

STATE OF NEW YORK

2009

STATE ENERGY PLAN HEARING

Public Hearing, held on September 26, 2009,
at SUNY IT, 12 North Horatio Street, Kunsela Hall, Utica,
New York, commencing at 1:00 p.m., before Michele L.
Kemak, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the
State of New York.

1 **APPEARANCES:**

2
3 Thomas C. C. Congdon, Deputy Secretary
4 for Energy, Hearing Officer, Office
5 of the Governor

6
7 Judith A. Lee, Executive Deputy to the
8 Chairman, Department of Public Service

9
10 William G. Little, Associate Counsel,
11 Department of Environmental Conservation

12
13 Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for
14 Environment, Office of the Governor

15
16 Robert G. Callender,
17 Vice President for Programs, NYSERDA

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SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

3 HEARING OFFICER: Good afternoon.

4 Thank you all for being here on such a
5 lovely day in Utica. My name is Tom Congdon
6 and I'm the Chair of the New York State
7 Energy Planning Board. I'd like to welcome
8 you all to this Public Statement Hearing on
9 the Draft State Energy Plan. I'd like to
10 also thank the other members of the Planning
11 Board who are here with me today: Bob
12 Callender from the New York State Energy
13 Research & Development Authority; Judith Enck
14 who is the Deputy Secretary for the
15 Environment in Governor Paterson's office;
16 Judy Lee from the Public Service Commission;
17 and Bill Little from the Department of
18 Environmental Conservation.

19 This is our last public hearing that
20 we've held eight other public hearings around
21 the State. And I'd like also to just take
22 this opportunity to thank our staff.

23 Suzanne Baker, who's just on the
24 other side of that door, is our Outreach
25 Coordinator who has done a terrific job to

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1 organize all of these hearings and make sure
2 that they run smoothly and keep us all on
3 track, and she's just done a really terrific
4 job and we really want to thank her.

5 John Williams, our Director of Energy
6 Analysis who helped draft a large chunk of
7 this Plan and has attended all of the
8 hearings with us. We really appreciate all
9 of your effort, John, and time.

10 And Sarah Osgood, who's the Executive
11 Director for the Energy Planning Board, who
12 also had a huge role in drafting the Plan
13 and attending almost all of the hearings, and
14 we wanted to thank Sarah, as well.

15 Most importantly I'd like to thank
16 all of you for being here today and for
17 participating in the process. It's
18 critically important for us to get the
19 feedback on the Plan from the stakeholders in
20 the general public who are affected by the
21 decisions that we're making, so for the past
22 year-and-a-half the Planning Board has worked
23 with the staffs of ten agencies and the
24 public authorities to develop the Draft Plan.

25 The planning process commenced in

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1 April of 2008 when Governor Paterson issued
2 Executive Order Number 2 which created the
3 Planning Board and charged us with developing
4 a State Energy Plan. On August 10th the
5 Planning Board released the Draft State
6 Energy Plan on its website nysenergyplan.com
7 and we commenced a sixty-day written comment
8 period and a public hearing phase of
9 developing the Final Plan. Written comments
10 are due on October 19th and we will release
11 the Final Plan by the end of the year.

12 The Plan's objectives are to ensure
13 our energy systems are reliable over the
14 ten-year planning horizon, reduce greenhouse
15 gas emissions, specialize energy costs and
16 improve economic competitiveness in New York
17 State, reduce public health and environmental
18 risks associated with energy systems, and
19 improve the State's energy security.

20 The Plan modeled and considered
21 various approaches to achieve these objectives
22 and we've arrived at a number of strategies.

23 First and foremost the Plan
24 identified energy efficiency as the priority
25 resource for meeting all of our stated public

1 policy objectives.

2 Second the Plan states to develop
3 in-state energy resources which are largely
4 renewable energy resources but also natural
5 gas resources as long as we can do so in an
6 environmentally responsible manner.

7 Third the Plan projects infrastructure
8 needs throughout the State that will support
9 clean energy technologies of the future and
10 also to ensure we meet our reliability
11 standards in the State.

12 Fourth, the Plan identifies
13 opportunities to capitalize on assisting
14 academic and research strengths in the State
15 and to facilitate connections between academia
16 and industry to speed up the rate of
17 innovation and energy technologies.

18 The Plan also identifies needs for
19 clean energy workforce training and economic
20 development training in order to help
21 existing and new businesses thrive in a
22 carbon constraining economy.

23 Lastly the Plan identifies that none
24 of this can be fully achieved without working
25 with other levels of Government and with

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1 communities to achieve our goals. This
2 public hearing is our example of a desire to
3 work with stakeholders affected by the energy
4 decisions and energy policies that we've
5 developed at the State level. This is one
6 of nine public hearings that we've held
7 around the State to hear the community's
8 concerns. A full hearing schedule is on our
9 website so you can see where we've been, but
10 as I've said, this is our last hearing of
11 the public hearing phase of the planning
12 process.

13 My job today is to gather
14 information from the Planning Board to
15 consider, and again we're really appreciative
16 of all of your attendance here today. The
17 process is simple. Those who want to
18 comment have been asked to sign in. Your
19 name will be called one at a time to speak.
20 Please come to one of the mikes here in the
21 aisles when your name is called. The court
22 reporter is here to prepare a verbatim
23 transcript. These transcripts from all the
24 hearings are going to be posted on our
25 website.

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1 It's very important that there be
2 only one speaker at a time so that the
3 reporter can hear clearly. Speakers should
4 address their comments in the direction of
5 the microphone and please make an effort to
6 speak clearly and slowly. If you have
7 written -- written -- a written version of
8 your comments please provide them to the
9 court reporter so that she can use those to
10 ensure accuracy of your comments.

11 All speakers are asked to focus on
12 issues that pertain to the Draft Energy Plan.
13 Your comments should be as succinct as
14 possible so we can hear from as many of you
15 as possible. We set a five-minute deadline
16 for that purpose. And we are keeping time.
17 You'll hear a beeper go off at the end of
18 the five minutes, so when you hear that beep
19 please do try to wrap up your comments.
20 Formal presentations aren't allowed.

21 Those who want to comment but do not
22 want to speak publicly or did not get a
23 chance to do so today -- although I can't
24 imagine that would be a problem -- can
25 submit written comments via the State Energy

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1 Plan website. If you decide to submit
2 written comments please do so as soon as
3 possible so that they can be carefully
4 considered.

5 All public comments, whether stated
6 at a hearing like this or sent to the
7 website, will be reported to the Energy
8 Planning Board for its consideration and they
9 all count equally regardless of how they were
10 received.

11 So, before I call the first speaker
12 does anyone have any questions about the
13 process?

14 Okay. Yes, sir?

15 A VOICE: Can I use my camera to
16 take some pictures?

17 HEARING OFFICER: Of course.

18 A VOICE: Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Our first speaker
20 is Gabe Vincelette from the New England Wood
21 Pellet & New York Biomass Council.

22 GABRIEL VINCELETTE: Do we want to
23 use the mike?

24 HEARING OFFICER: Yes, please.

25 GABRIEL VINCELETTE: Well, thanks,

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1 guys, again. It's good to see taxes working
2 on a Saturday, let's say. So, and also
3 thank you again. This is my third
4 attendance, second time speaking, so the nice
5 thing is is that what I feel from the Board
6 up top is that you guys have a genuinely
7 desire and interest to hear from these public
8 comments, so...

9 And, Tom, you said 200 people came
10 through and I think that's something that
11 will be very taxing on a few people to hear
12 that.

13 So again, New England Wood Pellet,
14 LLC is the largest distributor and
15 manufacturer of wood pellets in New York
16 State. Created in 1992 the company has
17 grown 30 percent per year to meet consumer
18 demand in New York and inside the Northeast.
19 Today's three plants represent \$35 Million in
20 private and capital investment. And we
21 recently announced the purchasing of Norbord,
22 a composite wood product company in Deposit,
23 New York. The facility will be repurposed
24 saving jobs, logging work and expanding
25 product availability in the Southern Tier.

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1 And currently over 30,000 households and
2 businesses use wood pellets to heat from our
3 Schuyler facility just east of Utica here.

4 So, wood pellets are created from
5 wood chips and falloff of shavings generated
6 by the local lumber and manufacturing
7 operations. Much of the wood waste was
8 discarded on site and left releasing carbon
9 with no energy benefit before our plant was
10 built in New York State. Wood wastes today
11 are delivered to our bio-refinery to be
12 compressed into small pellets. As pellets
13 these former wood waste is now contained in
14 a uniform structure which can be used, stored
15 and transported and fed into a burning pot
16 for renewable heating in high-efficiency
17 pellet units.

18 Supporting renewable energy heating
19 through wood pellets is significant for the
20 regional economy, green jobs and in creation
21 of sustainable markets for low-grade wood
22 which support logging operations inside New
23 York State. Pellets also support less
24 dependence of fossil fuels for heating, use
25 of locally sourced renewable products and

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1 mitigating of carbon emissions as wood
2 pellets are considered to be carbon neutral.

3 I strongly agree with the Draft
4 Energy Policy's objectives; however, the
5 inclusion of biomass thermal application in
6 structures and high-efficiency boilers is
7 nonexistence. This Plan does not represent
8 accurately the growing markets, green jobs
9 and capital investments which have already
10 been happening in New York for renewable
11 energy and high-efficiency biomass heating.

12 Surprisingly the pelletized biomass
13 usage in thermal applications meets the
14 highest environmental standards by utilizing
15 conversion technologies already commercially
16 available and being currently used inside --
17 currently used inside the State.

18 Organizations which currently use pellets to
19 heat their buildings are the Empire State
20 Forest & Products Association building in
21 Rensselaer. Also NYSERDA has a sponsored
22 project with Clarkston University, the Walker
23 Field House, it's a sports facility that's
24 heated by pellets and also serves as an air
25 quality testing service for NYSERDA.

