. POTKOVICH: Oh, no problem.  
13 It happens all the time. First of all, I'd like to  
14 welcome the Public Service Commission to Chautauqua  
15 County, Dunkirk/Fredonia. Thank you.

16 I don't want to take up the time  
17 thanking everybody individually because I probably  
18 know half of them in here. But I'd like to thank  
19 Dunkirk/Fredonia and Chautauqua County for what --  
20 everybody here today, you guys really rock. You  
21 really do.

22 My name is Gus Potkovich. I'm a  
23 union rep at N.R.G. I've been there thirty-three  
24 years. I've lived in Fredonia, Chautauqua County,  
25 for thirty-eight years.

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2 It's hard to believe that not  
3 long ago Niagara Mohawk owned the Dunkirk plant and  
4 had the obligation before deregulation to ensure  
5 that it maintained adequate New York State based  
6 power generation for reliability in a spinning  
7 reverse, both for potential new customers and days  
8 of high electric demand like we'll probably  
9 experience this week.

10 Deregulation told Niagara Mohawk  
11 that generating power was no longer any of its  
12 business, but it is the business of New York State  
13 Public Service Commission to ensure we have an  
14 adequate supply of New York State home-grown power  
15 for energy independence and that a competitive  
16 power market for New York generation is strictly  
17 adhered to.

18 How is it fair then for power  
19 generators that believe they could do business in  
20 New York on a level playing field to be subject to  
21 RGGI costs while transmission owners have no  
22 restrictions on importing power from the non-RGGI  
23 states like Pennsylvania?

24 What happens if imports  
25 necessarily replaced Dunkirk become unavailable or

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2 power lines in other states in New York will be  
3 newly dependent, unfair? What recourse does the  
4 New York State Public Service Commission have over  
5 neglected transmission lines from other states that  
6 cause power outages for New Yorkers?

7 The current Dunkirk plant is  
8 struggling in part due to natural gas prices. But,  
9 is -- but it is also struggling because of the  
10 state-imposed costs such as RGGI and a long  
11 neglected downstate transmission bottleneck which  
12 the governor has addressed, but the work has yet to  
13 begin.

14 If the P.S.C. wants to allow  
15 investment in transmission it should expedite the  
16 transmission work identified by the governor's  
17 energy highway blueprint, so more upstate power can  
18 access the downstate demand areas, not -- not --  
19 not transmission plants that threaten New York  
20 power generators by importing power from non-RGGI  
21 states.

22 Question: Is New York State  
23 calculating the payment schedule to reimburse our  
24 region for lost jobs and taxes, should they deny  
25 the Dunkirk repowering. Are these costs part of

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2 what you are considering?

3 If New York State contributed to  
4 putting this plant out of business New York State  
5 should be held liable for the staggering hard costs  
6 to this region. Real simple, repower Dunkirk now.

7 Thank you.

8 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Mr. Muller?

9 MR. MULLER: My name is Raphael  
10 Muller, Jr. and I'm a recent graduate from Dunkirk  
11 High School. I'll be attending the University at  
12 Buffalo majoring in engineering.

13 This issue was brought up to me  
14 during an interview -- interview to become a boy  
15 state delegate a year ago.

16 Posing such a question to me that  
17 I was not completely aware of made me ponder on the  
18 topic. N.R.G. is a vital, essential and a  
19 necessity in our community. Without it our city  
20 will suffer more than it has already. I believe  
21 the city, the county and western New York need to  
22 believe in repowering N.R.G. and it will be the  
23 start of Dunkirk's and the county's regrowth and  
24 comeback.

25 I still believe in this city and

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2 the county I grew up in. And I want to one day  
3 come back and help make it prosper once again.

4 That's why we need to repower  
5 N.R.G.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. DITONTO: Good evening, Judge  
8 Harriman, Commissioner. Thank you for the time  
9 tonight.

10 My name is Ellen DiTonto. I  
11 reside in Jamestown, New York. I'm representing my  
12 employer tonight, D.F.T. Communications, 40 Temple  
13 Street, Fredonia.

14 D.F.T. Communications is a  
15 regional technology services provider based here in  
16 Fredonia. Our company has evolved over a hundred  
17 and fifteen years from a traditional telephone  
18 company, Dunkirk and Fredonia Telephone, to a  
19 multi-faceted services small business.

20 D.F.T. Communications provides  
21 jobs for like eighty local residents and pays  
22 considerable state and county taxes as well as  
23 village of Fredonia and city of Jamestown taxes.

24 Our remarks here tonight center  
25 on the economic stability of Chautauqua County if

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2 the repowering project at the Dunkirk generating --  
3 at the Dunkirk generating station is not approved.

4 A review of statistics for our  
5 region paint a less than optimistic picture. We  
6 have suffered from continuous population decline,  
7 high levels of exporting our young people including  
8 my children to more prosperous growing areas of the  
9 country, closed businesses and reduced  
10 opportunities for residents seeking a living wage,  
11 high unemployment rates and the lack of new  
12 development in both the business and housing  
13 sectors.

14 What these statistics do not tell  
15 you is the resilience that is part of the culture  
16 here in Chautauqua County.

17 We have high performing students,  
18 high performing schools. We have two exceptional  
19 higher education institutions in Jamestown  
20 Community College and the State University of New  
21 York at Fredonia. We are home to the world renown  
22 Chautauqua Institution.

23 We have a diversified economy  
24 with agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and  
25 services. We are encouraging entrepreneurship as a

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2 way of building new opportunities for our youth and  
3 reinvigorating the mature talent that has emerged  
4 from the recession.

5 Chautauqua County is on the verge  
6 of coming out of a long and debilitating recession.  
7 The repowering of the Dunkirk generating plant will  
8 act as a catalyst for the economic stability here.  
9 Most importantly, the continued operation of this  
10 plant will ensure a stable tax base for the county.  
11 The importance of this should not be overlooked.

12 The Dunkirk generating plant is  
13 one of the largest taxpayers in Chautauqua County  
14 as well as the largest taxpayer in the city of  
15 Dunkirk and the Dunkirk School District.

16 As a small business in Chautauqua  
17 County, D.F.T. Communications would not be able to  
18 sustain a double digit tax increase in local taxes  
19 if the Dunkirk generating plant is mothballed.

20 D.F.T. has invested heavily in  
21 Chautauqua County in the last five years, for  
22 example, posted ten million dollars in capital  
23 infrastructure improvement. Our annual payroll  
24 injects four million dollars to the local economy.  
25 We pay more than our fair share of taxes.



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2 If the repowering project is not  
3 approved Chautauqua County will lose one of its  
4 largest taxpayers. We will lose much-needed  
5 revenue to provide services to our residents. We  
6 will lose more jobs and more people. Our future  
7 will forever be tainted by a decision that will be  
8 made not by the people who have to live with the  
9 consequences, but by people who lack an  
10 understanding of the critical nature of the Dunkirk  
11 generating station to our region.

12 The repowering project will mean  
13 the continuation of a reliable power source, the  
14 conversion of gas and the change to a combined  
15 cycle plant will help reduce emissions and improve  
16 air quality.

17 By supporting the repowering  
18 option the P.S.C. will be supporting the viability  
19 of Chautauqua County. Repowering equals  
20 revitalization and gives Chautauqua County a  
21 fighting chance to survive against incredible odds.

22 Do what is right for Chautauqua  
23 County, vote at the P.S.C. to accept the repowering  
24 project and keep Chautauqua County on the path  
25 toward revitalization and growth.

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2 Thank you.

3 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Dan Kavanaugh?

4 Jeff Bulger?

5 MR. BULGER: Hello. My name's

6 Jeff Bulger. I'm a lifelong resident of this

7 county and an employee for N.R.G.

8 First of all, I want to thank you  
9 all for coming and letting us speak. I would -- or  
10 I'd ask you to please go for the repower of Dunkirk  
11 not only for the benefit of my family and

12 everything, the local community. And I would also  
13 prefer to support New York State businesses rather  
14 than Pennsylvania and Canada. Thank you.

15 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: The next five  
16 speakers will be:

17 Chris Reynolds,

18 Michael McCoy,

19 Carson Leikam,

20 Robert Benjamin and

21 Bill Daly.

22 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. My  
23 name is Chris Reynolds. I live in Cassadaga, New  
24 York.

25 I moved to this county seven

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2 years ago. I moved in, took a job with N.R.G. and  
3 I thought what a great community, you know. We got  
4 a community that's backed -- the company that I  
5 work for, which is N.R.G., supports the community  
6 and the county. They go way out of their way to do  
7 better things at Camp Gross which resides up here  
8 in Cassadaga, we do a lot of day caring work. So I  
9 can only hope that we go for the repowering project  
10 at Dunkirk.

11 Thank you.

12 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Michael McCoy?

13 MR. McCOY: My name is Michael  
14 McCoy. I'm a resident of Mayville.

15 My wife and I own a beautiful  
16 home there. We both work in Chautauqua County. My  
17 concern is with National -- with National Grid's  
18 position deals with the concern of reliability of  
19 service. A few years ago I considered the  
20 possibility of relocating to another area and as  
21 part of the consideration did some checking online  
22 for homes for sale in that area.

23 I remember that I was surprised  
24 and impressed that the first home I looked at  
25 online came equipped with an automatic electrical

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2 generator that came on automatically if the power  
3 went off.

4 I remember thinking wow, that's  
5 really cool. Those are really rare in this area  
6 and only a few people have them and wouldn't it be  
7 nice to have one of those.

8 However, when the second house I  
9 checked into and the third and several others also  
10 all had automatic generators that came on when the  
11 power went off it hit me, they surely must have  
12 them for a reason and the reason must be that they  
13 get hit with frequent power outages.

14 Not very many residential homes  
15 in Chautauqua County have automatic backup power  
16 generators that come on when the power goes off.  
17 And we don't want to start having a reason to need  
18 to have them.

19 With the N.R.G. generating  
20 station in Dunkirk the supply of electrical power  
21 has historically been very reliable in this region  
22 of the state and outages that have occurred have  
23 mostly been related to transmission system failures  
24 such as heavy snow, windstorm and tornado-related  
25 causes of downed wires, poles or transformer

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2 failures.

3 Therefore my request is that the  
4 members of the Public Service Commission strongly  
5 consider the question of reliability of service  
6 when evaluating National Grid's assertion that they  
7 can provide for the power needs of our region  
8 simply by delivering power from far away through  
9 upgrades of transmission lines.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. LEIKAM: Good evening. My  
12 name is Carson Leikam and you can remember that as  
13 some do, some don't. All right?

14 I'm a longtime resident of the  
15 county and I'm also an employee of N.R.G. And more  
16 specifically, I'm the general manager for New York  
17 and New England and both the Huntley and Dunkirk  
18 stations are as such that I'm responsible for. And  
19 I (applause) -- thank you. I'd like to start out  
20 just asking a question.

21 Wouldn't it be wonderful if we  
22 could do anything with nothing forever? But that's  
23 not very realistic. And what I'm talking about  
24 here is renewables and sustainability. It's a big  
25 part of N.R.G.'s look into the future and to being

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2 the Twenty-first century energy company. That's --  
3 that's our vision. And renewables and  
4 sustainability is certainly a part of that.

5 And what I would say to the  
6 Sierra Club and the Business Council of the state  
7 of New York, there are some lines being drawn that  
8 don't need to be drawn. Having a fast-start gas  
9 facility and having renewables are not mutually  
10 exclusive.

11 As a matter of fact they're  
12 dependent on one another to provide a quality  
13 product that if we do both of those things in  
14 Western New York and we follow through with the  
15 energy highway it will actually allow an increase  
16 in the amount of wind power that can be developed  
17 and then sent downstate and make some money and  
18 bring that home to Western New York. All right?  
19 They're not exclusive.

20 And lastly, because others that  
21 have gone before have been so thorough, the last  
22 thing I'd like to say is that if National Grid  
23 doesn't know where the next megawatt is coming  
24 from, but -- by their admission it would be the  
25 next most efficient megawatt, let's build the most

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2 efficient plant in the state right here at Dunkirk.

3 Then we'll know where the next most efficient

4 megawatt is going to come from.

5 MR. BENJAMIN: Your Honor,

6 Chairman Brown, Department of Public Service, thank

7 you for coming down here today. We really

8 appreciate it because what's happening is very

9 important not just to Chautauqua County, but to New

10 York State.

11 My name is Robert Benjamin and I

12 come before you not as a politician, not as a

13 businessman, but as a father. If you want to see

14 the future of New York State it's right over there.

15 I brought my children today. They're here for a

16 reason because if we are going to grow as an

17 economy that is what we need to think about is our

18 future and their future. And if we are going to

19 grow as an economy in Chautauqua County N.R.G. is

20 critical to our growth because businesses are not

21 going to come here unless we can provide them with

22 reliable low-cost power. They're not going to come

23 here because we can pipe energy in from some other

24 state.

25 They're going to come here

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2 because we have the resources they need. They're  
3 going to come here because we can provide them an  
4 environment that is going to be friendly to  
5 business and to industry and N.R.G. is the answer  
6 to that. Thank you.

7 MR. DALY: Good evening. Welcome  
8 again to Chautauqua County. It's nice that we have  
9 some western New York folks here, you understand.

10 I'm director of the Chautauqua  
11 County I.D.A., director of Planning and Economic  
12 Development for the county. My name is Bill Daly.

13 Probably the greatest mantra in  
14 economic development, which is one of your missions  
15 by statute now to consider is business retention  
16 and expansion.

17 In fact if you go to get a degree  
18 in economic development or a certification that is  
19 a must-take course. Can you imagine a developer's  
20 dream when an existing business comes to you and  
21 says hey, we want to stay and we're going to put  
22 five hundred and fifty million dollars into our  
23 plant?

24 Thank you, Lee Davis.

25 But it's not the first time. We



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2 work with them extensively. We've had hundreds of  
3 hours of conversations to keep them in the city of  
4 Dunkirk. What they did back in the 2000s, they got  
5 low sulfur coal from Wyoming. They spent more  
6 money for the coal and for the transportation and  
7 it generates less heat. That's what turns the  
8 turbines. But they did that. People forget that.

9 Then several years ago they spent  
10 two hundred and six million dollars because we did  
11 the PILOT and they had to certify that to us. So  
12 think about this. They went low sulfur coal and  
13 then they put a two hundred and six million dollar  
14 investment on that in Lake Shore with a hundred and  
15 sixty-five of the highest paid employer --  
16 employees in Chautauqua County.