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1 Recently announced sometime in August was the
2 Wild Center in Tupper Lake, and a
3 NYSERDA-sponsored product which will be
4 heating the entire facility itself, if you're
5 familiar with it.

6 The Draft Report targets other
7 renewable energy sectors like wind, biofuels
8 and PV. Statements regarding wood burning
9 for heat have been lacking in true
10 representation of potential markets on the
11 ground. If the expectation remains that the
12 market will triple in size over the next
13 years according to BTU usage, and
14 representations in the Plan itself that you
15 guys have put forth as the Draft. Much of
16 the heat generated from this is being burnt
17 in inefficient stoves and units.

18 The pellet industry is a young
19 market that has demonstrated itself to be
20 sustainable for loggers, environmentalists,
21 manufacturers and building green jobs.
22 Europeans pioneered renewable space heating
23 with pellets starting in the 1980s.
24 Government realized that in the 1990s the
25 inclusion and the support of renewable high-

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1 efficiency heating from biomass was a
2 necessity to meet their aggressive carbon
3 reduction and renewable energy targets inside
4 Europe. I see the same scenario taking
5 place in New York State and New England Wood
6 Pellets and the pellet industry stand ready
7 to help.

8 My recommendations for the Plan as
9 it is so far include in the Final 2009 State
10 Energy Plan renewable heating from pelletized
11 biomass as a viable solution to heat
12 structures while reducing our dependence on
13 fossil fuel, lowering greenhouse gases and
14 creating green jobs.

15 Two: Talk, educate, support -- and
16 support the usage of pellets in
17 high-efficiency boilers for renewable space
18 heating in public spaces, schools and
19 government buildings who have access to
20 pellets through bulk delivery.

21 Three: Give renewable heating
22 equality by matching the funding levels found
23 in wind, solar and liquid biofuels. And
24 fundamentally realize that using solid biomass
25 pellets for structure heating completes the

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1 renewable energy targets and carbon emission
2 standards under budget and on time lessening
3 the burden to taxpayers.

4 Four: Understand that the pellet
5 market is not new. Europe has created green
6 jobs, has created tax revenue while
7 demonstrating proactive forest management
8 policy benefiting all parties involved in the
9 industry.

10 Five: Traditional burning of cord
11 wood is not like burning wood pellets.
12 Treat wood pellets as a different technology
13 with greater efficiencies, higher net energy
14 balance and much lower emissions. There is
15 no need to be regulated like traditional wood
16 burning for emissions and heat output when
17 they're concerned.

18 Thank you again for the willingness
19 to hold the public hearings. New England
20 Wood is honored to represent pellet
21 manufacturers as an industry leader in the
22 2009 Plan. Our company stands willing to
23 assist and looks forward to coming
24 opportunities to discuss and offer feedback
25 on its solutions towards our industry.

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1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
3 much. Our next speaker knows something about
4 developing Energy Plans, former head of
5 NYSERDA is here, Peter Smith, who is now
6 with the Pataki Cahill Group.

7 Peter, welcome.

8 PETER SMITH: I'll give you a copy
9 of this, yes.

10 First of all thank you very much.
11 Thanks for coming. Thanks for coming to
12 Mohawk Valley. I grew up about twenty-five
13 miles away from here so it's a homecoming
14 for me, and I know you folks have been all
15 over this great State and I'm glad you're
16 here in Utica and Mohawk Valley for your
17 last hearing. It's been a long process.

18 First of all thank you very much.
19 My name is Peter Smith. I work for the
20 Pataki Cahill Group. I'm representing
21 Brookfield Renewable Power. Brookfield is a
22 major player in the green industry in New
23 York State. They own seventy-five
24 hydroelectric facilities. They contribute
25 more than 700 megawatts capacity. They

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1 employ 200 people. About 70 percent are
2 employed by IBEW. They provide \$7 Million
3 in wages and benefits. They pay \$14 Million
4 in property taxes. They have access to
5 fifty recreational facilities across Upstate
6 New York for public boating, fishing, and
7 they also operate 100 megawatt Carr Street
8 facility here in East Syracuse, New York.

9 As a Plan goes from draft to final
10 Brookfield believes there are three areas
11 particularly for renewable energy where it be
12 improved.

13 It needs to explicitly acknowledge
14 the need to develop our sustainable
15 competitive bio-diesel industry in New York
16 and also has to consider green dispatchable
17 power as a means to backstop intermittent
18 power as the Plan calls for Renewable
19 Portfolio Standard to go to 30 percent.

20 It also has to include certified
21 low-impact hydroelectric facilities in the
22 main tier regardless of image.

23 And third, there needs to have some
24 flexibility in the maintenance tier as when
25 small hydro facilities are operated as

1 fleets, little dispatchable hydro, they're a
2 dispatchable green energy. As we bring more
3 wind farms, more intermittent resources into
4 New York's electricity system the system can
5 be less reliable. We need a backstop that
6 has clean, green dispatchable energy through
7 bio-diesel facilities that will use existing
8 facilities right now that are underutilized
9 across New York State.

10 The Plan has to explicitly recognize
11 that there is a place to play for existing
12 renewables with existing fossil fuel plants
13 that convert new bio-fuel in an
14 environmentally sound manner. We also need
15 to develop the bio-diesel industry in New
16 York State nonfuel-based crops to meet some
17 of that need.

18 Finally, we should consider in the
19 RPS as the Public Service Commission examines
20 the RPS standard whether or not we should
21 have a separate tier for these facilities.

22 Second, we need to include low-impact
23 hydroelectric facilities in the State's main
24 tier, although they may be of interest beyond
25 before 2003 as they're certified under

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1 low-impact hydroelectric institute they become
2 -- they sometimes use renewable generation
3 because they're passing more water, they're
4 using environmentally sound means to generate
5 electricity, and there needs to be some way
6 of helping them meet their financial
7 requirements, particularly if they're live
8 heat certified to participate in the main
9 tier of the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

10 Finally, the State Energy Plan should
11 consider hydroelectric facilities that are
12 operated as a fleet in the maintenance tier.
13 Again, pre-2003 vintage facilities, but as
14 Brookfield operates at seventy-five
15 hydroelectric facilities in its fleet the
16 maintenance calls for a small facility, less
17 than two megawatts, as it is for a facility
18 that's ten to twenty megawatts, and we don't
19 keep separate books, so there's a need to
20 work with the Public Service Commission when
21 they consider the Renewable Portfolio Standard
22 to examine how to provide maintenance tier
23 support for small facilities that may go out
24 of the -- that may go out of the operation
25 because they just don't -- they just don't

1 meet it financially.

2 Thank you so much for being here
3 today. Thanks for coming to Utica. Thanks
4 for coming to the Mohawk Valley. And I look
5 forward to the Final Plan. Thank you so
6 much, Tom.

7 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Peter.

8 Our next speaker is Allyn Hetzke,
9 Sr., Unitrac Energy Management, who will be
10 followed by Elizabeth Gallagher.

11 ALLYN HETZKE, SR.: Thank you for
12 the opportunity to speak with you. We are
13 an energy company and have been so since
14 1981, before any incentives were available,
15 and so we've seen a lot of history as how
16 this grows.

17 I'm here today basically to
18 compliment you on the NYSERDA program. Our
19 company primarily deals in lighting. We're
20 lighting upgrades for lighting designers.
21 That's our business. And I meet with and
22 talk with companies throughout every region
23 of New York State and I hear their woes and
24 their -- the plusses and their minuses, let
25 me put it that way, from an economic

1 standpoint. What I am finding is that when
2 we do lighting it's not unusual for us to
3 reduce the lighting kilowatt draw by 60
4 percent in a facility and this is pretty
5 much across the board. It's quite meaningful
6 from a dollar savings which primarily drives
7 these programs.

8 The lighting program or the NYSERDA
9 programs are not charity. There's a systems
10 benefit charge which they pay in their power
11 bills, which I believe that this one is used
12 to provide the incentives and lighting. We
13 find that incentives can be up to 50 percent
14 of the project cost, which is quite
15 meaningful for a company that might not be
16 able to put together the funds to have a
17 capital -- provide a capital improvement for
18 their facility.

19 So, I've seen well over the past ten
20 years this greatly enhanced -- this program
21 greatly enhance the ability of private
22 industry to implement these programs. In
23 looking at the laws that are changing in
24 lighting products that are not going to be
25 available next year and foreseeable future

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1 I'm concerned that maybe a NYSERDA program
2 could be curtailed sooner than later. And I
3 mean, all you hear is the State's having
4 difficulty financially and so on and so
5 forth.

6 I would encourage that a NYSERDA
7 program continue for a while because I think
8 it's greatly helping these programs to -- to
9 occur. It makes it affordable for
10 corporations to implement them and it's very
11 meaningful because it creates capital for
12 them to reinvest in other areas. Maybe
13 they're investing in reducing debt service or
14 whatever they need to do to stay in
15 business.

16 So, basically that's why I'm here.
17 And to encourage the -- the continuation of
18 the NYSERDA program.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
20 much.

21 Our next speaker is Elizabeth
22 Gallagher from Jay-K Independent Lumber, who
23 will be followed by Thomas Rahn.

24 ELIZABETH GALLAGHER: Hello. My
25 name is Elizabeth Gallagher. I am here on

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1 behalf of the Jay-K Independent Lumber. We
2 at Jay-K have enjoyed participating in the
3 NYSERDA Energy Smart Program in the past and
4 look forward to its continuation in the
5 future.

6 As our customers become more
7 conscientious of their energy consumption and
8 begin to take on the responsibility of energy
9 conservation we take pride in being able to
10 assist them in making knowledgeable purchases
11 that will not only benefit and preserve our
12 environment but also are more cost effective
13 for the consumers themselves.

14 Advertisements and information are key
15 parts in educating a community on the topic
16 of being energy smart and because of somewhat
17 recent emphasis on going green in our society
18 many customers who enter our store after
19 being given a challenge to do their part are
20 left wondering which products specifically
21 they should be looking for and why.

22 The Energy Smart Product Program has
23 given us information and tools we as
24 salespeople need to assist the public in
25 making these informed decisions. Whether our

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1 customers are looking to insulate their
2 homes, replace their windows or simply
3 convert their incandescent light bulbs to
4 energy saving, compact, fluorescent light
5 bulbs, the Energy Smart Program has been
6 there to insure that these products' benefits
7 are clearly marked with the Energy Star logo.
8 Also they ensure our sales staff is informed
9 on the benefits of these products and
10 furthermore supply us with the resource of
11 Energy Smart representatives who are available
12 for consultation and supply us with the
13 information and tools we need.

14 This program aids our customers in
15 making the connection between what they've
16 heard about to what they can actually do as
17 their part to be energy smart. The Energy
18 Smart Program defines each product that it
19 emphasizes and compares it -- and compares
20 them to similar products lacking the Energy
21 Star seal of approval, so as to give
22 confidence to the consumer and assure them
23 that they are making a sound choice and
24 investment by choosing an environmentally
25 friendly product or fixture. It is also a

1 great comfort for all of our staff, including
2 myself, to know that the products we are
3 promoting will ensure peace of mind for our
4 customers.

5 The assets provided by the Energy
6 Smart Program translate into a wonderful tool
7 for a business such as Jay-K Lumber.
8 Assuring that our customers know and
9 understand what the Energy Star symbol stands
10 for and how it can help them is our goal
11 and we are thankful for the partnership with
12 NYSERDA and the Energy Smart Program to help
13 us guide our customers in making
14 knowledgeable, environmentally sound decisions.

15 Thank you very much.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
17 Elizabeth.

18 Our next speaker is Thomas Rahn from
19 the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce, who will
20 be followed by Alicia Dicks.

21 THOMAS RAHN: Good afternoon. I'm
22 Thomas Rahn, Chairman of the Government
23 Affairs Committee for Rome Area Chamber of
24 Commerce, and collectively we represent about
25 600 business from the local area.

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1 I want to take this opportunity to
2 thank you for all your hard work you've done
3 on this Plan, for your diligence and
4 providing us the opportunity to speak
5 publicly for it.

6 It almost goes without saying that
7 New York's energy costs are some of the
8 highest in the nation. If we are to
9 preserve our few remaining industries, attract
10 new employers to our State and revitalize our
11 economy things have to change.

12 Unfortunately the main focus of this
13 Plan is on reducing energy use as a means of
14 putting downward pressure on the market
15 rather than attacking the problem at its
16 source. The cost of power and delivery and
17 the burden of excessive charges need to
18 change. While the strategy may work in the
19 short-term history has shown that the market
20 will adjust and the strategy could result in
21 the future closure of more generation
22 facilities as they become less profitable.
23 In other words, the real answer for the
24 consumer is lower costs, not less usage.
25 New York consumers need more affordable

1 energy, not less energy at an unaffordable
2 price.

3 Furthermore, the Plan advocates the
4 consumer spend more money to make their
5 residences and businesses more energy
6 efficient, thereby reducing their continued
7 use and subsequently reducing their energy
8 costs. While this may seem like a logical
9 approach for some it is obviously out of
10 financial reach for many. Incentives,
11 matching grants, et cetera, do little for
12 cash-strapped businesses and residents that
13 simply cannot afford now to spend with the
14 hopes of a satisfactory return on their
15 investment sometime in the future.

16 Moreover, the Plan goes on to say
17 that by improving overall electric system
18 efficiency in a cost-effective manner will
19 also mitigate unavoidable price increases
20 associated with replacement of aging
21 infrastructure and reduce environmental
22 impacts. In other words, if we don't use it
23 it will last longer. Not using the
24 infrastructure and/or using it less is not
25 going to prevent it from aging. Most of the

1 wear-and-tear as a result of natural physical
2 changes from weather, corrosion and other
3 time-related elements.

4 In addition to supporting the high
5 price of supply and delivery the Plan
6 continues to advocate other costs for use
7 that ultimately drive up the costs for
8 consumers. For example, the Regional
9 Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Energy
10 Efficiency Portfolio Standard, the Renewable
11 Energy Portfolio Standard, the System Benefits
12 Charge, recently increased Public Service Law
13 assessment, and obviously the Local and State
14 taxes.

15 The Plan also advocates postponing
16 construction of any new fossil fuel
17 generation which would allow time to develop
18 the low carbon intensity electric generation
19 necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
20 for the long term. In other words, we'll
21 wait for something better to come along.
22 Given the long lead-time associated with the
23 siting and construction of a generation
24 facility we cannot simply wait for the
25 technology to come. At the very least the

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1 Plan must address making a site ready --
2 shovel ready, that is -- for the construction
3 process and clear the way of any obstacles
4 that could delay construction when the
5 technology becomes available.

6 The Plan promotes importing hydro
7 power from Canada instead of promoting the
8 development of more New York hydro power.
9 Needless to say this is counter-intuitive to
10 energy independence. New York needs to be
11 self-sufficient and we are not going to get
12 that way by continuing to import electricity
13 from Canada.

14 And although the Plan addresses
15 natural gas exploration and production it
16 falls short in addressing liquified natural
17 gas and its potential for lowering the cost
18 of natural gas for consumers in New York,
19 also its ability to help regulate prices
20 under increased demand by having a ready
21 supply of gas in storage. We have ignored
22 LNG for too long based upon an accident that
23 happened some thirty years ago. Other states
24 have been using LNG and reaping the benefits
25 while New York sits idly by.

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1 Last but not least there are several
2 objectives in the Draft Plan that the Chamber
3 wishes to recognize and wholeheartedly
4 supports. These include the need to develop
5 a long-term alternative for the power for
6 jobs and ECBS programs; encouragement of
7 in-state energy production, including the
8 Marcellus shale formation; promotion of demand
9 side management strategies; the need to
10 upgrade and expand our energy transmission
11 infrastructure; support and enhance research
12 and development of next generation clean
13 energy technologies; the recognition of the
14 value of new in-state nuclear generating
15 capacity; the need for a new siting law for
16 electric generation; encouragement of the
17 development and use of sustainable biomass to
18 displace heating oil and gasoline; repowering
19 of existing generation facilities that are
20 justified; and the need for a statutory
21 framework for carbon capture and
22 sequestration.

23 Central New York's economic future
24 depends on clean, affordable energy. Slowing
25 things down and using less are not the

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1 answers that will maintain and attract new
2 businesses to our region and this State. We
3 need to find viable solutions that will
4 reduce the cost of energy in New York so
5 that the very least we are on par with the
6 rest of the nation.

7 Again, the business community thanks
8 you for your hard work. We think it's a
9 wonderful Plan. With a few adjustments we
10 believe that it is what New York needs for
11 the coming decades. Again, thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
13 much. Our next speaker is Alicia Dicks from
14 National Grid, who will be followed by
15 Angelamae Abbene.

16 ALICIA DICKS: Good afternoon.
17 Thank you for having us. I'm Alicia Dicks.
18 I'm a Regional Director for National Grid and
19 pleasure to resent National Grid here this
20 afternoon.

21 And we'll really congratulate the
22 State Energy Board and really give kudos to
23 you and your hard work and thanks for taking
24 the time to be here in this region. It's a
25 fundamental task we think you've undertaken

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1 and we're really in full support of some of
2 these recommendations moving forward.

3 The State Energy Plan should provide
4 an excellent roadmap for New York's energy
5 future, as well as a useful picture of where
6 we are today and how we use our facilities.
7 We share the Governor's vision for robust and
8 innovative Clean Energy Economy that will
9 stimulate investment, create jobs, protect
10 public health and the environment, and meet
11 the energy needs of businesses, residents,
12 reliably, safely and affordably over the next
13 ten years.

14 National Grid supports the energy
15 resource priorities established in the Draft
16 Report, notably increased energy efficiency,
17 renewable energy, and pursuit of greenhouse
18 gas reductions in the energy portfolio.
19 Achieving the State's goals would require
20 leadership from both policymakers and from
21 utilities that provide energy services to New
22 York customers, and National Grid stands
23 ready to take action and help the State
24 achieve its energy and environmental goals.

25 Today we wish to comment on three

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1 issues that are critically important to the
2 success and implementation of the State
3 Energy Plan. Top three are energy
4 efficiency, clean energy and infrastructure
5 investment.

6 On energy efficiency we realize and
7 support the goal -- the Government's goal for
8 15x15. As you know energy efficiency is the
9 most effective way for both customers to
10 manage their energy costs and reduce their
11 carbon footprint. It's a win-win solution
12 for both customers and the environment.

13 Achieving New York's ambitious energy
14 saving goals will require a partnership of
15 policymakers and regulators, the State's
16 utilities, NYSERDA and energy services
17 companies. We need an all-hands-on-deck
18 approach. Very much the way National Grid
19 uses in a storm. We have a storm emergency,
20 everybody at National Grid puts all hands on
21 deck. We have the same mentality for this
22 type of work ahead of us.

23 We need to streamline the energy
24 efficiency program approval process so that
25 we can bring energy savings to our customers

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1 as quickly as possible and our customers are
2 eager to take advantage of these programs
3 that we are all proposing across the board
4 with C-Net and the marketplace day after day.
5 Flexibility in the implementation of the new
6 energy efficiency programs so that utilities
7 and other providers can work effectively with
8 their customers to achieve the 15x15 goal is
9 critical.