17 So my hat's off to N.R.G. because  
18 they've stayed and they're fighting the good fight  
19 to stay here even longer.

20 One of the things you hear about  
21 locally, certainly I did because I'm involved in a  
22 lot of the regional economic development councils  
23 the governor has now. You're all familiar with  
24 them I'm sure.

25 In the first go-around for the

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2 whole state two years go was a billion dollars.  
3 They're offering five hundred and fifty million  
4 right now. The second year it was less money  
5 statewide, but the Governor came up with the  
6 Buffalo billion.

7 You have the opportunity, Public  
8 Service Commission, to create and make sure the  
9 Dunkirk half billion happens.

10 I'd like to thank everybody who  
11 has spoken tonight from their hearts. But I really  
12 have to thank the folks at N.R.G., great effort.

13 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: I'm going to  
14 read the next five names, but before I do that I  
15 just want to remind folks that if you feel that  
16 you -- you have to leave for personal reasons,  
17 family commitments or getting up tomorrow for work,  
18 go ahead and leave. The fax sheet that Scott Dean  
19 has has a variety of ways you can provide your  
20 comment for the record including telephone, hard  
21 mail and email. But we'll continue on.

22 Next five names:

23 Sean Murphy,

24 Nancy Baker,

25 Greg Krouza,

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2 Tom Phillips.

3 And this is going to be a tough  
4 one, Reva Byczynski.

5 I did it? All right.

6 MR. MURPHY: Good evening. My  
7 name is Sean Murphy. I live here in the village of  
8 Fredonia. A quick thank you to those who made this  
9 public hearing possible tonight.

10 As an employee of N.R.G., a  
11 member of I.B.D.W., Local 97, a lifelong resident  
12 and a thirty-year property taxpayer here in  
13 Chautauqua County, I would like to enter the record  
14 in absolute full support of the N.R.G. repowering  
15 proposal as presented here tonight.

16 This option not only preserves  
17 employment at the plant, but provides for the  
18 hundreds of other jobs tied to the large tax base  
19 this facility provides here in the county. The  
20 repowering option is the most sensible, reliable  
21 and physically responsible decision that can be  
22 made after the facts are analyzed and digested  
23 properly.

24 I strongly encourage the P.S.C.  
25 to make a sound conclusion, based on all these

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2 facts, and find in N.R.G.'s favor. I simply  
3 request that the honorable members of the P.S.C.  
4 let their conscious be their guide and truly serve  
5 the public interest that's been shown here tonight.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 MS. BAKER: My name's Nancy Baker  
8 and it has been my honor to represent the teachers  
9 in Dunkirk as the Dunkirk Teachers' Association  
10 president for the past year.

11 My goal this evening -- my goal  
12 this evening is to shed light on the effect that  
13 closing N.R.G. will have on the children, the  
14 parents, the community and the teachers in Dunkirk.

15 The loss of over four million  
16 dollars in revenue that N.R.G. provides to the  
17 Dunkirk City School System would be devastating.

18 The loss of revenue equates to  
19 fifty-eight teaching positions that may be cut in a  
20 district that already struggles with economic  
21 issues, transiency, and low student performance.

22 Cuts in teaching staff would  
23 increase students for classrooms and cut important  
24 program that help our students close the gap  
25 between themselves and their peers in other

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2 higher-performing school districts. When I think  
3 of what programs may have to be cut if fifty-eight  
4 positions are in danger it is staggering.

5 We are not talking about fluff.

6 Dunkirk does not have any fluff. These are all  
7 courses and programs that are vital to our  
8 students' success. I envision not only cuts to  
9 core departments, like English, math, social  
10 studies and science but also cuts to art, music,  
11 foreign language, technology, English as a second  
12 language, remedial reading, remedial math, academic  
13 intervention services.

14 Unfortunately I could go on and  
15 on. These are all courses and programs that allow  
16 our students the chance to close the gap, to  
17 compete for college acceptance and prepare for the  
18 world of work.

19 Not only will students suffer but  
20 families in the community as well will suffer.  
21 Cuts in teaching staff and programs make a  
22 community less attractive to potential homebuyers  
23 and businesses that may be looking to locate in our  
24 area. Cuts of fifty-eight teachers will lead to  
25 one less wage-earner in each of those households,

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2 less money added to the area economy, less  
3 opportunity for children in those families.

4 This morning I read an article in  
5 the Buffalo News in which a member of the Citizen's  
6 Campaign for the Environment asked if we are  
7 keeping a few jobs to continue to pollute our air  
8 and our drinking water with dangerous fossil fuels.

9 Look around, these are some of  
10 those few jobs. These are some of those  
11 fifty-eight teaching positions that may be lost.

12 That is not a few jobs. Seventy  
13 N.R.G. employees is not a few jobs. Five hundred  
14 jobs that could be created over a three-year period  
15 is not a few jobs. In addition repowering N.R.G.  
16 will create the cleanest and most efficient power  
17 plant in New York State.

18 The Dunkirk Teachers' Association  
19 strongly urges the Public Service Commission to  
20 protect the future of the students, the families,  
21 the teachers and the community in Dunkirk and the  
22 surrounding area for the decision to repower N.R.G.

23 Thank you.

24 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Thank you.

25 Next we have Greg Krouza.

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2 MR. KROUZA: Close enough. Thank  
3 you. Thank you for listening to our concerns and  
4 for the opportunity to speak.

5 As a lifelong resident, property  
6 owner, director of development for the Chautauqua  
7 County chamber, as a past one of those guys,  
8 teacher, history teacher and a past mayor of the  
9 city, it's important for me to point out that this  
10 could be the single biggest decision made for  
11 Dunkirk in the last hundred and fifty years.

12 The last one didn't go so well.  
13 When they moved the western terminus of the New  
14 York and Erie Railroad from Dunkirk to Buffalo and  
15 along with it the -- the -- the workshop that went  
16 with it. Well, thank God we had Horatio Brooks.  
17 He invested in Dunkirk. He started the Brooks  
18 Locomotive Works and that drove Dunkirk's economic  
19 engine for the next hundred years.

20 When that plant closed in 1962 it  
21 was quickly followed by the exodus of the steel  
22 industry, plant and retail closings, urban renewal  
23 that left us unfulfilled, but through that all we  
24 persevered and now just as we see positive activity  
25 this ruling jeopardizes that progress.

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2 N.R.G.'s recent investment of  
3 private dollars to address environmental needs as  
4 well as their desire to invest another half a  
5 billion dollars is a significant part of that  
6 progress. This -- your ruling is key component to  
7 the continuation of this progress.

8 Please allow N.R.G. to be this  
9 era's Brooks Locomotive Works that drives Dunkirk's  
10 economic engine for the next hundred years.

11 At the chamber we continuously  
12 promote buy local. That can only happen when local  
13 companies commit to invest in themselves in the  
14 area and produce a quality product. That's what we  
15 are asking you to allow to happen. Let the good  
16 work and commitment N.R.G. has made in our  
17 community, our county and our state be recognized.

18 Allow N.R.G. to invest in itself  
19 in our long-term needs and give New York residents  
20 and businesses the opportunity to buy local. Thank  
21 you.

22 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Tom Phillips?  
23 It's all been -- okay. Reva -- oh, I'm going to  
24 kill this, Byczynski. I said it right the first  
25 time; right?



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2 MS. BYCZYNSKI: Yes, you did.

3 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: All right.

4 MS. BYCZYNSKI: Good evening and  
5 thank you for letting me speak.

6 My name is Reva Byczynski. I  
7 live at 616 Brigham Road in Dunkirk, New York. I'm  
8 a taxpayer and a homeowner.

9 I am urging the P.S.C. to vote  
10 yes on the repowering of our N.R.G. plant in  
11 Dunkirk. I have lived in Dunkirk all my life and  
12 have been a part of and seen the decline of over a  
13 dozen factories through the years.

14 I currently work for the Health  
15 and Human Services Department in the Employment  
16 Unit. If we have anymore job losses the welfare  
17 office will not be able to handle the increased  
18 need of services in the community such as SNAP  
19 benefits, cash assistance and Medicaid.

20 The poverty level will certainly  
21 increase above the twenty-eight point five percent.  
22 The quality of life as we know it will drastically  
23 change if we lose the taxes from N.R.G. and from  
24 the fallout of our many -- of our working citizens  
25 who may have to relocate due to the tremendous

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2 increase in our taxes.

3 I'm looking forward to retiring  
4 soon. I will not be able to maintain my home and  
5 my standard of living if N.R.G. is allowed to  
6 close. I am urging this Commission to hook up  
7 clean gas. With the changes in our climate the  
8 Great Lakes region will be the go-to place for  
9 industries. The citizens of Dunkirk and Chautauqua  
10 County must be able to maintain and better their  
11 quality of life by attracting jobs, maintaining our  
12 school system for future generations.

13 Governor Cuomo is promoting his  
14 job initiative. Without the continuation of N.R.G.  
15 in this county his promises are worthless.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: The next five  
18 speakers:

19 Frank Pagano,  
20 Sheila Miller,  
21 Bob Banikowski,  
22 Susie Coniglio and  
23 Paul Cyburt.

24 MR. PAGANO: Thank you very much  
25 forgiving me the opportunity to speak tonight. A

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2 lot of the speakers before me have been more  
3 eloquent and have stated the facts even better.

4 I thank Cathy Young, our senator  
5 for representing us so well and Andrew Goodell, our  
6 assemblyman. I think they said it better than most  
7 people. Actually that teacher said it the best for  
8 everybody.

9 But I would like to tell you I'm  
10 the former mayor of the village of Fredonia. I'm  
11 also the former I.D.A. chairman of Chautauqua  
12 County. And I'm currently the chairman of the  
13 College Council here on the campus. And thank you  
14 very much for coming, all of you.

15 What I'd like to say is last  
16 Wednesday I had the opportunity to listen to  
17 Governor Cuomo speak at the J.C.C. campus in  
18 Jamestown. And at that time he said and I -- I  
19 think I can quote him pretty accurately, he said  
20 Chautauqua County and western New York and  
21 especially Chautauqua County have suffered through  
22 forty years of recession. This is the area of the  
23 state that's been forgotten.

24 And he's pledged to us here in  
25 Chautauqua County that he's going to work to turn

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2 this around. And part of that, as you know, is the  
3 new Start Up New York Initiative.

4 We can't continue to ask our  
5 industry to come if we're going to have increases  
6 in taxes of forty-two percent. It's just not  
7 logical.

8 I think N.R.G.'s energy plan is a  
9 wonderful plan, state-of-the-art plant that can  
10 serve us for years to come. When I was the  
11 chairman of the I.D.A. we at that time extended  
12 N.R.G.'s PILOT program. And the residents of  
13 Chautauqua County and especially the residents of  
14 the city of Dunkirk took a hit on their taxes.

15 They sacrificed so that N.R.G.  
16 could stay here. We took quite a beating over that  
17 decision at the time, but we thought it was the  
18 best decision in order to keep N.R.G. and the --  
19 the jobs that they created here in Chautauqua  
20 County.

21 Once again N.R.G. needs help. I  
22 think that the best way to do it is to allow them  
23 to re-tool. Actually I feel sorry for the young  
24 man from National Grid you're not in a very popular  
25 position here tonight. And -- and you're quite a

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2 guy for sticking around.

3 But anyway, I think you skirted  
4 around a lot of the questions and answers tonight  
5 without really giving some really good answers.

6 And my grandfather used to  
7 have -- my grandfather used to have an old saying.  
8 He said you can put lipstick on a pig, but it's  
9 still a pig.

10 So with that, thank you very much  
11 for having me here tonight and good luck N.R.G.

12 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Sheila Miller?

13 Bob Banikowski -- Banikowski --  
14 Banikowski? Okay. He's gone?

15 Susie Coniglio?

16 All right. Paul Cyburt --  
17 Cyburt? Is he here? No?

18 Melissa Rodriguez?

19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Hello. My name  
20 is Melissa Rodriguez. I'm a student representative  
21 from Dunkirk High School.

22 I want to speak about the issue  
23 at hand. I believe N.R.G. should remain here in  
24 Dunkirk and proceed on the repowering of the plant  
25 because without the financial support of N.R.G. the

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2 citizens of Dunkirk are going to suffer.

3 The citizens of Dunkirk will be  
4 in a state of panic if we lose N.R.G. because  
5 N.R.G. plays a big role in our community. If  
6 N.R.G. does not continue to be a financial provider  
7 for the city of Dunkirk teachers will lose their  
8 jobs electives and some of our athletics may be cut  
9 and taxes will be raised.

10 Being a senior at Dunkirk High  
11 School I have already been affected by the cuts  
12 made to the decrease in our budget. As I was  
13 making my class schedule for the upcoming school  
14 year I realized that many of our electives were  
15 cut.

16 For me the biggest disappointment  
17 was mythology because I was planning to take it  
18 during my senior year. Now that I am old enough to  
19 work I know how irritating it is to get money taken  
20 away for taxes.

21 And if N.R.G. decides to not  
22 build the natural gas plant taxes will have to be  
23 raised forty-two percent to make up for the loss of  
24 revenue or fifty-eight teachers will be cut --  
25 fifty-eight.

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2 And we cannot afford to raise  
3 taxes and we care too much about the people in our  
4 community to allow fifty-eight people to lose their  
5 jobs.

6 If N.R.G. does repower the plant  
7 it will be an incredible impact on the economy here  
8 in Chautauqua County. Workers will have to be  
9 hired on the plant which means less people will be  
10 unemployed and can start a domino effect in our  
11 economy.

12 So as a voice of the students at  
13 Dunkirk High School I'd ask that N.R.G. repower in  
14 Dunkirk.

15 Thank you.

16 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Doug Champ?

17 MR. CHAMP: This process I've  
18 been through before.

19 I'm a former utility manager. I  
20 also was chairman of Chautauqua County Energy  
21 Conference and Expo. I know N.R.G. I know  
22 National Grid. We can't work without the process  
23 of generation and transmission.

24 I'm not going to go into tonight  
25 and explain the dynamics of power generation, but

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2 there is one ingredient here that you will forfeit.  
3 It's a possibility that development of a thermal  
4 loop arising out of the maintaining National Grid's  
5 assets.

6 The thermal loop which exists  
7 provides thermal heating for a community. That is  
8 a distinct possibility. I've built and developed  
9 one in Jamestown, New York.

10 The principle of utilities are  
11 key to our communities. I've seen when utilities  
12 have been dismantled in other parts of the country.  
13 I've given speeches around the country about  
14 energy -- energy education.

15 The renewable processes are not  
16 here yet. They're not here because they cannot be  
17 integrated on the grids that we have in our  
18 country. We have three grids. They're all in  
19 disrepair.

20 National Grid has been trying to  
21 reassess how they're going to reinvest in their  
22 grid. Whether or not N.R.G. is the position they  
23 have to reinvest in their grid because low volt is  
24 just a critical issue throughout the state of New  
25 York.



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2 And how that's transferred is  
3 extremely important, but utility workers that I  
4 have managed are key to the community, which they  
5 live in. They volunteer. They provide earnings  
6 and income for their families.

7 And this asset, if it's  
8 dismantled will crumble Dunkirk. There's no  
9 question in my mind because I've been in other  
10 areas and I've seen where utilities have been  
11 driven out of business, some for the right reasons,  
12 but not this time.

13 So in mind of this, in terms of  
14 engineering and asset development and use, which  
15 the utility they have in place now for you  
16 dismantle this utility the five hundred megawatts  
17 will have to be made up.

18 Now five hundred megawatts in the  
19 whole spectrum of things is not a lot of megawatts,  
20 but in Dunkirk, New York, it means a lot more than  
21 a megawatt in terms of a job that's going to be  
22 lost, in terms of people who depend on these people  
23 with a trickle down effect. Energy jobs in every  
24 community have a tremendous value associated with  
25 what happens in that community and the surrounding

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2 area.

3 So I'm here from the southern  
4 county of New York which has to be one of our  
5 poorest counties, not to the hard effects of people  
6 wanting to live here and work here. Its dynamics  
7 have been lost due to out-migration. I have three  
8 daughters. Most of them live in other places  
9 because they don't have a job.

10 So, you want to remove a  
11 facility, remove an asset that offers job  
12 potential, job creation, because remember utilities  
13 are classrooms of teaching, education, not only for  
14 their employees, but they will have new ideas.

15 N.R.G. and National Grid are fine  
16 companies, but they create things. They move  
17 things. But we can not just look at dissolving a  
18 utility because of transmission difficulties which  
19 National Grid has anyway.

20 So I'm here to support this  
21 project of repowering N.R.G. They are a quality  
22 industry as is National Grid, but you're going to  
23 lose a lot more if you allow this to take place, I  
24 guarantee you that.

25 Thank you.

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2 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: John, I'm going  
3 to spell the last name, S-E-D-Y-S-C-Y-V. There was  
4 no way I was pronouncing that one.

5 I'll listen and see.

6 MR. SEDYSCYV: My name is John  
7 Sedyscyv. I worked for N.R.G. for thirty years. I  
8 had the honor to represent the workers. I was a  
9 union rep, two hundred and thirteen at one time.

10 And as I go past my time as a  
11 union rep, things come across my mind tonight like  
12 my first day on the job. I was taken down to the  
13 second floor by the plant superintendent and he  
14 showed me this bulletin board. And, he says now  
15 that you're the union rep you need to see this.  
16 And basically what it said was this plant is a  
17 national security plant. It's put here for a  
18 reason. It was put here for a reason. And  
19 basically he was telling me that we're going to  
20 keep working if we have problems and we'll settle  
21 them later, which that plant has done for the last  
22 thirty years that I know of.

23 In 1999 I sat in and heard that  
24 we can no longer make it and sell it. So the  
25 Public Service Commission divided us, but now you

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2 have the power -- and you have the power to give  
3 National Grid the right to distribute it and decide  
4 who's going to make it. They have that power,  
5 that -- National Grid can close the doors at  
6 Dunkirk by just saying we're not going to use their  
7 power. What can Dunkirk do? You have the power to  
8 change that.

9 The -- the plant has done well.  
10 The power is always there, but yet you're letting  
11 one company decide our community, everything.

12 Because if National Grid today  
13 says we're okay with N.R.G., we're fine, but if  
14 they say no, we're not.

15 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: I'm going to  
16 call the next five names:

17 Keith Aulstrom,  
18 George Borrello,  
19 Kathy Tampio,  
20 John Hollins and  
21 Todd Trantum.

22 First up is Keith Aulstrom.

23 MR. AULSTROM: Thank you. Mr.  
24 Commissioner, and the rest of the Public Service  
25 Commission, I speak tonight as a lifelong resident

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2 of Dunkirk. And for those of you that weren't able  
3 to be here tonight I think it's important for you  
4 to realize the group of people and the cross  
5 representation of this community that has taken the  
6 time on a hot summer night to spend way too many  
7 hours doing something that they feel is very  
8 important because we have had tonight probably  
9 every community leader from this end of our county  
10 including our state representatives.

11 We have had union leaders, both  
12 private and public, we have had school teachers,  
13 firefighters, policemen, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs,  
14 state police.

15 We have had representatives from  
16 private industries here tonight. We have had  
17 democrats, republicans, conservatives, liberals,  
18 independents, and for the most part other than a  
19 couple of the environmental groups that you heard  
20 here tonight and that I am sure that you will hear  
21 no matter where you go on this issue, all of them  
22 are in favor of the repower in Dunkirk.

23 And that's important that you  
24 look and you see and that as commissioners you hear  
25 how vital this is.

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2 Those of us that have lived here  
3 all our lives as numerous speakers have said, we  
4 have already gone through tough times. We have  
5 lost industries that thirty years ago employed  
6 seventeen hundred in one steel plant, four and five  
7 hundred in another area. But we had over probably  
8 three thousand steelworkers working, that are no  
9 longer here. They are no longer a part of our tax  
10 base and they are never again going to be a part of  
11 it.

12 We have to a certain extent been  
13 able to reinvent ourselves into an area that is  
14 very proud of our three major food processing  
15 plants in this area. But they are industries that  
16 rely on a number of things and one of them is  
17 reliable and inexpensive electricity.

18 This program is going to deliver  
19 it to them in more than one way because not only  
20 does it deliver to them because we will have better  
21 reliability if we have the ability for N.R.G. to be  
22 here. We're also going to have the stability that  
23 comes with it with having the ability to know what  
24 our future is going to be. We thought that we had  
25 that here in this community a number of times in

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2 regard to the steam station.

3 Going back to when -- the first  
4 PILOT agreement when it was previously owned by  
5 Niagara Mohawk, every time that we signed an  
6 agreement with -- with a company we felt that well,  
7 here we are, now we have the stability that we  
8 need. Now we have the base that our other  
9 industries can see, we have a future.

10 The last PILOT agreement which  
11 was signed I believe three or four years ago went  
12 out fourteen, fifteen years guaranteeing us a  
13 future. But now here we are after a two hundred  
14 million dollar investment to clean up what  
15 everybody would admit going back thirty years ago  
16 was not a pretty plant.

17 I happened to have the pleasure  
18 of living about a thousand feet from the plant.  
19 I've lived through the days when I first moved into  
20 my house in 1977 where I was foolish to go as the  
21 first new car that we bought, bought a white car,  
22 and didn't keep that long in that neighborhood,  
23 next to a coal burning plant. But we've lived  
24 through those days and we've worked with Niagara  
25 Mohawk and we've worked with N.R.G.

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2 We are down to a point where  
3 there aren't many chances left. And this is  
4 something that from the youth that were here  
5 earlier from the Little League Program to I don't  
6 know if you realize it, but senior citizens that  
7 were bused from Dunkirk to come up here because  
8 they felt it important enough to come, but didn't  
9 want to have the responsibility of driving up here.  
10 So buses were arranged for them to get here. Every  
11 segment of our community was represented here  
12 tonight.

13 In closing I would just like to  
14 ask the Public Service Commission as a resident of  
15 Dunkirk, as the fire chief in the city of Dunkirk,  
16 as a county legislator for years I've been involved  
17 in government. And I've had discussions with state  
18 senators and assemblymen and congressmen and  
19 governors, do you know that western New York even  
20 goes past Buffalo?

21 Do you realize that there are  
22 counties like Chautauqua and Cattaraugus and  
23 Allegany? We need your help to the Commissioners.

24 And yes, this is an issue that  
25 goes beyond the economics and the feelings of the



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2 people and there are a lot of feelings on all  
3 sides. We need your help.

4 We need somebody in New York  
5 State government to say there are people that live  
6 in western New York, they deserve our help, they  
7 deserve the ability to do something for themselves  
8 and to be involved with a company like N.R.G. that  
9 had shown that they are a good partner in our  
10 community.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BORRELLO: Hi everybody. I'm  
13 George Borrello. I'm a Chautauqua County legislator  
14 and also a member of the Planning and Economic  
15 Development Committee. Thank you for coming here  
16 tonight.

17 During the cold war Joseph Stalin  
18 referred to American Communist sympathizers, he had  
19 a term for them, he called them useful idiots  
20 because they had no idea what they were actually  
21 supporting was his totalitarian police state.

22 While have watched this process  
23 as the Sierra Club and the Business Council of New  
24 York have become National Grid's useful idiots.  
25 That is the problem. They have sacrificed their

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2 principles and their core beliefs for something  
3 that is snake oil.

4 As far as Mr. -- the gentleman  
5 from National Grid's presentation goes, it was --  
6 I'm being kind when I say this, disingenuous, he  
7 wanted to talk to us about how repowering the  
8 Dunkirk plant was going to add cost to delivery.  
9 Yet -- and his words were part of the criteria used  
10 to determine whether or not they were going to  
11 support the transmission line or the plant was in  
12 his words, and I'm quoting here, "minimum impact on  
13 competitive markets." That's an important term.  
14 Minimum impact on competitive markets.

15 So what you're saying, sir, is  
16 you want to make sure the price of electricity  
17 stays up. That's what you're saying, at the  
18 sacrifice of the -- of the people that are paying  
19 the bill and also at the sacrifice of the people  
20 that work and will work -- continue to work at the  
21 plant in Dunkirk.

22 That, sir, is disingenuous.

23 On top of that we also have to  
24 worry about the idea of green energy. And I  
25 understand that green energy is a huge buzz word

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2 here and we've had people come to our county  
3 talking about wind and solar and so forth. But  
4 ladies and gentlemen of the Commission, the only  
5 green involved in wind energy is money. The people  
6 that build wind power plants -- windmills,  
7 industrial wind turbines do so only with taxpayer  
8 money.

9 The electricity that they  
10 generate is only competitive with huge subsidies  
11 from the taxpayers. These people are not in the  
12 green energy business. They're in the government  
13 subsidy business. Let's not forget that.

14 Natural gas is clean and  
15 abundant. And despite what the -- what they've  
16 currently called dirty natural gas, it comes from  
17 the nearly four thousand gas wells that we have  
18 here in Chautauqua County, none of which have been  
19 dug with high volume hydraulic fracturing.

20 This is the future for our county  
21 and for our nation. This is the future of  
22 America's energy independence, clean, abundant  
23 natural gas.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. TAMPIO: Good evening. My

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2 name is Kathy Tampio. I live in Silver Creek just  
3 up the road.

4 As executive director of the  
5 Chadwick Bay Regional Development Corporation I am  
6 expressing our nine municipal members -- I'm  
7 representing our nine municipal members in the  
8 northern Chautauqua County region, which also  
9 includes the city of Dunkirk.

10 Our organization's mission is to  
11 develop, promote and support economic development  
12 projects of regional significance.

13 As you can see, what happens in  
14 Dunkirk does not stay in Dunkirk. What happens in  
15 Dunkirk happens in the Chadwick Bay region. What  
16 happens in Dunkirk happens in Chautauqua County.  
17 And what happens in Dunkirk happens in western New  
18 York.

19 This region continues to face  
20 severe economic challenges that have resulted in  
21 job loss, population loss and an ever-increasing  
22 tax burden on our residents and our businesses.

23 Please don't add to that burden  
24 by allowing the N.R.G. plant to close, an action  
25 that will eliminate many families sustaining jobs

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2 and remove a critical tax contributor to the  
3 functioning of our local governments, the provision  
4 of their services and the city of Dunkirk School  
5 District.

6 Please support the repowering of  
7 the N.R.G. plant, a truly regional project that is  
8 critical to the economy of this region.

9 In my closing comment I have a  
10 very important question: If the decision is made  
11 to close down the N.R.G. plant what is Governor  
12 Cuomo's plan to replace these jobs and this lost  
13 revenue? I would consider it a completely  
14 irresponsible act if the N.R.G. plant is closed  
15 down and the local economy is severely damaged as a  
16 result. Please repower N.R.G.

17 Thank you.

18 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: John Hollins?

19 Todd Trantum?

20 I think we have John.

21 MR. HOLLINS: Yes. Hi. My name  
22 is John Hollins. I'm the unit president for  
23 C.S.E.A. for the Dunkirk School System. We  
24 represent approximately about a hundred and fifteen  
25 people that are affected just like our teachers.

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2 But I'm not going to stand up  
3 here and talk to you about all the things you've  
4 heard all night, but I am going to say something  
5 that means a lot to me at the heart level is when I  
6 watched all our elders walk around you here and  
7 hobble around here in them chairs and we had one  
8 come up and say I worry, I don't understand.

9 And I got one of them that's a  
10 good friend of mine says if that plant closes, we  
11 don't repower he's moving in with me. I don't know  
12 if I'm going to like that or not, but I'll accept  
13 it.

14 But we -- we really support the  
15 repowering. We have to do something. There's got  
16 to be a decision made. Sure, there's a lot of  
17 areas that should be covered, but the most thing is  
18 when we look at our elders that stuck around here  
19 to get us where we are now, and we look at the  
20 children that come up that want to stick around and  
21 have an education, we're killing them. Don't stall  
22 out for the sake of the kids or the elders. Keep  
23 us going and I'll let you go home.

24 MR. TRANUM: Your Honor, members  
25 of the Public Service Commission, good evening.

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2 My name is Todd Trantum. I'm  
3 president and C.E.O. of the Chautauqua County  
4 Chamber of Commerce and I also serve as executive  
5 director of the Manufacturer's Association of the  
6 southern tier.