10 On the clean energy front, as the
11 State Energy Plan recognizes, renewable energy
12 is another important priority for New York
13 State and National Grid fully supports the
14 State's efforts. It will be important for
15 our customers to support renewable energy as
16 a low cost or cost-effective manner and get
17 as many people on board as possible.

18 Utility deployment of solar and other
19 renewable energy resources is one of the ways
20 of reducing the cost of the new technologies
21 for customers. Investing in transmissions to
22 deliver those renewable energies to promote
23 -- in remote locations to customer load
24 centers will be critical for ensuring that
25 customers can take advantage of the benefits

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1 of New York's renewable energy development.
2 And transmission is the backbone that moves
3 clean reliable energy from its point of
4 generation to its customer's door.

5 New York State's Energy Plan should
6 give due consideration to the issues of
7 financing, permitting and building transmission
8 projects to deliver wind and other remote
9 clean energy to New York State customers.

10 Investing in Smart Grid is another
11 key element in tapping opportunities for
12 clean energy in New York, and at National
13 Grid we've recently applied to the New York
14 State Department of Energy for the funding of
15 the New York State Smart Grid Program which
16 will target about 82,000 customers in both
17 Syracuse and the Albany Capital District
18 region. The program will enable us to help
19 our customers to manage their energy costs
20 and learn how to integrate renewable
21 resources and electric vehicles into the
22 energy grid for the future.

23 We encourage the Board to develop
24 action plans that will bring the benefits of
25 new technology and renewable energy to our

1 customers in the most cost-effective way. As
2 the Plan notes energy -- clean energy
3 development in New York State presents an
4 economic development opportunity and for the
5 potential of new jobs and National Grid
6 stands ready to work side-by-side with the
7 State and Local communities to make this is
8 a reality.

9 Lastly, as infrastructure investment.
10 As the Draft recognizes achieving New York's
11 -- New York's energy and environmental goals
12 will require considerable investment in the
13 State's energy infrastructure. National Grid
14 is prepared and is eager to make this
15 investment in New York's energy future but we
16 cannot do this without a supportive
17 investment climate. New York's policy and
18 regulatory framework must provide for timely
19 recovery of costs and industry-standard
20 returns in order to attract the investment
21 needed to achieve the goals articulated in
22 the State Energy Plan.

23 We stand as National Grid in
24 partnership with the Board, the State and
25 other utilities, stakeholders and most

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1 importantly our customers, to implement the
2 Governor's vision for the New York State
3 energy and environmental future.

4 Thank you very much for your time.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
6 much.

7 Our next speaker is Angelamae Abbene,
8 who will be followed by Michael Abbene.
9 Welcome.

10 ANGELAMAE ABBENE: Hi. I'm going to
11 read my comments. It -- and mainly because
12 I didn't memorize them.

13 Well, first thank you for trying to
14 prepare a Plan that thoroughly addresses the
15 energy situation in the State of New York.
16 I understand that this Plan is an
17 administrative outline for final action and
18 at this time it will not be taken
19 substantive from participants commenting today,
20 so I have questions I trust you will ask
21 yourselves.

22 Will the Plan fulfill the real needs
23 and desires of the communities involved?
24 Will the State encourage new forms of
25 electrical transmission when it comes to

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1 placement of energy-generating operations that
2 would scar the countryside all for the
3 dubious purpose of providing another city
4 with energy that merely increases its traffic
5 congestion, overcrowding and air pollution?
6 Will the State of New York admit that the
7 sacrifice is too great? Where is the
8 benefits in destroying the one community to
9 help destroy another? Where is that benefit?
10 Will the submitted briefs be skewed to
11 attract more people to the State in order to
12 fill the pockets of organizations that serve
13 to grandize the reputation of Legislators?

14 As a sovereign state we should not
15 be led by disinformation that may be given
16 to us by sinecures, be they federal or
17 otherwise.

18 Electrical energy consists of two
19 paths, generation and transmission. It's
20 that second word transmission that needs
21 translation. We're not speaking about the
22 transmission in use, with little altercation,
23 since Edison and Tesla. We're talking about
24 new forms of transmission.

25 Today the existing forms of

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1 electrical transmission cause the destruction
2 of our environment. To further develop such
3 methods is an exercise in futility. They
4 simply don't fill the need. Large numbers
5 of dollars in the US and local monies in
6 other countries are spent on promoting same
7 old methods of pipeline or wire, aboveground
8 or belowground, and more recently doubtful
9 methods such as nuclear and wind. And I
10 understand natural gas from shale presents
11 problems with water pollution and so on.
12 Naturally they would only have to be taken
13 into consideration.

14 And the really big money goes to
15 develop computer technology. Let's be clear
16 here, the computer's used up a lot of
17 energy. And all this is happening when
18 there is a dire need for venture capital to
19 be spent in experimental studies for a new
20 mode of electrical transmission.

21 In the meantime the State with its
22 numerous energy departments and agencies can
23 begin just such an investigation by
24 encouraging interest and experimentation in
25 electrical transmission. The time is now.

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1 Financing can begin with existing budgets
2 with the New York State department -- energy
3 departments and agencies. Perhaps some of
4 the great minds and monies dedicated to
5 computer technology could be diverted to
6 electrical transmission technology. Why not
7 ask them?

8 Let's shift briefly to fuel for
9 heating and transportation. On the topic of
10 fuel from food products, please, please turn
11 thumbs down on any such foolishness. As
12 many of your mother's said to you when you
13 refused to eat your veggies, children are
14 starving all over the world, so please don't
15 put their food into our engines.

16 The State of New York is in the
17 position of initiating an entirely new look
18 at electrical energy transmission that will
19 do the job without devastating our
20 environment. Please let's do it.

21 Thanks so much for the opportunity
22 to speak to you.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
24 much.

25 Our next speaker is Michael Abbene.

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1 MICHAEL ABBENE: Too hard up act to
2 follow. Before any energy -- new energy
3 plan is approved the following questions
4 really should be answered again. In some
5 cases they may have been somewhere, but I
6 don't know of. For instance, a ten-year
7 plan was -- was mentioned. Is this going to
8 be a ten-year plan or is it supposed to
9 solve problems out into the future twenty,
10 thirty, fifty, 100 years from now? And is
11 that being considered?

12 The reason I'm asking is because in
13 the 1970s, to show my age, we had a problem
14 with energy and there was an oil embargo and
15 all these things came up at that time. It's
16 now thirty-five and forty years later and
17 they're still coming up, the same situations,
18 sun, solar, wind, et cetera, what have you.
19 We can't waste -- afford to waste any more
20 money on this. We've got to have the
21 solutions as quickly as possible but we have
22 to know what we're doing. We shouldn't be
23 in the same situation as we were thirty-five
24 and forty years ago.

25 Because we in the upstate region are

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1 using much less power than what is being
2 generated the excess should be rerouted at
3 its point of origin toward where it is
4 needed. If this cannot be done there is no
5 reason to continue with the Plan. The
6 transmission of electricity must be flexible.
7 Power lines, whether they be overground or
8 underground, are obsolete. We must force the
9 power system of wireless transmission,
10 possibly via satellite or some other form.
11 Wireless is the key to our future.

12 And I bring a couple of examples as
13 to power which is wireless. You can call
14 over to any other part of the world on a
15 cell phone which has no wire. You have a
16 drone which is used by the military which
17 can be controlled here in the US and do
18 whatever it has to do in Iraq or in
19 Afghanistan. Also wireless. There has to
20 be a power unit, there's no question about
21 it, but it does not have to have wires.
22 And I believe there are people who are
23 possibly already in this field trying to get
24 this to work and I don't know of them.
25 I've heard that there might be. But this is

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1 really a very serious matter and we don't
2 have to have as much plan to take up by all
3 this other -- all these other methods.

4 Also, in referring to wind power, I
5 don't know if anyone has noticed we already
6 have windmills dotting our landscape up
7 Upstate New York here and -- and they're
8 constantly moving. Don Quixote would be
9 very, very pleased if he could be here
10 today. They're constantly moving whether
11 there's wind or not. And my question here
12 is is that: Do they possibly require more
13 energy than the energy which they are putting
14 out?

15 Thank you very much.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
17 much.

18 That is all for the preregistered
19 speakers. Is anyone else interested in
20 providing public statement in the audience?

21 **(Whereupon there was no verbal**
22 **response)**

23 HEARING OFFICER: Seeing none then
24 that concludes today's public hearing and
25 concludes the public hearing phase of the

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1 energy planning process. Again, thank you
2 all very much for being here. Thank you to
3 the Board members for being part of the
4 public hearing process. I think that we
5 gathered very useful information that will be
6 helpful in completing the Plan. Thank you
7 very much to our staff. Thank you and this
8 concludes the public hearing session. Thank
9 you.

10 **(Whereupon the proceedings were**
11 **concluded at 1:49 PM)**

12 HEARING OFFICER: We're going to
13 reopen the public hearing. Another speaker
14 has joined us. Mr. Matthew Yonkin from
15 Malcolm Pirnie.

16 MATTHEW YONKIN: I apologize for
17 keeping you all here a little longer than
18 you were hoping to, so --

19 HEARING OFFICER: Fair enough.

20 MATTHEW YONKIN: -- thank you for
21 your -- for sticking around to give me the
22 opportunity to speak. Leaf peekers were out
23 in a little bit more force than I was
24 expecting on the way out here.

25 As I said, my name is Matthew Yonkin

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1 and I work with Malcolm Pirnie. I've been
2 consulting in the energy field for fifteen
3 years. During that time I've witnessed a
4 lot of improvement in the way of New York's
5 public and private sectors, been viewing
6 their energy use and understanding the
7 important role it plays in their ability to
8 cost effectively meet the needs of their
9 residents and also to compete with our
10 manufacturers globally.