7 On behalf of our board of  
8 directors we welcome you to -- to Chautauqua  
9 County.

10 Our organization represents one  
11 thousand one hundred businesses and we  
12 unequivocally support the manufacturing of electric  
13 power here in New York State and the repowering of  
14 the N.R.G. Dunkirk facility.

15 We -- we view the decision  
16 regarding the powering of the N.R.G. Dunkirk as a  
17 statement about the future of energy production in  
18 New York State. This project is a clear, defining  
19 point in terms of New York State's energy policy.  
20 Will New York State continue to produce energy or  
21 subject itself to rapidly-changing markets outside  
22 of the state's control?

23 The closure of N.R.G. Dunkirk  
24 will result in New York importing power from states  
25 such as Ohio and Pennsylvania. This power will be

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2 imported from facilities that burn coal at a time  
3 when coal-fired plants are closing.

4 Due to increasing regulatory  
5 pressures from the Environmental Protection Agency  
6 many of the Ohio and Pennsylvania facilities are  
7 scheduling to close down.

8 In recent weeks President Obama  
9 announced new initiatives that will place even more  
10 pressure on coal-burning facilities to close their  
11 operations.

12 Now, notably, the president  
13 simultaneously has supported the conversion from  
14 coal to natural gas. The supply and demand  
15 economics of the situation are simple. Significant  
16 decreases in supply, while demand for electricity  
17 increases leads to dramatic costs increases for  
18 ratepayers.

19 It is estimated that thirty-four  
20 gigawatts of power is scheduled to go offline in  
21 response to E.P.A. rulings. Some of that power is  
22 being decommissioned right now as we speak. If the  
23 N.R.G. Dunkirk facility is forced to close, New  
24 York will be subjected to volatile changing  
25 economics of the market and skyrocketing energy



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2 prices.

3 High energy prices undermine  
4 private-sector growth and New York jobs. Let's  
5 keep New York State in the business of  
6 manufacturing energy.

7 Let's invest in clean, state-of-  
8 the-art technology, let's maintain reliable energy.  
9 Let's support private investment, let's create  
10 jobs, let's repower the N.R.G. Dunkirk facility.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, we ask for  
12 your support and thank you very much.

13 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: The next five  
14 speakers are:

15 Susan Dietzen,  
16 Rock Vallone,  
17 Brian Smith,  
18 Daniel Reininga,  
19 Charley Bowman.

20 Okay. Suzanne?

21 MS. DIETZAN: Hi. My name is  
22 Suzanne Dietzen. I'm a retired teacher aide from  
23 the city of Dunkirk School System.

24 The Dunkirk repowering project  
25 proposed by N.R.G. is very important to the future

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2 of the city of Dunkirk, Chautauqua County and New  
3 York State.

4 N.R.G. is the largest taxpayer in  
5 the city of Dunkirk and Chautauqua County. Our  
6 schools and city receive an enormous share of their  
7 budgets from the N.R.G. PILOT program. If the  
8 N.R.G. plant is closed we will lose jobs, our tax  
9 base for the school, county and city taxes will be  
10 raised to the point that taxpayers will not be able  
11 to afford to live in Dunkirk anymore.

12 Besides massive tax increases, we  
13 will have devastating job layoffs at the schools,  
14 city and county level. We cannot afford to lose  
15 any more jobs from this area or have our school and  
16 property taxes raised so high that we cannot afford  
17 to pay them.

18 People on fixed incomes cannot  
19 afford to pay higher taxes. There will be no  
20 Dunkirk left if this plant is closed.

21 Please save Dunkirk and  
22 Chautauqua County or we'll all have to move  
23 somewhere else and lose everything that we've  
24 worked for all our lives. Thank you.

25 MR. VALLONE: Hello. My name is

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2 Rock Vallone. I live on New Road in Dunkirk. I am  
3 principal of Dunkirk Middle School. I am also  
4 president of the Dunkirk Administrators  
5 Association.

6 And as we have all heard tonight,  
7 the change in N.R.G. and the loss of revenue will  
8 be devastating to the District.

9 I especially have concern at  
10 Dunkirk Middle School. At the middle school we  
11 have approximately just under seventy percent  
12 poverty rate. We have a fourteen percent English  
13 language learning population, L.E.P. population.

14 We have not made adequate yearly  
15 progress, which means we are a focused school. A  
16 focused school means our state scores have not met  
17 the standard that New York State has set for us.

18 We all know that New York State  
19 has added many, many mandates, most of which are  
20 unfunded.

21 Superintendent Cerne and others  
22 from the district have already spoken to you about  
23 the cuts the district has gone through over the --  
24 over time.

25 In my building alone we have lost

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2 fifteen teachers in the last five years and that is  
3 twenty-eight percent of my teaching force.

4 As we start planning for this  
5 upcoming year and the years down the road, I find  
6 it more and more difficult to come up with ways to  
7 make any kind of cuts so that we do not add more  
8 money to the taxpayers burden.

9 I urge you strongly to please  
10 support the N.R.G. repowering of that plant. The  
11 school district desperately needs your assistance  
12 and we need it right now.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. SMITH: Good evening. My  
15 name is Brian Smith and I'm the program and  
16 communications director for Citizens Campaign for  
17 the Environment or C.C.E.

18 I'm here today on behalf of  
19 C.C.E.'s eighty thousand members to voice our  
20 support for transmission upgrades that will benefit  
21 energy efficiency and renewable energy development  
22 as more cost effective and cleaner alternative to  
23 repowering. I also want to say that we recognize  
24 that closing a -- a power plant will have an impact  
25 on the community and we do support New York State

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2 providing leadership and providing assistance to  
3 communities to transition to a clean energy  
4 economy.

5 I want to thank you for the  
6 opportunity to provide comments today. Today we  
7 stand at an energy crossroads in Dunkirk and across  
8 New York State. We can go backwards and once again  
9 shackle ourselves to decades more of fossil fuel  
10 addiction which comes with price volatility,  
11 pollution and fails to diversify our state's energy  
12 portfolio, or we can meet our energy needs more  
13 cheaply by upgrading transmission and paving the  
14 way for the energy of the future, renewables such  
15 as wind and solar, which will create jobs and clean  
16 energy.

17 Despite everything that N.R.G. is  
18 proposing as a state-of-the-art facility, the fact  
19 remains this power plant is not necessary.

20 The ratepayers should not have to  
21 foot the bill for an unnecessary power plant when  
22 we can meet energy needs in a way that is cheaper,  
23 benefits ratepayers, protects public health and our  
24 shared environment. A preferred alternative is  
25 transmission upgrades which due to our aging

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2 transmission system is necessary anyway.

3 Transmission upgrades are less  
4 expensive, increase efficiency and support  
5 renewable energy development. Western New York has  
6 tremendous potential for renewable energy  
7 development with both -- both on shore and off  
8 shore wind as well as small scale and large scale  
9 solar projects.

10 Compared to gas, renewables  
11 provide cleaner energy, more jobs and greater price  
12 stability. Of course renewables do not require  
13 dirty and harmful fuel extraction while gas  
14 extracted by processes that bears unacceptable risk  
15 to our environment and -- and health, which of  
16 course is fracking, whether that happens here in  
17 New York State or neighboring states.

18 Lastly I want to address the  
19 claim that choosing the transmission alternative  
20 will result in dirty power coming from  
21 Pennsylvania.

22 The truth is the same market  
23 forces that are closing Dunkirk as well as  
24 Somerset, Cayuga and other power -- coal-fired  
25 power plants, those market forces are in effect in

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2 other states like Pennsylvania and the transition  
3 is happening there as well. The coal plants are  
4 closing.

5 This transition will only be  
6 hastened by federal regulations addressing mercury  
7 and greenhouse gases. In fact by the time the CO2  
8 regs are implemented on the federal level the New  
9 York independent system operator analysis shows  
10 that power flows actually reverse and New York  
11 State will become a net exporter to Pennsylvania  
12 without repowering Dunkirk.

13 So I want to close by saying  
14 we -- we strongly support transmission as a  
15 cleaner, cheaper and more sustainable option.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. REININGA: Good evening. My  
18 name is Dan Reininga. I'm president and C.E.O. of  
19 Lake Shore Savings Bank. We are a community-based  
20 bank here located in Dunkirk, New York. We have  
21 eleven branches throughout western New York, five  
22 in Chautauqua County and six in Erie County.

23 And I'll be brief because it's  
24 way past my bedtime. So, I just wanted to share a  
25 few statistics with you about our customers.

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2 In Dunkirk we have three hundred  
3 and thirty-five mortgage customers. The average  
4 balance on a home in Dunkirk, borrowed balance  
5 right now is four -- forty-four thousand dollars --  
6 excuse me, forty-four thousand dollars. The  
7 average value of those homes, somewhere in the  
8 neighborhood of fifty-eight thousand dollars. So  
9 we're dealing with our public in Dunkirk.

10 Imagine those three hundred and  
11 thirty-five customers having to shell out an extra  
12 thousand dollars a year plus in real estate taxes.  
13 That has a tremendous impact on buying power for  
14 those customers.

15 Throughout Chautauqua County we  
16 have approximately a hundred and twenty-five  
17 million dollars lent on various properties. And  
18 that's approximately a hundred and -- or excuse me,  
19 a thousand six hundred borrowers. So there's some  
20 substantial impact there as well.

21 We, as a board of directors,  
22 endorse the repower effort. We look forward to the  
23 sustained tax base that N.R.G. brings to Chautauqua  
24 County in the form of their tax payments and their  
25 community service. They have above the line



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2 dividends similar to what Lake Shore believes in  
3 giving back to the community. So we wholeheartedly  
4 endorse the effort to repower.

5 On another side I'm also chairman  
6 of the board of a hopefully soon sixth generation  
7 family business.

8 My daughter's expecting a  
9 grandchild, so that will be six generations working  
10 in Chautauqua County, born, raised here since 1905.

11 We have approximately thirty-five  
12 million dollars worth of investment in Chautauqua  
13 County and that does not play well if one of the  
14 major taxpayers leaves Chautauqua County.

15 We do a lot of housing for  
16 elderly, disabled folks, et cetera, that otherwise  
17 might not be able to find a reasonable place to  
18 live. And we surely would like to see a broad tax  
19 base to continue to support that activity of giving  
20 back to our community through that business as  
21 well.

22 So thank you for the air time. I  
23 appreciate the repower effort and I think it's the  
24 right decision and I look forward to what the  
25 outcome is because of that.

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2 Thank you.

3 MR. BOWMAN: Charley Bowman.

4 I'm the interim director of the  
5 Western New York Peace Center in Buffalo, New York.

6 I'd like to propose that the  
7 debate be expanded to a thorough analysis for  
8 renewable energy. Renewable energy is a gold mine.

9 Now why do I say that? The  
10 N.Y.P.A., New York Power Authority, has roughly two  
11 point eight billion in the bank and their annual  
12 income is around two hundred million and a lot of  
13 that is generated from hydro power.

14 So, the second thing is that  
15 Canada is going renewable -- Ontario is going --  
16 the province of Ontario is going renewable big  
17 time. They have created a FIT program, a feed-in  
18 tariff that was mentioned by Diane earlier, and  
19 that attracted five billion dollars of investment  
20 from Samsung.

21 And they are building -- they  
22 have built plants that hire expensive Canadian  
23 labor to build wind generation and solar panels.

24 Now, everybody on this panel  
25 should be asking why didn't Samsung invest that in

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2 Upstate New York? Why? Because Upstate New York  
3 or New York entirely doesn't have a feed-in  
4 program.

5 So Samsung took their five  
6 billion dollars and they dumped it on Ontario.  
7 They didn't dump it in China, where labor is cheap.  
8 They dumped it in Ontario where labor is expensive.  
9 It's just as expensive as New York State. Okay?

10 So we should really get this  
11 feed-in tariff going. New York State does not have  
12 a solar project in the pipeline over one megawatt.

13 Every other municipality around  
14 New York State is going gangbusters on it whether  
15 or not they have a feed-in tariff. Ohio has  
16 sixty-eight megawatts under development or  
17 planning. Pennsylvania has thirty. New Jersey has  
18 a hundred and twenty-nine. Massachusetts has  
19 forty-two megawatts. Tiny little Vermont has  
20 seven.

21 Ontario has seventy-one  
22 individual projects larger than one megawatt in the  
23 planning or development stages. New York State has  
24 zero. Why does New York State hate solar energy?

25 The Jacobson Paper, as I

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2 indicated earlier, and which I gave the Public  
3 Service Commission a copy of, they outline a plan  
4 over seventeen years where New York State can  
5 generate its entire electrical needs from renewable  
6 energy.

7 And for the solar aspect of that  
8 they could build eight hundred and twenty-eight  
9 fifty megawatt solar farms, five million rooftop  
10 solar panels -- individual five kilowatt solar  
11 panels, five hundred thousand solar panels on  
12 commercial farms -- commercial -- on commercial  
13 establishments.

14 All this would reduce the deaths  
15 in New York State from air pollution by four  
16 thousand. And the medical costs associated with  
17 the four thousand deaths would more than pay for  
18 this expensive prospect of transferring all our  
19 energy, removing ourselves from dependency on  
20 fossil fuels.

21 And everybody is yelling about  
22 reliability. Everybody is yelling about the  
23 sensitivity of transmission lines. Well, the  
24 sensitivity of transmission line problem goes away  
25 when we all generate our electrical power locally

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2 like this building. The parking lot where I parked  
3 my car is hotter than hell. Why? Because there's  
4 no solar panels overhead generating electricity.  
5 So why isn't SUNY Fredonia using its parking lot to  
6 generate solar energy?

7 The sixty-three acres out there  
8 on the -- on the waterfront which is where the  
9 Dunkirk -- Dunkirk coal plant is could be  
10 generating thirteen megawatts of solar energy and  
11 they could be making that into a public park and  
12 downtown Dunkirk would have a beautiful view of the  
13 sunset over Lake Erie.

14 It lessens the loads on -- on  
15 power lines if we generate locally throughout the  
16 state. The jobs -- let me tell you about --  
17 everybody's worried about jobs.

18 If New York State is generating  
19 all its electricity from solar -- or from renewable  
20 energy there will be fifty-eight thousand jobs  
21 in -- in the utility industry.

22 Right now New York State has  
23 thirty-seven thousand one hundred people working in  
24 the utility industry. They have five thousand  
25 seven hundred jobs working in mining. If you add

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2 those up, they got then forty-two thousand jobs  
3 working in the utility industry.

4 If we go renewables we'll  
5 increase that by fifteen thousand jobs. If we  
6 build solar farms around Dunkirk and Fredonia to  
7 produce four hundred megawatts we'll have a hundred  
8 and twenty jobs in Dunkirk and Fredonia. And I'll  
9 tell you those jobs will never, never, never go  
10 away. They will be there as long as the sun shines  
11 for millions of years.

12 They will be -- the solar energy  
13 is independent of market forces. We don't have to  
14 worry about the world price of photons. We don't  
15 have to worry about the world price of wind  
16 energy -- of wind that will be out there to turn  
17 the blades. The solar energy will be impinging on  
18 the solar farms and those hundred and twenty people  
19 employed around Dunkirk/Fredonia will be there  
20 forever.

21 Thank you.

22 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: The next five  
23 speakers:

24 Mark Gruber,  
25 Sandra Tapasto,

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2 Valerie Pawlak,  
3 Ang Bennice and  
4 Don Stegar.

5 Anyone of those five can come up  
6 and just remember to state your name for the  
7 record.

8 MR. GRUBER: Good evening. My  
9 name is Mark Gruber. I'm a nine-and-a-half year  
10 veteran police officer of the city of Dunkirk  
11 Police Department. I've also had the honor of  
12 representing the Dunkirk P.D.A. as their president.

13 I don't envy the position that  
14 you're in. Hard decisions have to be made that  
15 will impact the citizens of Dunkirk, Chautauqua  
16 County and western New York now and for years to  
17 come.

18 I don't believe there's anyone in  
19 this room that would enjoy seeing any employee lose  
20 their job. The idea of not only an N.R.G.  
21 employee, but an American at work is one that we  
22 all hold dear.

23 In a perfect world everyone  
24 wanting a job would be employed, live in their  
25 dream home, drive their dream car and be able to

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2 provide for their families in every way.

3 Unfortunately, we are not in a  
4 perfect world. Jobs are at a premium. The  
5 able-bodied workforce in the country has to fight  
6 for jobs just to make work -- make ends meet. The  
7 economy struggles both locally and nationally and  
8 financial nest eggs that can be left to the next  
9 generation are becoming a thing of the past.

10 To state the obvious, this is not  
11 the time to be talking about layoffs and closures.  
12 The results of such an event would be catastrophic  
13 to the region and its people. If you can picture  
14 the results.

15 N.R.G. closes and many lose their  
16 jobs. They're forced to leave the area to find  
17 employment. Some will leave New York State  
18 altogether.

19 We're not talking about  
20 twenty-one-year-old single men and women who would  
21 have an easier time rearranging their lives. Men  
22 and women with families and homes would be  
23 affected, forced to find jobs to pay bills or pick  
24 up roots and start over.

25 Then there's the local economy.



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2 The loss of the area's major taxpayer would  
3 devastate the region. The local government would  
4 be forced to raise taxes by an unbelievable amount  
5 simply to stay in operation. The building would  
6 sit idle, becoming a haven for transients and  
7 rodents or perhaps it would be demolished. An  
8 empty lot would then decorate the lakefront.

9 As more are unemployed and taxes  
10 increase the inevitable would then happen, crime  
11 will increase. There will be less police officers,  
12 firefighters, teachers, and E.M.S. personnel in the  
13 city because simply the city cannot afford to pay  
14 them.

15 If you think that this nightmare  
16 scenario cannot happen, it already did. A short  
17 drive up Route 5 and you come to the city of  
18 Lackawanna, New York and south Buffalo. Bethlehem  
19 Steel and Republic Steel were icons in a time where  
20 steel was king. In the early 1980s as a result of  
21 foreign competition both were forced to close their  
22 doors. Thousands were laid off, my father, Steve  
23 Gruber among them.

24 In October of 1982 Bethlehem  
25 Steel closed for good, laying off six thousand

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2 people. The city of Lackawanna's population  
3 dwindled. The citizens faced extreme large tax  
4 increases just to keep their basic services in  
5 operation. The amount of taxes paid to Lackawanna  
6 by the steel giants fell from sixty-six percent of  
7 the city's revenue to eight percent.

8 Lackawanna and western New York  
9 were crushed and still struggle to recover to this  
10 day. Please don't let this happen in Dunkirk. You  
11 can stop history from repeating itself. Don't  
12 allow Dunkirk to become another notch on the rust  
13 belt and repower N.R.G. Thank you.

14 MS. TOPASTO: Welcome -- welcome  
15 the Public Service Commission and your Honorable  
16 Kim Harriman and guests and distinguished  
17 legislators.

18 I came tonight not knowing what  
19 to expect. I thought I'd be for National Grid,  
20 until I heard the whole story. And now I seem  
21 to -- I'm convinced that we must repower Dunkirk.  
22 And we -- and I appreciate the -- the money you'll  
23 help to save our city and our Western New York  
24 which consists of so many beautiful families and  
25 our land is one of great agriculture and our lake

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2 and it's just a beautiful area, as you know.

3 And I do thank National Grid for  
4 all the help they have done for over the years.  
5 I've been a resident here for seventy years. I'm a  
6 taxpayer of Dunkirk.

7 And my main concern was the word  
8 fracking. I was so upset about the word fracking  
9 that until I came tonight I never realized that  
10 there were four hundred wells.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Four  
12 thousand.

13 MS. TOPASTO: Four thousand?

14 Four thousand wells and they  
15 wouldn't have to do fracking and that's what  
16 changed my mind. But I was thinking -- but I was  
17 thinking as we got more richer with the global  
18 energy units it would be selling, exporting our  
19 energy out to other places. I thought well, maybe  
20 the people would be tempted to do fracking to -- to  
21 give them more -- more natural gas. But I did have  
22 a word of caution. I am worried about the quality  
23 of water, which would be a tradeoff if -- if this  
24 wasn't done right. And I -- I was also worried --  
25 you know, at -- at first I wondered how that you

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2 would get the gas and I realize it's already there.

3 And another concern I had was who  
4 will control the fracking industry. Who will  
5 better regulate it? I worry about -- being a nurse  
6 I know about nuclear fallout and I'm concerned  
7 about West Valley.

8 It's thirty miles from here and  
9 who's to say where they can drill? Who's to say --  
10 who's to tell them how far you can go to West  
11 Valley to drill for gas?

12 I know in 1972 they closed West  
13 Valley because there was a leaching of nuclear  
14 material in the groundwater, which left a six  
15 hundred thousand gallon tank of highly radioactive  
16 material and leached into the ground to Buttermilk  
17 Creek, the Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie.

18 And I know western New York has  
19 taken a great hit with the high cancer deaths. And  
20 I also know that western New York is on an  
21 earthquake fault along Route 20, Zoar Valley and  
22 Attica.

23 I guess that's all I have to say.

24 I just wanted just to give a word  
25 of caution that as we go ahead that we're

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2 careful -- that we're careful and we do the right  
3 thing everyday. And I'm so proud of this  
4 community. I just love everyone for coming to  
5 speak. I never saw so many -- so many people in  
6 one gathering like this with such animation to save  
7 their community and I thank them all for coming and  
8 I thank you for coming. And I thank you --.

9 MS. POWLAK: Hi. I'm Valerie  
10 Powlak, a Dunkirk resident, but I'd like to say  
11 thank you for being patient with us and listening  
12 to every one of us. And I will have questions for  
13 N.R.G. and one for National Grid.

14 But I must read -- and to begin  
15 with N.R.G. plant is not going anywhere. It's an  
16 icon on the Dunkirk harbor, isn't that true?

17 And I'm older than that plant to  
18 begin with. And my dad even built the smokestacks  
19 on that plant. So I have been following it. But I  
20 have questions environmentally. But I must read  
21 this first and then I will ask them. And thank  
22 you -- and thank you for coming, Cathy, for all  
23 your work.

24 As a member of the Federal Great  
25 Lakes Council our concern for what happens to the

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2 N.R.G. plant is most important, not only as a tax  
3 helper for our city of Dunkirk, but also Chautauqua  
4 County and our New York State.

5 N.R.G. must not close and they  
6 won't. They will stay one way or another.

7 Let's see. Okay. I lost my  
8 train of thought. N.R.G.'s -- okay. N.R.G. must  
9 not close. Over the years N.R.G. has spent a lot  
10 of money to upgrade their plant when even it was --  
11 whenever it was needed especially environmentally,  
12 true?

13 The Federal E.P.A. always sat  
14 down the rules and they have abided by them. Why?  
15 The reason being our Dunkirk drinking water filter  
16 plant sits right next to the N.R.G. plant. Water  
17 from our Lake Erie must be safe for consumption.

18 This is most important if Dunkirk  
19 gets to become the regional supplier of good safe  
20 water throughout the county. Now this is our only  
21 business and industry right now. We need to make  
22 money for our city to survive.

23 This is why we must be very  
24 cautious of what happens to our N.R.G. plant  
25 environmentally. Also what effect does it have on

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2 our lake water -- Lake Erie waters -- waters  
3 especially our waste treatment plant, which we know  
4 some of the waste has to go there.

5 Our question to N.R.G., if you  
6 repower with -- with gas what effect will there be  
7 on our Lake Erie environmentally? What are the  
8 waste?

9 MR. DOLCE: Right now the plant  
10 uses Lake Erie water for cooling.

11 MS. POWLAK: Right.

12 MR. DOLCE: And if we repower the  
13 units, then you would substantially reduce the  
14 amount of water that you would use for cooling.

15 And I don't remember the number  
16 off the top of my head, but I think it's in the  
17 magnitude of like eighty or ninety percent. It's  
18 a -- it's a very large reduction in the amount of  
19 water that you would use.

20 MS. POWLAK: Well, like now with  
21 National Grid and -- and with you, we have waste  
22 going to the waste treatment plant and you treat --  
23 we have it treated. We know what it is.

24 We don't know what the gas will  
25 be because there is no smell, there is no odor,

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2 there is no taste. What do they do?

3 And besides, you've got to have  
4 something that's going to the waste treatment plant  
5 from your water. What would it be or how would you  
6 treat it? How would you know?

7 MR. DOLCE: Yeah. I -- I think  
8 one of the issues that's -- that's raised in -- in  
9 some popular movies that are out right now is  
10 about, you know, the -- with -- with fracking  
11 and -- and whether gas is escaping into water  
12 that's being used --

13 MS. POWLAK: Right.

14 MR. DOLCE: -- for drinking  
15 water. What we're proposing at Dunkirk is not to  
16 drill any wells.

17 MS. POWLAK: Right.

18 MR. DOLCE: What we're proposing  
19 is to connect a pipeline to an existing pipeline  
20 that's been in service for decades, long before  
21 fracking has become popular in states like  
22 Pennsylvania.

23 MS. POWLAK: Okay.

24 MR. DOLCE: So we would actually  
25 not be drilling any wells in the Dunkirk area.



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2 MS. POWLAK: No?

3 MR. DOLCE: We would just be  
4 supplied from that pipeline that already exists.

5 MS. POWLAK: You know, but there  
6 still has to be some kind of waste because like I  
7 said, with -- with -- now you have the sulfur and  
8 you have the mercury, you have everything.

9 We're -- we watch you, the Great  
10 Lakes because Lake Erie is international waters.  
11 We watch it very closely for security, as you know,  
12 and for pollution.

13 MR. DOLCE: Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. PAWLAK: And you have been  
15 abiding by the laws with E.P.A.

16 MR. DOLCE: Well --.

17 MS. PAWLAK: This is so true.

18 MR. DOLCE: Yes.

19 MS. PAWLAK: Okay. For -- for  
20 N.R.G. -- wasn't there a program that we were told  
21 that N.R.G. would run the lines all the way along  
22 the coast of New York State starting from our  
23 plant, going up to Oswego and to all of them and  
24 this would generate the new energy? We were told  
25 that before.

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2 MR. DOLCE: I'm not familiar with  
3 the plan you're referring to.

4 MS. PAWLAK: But wouldn't that  
5 make sense? We would have our own -- own energy,  
6 we wouldn't have to worry about anybody else along  
7 the coast of New York State. And this would be  
8 starting with our plant.

9 But like I said, whatever is  
10 going to be here, you know, it will, but you've got  
11 to be very concerned what is going in our water --  
12 in our Lake Erie water.

13 Thank you. Thank you.

14 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Next five  
15 speakers:

16 M. Jakulric, J-A-K-U-L-R-I-C,  
17 Randolph Kinner,  
18 Zachary Torain,  
19 Ken Shearer?

20 MR. SHEARER: Good evening. My  
21 name is Ken Shearer. I'm the chairman of the  
22 Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce.

23 But first I'd like to say  
24 something to you on a personal note. I was born  
25 and raised in Chautauqua County. My wife was born

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2 and raised in Chautauqua County. Twenty-three  
3 years ago we got married, bought the business that  
4 we worked for. We still own that business, I still  
5 work there everyday. I have four kids here in  
6 Chautauqua County. People say how's it going, Ken,  
7 and I say hey, I'm living the dream. And my hope  
8 is that when you go back to your board choose the  
9 repower Dunkirk and let my four kids and the rest  
10 of the kids here in Chautauqua County continue to  
11 chase their dream right here at home.

12 On the other side, as chairman, I  
13 want to represent the county chamber board of  
14 directors. I want to welcome you. Thank you for  
15 coming to Chautauqua County to hear us on this  
16 important issue.

17 The repowering of Dunkirk N.R.G.  
18 facility is critically important to the business  
19 community and the region as a whole. Reliable,  
20 affordable power is essential to the business  
21 community if we are to retain current employment  
22 levels and grow in the future. Unfortunately some  
23 organizations have written off the western New York  
24 economy and believe there's no need for the power  
25 generated by the N.R.G. plant. Other organizations

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2 seem to suggest that there is a magic switch that  
3 can be pulled to generate one hundred percent  
4 renewable energy overnight.

5 We believe that western New York  
6 has a strong economic future and we believe that  
7 there is demand for power generated in Western New  
8 York. We also believe there's a vibrant future  
9 ahead for the renewable energy.

10 However to get a future state of  
11 a strong economy and a region that boasts renewable  
12 energy assets we must repower the energy facility.

13 We need the power to grow our  
14 businesses. We need state-of-the-art natural gas  
15 technology to bridge us to a future that also  
16 includes renewable energy sources.