11 Much of the improvement I think has
12 taken place really can be attributed to what
13 the State has done to this point with their
14 energy programs and energy plan. Regardless
15 to say that nearly all energy projects,
16 whether it be energy efficiency, renewable
17 generation, was somewhere touched either
18 technically or financially through existing
19 programs that are in place through the State.
20 A lot of progress is made. I do think
21 there's a lot of progress still. And I
22 think the State Energy Plan as written really
23 does a great job at establishing framework to
24 get some of those opportunities that are out
25 there.

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1 There are a few comments that I'd
2 like to share. Most of them are quite
3 supportive and really it's a matter of
4 digging into some details, making sure that
5 when you're writing the action pieces of
6 these -- of these tasks and strategies you
7 keep a few things in mind that I've seen.

8 As I mentioned earlier the importance
9 of the New York State Energy Research and
10 Development Authority's Program and those
11 programs that are administered by the
12 utilities really can't be overstated. I
13 think the Plan recognizes the important role
14 of these entities relative to implementing
15 energy efficiency and implementing renewable
16 energy processes in New York State and in
17 advancing the Plan's initiative, but I really
18 do want to reiterate the thinking these
19 entities need to stay in the core of
20 whatever statewide strategies you're putting
21 forward.

22 I've gone to these public hearings.
23 The other ones I was actually on time for.
24 This one I apologize for running late. But
25 typically they've been dominated by comments

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1 on the energy generation and supply side, not
2 a lot of discussions about the energy
3 efficiency programs or the energy efficiency
4 strategies you're looking at. I do think,
5 and I think you're aware of this, that to be
6 truly effective the energy efficiency piece
7 needs to be getting as much attention and as
8 much fund and focus as the renewable energy
9 pieces do. So, that end I think it's very
10 important that the funding remain in place
11 for it and not only that it remain in place
12 but somehow commitments be made to lock in
13 that funding for a longer period of time.

14 A lot of these programs and projects
15 have long paybacks, take a while for the
16 investments to maybe take hold, and if the
17 Plans aren't having a long enough commitment
18 or a long enough time commitment to these
19 entities, whether they're public or private,
20 the investment won't be made, so balancing
21 the uncertainty of the market with the
22 flexibility to deal with the market which is
23 changing is a very important piece of the
24 Plan.

25 A lot in the Plan -- and I think

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1 it's essential that the metrics are
2 consistent, that they're actually very well
3 thought out, and you understand what you're
4 trying to measure with the metrics you're
5 capturing. Certainly dollars and kilowatt
6 hours saved or dollars per kill -- kilowatt
7 hours is a great baseline metric but that's
8 not going to tell the whole story. That's
9 going to prevent these programs from getting
10 to small utilities. The kilowatt hour
11 savings may not be huge but the municipality
12 benefits on a percent basis. I also think
13 that those methods are going to, you know,
14 probably not capture the true value of
15 outreach and education which really is a big
16 part of creating culture statewide. It's
17 really pushing for efficiency and for
18 renewable generation.

19 And then finally the last point I'd
20 like to talk to is actually tied into net
21 meter and distributed generation. I do
22 support modification of the Net Metering
23 Laws. I think there is some room for
24 improvement in those laws. I think that
25 maximizing the number of the facilities and

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1 output of the facilities that are actually
2 generating distributed energy sources really
3 is going to help the State achieve the
4 renewable generation goals.

5 It's particularly important, and I
6 think this is the sack that gets lost a
7 little bit, is small hydro. There are a lot
8 of small dams out there. There are a lot
9 of small facilities where we're not talking
10 about impeding waterways, the existing
11 structures are there, but under the current
12 regulations hydro generation on a small scale
13 doesn't make sense. You can't get through
14 the licensing procedures. You can't benefit
15 enough. So, I think trying to capture that
16 would be a very positive thing.

17 In particular with municipal entities
18 some areas where they've got a large
19 geographic expansion they have ability for
20 renewable generation but not necessarily where
21 the loads are. Somehow being able to allow
22 them to get the retail value of that
23 electric as opposed to having to put it back
24 at the wholesale value, the lowest wholesale
25 value, I think will make a lot of projects

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1 that can't make a lot of economic sense now
2 move forward. That would really support the
3 overall goals of the renewable generation
4 percentage.

5 So, you weren't staying for anything
6 particularly critical. I do appreciate the
7 opportunity to speak to you, and again thank
8 you again for giving me the opportunity.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thanks for your
10 statement and that concludes this public
11 hearing and the public hearing phase of the
12 planning process. Thank you all for being
13 here.

14 **(Whereupon the proceedings were**
15 **concluded at 1:59 PM)**
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CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF NEW YORK:
COUNTY OF CORTLAND:

I, MICHELE L. KEMAK, RPR, do hereby
certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcription to the best of my
ability of the proceedings in the Matter of
a PUBLIC HEARING, held in Utica, New York,
on the 26th day of September, 2009.



MICHELE L. KEMAK, RPR

DATED: OCTOBER 12, 2009

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1 STATE OF NEW YORK
 2 _____
 3
 4 2009
 5 STATE ENERGY PLAN HEARING
 6 _____/
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 8
 9 Public Hearing, held on September 26, 2009,
 10 at SUNY IT, 12 North Horatio Street, Kunsela Hall, Utica,
 11 New York, commencing at 1:00 p.m., before Michele L.
 12 Kemak, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the
 13 State of New York.
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 17
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 19
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 21
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 23
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1 APPEARANCES:
 2 Thomas C. C. Congdon, Deputy Secretary
 3 for Energy, Hearing Officer, Office
 4 of the Governor
 5
 6 Judith A. Lee, Executive Deputy to the
 7 Chairman, Department of Public Service
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 12 Judith Enck, Deputy Secretary for
 13 Environment, Office of the Governor
 14
 15 Robert G. Callender,
 16 Vice President for Programs, NYSERDA
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Page 3

1 PUBLIC HEARING
 2 SEPTEMBER 26, 2009
 3 HEARING OFFICER: Good afternoon.
 4 Thank you all for being here on such a
 5 lovely day in Utica. My name is Tom Congdon
 6 and I'm the Chair of the New York State
 7 Energy Planning Board. I'd like to welcome
 8 you all to this Public Statement Hearing on
 9 the Draft State Energy Plan. I'd like to
 10 also thank the other members of the Planning
 11 Board who are here with me today: Bob
 12 Callender from the New York State Energy
 13 Research & Development Authority; Judith Enck
 14 who is the Deputy Secretary for the
 15 Environment in Governor Paterson's office;
 16 Judy Lee from the Public Service Commission;
 17 and Bill Little from the Department of
 18 Environmental Conservation.
 19 This is our last public hearing that
 20 we've held eight other public hearings around
 21 the State. And I'd like also to just take
 22 this opportunity to thank our staff.
 23 Suzanne Baker, who's just on the
 24 other side of that door, is our Outreach
 25 Coordinator who has done a terrific job to

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1 organize all of these hearings and make sure
 2 that they run smoothly and keep us all on
 3 track, and she's just done a really terrific
 4 job and we really want to thank her.
 5 John Williams, our Director of Energy
 6 Analysis who helped draft a large chunk of
 7 this Plan and has attended all of the
 8 hearings with us. We really appreciate all
 9 of your effort, John, and time.
 10 And Sarah Osgood, who's the Executive
 11 Director for the Energy Planning Board, who
 12 also had a huge role in drafting the Plan
 13 and attending almost all of the hearings, and
 14 we wanted to thank Sarah, as well.
 15 Most importantly I'd like to thank
 16 all of you for being here today and for
 17 participating in the process. It's
 18 critically important for us to get the
 19 feedback on the Plan from the stakeholders in
 20 the general public who are affected by the
 21 decisions that we're making, so for the past
 22 year-and-a-half the Planning Board has worked
 23 with the staffs of ten agencies and the
 24 public authorities to develop the Draft Plan.
 25 The planning process commenced in

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1 April of 2008 when Governor Paterson issued
2 Executive Order Number 2 which created the
3 Planning Board and charged us with developing
4 a State Energy Plan. On August 10th the
5 Planning Board released the Draft State
6 Energy Plan on its website nysenergyplan.com
7 and we commenced a sixty-day written comment
8 period and a public hearing phase of
9 developing the Final Plan. Written comments
10 are due on October 19th and we will release
11 the Final Plan by the end of the year.
12 The Plan's objectives are to ensure
13 our energy systems are reliable over the
14 ten-year planning horizon, reduce greenhouse
15 gas emissions, specialize energy costs and
16 improve economic competitiveness in New York
17 State, reduce public health and environmental
18 risks associated with energy systems, and
19 improve the State's energy security.
20 The Plan modeled and considered
21 various approaches to achieve these objectives
22 and we've arrived at a number of strategies.
23 First and foremost the Plan
24 identified energy efficiency as the priority
25 resource for meeting all of our stated public

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1 policy objectives.
2 Second the Plan states to develop
3 in-state energy resources which are largely
4 renewable energy resources but also natural
5 gas resources as long as we can do so in an
6 environmentally responsible manner.
7 Third the Plan projects infrastructure
8 needs throughout the State that will support
9 clean energy technologies of the future and
10 also to ensure we meet our reliability
11 standards in the State.
12 Fourth, the Plan identifies
13 opportunities to capitalize on assisting
14 academic and research strengths in the State
15 and to facilitate connections between academia
16 and industry to speed up the rate of
17 innovation and energy technologies.
18 The Plan also identifies needs for
19 clean energy workforce training and economic
20 development training in order to help
21 existing and new businesses thrive in a
22 carbon constraining economy.
23 Lastly the Plan identifies that none
24 of this can be fully achieved without working
25 with other levels of Government and with

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1 communities to achieve our goals. This
2 public hearing is our example of a desire to
3 work with stakeholders affected by the energy
4 decisions and energy policies that we've
5 developed at the State level. This is one
6 of nine public hearings that we've held
7 around the State to hear the community's
8 concerns. A full hearing schedule is on our
9 website so you can see where we've been, but
10 as I've said, this is our last hearing of
11 the public hearing phase of the planning
12 process.
13 My job today is to gather
14 information from the Planning Board to
15 consider, and again we're really appreciative
16 of all of your attendance here today. The
17 process is simple. Those who want to
18 comment have been asked to sign in. Your
19 name will be called one at a time to speak.
20 Please come to one of the mikes here in the
21 aisles when your name is called. The court
22 reporter is here to prepare a verbatim
23 transcript. These transcripts from all the
24 hearings are going to be posted on our
25 website.

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1 It's very important that there be
2 only one speaker at a time so that the
3 reporter can hear clearly. Speakers should
4 address their comments in the direction of
5 the microphone and please make an effort to
6 speak clearly and slowly. If you have
7 written -- written -- a written version of
8 your comments please provide them to the
9 court reporter so that she can use those to
10 ensure accuracy of your comments.
11 All speakers are asked to focus on
12 issues that pertain to the Draft Energy Plan.
13 Your comments should be as succinct as
14 possible so we can hear from as many of you
15 as possible. We set a five-minute deadline
16 for that purpose. And we are keeping time.
17 You'll hear a beeper go off at the end of
18 the five minutes, so when you hear that beep
19 please do try to wrap up your comments.
20 Formal presentations aren't allowed.
21 Those who want to comment but do not
22 want to speak publicly or did not get a
23 chance to do so today -- although I can't
24 imagine that would be a problem -- can
25 submit written comments via the State Energy

<p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p> <p>1 Plan website. If you decide to submit 2 written comments please do so as soon as 3 possible so that they can be carefully 4 considered. 5 All public comments, whether stated 6 at a hearing like this or sent to the 7 website, will be reported to the Energy 8 Planning Board for its consideration and they 9 all count equally regardless of how they were 10 received. 11 So, before I call the first speaker 12 does anyone have any questions about the 13 process? 14 Okay. Yes, sir? 15 A VOICE: Can I use my camera to 16 take some pictures? 17 HEARING OFFICER: Of course. 18 A VOICE: Thank you. 19 HEARING OFFICER: Our first speaker 20 is Gabe Vincelette from the New England Wood 21 Pellet & New York Biomass Council. 22 GABRIEL VINCELETTE: Do we want to 23 use the mike? 24 HEARING OFFICER: Yes, please. 25 GABRIEL VINCELETTE: Well, thanks,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p> <p>1 And currently over 30,000 households and 2 businesses use wood pellets to heat from our 3 Schuyler facility just east of Utica here. 4 So, wood pellets are created from 5 wood chips and falloff of shavings generated 6 by the local lumber and manufacturing 7 operations. Much of the wood waste was 8 discarded on site and left releasing carbon 9 with no energy benefit before our plant was 10 built in New York State. Wood wastes today 11 are delivered to our bio-refinery to be 12 compressed into small pellets. As pellets 13 these former wood waste is now contained in 14 a uniform structure which can be used, stored 15 and transported and fed into a burning pot 16 for renewable heating in high-efficiency 17 pellet units. 18 Supporting renewable energy heating 19 through wood pellets is significant for the 20 regional economy, green jobs and in creation 21 of sustainable markets for low-grade wood 22 which support logging operations inside New 23 York State. Pellets also support less 24 dependence of fossil fuels for heating, use 25 of locally sourced renewable products and</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p> <p>1 guys, again. It's good to see taxes working 2 on a Saturday, let's say. So, and also 3 thank you again. This is my third 4 attendance, second time speaking, so the nice 5 thing is is that what I feel from the Board 6 up top is that you guys have a genuinely 7 desire and interest to hear from these public 8 comments, so... 9 And, Tom, you said 200 people came 10 through and I think that's something that 11 will be very taxing on a few people to hear 12 that. 13 So again, New England Wood Pellet, 14 LLC is the largest distributor and 15 manufacturer of wood pellets in New York 16 State. Created in 1992 the company has 17 grown 30 percent per year to meet consumer 18 demand in New York and inside the Northeast. 19 Today's three plants represent \$35 Million in 20 private and capital investment. And we 21 recently announced the purchasing of Norbord, 22 a composite wood product company in Deposit, 23 New York. The facility will be repurposed 24 saving jobs, logging work and expanding 25 product availability in the Southern Tier.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p> <p>1 mitigating of carbon emissions as wood 2 pellets are considered to be carbon neutral. 3 I strongly agree with the Draft 4 Energy Policy's objectives; however, the 5 inclusion of biomass thermal application in 6 structures and high-efficiency boilers is 7 nonexistence. This Plan does not represent 8 accurately the growing markets, green jobs 9 and capital investments which have already 10 been happening in New York for renewable 11 energy and high-efficiency biomass heating. 12 Surprisingly the pelletized biomass 13 usage in thermal applications meets the 14 highest environmental standards by utilizing 15 conversion technologies already commercially 16 available and being currently used inside -- 17 currently used inside the State. 18 Organizations which currently use pellets to 19 heat their buildings are the Empire State 20 Forest & Products Association building in 21 Rensselaer. Also NYSERDA has a sponsored 22 project with Clarkston University, the Walker 23 Field House, it's a sports facility that's 24 heated by pellets and also serves as an air 25 quality testing service for NYSERDA.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p> <p>1 Recently announced sometime in August was the 2 Wild Center in Tupper Lake, and a 3 NYSERDA-sponsored product which will be 4 heating the entire facility itself, if you're 5 familiar with it. 6 The Draft Report targets other 7 renewable energy sectors like wind, biofuels 8 and PV. Statements regarding wood burning 9 for heat have been lacking in true 10 representation of potential markets on the 11 ground. If the expectation remains that the 12 market will triple in size over the next 13 years according to BTU usage, and 14 representations in the Plan itself that you 15 guys have put forth as the Draft. Much of 16 the heat generated from this is being burnt 17 in inefficient stoves and units. 18 The pellet industry is a young 19 market that has demonstrated itself to be 20 sustainable for loggers, environmentalists, 21 manufacturers and building green jobs. 22 Europeans pioneered renewable space heating 23 with pellets starting in the 1980s. 24 Government realized that in the 1990s the 25 inclusion and the support of renewable high-</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p> <p>1 renewable energy targets and carbon emission 2 standards under budget and on time lessening 3 the burden to taxpayers. 4 Four: Understand that the pellet 5 market is not new. Europe has created green 6 jobs, has created tax revenue while 7 demonstrating proactive forest management 8 policy benefiting all parties involved in the 9 industry. 10 Five: Traditional burning of cord 11 wood is not like burning wood pellets. 12 Treat wood pellets as a different technology 13 with greater efficiencies, higher net energy 14 balance and much lower emissions. There is 15 no need to be regulated like traditional wood 16 burning for emissions and heat output when 17 they're concerned. 18 Thank you again for the willingness 19 to hold the public hearings. New England 20 Wood is honored to represent pellet 21 manufacturers as an industry leader in the 22 2009 Plan. Our company stands willing to 23 assist and looks forward to coming 24 opportunities to discuss and offer feedback 25 on its solutions towards our industry.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p> <p>1 efficiency heating from biomass was a 2 necessity to meet their aggressive carbon 3 reduction and renewable energy targets inside 4 Europe. I see the same scenario taking 5 place in New York State and New England Wood 6 Pellets and the pellet industry stand ready 7 to help. 8 My recommendations for the Plan as 9 it is so far include in the Final 2009 State 10 Energy Plan renewable heating from pelletized 11 biomass as a viable solution to heat 12 structures while reducing our dependence on 13 fossil fuel, lowering greenhouse gases and 14 creating green jobs. 15 Two: Talk, educate, support -- and 16 support the usage of pellets in 17 high-efficiency boilers for renewable space 18 heating in public spaces, schools and 19 government buildings who have access to 20 pellets through bulk delivery. 21 Three: Give renewable heating 22 equality by matching the funding levels found 23 in wind, solar and liquid biofuels. And 24 fundamentally realize that using solid biomass 25 pellets for structure heating completes the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p> <p>1 Thank you. 2 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very 3 much. Our next speaker knows something about 4 developing Energy Plans, former head of 5 NYSERDA is here, Peter Smith, who is now 6 with the Pataki Cahill Group. 7 Peter, welcome. 8 PETER SMITH: I'll give you a copy 9 of this, yes. 10 First of all thank you very much. 11 Thanks for coming. Thanks for coming to 12 Mohawk Valley. I grew up about twenty-five 13 miles away from here so it's a homecoming 14 for me, and I know you folks have been all 15 over this great State and I'm glad you're 16 here in Utica and Mohawk Valley for your 17 last hearing. It's been a long process. 18 First of all thank you very much. 19 My name is Peter Smith. I work for the 20 Pataki Cahill Group. I'm representing 21 Brookfield Renewable Power. Brookfield is a 22 major player in the green industry in New 23 York State. They own seventy-five 24 hydroelectric facilities. They contribute 25 more than 700 megawatts capacity. They</p>