17 Failure to repower the N.R.G.  
18 facility will undermine our regional economy and  
19 hurt our businesses. The tax impact of losing  
20 N.R.G. will be devastating to the city of Dunkirk  
21 School District, the city of Dunkirk and Chautauqua  
22 County as a whole.

23 There will undoubtedly be  
24 significant tax increases that will unfortunately  
25 drive businesses out of business or out of the

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2 state, delay hiring decisions and postpone  
3 investments. We ask for you to approve repowering  
4 the N.R.G. Dunkirk facility to help our businesses,  
5 help our communities and bring hope to the economic  
6 future of Chautauqua County, our region and all of  
7 New York State. Thank you.

8 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Vince Horrigan?

9 MR. HARRIGAN: Good evening.

10 Vince Horrigan. I'm a Chautauqua County  
11 legislator. In full disclosure, the gentleman that  
12 was next to me, I'm running against him for  
13 Chautauqua County executive and I'll tell you we  
14 may have debate in the future, but not tonight.

15 Tonight there's clearly one  
16 winning strategy and that's to repower N.R.G.  
17 I want to tell you a story that happened to me four  
18 years ago. It was about two-thirty in the morning.  
19 I received a call. We have a major disaster in  
20 Chautauqua County.

21 The phone rang a second time. We  
22 have two major disasters, flooding hit Silver Creek  
23 and Gowanda, level three disaster. We mobilized  
24 every possible resource we had along with county  
25 government, firefighters, police. Fifty homes were

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2 destroyed. Two hundred and fifty people needed  
3 immediate financial assistance. We opened  
4 shelters.

5 At the time I was the director of  
6 the American Red Cross of southwestern New York.  
7 And on the way there I thought to myself My God,  
8 how are we going to handle this. It's three in the  
9 morning, two disasters, how are we going to do  
10 this?

11 But you know what, there is a  
12 company that put their arms around this community.  
13 N.R.G. for the last nearly decade has supported  
14 disaster relief and training in this community  
15 above of what we're talking about and they are a  
16 company that clearly puts their arms around and  
17 cares about their community. Thank you, N.R.G.

18 I'd like to thank members of the  
19 Commission, your Honor, I'd like to thank N.R.G.

20 For twenty-eight years I was in  
21 the Air Force. I had to approve combat pay. You  
22 deserve combat pay tonight, sir. So I thank you  
23 for doing that. We -- some of us wondered, you  
24 know, how will this information be brought back to  
25 the Commission and you have a lot of

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2 responsibility. But one thing that this did,  
3 thanks to the leadership of Senator Young and  
4 Assemblyman Goodell, our county executive, Greg  
5 Edwards, Tom Reed, our Congressman, you've been  
6 able to see the faces and hear the voices.

7 And what I would say to you,  
8 please when you go back and enter your  
9 deliberations on this, please tell the stories of  
10 the faces and the voices that are going to be so  
11 directly impacted by your decision. It's a big  
12 responsibility. We hear about ratepayers, we hear  
13 about customers. But ladies and gentlemen, the  
14 citizens of Chautauqua County are here tonight  
15 imploring and asking you for your support to  
16 repower N.R.G.

17 Thank you.

18 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Richard Makach,  
19 M-A-K-A-C-H?

20 You have horrible writing.

21 M-A -- that's a U?

22 MR. MAKUCH: I wrote this so many  
23 times. When I wrote it -- I can't even read this  
24 now because I'm waiting here so long. But God  
25 bless Cathy Young, Andy Goodell and N.R.G. Power.

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2 My name is Richard Makuch. I'm a  
3 New York State taxpayer and resident of the city of  
4 Dunkirk and I'm also a past member of the Dunkirk  
5 City Council.

6 For those who oppose this, pay  
7 our taxes or get out of here because my concern is  
8 not only the closing of the Niagara Mohawk Power  
9 Plant and the jobs that will be lost. But also the  
10 tax burden on this community and the elderly on a  
11 fixed income. You've heard this before.

12 The Niagara Mohawk Plant has  
13 cooperated with the state of New York and the  
14 Public Service Commission by changing over to gas  
15 for cleaner fuel. They will invest their own money  
16 to transfer an upgrade to gas. So my question is:  
17 What's the problem? What -- what is the problem  
18 for this?

19 This plant is a Public Service  
20 Commission -- exactly what it means, public. We  
21 are the public who pays taxes, which I am sure the  
22 P.S.C. exists on.

23 My question is: Why don't these  
24 people who object to pollution go to Pennsylvania  
25 where there's no regulation on pollution and leave



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2 us alone. Because if the National Grid and P.S.C.  
3 want to take the responsibility of jobs loss,  
4 people losing their homes, seniors on a fixed --  
5 fixed income starving or worse, no health care, do  
6 they care? And those who object to this plant, do  
7 they want that on their conscious for the rest of  
8 their life?

9 Environment issues is on  
10 everyone's mind, including those who object to this  
11 plant. But the corrections are in the future for  
12 this plant. That is showing a responsibility to  
13 the citizens of this city and this county.

14 The governor said on T.V. that he  
15 is business friendly and I think he should show it  
16 for this area of New York State. It's time we were  
17 recognized. And last, but not least, this college  
18 should support this community. After all they work  
19 here and receive taxpayers money. And why do we as  
20 a community have to defend ourselves when everyone  
21 here knows we as a community will be destroyed if  
22 this doesn't go through. So why are we not  
23 protected by the state of New York that says they  
24 are business friendly?

25 Thank you for your time.

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2 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Jim Enser?

3 MR. ENSER: Thank you ladies and  
4 gentlemen for the opportunity to speak.

5 My name is Jim Enser. My wife  
6 and I live here in the city of Dunkirk. We met in  
7 this building in 1975. We were married, decided to  
8 make our home in the city of Dunkirk. We can  
9 almost see the plant from where we live.

10 I am the current board president  
11 of the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua  
12 County. I have been for about five years.

13 And N.R.G. has been a great,  
14 tremendous community partner. I want to thank you  
15 for all the support you gentlemen and the -- and  
16 the -- and the community action team has provided  
17 us over the past many years and I hope it  
18 continues.

19 You've supported us not only  
20 financially, but with a lot of volunteer help as  
21 well through the community action team. In a  
22 couple of weeks we will have our annual golf  
23 tournament, August 2nd.

24 The N.R.G. has been the title  
25 sponsor for that golf tournament for many years and

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2 not only through their financial support, but by  
3 leveraging support from their vendors and others.

4 It generates fully twenty-five  
5 percent of our annual operating budget. On the  
6 other hand, gentlemen, National Grid hasn't ever  
7 supported us.

8 I appeal to the Public Service  
9 Commission to decide in favor of the N.R.G.  
10 proposal. Just as the Boys and Girls Club of  
11 Northern Chautauqua County is the positive place  
12 for kids, please make the city of Dunkirk the  
13 positive place for N.R.G.

14 Thank you.

15 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Jay Warren?

16 Larry Barmore?

17 Joanne Haase?

18 Gerald Haase?

19 Glenn Wahl?

20 MR. WAHL: Good evening. Tonight  
21 I'm representing one of our local environmental  
22 groups, Cattaraugus Chautauqua For Clean Water.

23 I usually add source citations to  
24 anything I write, but I didn't take the time this  
25 time. But if you're interested in seeing any of

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2 the original sources for the information, I'd be  
3 glad to email you the links.

4 Repowering the Dunkirk Power  
5 Plant with natural gas seems like a great idea.  
6 After all, we hear from the industry that natural  
7 gas is clean, cheap and safe. They state that the  
8 U.S. has over a hundred-year supply.

9 The extraction method used to get  
10 that gas is high volume hydro-fracturing, also  
11 deemed safe and reliable by the gas industry, with  
12 no contamination of ground or surface water ever  
13 being caused.

14 So yes, if one used those  
15 statements to form an opinion, converting the  
16 Dunkirk plant to natural gas is a wonderful idea.  
17 However, every one of those statements I just gave  
18 about natural gas, which are commonly stated by the  
19 industry and by those who support it, are either  
20 partially or wholly false. So the opinion that it  
21 would be a good idea to convert to natural gas  
22 follows to be invalid.

23 I would like to take my few  
24 minutes to elaborate on this a bit and to offer a  
25 better suggestion to Dunkirk and the region because

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2 apparently this wasn't given consideration. And if  
3 you don't ask the right questions how do you get  
4 the right answers? Your choice between repowering  
5 with natural gas or not repowering at all, I think  
6 is a false choice.

7 I think there are a lot of other  
8 choices that you could be looking at, anywhere from  
9 a hundred percent renewable to different  
10 combinations of renewables and natural gas. To get  
11 the natural gas increasingly it's obtained by  
12 fracking, even if you start out with local wells,  
13 conventional wells that have been fracked, but not  
14 the new way, eventually over the next few years,  
15 decades, whatever, you will be ending up using  
16 fracked gas.

17 And for Cathy Young to say that  
18 speaking of fracking as a red herring tonight, I  
19 think is not quite on the mark because of what I  
20 just mentioned. I think in fact it's a  
21 foundational question to ask and to talk about.

22 So fracking has various negative  
23 impacts in virtually every stage of the process,  
24 from the industrialization of our rural countryside  
25 to extremely high volumes of water used per well

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2 along with sand, which has developed its own set of  
3 health and environmental problems in the Wisconsin  
4 area, and along with one to four hundred tons, not  
5 pounds, but tons of chemicals used per well, many  
6 of which are toxic to humans and other life; from  
7 high well casing failure rates, which have been  
8 getting worse over the past few years rather than  
9 better, to hundreds of cases of water supply  
10 contamination, both by methane and heavy metals and  
11 other materials from the frack fluid and from the  
12 shell formations below; from two million gallons of  
13 toxic waste left in each well even though studies  
14 have shown this can over time migrate to near  
15 surface aquifers, to other fracking waste, often  
16 radioactive as well as chemically toxic that have  
17 been poorly treated and dumped in our rivers or  
18 landfills as if they were household garbage instead  
19 of the hazardous waste they are; from the gas  
20 industry being exempt from seven major  
21 environmental laws including the Clean Water Act,  
22 which is why those waste aren't treated as  
23 hazardous, to methods used by the gas industry to  
24 squelch information about their dark side,  
25 nondisclosure statements signed by homeowners whose

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2 water has been contaminated, gag orders on doctors  
3 who cannot communicate to their patients or even  
4 other doctors about fracking-related illness; from  
5 high levels of methane leaks at many stages in the  
6 extraction, refining and distribution of natural  
7 gas, giving it the dubious honor of being the  
8 dirtiest fossil fuel in terms of global climate  
9 destabilization, to hundreds of cases of human  
10 health impacts and other negative societal and  
11 economic impacts; from accidents, spills and  
12 explosions to intentional legal and illegal dumping  
13 of toxic fracking waste on our roads and throughout  
14 our region even though high volume hydro-fracturing  
15 is still illegal in New York.

16 For these and many other reasons  
17 millions of people all over the world are working  
18 to keep fracking out of their country, out of their  
19 state or out of their town.

20 Many countries have banned it as  
21 have two states in the U.S. and over one hundred  
22 and sixty towns and villages in New York State. So  
23 it makes sense if we don't allow a dangerous  
24 extraction method to be used in our state, that we  
25 also work to reduce consumption of the product of

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2 that extraction. Repowering the Dunkirk plant with  
3 natural gas would go counter to that.

4 I should also say something about  
5 the price and supply of natural gas. It is  
6 incredibly inexpensive now due to over-production  
7 by the industry.

8 Some think that was accidental,  
9 but I think it was intentional. They over-produced  
10 it because they knew the price of natural gas would  
11 plummet and when that happened municipal power  
12 plants such as the Dunkirk plant started converting  
13 to natural gas.

14 Municipal and private vehicle  
15 fleets have also converted along with many home  
16 heating systems. The result is that demand for  
17 natural gas is increasing, which will by itself  
18 tend to increase the price. Add in the exporting  
19 of twenty to forty percent of U.S. reserves of  
20 natural gas overseas, which will likely start in  
21 just a year or so, and our rock bottom gas prices  
22 will start climbing.

23 When the rest of the world pays  
24 two to six times what we do, we can't expect our  
25 prices to stay even close to the same once our



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2 natural gas is sold as a world commodity.

3 The third thing that will cause  
4 an increase in our prices will be much lower  
5 domestic supply than the industry has claimed.

6 Well depletion rates from  
7 conventional gas are high and getting higher. Many  
8 of the sweet spots have been used and so each new  
9 well produces less gas than the earlier wells did.

10 More wells have to be drilled  
11 just to keep production level and the input versus  
12 output ratios for both energy used and cost are  
13 greatly increasing.

14 We keep having to put more energy  
15 and money in, but we're getting less energy and  
16 value out. While we won't technically run out of  
17 natural gas for many centuries, many analysts show  
18 that it will likely be just a few decades before  
19 natural gas prices are out of reach for the average  
20 consumer.

21 And while natural gas costs will  
22 be climbing in the not-so-distant future, renewable  
23 energy sources see their prices continue to drop.  
24 Even though things like solar have historically  
25 been far less expensive than fossil fuels over the

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2 long-term it is the initial investment that has  
3 kept many businesses, municipalities and homeowners  
4 from investing in solar. But that's changing.

5 The price of solar has dropped  
6 fifty percent in the last five years and is now  
7 competitive with natural gas, even at the low  
8 natural gas prices we've seen. That's why people  
9 like me have installed solar panels and we pay zero  
10 electric bills. We know that our panels won't just  
11 pay for themselves over their useful life, but will  
12 actually make money.

13 No fossil fuel including natural  
14 gas can say anything like that. While fossil fuel  
15 prices climb, renewable fuel prices remain at zero.  
16 The fuel is free.

17 The state of Georgia just  
18 announced that it will retire many of its coal  
19 plants and add seven hundred and thirty megawatts  
20 of solar.

21 Closer to home, it was recently  
22 announced just in the last few days that the  
23 Cummings plant in Jamestown will soon install two  
24 megawatts in solar panels and Wegmans in Lakewood  
25 will add a five hundred and thirty-six kilowatt

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2 system to its roof, which is about a hundred times  
3 the size of mine.

4 And despite solar and wind too  
5 becoming not only competitive, but soon cheaper  
6 than fossil fuels, I heard that renewables weren't  
7 even considered in the discussions about the  
8 Dunkirk plant.