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1 employ 200 people. About 70 percent are
 2 employed by IBEW. They provide \$7 Million
 3 in wages and benefits. They pay \$14 Million
 4 in property taxes. They have access to
 5 fifty recreational facilities across Upstate
 6 New York for public boating, fishing, and
 7 they also operate 100 megawatt Carr Street
 8 facility here in East Syracuse, New York.
 9 As a Plan goes from draft to final
 10 Brookfield believes there are three areas
 11 particularly for renewable energy where it be
 12 improved.
 13 It needs to explicitly acknowledge
 14 the need to develop our sustainable
 15 competitive bio-diesel industry in New York
 16 and also has to consider green dispatchable
 17 power as a means to backstop intermittent
 18 power as the Plan calls for Renewable
 19 Portfolio Standard to go to 30 percent.
 20 It also has to include certified
 21 low-impact hydroelectric facilities in the
 22 main tier regardless of image.
 23 And third, there needs to have some
 24 flexibility in the maintenance tier as when
 25 small hydro facilities are operated as

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1 fleets, little dispatchable hydro, they're a
 2 dispatchable green energy. As we bring more
 3 wind farms, more intermittent resources into
 4 New York's electricity system the system can
 5 be less reliable. We need a backstop that
 6 has clean, green dispatchable energy through
 7 bio-diesel facilities that will use existing
 8 facilities right now that are underutilized
 9 across New York State.
 10 The Plan has to explicitly recognize
 11 that there is a place to play for existing
 12 renewables with existing fossil fuel plants
 13 that convert new bio-fuel in an
 14 environmentally sound manner. We also need
 15 to develop the bio-diesel industry in New
 16 York State nonfuel-based crops to meet some
 17 of that need.
 18 Finally, we should consider in the
 19 RPS as the Public Service Commission examines
 20 the RPS standard whether or not we should
 21 have a separate tier for these facilities.
 22 Second, we need to include low-impact
 23 hydroelectric facilities in the State's main
 24 tier, although they may be of interest beyond
 25 before 2003 as they're certified under

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1 low-impact hydroelectric institute they become
 2 -- they sometimes use renewable generation
 3 because they're passing more water, they're
 4 using environmentally sound means to generate
 5 electricity, and there needs to be some way
 6 of helping them meet their financial
 7 requirements, particularly if they're live
 8 heat certified to participate in the main
 9 tier of the Renewable Portfolio Standard.
 10 Finally, the State Energy Plan should
 11 consider hydroelectric facilities that are
 12 operated as a fleet in the maintenance tier.
 13 Again, pre-2003 vintage facilities, but as
 14 Brookfield operates at seventy-five
 15 hydroelectric facilities in its fleet the
 16 maintenance calls for a small facility, less
 17 than two megawatts, as it is for a facility
 18 that's ten to twenty megawatts, and we don't
 19 keep separate books, so there's a need to
 20 work with the Public Service Commission when
 21 they consider the Renewable Portfolio Standard
 22 to examine how to provide maintenance tier
 23 support for small facilities that may go out
 24 of the -- that may go out of the operation
 25 because they just don't -- they just don't

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1 meet it financially.
 2 Thank you so much for being here
 3 today. Thanks for coming to Utica. Thanks
 4 for coming to the Mohawk Valley. And I look
 5 forward to the Final Plan. Thank you so
 6 much, Tom.
 7 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Peter.
 8 Our next speaker is Allyn Hetzke,
 9 Sr., Unitrac Energy Management, who will be
 10 followed by Elizabeth Gallagher.
 11 ALLYN HETZKE, SR.: Thank you for
 12 the opportunity to speak with you. We are
 13 an energy company and have been so since
 14 1981, before any incentives were available,
 15 and so we've seen a lot of history as how
 16 this grows.
 17 I'm here today basically to
 18 compliment you on the NYSERDA program. Our
 19 company primarily deals in lighting. We're
 20 lighting upgrades for lighting designers.
 21 That's our business. And I meet with and
 22 talk with companies throughout every region
 23 of New York State and I hear their woes and
 24 their -- the plusses and their minuses, let
 25 me put it that way, from an economic

<p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p> <p>1 standpoint. What I am finding is that when 2 we do lighting it's not unusual for us to 3 reduce the lighting kilowatt draw by 60 4 percent in a facility and this is pretty 5 much across the board. It's quite meaningful 6 from a dollar savings which primarily drives 7 these programs. 8 The lighting program or the NYSERDA 9 programs are not charity. There's a systems 10 benefit charge which they pay in their power 11 bills, which I believe that this one is used 12 to provide the incentives and lighting. We 13 find that incentives can be up to 50 percent 14 of the project cost, which is quite 15 meaningful for a company that might not be 16 able to put together the funds to have a 17 capital -- provide a capital improvement for 18 their facility. 19 So, I've seen well over the past ten 20 years this greatly enhanced -- this program 21 greatly enhance the ability of private 22 industry to implement these programs. In 23 looking at the laws that are changing in 24 lighting products that are not going to be 25 available next year and foreseeable future</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p> <p>1 behalf of the Jay-K Independent Lumber. We 2 at Jay-K have enjoyed participating in the 3 NYSERDA Energy Smart Program in the past and 4 look forward to its continuation in the 5 future. 6 As our customers become more 7 conscientious of their energy consumption and 8 begin to take on the responsibility of energy 9 conservation we take pride in being able to 10 assist them in making knowledgeable purchases 11 that will not only benefit and preserve our 12 environment but also are more cost effective 13 for the consumers themselves. 14 Advertisements and information are key 15 parts in educating a community on the topic 16 of being energy smart and because of somewhat 17 recent emphasis on going green in our society 18 many customers who enter our store after 19 being given a challenge to do their part are 20 left wondering which products specifically 21 they should be looking for and why. 22 The Energy Smart Product Program has 23 given us information and tools we as 24 salespeople need to assist the public in 25 making these informed decisions. Whether our</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p> <p>1 I'm concerned that maybe a NYSERDA program 2 could be curtailed sooner than later. And I 3 mean, all you hear is the State's having 4 difficulty financially and so on and so 5 forth. 6 I would encourage that a NYSERDA 7 program continue for a while because I think 8 it's greatly helping these programs to -- to 9 occur. It makes it affordable for 10 corporations to implement them and it's very 11 meaningful because it creates capital for 12 them to reinvest in other areas. Maybe 13 they're investing in reducing debt service or 14 whatever they need to do to stay in 15 business. 16 So, basically that's why I'm here. 17 And to encourage the -- the continuation of 18 the NYSERDA program. 19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very 20 much. 21 Our next speaker is Elizabeth 22 Gallagher from Jay-K Independent Lumber, who 23 will be followed by Thomas Rahn. 24 ELIZABETH GALLAGHER: Hello. My 25 name is Elizabeth Gallagher. I am here on</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p> <p>1 customers are looking to insulate their 2 homes, replace their windows or simply 3 convert their incandescent light bulbs to 4 energy saving, compact, fluorescent light 5 bulbs, the Energy Smart Program has been 6 there to insure that these products' benefits 7 are clearly marked with the Energy Star logo. 8 Also they ensure our sales staff is informed 9 on the benefits of these products and 10 furthermore supply us with the resource of 11 Energy Smart representatives who are available 12 for consultation and supply us with the 13 information and tools we need. 14 This program aids our customers in 15 making the connection between what they've 16 heard about to what they can actually do as 17 their part to be energy smart. The Energy 18 Smart Program defines each product that it 19 emphasizes and compares it -- and compares 20 them to similar products lacking the Energy 21 Star seal of approval, so as to give 22 confidence to the consumer and assure them 23 that they are making a sound choice and 24 investment by choosing an environmentally 25 friendly product or fixture. It is also a</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p> <p>1 great comfort for all of our staff, including 2 myself, to know that the products we are 3 promoting will ensure peace of mind for our 4 customers. 5 The assets provided by the Energy 6 Smart Program translate into a wonderful tool 7 for a business such as Jay-K Lumber. 8 Assuring that our customers know and 9 understand what the Energy Star symbol stands 10 for and how it can help them is our goal 11 and we are thankful for the partnership with 12 NYSERDA and the Energy Smart Program to help 13 us guide our customers in making 14 knowledgeable, environmentally sound decisions. 15 Thank you very much. 16 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, 17 Elizabeth. 18 Our next speaker is Thomas Rahn from 19 the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce, who will 20 be followed by Alicia Dicks. 21 THOMAS RAHN: Good afternoon. I'm 22 Thomas Rahn, Chairman of the Government 23 Affairs Committee for Rome Area Chamber of 24 Commerce, and collectively we represent about 25 600 business from the local area.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p> <p>1 energy, not less energy at an unaffordable 2 price. 3 Furthermore, the Plan advocates the 4 consumer spend more money to make their 5 residences and businesses more energy 6 efficient, thereby reducing their continued 7 use and subsequently reducing their energy 8 costs. While this may seem like a logical 9 approach for some it is obviously out of 10 financial reach for many. Incentives, 11 matching grants, et cetera, do little for 12 cash-strapped businesses and residents that 13 simply cannot afford now to spend with the 14 hopes of a satisfactory return on their 15 investment sometime in the future. 16 Moreover, the Plan goes on to say 17 that by improving overall electric system 18 efficiency in a cost-effective manner will 19 also mitigate unavoidable price increases 20 associated with replacement of aging 21 infrastructure and reduce environmental 22 impacts. In other words, if we don't use it 23 it will last longer. Not using the 24 infrastructure and/or using it less is not 25 going to prevent it from aging. Most of the</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p> <p>1 I want to take this opportunity to 2 thank you for all your hard work you've done 3 on this Plan, for your diligence and 4 providing us the opportunity to speak 5 publicly for it. 6 It almost goes without saying that 7 New York's energy costs are some of the 8 highest in the nation. If we are to 9 preserve our few remaining industries, attract 10 new employers to our State and revitalize our 11 economy things have to change. 12 Unfortunately the main focus of this 13 Plan is on reducing energy use as a means of 14 putting downward pressure on the market 15 rather than attacking the problem at its 16 source. The cost of power and delivery and 17 the burden of excessive charges need to 18 change. While the strategy may work in the 19 short-term history has shown that the market 20 will adjust and the strategy could result in 21 the future closure of more generation 22 facilities as they become less profitable. 23 In other words, the real answer for the 24 consumer is lower costs, not less usage. 25 New York consumers need more affordable</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p> <p>1 wear-and-tear as a result of natural physical 2 changes from weather, corrosion and other 3 time-related elements. 4 In addition to supporting the high 5 price of supply and delivery the Plan 6 continues to advocate other costs for use 7 that ultimately drive up the costs for 8 consumers. For example, the Regional 9 Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the Energy 10 Efficiency Portfolio Standard, the Renewable 11 Energy Portfolio Standard, the System Benefits 12 Charge, recently increased Public Service Law 13 assessment, and obviously the Local and State 14 taxes. 15 The Plan also advocates postponing 16 construction of any new fossil fuel 17 generation which would allow time to develop 18 the low carbon intensity electric generation 19 necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20 for the long term. In other words, we'll 21 wait for something better to come along. 22 Given the long lead-time associated with the 23 siting and construction of a generation 24 facility we cannot simply wait for the 25 technology to come. At the very least the</p>