9 I hope the person who told me  
10 that was incorrect, but if it's true I wouldn't be  
11 surprised given the amount of money the gas  
12 corporations have given our local state and  
13 national representatives.

14 So while I haven't had the time  
15 to fully expand on all these ideas, I hope I've  
16 presented enough information to help convince you  
17 that if you repower the Dunkirk plant with natural  
18 gas you'll likely be facing continually rising fuel  
19 prices and all the associated health and  
20 environmental issues associated with that energy  
21 source.

22 If you instead examine what  
23 efficiency and renewables could bring to the table  
24 and how in the long-term that would be a much less  
25 expensive choice, not just in money, but in all the

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2 other environmental health costs as well, the  
3 decision on this plant should be very different  
4 from the one the gas industry might be pushing.

5 I'd like to close in the wise  
6 words of Glinda, the -- the witch from the north,  
7 who told Dorothy you had the power all along.

8 The people in this room not only  
9 have the power to help decide suitable public  
10 policy through your board, but we each have the  
11 power literally falling on our yards and on our  
12 rooftops and it's high time we take advantage of  
13 that, not in the future, but now.

14 Thank you very much.

15 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Gregory  
16 Edwards?

17 MR. EDWARDS: Greg Edwards,  
18 current county executive.

19 I have the distinct pleasure of  
20 representing all hundred and thirty thousand people  
21 who call this place their home. And I share all  
22 the remarks made earlier about what a pleasure it  
23 has been having you here this evening.

24 Since much has already been said  
25 about the importance of your decision this evening,

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2 but I'd -- I'd like to provide for you just some  
3 context.

4 I've had the opportunity to  
5 appear at any number of events across New York  
6 State from Nassau County to Warren County, to St.  
7 Lawrence County and around. In context I think for  
8 you as particularly important this evening.

9 I was born here. I grew up here.  
10 I've had the pleasure of working here. Never in my  
11 life have I ever seen, been at or even heard about  
12 an event that has drawn this many people with this  
13 much passion who have stayed this long to try and  
14 convey a very important thought, a very important  
15 issue to people who they know have the power to  
16 make those decisions.

17 You tonight -- you tonight have  
18 experienced something very unique. You have heard  
19 directly from the voice of virtually everyone  
20 represented here tonight, representing all of our  
21 groups of citizens in Chautauqua County. I  
22 couldn't help but keep track of those who spoke in  
23 favor and not-so-in-favor of repowering the N.R.G.  
24 project in Dunkirk.

25 The math is overwhelming. You've

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2 heard from the largest group ever assembled for an  
3 event like this and the message has been  
4 overwhelming.

5 What I'm particularly pleased  
6 about is I've had the pleasure of working with all  
7 the gentlemen up here that spoke on both these  
8 issues and I know this is not an either/or question  
9 because any number of times Dennis has called me in  
10 the middle of the night representing National Grid  
11 not only pledging their support, but showing their  
12 support for the people of Chautauqua County by  
13 assembling their resources to respond to that call  
14 and also investing their resources as they have  
15 repeatedly over the decades in Chautauqua County.

16 That is not going to stop. I  
17 know Dennis won't. I know his -- his company will  
18 not end their investment in Chautauqua County.

19 I was pleased to work with Lee  
20 over many months in the negotiation of their  
21 twenty-year PILOT with Chautauqua County, the city  
22 of Dunkirk and the City School District.

23 It was an open, honest and  
24 aggressive negotiation and in the end we all  
25 benefited from their investment of over two hundred

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2 and fifty million dollars in Dunkirk. What you  
3 have the opportunity to decide and return this  
4 information back to the rest of your team is what  
5 Lee and his company propose is the largest private  
6 investment to ever occur in Chautauqua County with  
7 the proposed five hundred million dollar investment  
8 in N.R.G. in Dunkirk, not just a big one, not just  
9 an important one, but the largest single investment  
10 ever in Chautauqua County.

11 Again, my effort here tonight is  
12 not to restate what you've already heard, but to  
13 give you perspective.

14 The final bit of perspective is  
15 I've had the pleasure of attending an event with  
16 Governor Cuomo just last week and it was an  
17 excellent event. And he came here with his Start  
18 Up New York Plan and certainly that's a much better  
19 one than originally proposed and I can support it  
20 now because the expansion will actually assist  
21 Chautauqua County and our economy.

22 And while that was important, the  
23 most important thing I heard that day was Governor  
24 Cuomo's direct response to the media that was  
25 assembled there after that event. And while I

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2 can't quote him today as I -- I did later moments  
3 after he said it to the media, what he said was let  
4 the process take fold -- unfold. Let the P.S.C.  
5 hear from the people of Chautauqua County about  
6 what their desires are.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, you've  
8 heard it tonight overwhelmingly. You couldn't have  
9 missed this message if you tried. The largest  
10 investment ever.

11 A continued commitment from two  
12 companies regardless of the outcome, but the only  
13 one that invests in us and allows us to continue to  
14 grow and develop is the one that's proposed to  
15 repower N.R.G.

16 I can speak with a voice for all  
17 the people of Chautauqua County. Over ninety  
18 percent of the hundred and thirty thousand people  
19 of Chautauqua County support the repowering of  
20 N.R.G., the future it will provide.

21 Governor Cuomo charged you with a  
22 duty, you're doing it. It's in statute what you  
23 have to consider. If you take what you've heard  
24 tonight and apply it to that statutory framework,  
25 along with what Governor Cuomo indicated as your



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2 obligation and that was to hear from the people of  
3 Chautauqua County, we'll be hearing very soon that  
4 we'll be repowering N.R.G.

5 Thank you.

6 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Doreen Bumpus?

7 MS. BUMPUS: I'd like to thank  
8 everyone who stayed. There's actually somebody  
9 that I can speak to. I've lived in Dunkirk for  
10 over twenty years. I've raised my children here.  
11 I'm still raising children here.

12 I had children that have gone to  
13 BOCES, to the Dunkirk Public School and also the  
14 Fredonia Public School.

15 My house was built in 1900. I  
16 live on probably even less than a fixed income  
17 because instead of going on social services I am  
18 living off school loans. And I am living off  
19 school loans because I believe that I have  
20 something to give back to this community.

21 A lot of confusing data has been  
22 presented this evening, but one thing that we all  
23 know is we cannot afford further job losses or to  
24 incur higher expenses, such as increased property  
25 taxes. Therefore, in my opinion in general we

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2 cannot afford to lose the Dunkirk power plant.

3 I think there are still some  
4 issues that need clarification, but overall we need  
5 this. To put it in real terms for you, have you  
6 gone hungry in order that your children can eat?  
7 Have you worn plastic bags in your winter boots so  
8 that your feet don't get wet? Have you had to make  
9 a choice which bill you pay before one of them is  
10 disconnected?

11 I don't speak just for myself, I  
12 speak for many other people who face these -- these  
13 fears and these realities and I speak for others  
14 who should this loss of a tax-paying company affect  
15 us, where will we be? We want a hand up, not a  
16 hand out. We want jobs for supporting our families  
17 and we want a decent public education for our  
18 children.

19 I have two more semesters of  
20 undergraduate work here and in my time here I've  
21 researched issues such as the literacy crisis in  
22 America and at-risk children.

23 We live in an area of  
24 multi-cultural diversity, but we all share a common  
25 desire to enjoy an improved quality of life for our

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2 families. In order to make a decision based on  
3 facts rather than on fear, our community needs  
4 further information on this complicated issue.

5 I understand the frustration of  
6 the senior citizen who stood here and said that she  
7 didn't understand all these facts. They're well  
8 presented, but many of us don't have a higher  
9 education. For many of us we have not had to -- to  
10 learn the full impact and data that this issue  
11 entails.

12 I believe that in repowering the  
13 Dunkirk, New York plant it's desirable. I just  
14 wonder if the public understand all the proposed  
15 components to the N.R.G. plan.

16 For example, the issue of  
17 subsidies came up and shareholders. Well, when it  
18 comes to shareholders a businesses primary  
19 responsibility is to make a profit for  
20 shareholders.

21 So when it comes to the issue of  
22 subsidies I wonder how will that affect us in the  
23 long run. I don't doubt that we need to keep this  
24 plant open. I just think like with other issues,  
25 perhaps we need to explore a little further some of

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2 the ramifications.

3 In real terms the ripple effect  
4 of the loss of substantial tax source will likely  
5 cause an increase of at-risk youth and prevent them  
6 from attaining a public education as well as  
7 proceeding to higher education.

8 We need to have jobs. We need to  
9 have education available for our children because  
10 we need it not only now, but we need it for the  
11 future of our society so that we don't incur  
12 further risks because of these times.

13 We're likely to see an increase  
14 in welfare dependency without jobs. How much more  
15 can the welfare system provide? It's been pointed  
16 out that with the loss of public servants we might  
17 see an increase -- increase in crime and along with  
18 that with the stress of trying to maintain homes  
19 and jobs and keep our families together there will  
20 be a stress on mental health. This may all seem to  
21 be kind of distant and not relevant, but the cost  
22 is not only for now, but for the future.

23 I urge you to consider the  
24 serious ramifications to an already economically  
25 depressed city and county should N.R.G. no longer

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2 remain in the city of Dunkirk. I beseech you to  
3 consider the positive impact the N.R.G. -- I'm  
4 sorry, reprocessing plant project will have for  
5 Dunkirk, New York, and the rest of Chautauqua  
6 County, enabling job retention and job growth as  
7 well as providing an efficient and responsible  
8 source of energies for our homes, schools and  
9 businesses.

10 You have it within your power to  
11 make a positive difference in our lives and I  
12 sincerely hope that you will choose to keep Dunkirk  
13 power plant open.

14 Thank you.

15 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Robert Gaus?

16 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lawrie?

17 James Burnett?

18 MR. BURNETT: Good evening. My  
19 name is James Burnett. I'm an unemployed  
20 electrical engineer and I live downstream from you  
21 in Lackawanna, where we have wind power.

22 My house has a hundred percent  
23 wind-generated electricity supplied by National  
24 Grid or it's transported by National Grid. It's  
25 not manufactured.

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2 The low price of natural -- of  
3 natural gas coupled with emissions issues from the  
4 combustion of coal has led to the local coal burner  
5 being mothballed. And this is a job crisis that  
6 crept up slowly as we began to understand the true  
7 cost of destructive coal mining, contamination of  
8 rivers near extraction sites and the trace amounts  
9 of mercury in coal, which gets exhausted from  
10 smokestacks.

11 James Watt's coal fantasy of the  
12 Nineteenth Century came to an abrupt end today due  
13 to health and externalized costs issues. So we  
14 have a job crisis.

15 Our next fantasy is gas  
16 repowering. N.R.G. claims massive reductions in  
17 Lake Erie water use for cooling, a reduction in  
18 most combustion byproducts and jobs -- clean jobs.  
19 But as with all fantasies the dream grinds to a  
20 halt eventually.

21 Once the bulk liquification and  
22 overseas exports of natural gas starts, you'll have  
23 to fight for gas in a seller's market -- in a  
24 seller's market coming down the pipeline.

25 China will outbid you, you

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2 understand that? China will outbid you, I promise.  
3 And you will likely be forced into a high volume  
4 horizontal hydro-fracking. It's a desperation move  
5 that you'll paint your corner -- you'll paint  
6 yourself in a corner with.

7 So this is the cost of repowering  
8 with low-priced natural gas -- low-priced, high  
9 cost natural gas. There's a difference between  
10 price and cost. I hope all of you understand that.

11 What happened to your coal-fired  
12 plant was a classic case of economic dumping and  
13 once the noose is around your neck by committing to  
14 an entire future of natural gas power -- powering,  
15 you'll feel the squeeze.

16 And, in a few decades your kids  
17 will be right here having the same discussion that  
18 we're having right now, wondering who was to blame  
19 for this.

20 Madam Senator, Mr. Assemblyman,  
21 we set the stage tonight for their own job crisis.  
22 Wind and solar is your future here and transmission  
23 systems upgrades are a necessity. And I guess I  
24 would like to conclude with that.

25 Thank you very much.

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2 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: John Zebrodsky?

3 Rita Yelda?

4 Matthew Hanlon?

5 Kathleen Riley?

6 Barbara -- oops.

7 MS. RILEY: Good evening. It's

8 almost morning.

9 My name is Kathleen Riley and I'm  
10 a summer resident of Chautauqua County. And the  
11 rest of the year I'm a resident of Port Jefferson  
12 in Long Island.

13 I first want to commend the  
14 Public Service Commission on holding this hearing,  
15 to Senator Young for supporting this hearing and  
16 especially to the -- all the people that are here  
17 tonight to come out and speak on repowering. I say  
18 to them keep on, keep on.

19 I -- I know what's it like to  
20 fight for repowering as I am a member of the Grass  
21 Roots Committee on Long Island to repower the power  
22 plant of Port Jefferson, New York, same repowering  
23 issues as Dunkirk.

24 For the record, I am asking the  
25 Public Service Commission will you be using a



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2 similar or same process for evaluating repowering  
3 Port Jefferson on Long Island next year? I'm proud  
4 to be in this room with all these concerned  
5 citizens who have taken the time to get involved  
6 and to speak out.

7 Repower, repower, repower. And  
8 to all of you, don't give up.

9 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Barbara --  
10 Barbara Frankiewicz?

11 Herman Ruhlman?

12 MR. RUHLMAN: Good evening.  
13 Thank you for this venue here to express our  
14 feelings.

15 I'm Herm Ruhlman. I'm a resident  
16 of Frewsburg, New York. I have two companies, one  
17 in Falconer, New York, Rand Machine Products, and  
18 Spartan Tool Company.

19 We -- one -- one of our main jobs  
20 we've done for the last thirty years is railroad  
21 components. And we specifically do parts for rail  
22 cars that haul coal and when this whole thing came  
23 out a year ago, the railroads put a hundred and  
24 sixty-nine thousand coal cars on sidings because  
25 they had no use for them anymore.

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2 I lost a million-dollar a year  
3 account. I lost ten employees that lost their jobs  
4 a year ago and haven't recalled them back and at  
5 this point it doesn't look like much future for it.

6 I am in favor of repowering and  
7 keeping the Dunkirk power plant. I would prefer  
8 they go back to coal personally. But natural gas  
9 seems like an acceptable substitute for that.

10 The -- the problem I have with  
11 this whole thing and what's happening in America, I  
12 mean I -- I was born in Warren, Pennsylvania. I'm  
13 a true American. I wasn't born in Africa or  
14 someplace like that.

15 I feel that there's a systematic  
16 catastrophe happening in our country where we're  
17 dismantling all of our industry. And America's the  
18 greatest nation on earth. We don't have to say  
19 anything to anybody. We are on top of the heap,  
20 but we're allowing this to happen. And I disagree  
21 terribly, strongly about this.

22 And I've -- I've -- I've worked  
23 at Rand machine. I started back in '68, so I've  
24 been there for forty-five years. I did take four  
25 years off to serve in the Air Force during the

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2 Vietnam War. I didn't get into Vietnam. I was in  
3 the Philippines for a while.

4 And I vote in every election.

5 I've never missed one. And I kind of expect the  
6 people that I vote into office will take care of  
7 things. I've been busy with my company. I've  
8 owned it for thirty-three years. And I don't pay  
9 as much attention to things as I should.

10 One thing, and I don't know the  
11 story, I know it wasn't all that long ago that  
12 Niagara Mohawk sold out to Niagara -- or -- yeah,  
13 National Grid.

14 And I understand they're a  
15 British company and I have a real problem with us  
16 turning over our power generation and power  
17 transmission to a foreign country and allowing them  
18 to make our decisions for us for the Chautauqua  
19 County. That -- that should not allow -- be  
20 allowed to happen at all ever in this country. We  
21 don't have to get down to anybody. It comes right  
22 back to President Obama saying that we're not a  
23 Christian nation.

24 When the Declaration of  
25 Independence was signed there were fifty-six

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2 signers. Fifty-three of them were ordained  
3 Christian ministers. There's a pretty good chance  
4 that fifty-three out of fifty-six makes it a  
5 Christian nation, when the founders were all that  
6 way.

7 And I disagree with political  
8 correctness in general that if it's -- we need to  
9 say where the bear shit in the buckwheat just pure  
10 and simple.

11 It's something where I think we  
12 have a very high tolerance and always have, that as  
13 other people come into our country they're welcome  
14 to worship as they -- as they see fit. We have no  
15 problem with that unless they try to undermine our  
16 system. That I have a problem with, I really do.

17 And I don't want somebody from  
18 Britain making my decisions for Chautauqua County.

19 We have the three plants, two in  
20 Falconer. We're under the B.P.U. in Jamestown.  
21 And the other one is in -- between Gary and St.  
22 Clairsville and it's under National Grid. And the  
23 electric costs are significant lower --  
24 significantly lower in Jamestown than they are  
25 under National Grid.

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2 And either they're extremely  
3 inefficient or they're greedy. And I suspect greed  
4 is a big part of it. So a lot of these costs that  
5 they're putting in, saying that the -- the things  
6 are going to go up five percent as time goes on, I  
7 think are very flexible and they're being done that  
8 way for a reason and it's not for our benefit. And  
9 I really have a problem with that.

10 I do want to see that plant  
11 remain open for Chautauqua County. I think it's  
12 important that we retain our own industry and  
13 that's an industry no different than mine. I'm  
14 machine parts and they make electricity. But other  
15 than that we're no different.

16 You need to really think long and  
17 hard about letting our country go the way its  
18 going. It's not just our power system. It's a lot  
19 of things that are going on in this country that  
20 are not right. Anybody that has a smokestack it's  
21 cheaper to move their production to China than it  
22 is to get through the fines and the restrictions of  
23 trying to operate.

24 I built on to Spartan Tool in  
25 2005 and I doubled the sized of it from

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2 seventy-five hundred feet to fifteen thousand  
3 square feet.

4 My taxes went from just over four  
5 thousand to twenty thousand dollars, almost a five  
6 hundred percent increase by doubling the size of my  
7 plant. That irritated the heck out of me. I just  
8 put on an addition down at my Falconer plant.

9 I assumed that getting a building  
10 permit would take a week or two. It took me  
11 fifteen months to get a building permit.

12 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Mr. Ruhlman --

13 MR. RUHLMAN: Yeah?

14 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: -- sorry, but  
15 it's eleven twenty and I really want to try to get  
16 through everybody.

17 MS. RUHLMAN: Okay. I'm sorry.  
18 I'm sorry. I was here at seven. Goodbye.

19 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Thank you.

20 Kurt and Lucy Worombrandt?

21 I'm going to ask everybody to try  
22 and keep your comments to a minute. I know some of  
23 you waited all night. I just want to be able to  
24 get through everybody's, before we have to leave  
25 and the college can close the facility.

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2 MR. WARMBRODT: This will take  
3 two minutes. Hello.

4 My name is Kurt Warmbrodt. I  
5 live at 115 Frasier Street in Dunkirk. I've lived  
6 in Dunkirk pretty much my whole life.

7 Dunkirk's greatest asset is Lake  
8 Erie. Over the past sixty-three years the Dunkirk  
9 lakefront has been used by Niagara Mohawk and now  
10 N.R.G. to generate electricity.

11 What is needed now is a new  
12 direction in the use of this lakefront property,  
13 which has not been talked about at all. Should a  
14 new electric generating facility using natural gas  
15 be built in Dunkirk, consider building the new  
16 facility, which has never been talked about, south  
17 of Route 5 along the existing electric transmission  
18 lines leaving the plant, along the railroad within  
19 the city, behind Wheeler Trucking.

20 A new gas facility will only  
21 require a small percentage of the existing plant  
22 property. Building the new plant south of Route 5  
23 will maintain all the taxes and jobs on city land  
24 that is not developed now.

25 The move will allow Dunkirk to

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2 move forward with new lakefront development. Many  
3 jobs will be created, removing the existing plant  
4 and cleaning up the site for future development.

5 Future development of this  
6 property needs to be in high rise apartments,  
7 office space that pay taxes.

8 Dunkirk needs an entire community  
9 to be built on this property as a way to revitalize  
10 the city. Dunkirk needs this lakefront property to  
11 be used by many people. A lot of press has been  
12 given to how this plant will affect all of  
13 Chautauqua County. Dunkirk is surrounded and has  
14 limited areas for future development.

15 I feel that this development is  
16 for Dunkirk residents to work on. Yes, all  
17 residents are tied together in Chautauqua County  
18 and I have pride saying that I live in Chautauqua  
19 County, but this is Dunkirk's decision on Dunkirk's  
20 future.

21 Those other people that live  
22 outside the community did not choose to buy a house  
23 in Dunkirk and raise their family there. So yes, I  
24 like your comments, but come to Dunkirk and spend  
25 your money first. Please help Dunkirk move forward



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2 in the Twenty-first Century and develop the  
3 lakefront into a destination. I may be asking for  
4 something that sounds difficult and may take many  
5 years to complete, but this -- this decision is for  
6 the long-term ability of Dunkirk to move the  
7 lakefront forward and the whole city and  
8 surrounding area forward.

9 And I thank you very much for --  
10 yes, eleven twenty-one, for -- for whatever, but  
11 some people did speak for over twenty minutes.

12 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Harry Aitken?  
13 Ashund M-I-L-A-Z-Z-A-V-O-M-D?  
14 Tom Mean?  
15 Susan Kalfas?  
16 Lori Cornell?

17 MS. CORNELL: Thank you very  
18 much. I'm Lori Cornell, Chautauqua County  
19 legislator.

20 And I have to confess I can  
21 usually hide the fact that I tend to show up  
22 everywhere just a touch late. I get that from my  
23 father, Carl. Right? But tonight that was clearly  
24 not the case.

25 I proudly represent the great

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2 people of the city of Jamestown where I now live.

3 But, I tell you tonight I have  
4 never been more proud than to have been born and  
5 raised in the great city of Dunkirk. On behalf of  
6 my Jamestown constituents from about forty-five  
7 minutes away, make no mistake about it, we stand  
8 with Dunkirk. We stand with Northern Chautauqua  
9 County from Jamestown to Dunkirk, to French Creek  
10 to Hanover; Chautauqua County stands together.

11 This project not only represents  
12 a critical move for our county's economy and tax  
13 base, but offers critical protection for our  
14 environment.

15 N.R.G.'s new plant would be  
16 significantly cleaner and would make use of  
17 renewable energy. This is not the economy versus  
18 the environment. This is a project that would  
19 decrease harmful emissions, while enhancing our  
20 economy.

21 This is a long-term solution that  
22 will lead to cleaner energy and more jobs. Failure  
23 to support this half a billion dollar investment  
24 would mean higher taxes, fewer jobs and dirtier  
25 air, three things we cannot afford.

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2 And so I urge you tonight repower  
3 Dunkirk, renew Chautauqua County, restart our local  
4 economy. Our future is now.

5 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: L. T. Beahan?

6 And last, Michael Sullivan.

7 MR. SULLIVAN: Good evening. I'm  
8 Michael Sullivan. I'm an attorney who over the  
9 last three decades has spent about twelve years in  
10 and out of elected office in Fredonia, at one time  
11 being mayor of the village.

12 As an attorney it's always great  
13 to get a chance to go last. I do have one question  
14 before I make my comments and that is the portion  
15 of this evening from six o'clock until seven or  
16 seven-thirty, is that part of the record for the  
17 judge when you're making your decision?

18 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: First, I won't  
19 be making the decision. The Commission will be  
20 making the decision. And second, the educational  
21 forum is not part of the transcript because it's a  
22 presentation of facts already contained in the  
23 record.

24 MR. SULLIVAN: Is there any way  
25 of making the presentation from the questions and

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2 answers part of that record, particularly the  
3 portion between Mr. Goodell and the National Grid  
4 representatives?

5 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: So you're  
6 asking whether or not their Powerpoint presentation  
7 that they presented tonight or that the discussion  
8 that was had during the --?

9 MR. SULLIVAN: The discussion --  
10 the questions and answers. There were questions  
11 and answers where there was some maybe meetings of  
12 minds I guess between our -- our Assemblymen and  
13 the National Grid representatives. Can that be  
14 made part of the record that the Commission has?

15 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: We have not  
16 actively recorded that, so that is kind of -- we're  
17 unable to incorporate that into the record, but I'm  
18 sure Assemblyman Goodell's questions were specific  
19 and if he wants to supplement his comments to  
20 reflect that exchange he's -- you know, he's free  
21 to do so and we have until August 16th that the  
22 record will remain open.

23 MR. SULLIVAN: Well, then with  
24 that, I hope he'll do so because it was certainly  
25 an interesting and helpful exchange.

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2 I'm a fifth generation resident  
3 here and every time I hear someone introduced as  
4 having been formerly from here or coming back home  
5 it's a little bit of sadness because it's just  
6 another example of the people that have had to  
7 leave here. And that's why it's so important that  
8 tonight this Commission was willing to listen to  
9 the economic -- economic -- the temporary and  
10 permanent jobs, economic development and tax  
11 revenue issues.

12 We believe in ourselves, that's  
13 why I keep running for public office, which is why  
14 I'm here tonight and that's why so many people were  
15 here tonight. Mr. Sedyscyv mentioned that the  
16 plant -- it was a national security plant.

17 I remember growing up and walking  
18 around it, eight or nine years old, and really  
19 worrying because the height of the cold war that  
20 plant was a target because the first thing you do  
21 is you take out the power plant. So we knew we  
22 were high on the list. I got to tell you though I  
23 never suspected that the direct threat to that  
24 plant would come from the United Kingdom. I always  
25 expected the Soviet Union.

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2 We had a lot of people here this  
3 evening and they were not here with open hands and  
4 a cup begging for something without doing something  
5 on their own.

6 There was some interesting facts,  
7 believe it or not at this late hour, that you had  
8 not heard about this community. People that were  
9 sitting in this room tonight have negotiated  
10 contracts without pay increases because they know  
11 they have to help. They had to make concessions.  
12 Down the road Brockton and Westfield Schools are  
13 currently in the process of seeking consolidation.

14 Farther down, Ripley is now going  
15 to be sending their high school students to  
16 Chautauqua Lake School District. Chadwick Bay was  
17 mentioned this evening.

18 Chadwick Bay is working on a  
19 regional water plant. We're doing a lot of things  
20 here that we have control of for our own best  
21 interest. But we also acknowledge tonight there's  
22 a decision that needs to be made that we can't  
23 make, that we can't do for ourselves, that we need  
24 you to take care of.

25 We're not asking you to fix all

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2 of our ills. We're working on a lot of those  
3 things, but we need this plant. We need to have  
4 that continued success of generating that  
5 electricity, creating the jobs that will come with  
6 it. We can't do that on our own.

7 We really do need this board to  
8 consider all of the economics and historically the  
9 idea that we would ultimately have a plant here  
10 generated with and operating with natural gas, a  
11 plant that's located less than four miles from the  
12 site of the first industrial commercial gas well in  
13 the United States.

14 At one time we lit our houses and  
15 our streets with natural gas. I'm sure there was a  
16 debate years ago when they were looking to switch  
17 from the natural gas to the electricity. And now  
18 we have the opportunity to come full circle, just  
19 the historic irony of now having the possibility of  
20 a plant four miles away generating electricity  
21 using that natural gas, which has been the backbone  
22 of this community and this area for over a hundred  
23 and seventy-five years.

24 Please consider that and remember  
25 that the people that were here tonight, as large of

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2 a crowd as it is, it was not the largest crowd  
3 we've been able to gather. Recently we had a crowd  
4 a little bit larger in downtown Fredonia, but in  
5 that crowd we had an Olympic gold medal and we were  
6 going to have an athlete doing a pole vault  
7 demonstration for us.

8 We're not asking you to pole  
9 vault, we're not asking you to set any kind of  
10 records or get a gold medal, but we are asking you  
11 to give us the opportunity to continue to move  
12 forward with a plant operated with natural gas.  
13 Thank you.

14 A.L.J. HARRIMAN: Okay. So, it's  
15 now eleven thirty-five. We've taken all the public  
16 statements for the evening and I'm going to adjourn  
17 this case. Thank you.

18 (Off the record)

19 (The hearing adjourned)

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2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, G. Michael France, do hereby certify that the  
4 foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the time  
5 and place, as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1  
6 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten transcription  
7 consisting of pages 1 through 184, is a true record of  
8 all proceedings had at the hearing to the best of our  
9 skill and ability.

10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
11 subscribed my name.

12

13 G. Michael France, Reporter

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