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1 Plan must address making a site ready --
 2 shovel ready, that is -- for the construction
 3 process and clear the way of any obstacles
 4 that could delay construction when the
 5 technology becomes available.
 6 The Plan promotes importing hydro
 7 power from Canada instead of promoting the
 8 development of more New York hydro power.
 9 Needless to say this is counter-intuitive to
 10 energy independence. New York needs to be
 11 self-sufficient and we are not going to get
 12 that way by continuing to import electricity
 13 from Canada.
 14 And although the Plan addresses
 15 natural gas exploration and production it
 16 falls short in addressing liquified natural
 17 gas and its potential for lowering the cost
 18 of natural gas for consumers in New York,
 19 also its ability to help regulate prices
 20 under increased demand by having a ready
 21 supply of gas in storage. We have ignored
 22 LNG for too long based upon an accident that
 23 happened some thirty years ago. Other states
 24 have been using LNG and reaping the benefits
 25 while New York sits idly by.

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1 Last but not least there are several
 2 objectives in the Draft Plan that the Chamber
 3 wishes to recognize and wholeheartedly
 4 supports. These include the need to develop
 5 a long-term alternative for the power for
 6 jobs and ECBS programs; encouragement of
 7 in-state energy production, including the
 8 Marcellus shale formation; promotion of demand
 9 side management strategies; the need to
 10 upgrade and expand our energy transmission
 11 infrastructure; support and enhance research
 12 and development of next generation clean
 13 energy technologies; the recognition of the
 14 value of new in-state nuclear generating
 15 capacity; the need for a new siting law for
 16 electric generation; encouragement of the
 17 development and use of sustainable biomass to
 18 displace heating oil and gasoline; repowering
 19 of existing generation facilities that are
 20 justified; and the need for a statutory
 21 framework for carbon capture and
 22 sequestration.
 23 Central New York's economic future
 24 depends on clean, affordable energy. Slowing
 25 things down and using less are not the

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1 answers that will maintain and attract new
 2 businesses to our region and this State. We
 3 need to find viable solutions that will
 4 reduce the cost of energy in New York so
 5 that the very least we are on par with the
 6 rest of the nation.
 7 Again, the business community thanks
 8 you for your hard work. We think it's a
 9 wonderful Plan. With a few adjustments we
 10 believe that it is what New York needs for
 11 the coming decades. Again, thank you.
 12 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
 13 much. Our next speaker is Alicia Dicks from
 14 National Grid, who will be followed by
 15 Angelamae Abbene.
 16 ALICIA DICKS: Good afternoon.
 17 Thank you for having us. I'm Alicia Dicks.
 18 I'm a Regional Director for National Grid and
 19 pleasure to resent National Grid here this
 20 afternoon.
 21 And we'll really congratulate the
 22 State Energy Board and really give kudos to
 23 you and your hard work and thanks for taking
 24 the time to be here in this region. It's a
 25 fundamental task we think you've undertaken

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1 and we're really in full support of some of
 2 these recommendations moving forward.
 3 The State Energy Plan should provide
 4 an excellent roadmap for New York's energy
 5 future, as well as a useful picture of where
 6 we are today and how we use our facilities.
 7 We share the Governor's vision for robust and
 8 innovative Clean Energy Economy that will
 9 stimulate investment, create jobs, protect
 10 public health and the environment, and meet
 11 the energy needs of the businesses, residents,
 12 reliably, safely and affordably over the next
 13 ten years.
 14 National Grid supports the energy
 15 resource priorities established in the Draft
 16 Report, notably increased energy efficiency,
 17 renewable energy, and pursuit of greenhouse
 18 gas reductions in the energy portfolio.
 19 Achieving the State's goals would require
 20 leadership from both policymakers and from
 21 utilities that provide energy services to New
 22 York customers, and National Grid stands
 23 ready to take action and help the State
 24 achieve its energy and environmental goals.
 25 Today we wish to comment on three

<p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p> <p>1 issues that are critically important to the 2 success and implementation of the State 3 Energy Plan. Top three are energy 4 efficiency, clean energy and infrastructure 5 investment. 6 On energy efficiency we realize and 7 support the goal -- the Government's goal for 8 15x15. As you know energy efficiency is the 9 most effective way for both customers to 10 manage their energy costs and reduce their 11 carbon footprint. It's a win-win solution 12 for both customers and the environment. 13 Achieving New York's ambitious energy 14 saving goals will require a partnership of 15 policymakers and regulators, the State's 16 utilities, NYSERDA and energy services 17 companies. We need an all-hands-on-deck 18 approach. Very much the way National Grid 19 uses in a storm. We have a storm emergency, 20 everybody at National Grid puts all hands on 21 deck. We have the same mentality for this 22 type of work ahead of us. 23 We need to streamline the energy 24 efficiency program approval process so that 25 we can bring energy savings to our customers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p> <p>1 of New York's renewable energy development. 2 And transmission is the backbone that moves 3 clean reliable energy from its point of 4 generation to its customer's door. 5 New York State's Energy Plan should 6 give due consideration to the issues of 7 financing, permitting and building transmission 8 projects to deliver wind and other remote 9 clean energy to New York State customers. 10 Investing in Smart Grid is another 11 key element in tapping opportunities for 12 clean energy in New York, and at National 13 Grid we've recently applied to the New York 14 State Department of Energy for the funding of 15 the New York State Smart Grid Program which 16 will target about 82,000 customers in both 17 Syracuse and the Albany Capital District 18 region. The program will enable us to help 19 our customers to manage their energy costs 20 and learn how to integrate renewable 21 resources and electric vehicles into the 22 energy grid for the future. 23 We encourage the Board to develop 24 action plans that will bring the benefits of 25 new technology and renewable energy to our</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p> <p>1 as quickly as possible and our customers are 2 eager to take advantage of these programs 3 that we are all proposing across the board 4 with C-Net and the marketplace day after day. 5 Flexibility in the implementation of the new 6 energy efficiency programs so that utilities 7 and other providers can work effectively with 8 their customers to achieve the 15x15 goal is 9 critical. 10 On the clean energy front, as the 11 State Energy Plan recognizes, renewable energy 12 is another important priority for New York 13 State and National Grid fully supports the 14 State's efforts. It will be important for 15 our customers to support renewable energy as 16 a low cost or cost-effective manner and get 17 as many people on board as possible. 18 Utility deployment of solar and other 19 renewable energy resources is one of the ways 20 of reducing the cost of the new technologies 21 for customers. Investing in transmissions to 22 deliver those renewable energies to promote 23 -- in remote locations to customer load 24 centers will be critical for ensuring that 25 customers can take advantage of the benefits</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p> <p>1 customers in the most cost-effective way. As 2 the Plan notes energy -- clean energy 3 development in New York State presents an 4 economic development opportunity and for the 5 potential of new jobs and National Grid 6 stands ready to work side-by-side with the 7 State and Local communities to make this is 8 a reality. 9 Lastly, as infrastructure investment. 10 As the Draft recognizes achieving New York's 11 -- New York's energy and environmental goals 12 will require considerable investment in the 13 State's energy infrastructure. National Grid 14 is prepared and is eager to make this 15 investment in New York's energy future but we 16 cannot do this without a supportive 17 investment climate. New York's policy and 18 regulatory framework must provide for timely 19 recovery of costs and industry-standard 20 returns in order to attract the investment 21 needed to achieve the goals articulated in 22 the State Energy Plan. 23 We stand as National Grid in 24 partnership with the Board, the State and 25 other utilities, stakeholders and most</p>

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1 importantly our customers, to implement the
 2 Governor's vision for the New York State
 3 energy and environmental future.
 4 Thank you very much for your time.
 5 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
 6 much.
 7 Our next speaker is Angelamae Abbene,
 8 who will be followed by Michael Abbene.
 9 Welcome.
 10 ANGELAMAE ABBENE: Hi. I'm going to
 11 read my comments. It -- and mainly because
 12 I didn't memorize them.
 13 Well, first thank you for trying to
 14 prepare a Plan that thoroughly addresses the
 15 energy situation in the State of New York.
 16 I understand that this Plan is an
 17 administrative outline for final action and
 18 at this time it will not be taken
 19 substantive from participants commenting today,
 20 so I have questions I trust you will ask
 21 yourselves.
 22 Will the Plan fulfill the real needs
 23 and desires of the communities involved?
 24 Will the State encourage new forms of
 25 electrical transmission when it comes to

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1 placement of energy-generating operations that
 2 would scar the countryside all for the
 3 dubious purpose of providing another city
 4 with energy that merely increases its traffic
 5 congestion, overcrowding and air pollution?
 6 Will the State of New York admit that the
 7 sacrifice is too great? Where is the
 8 benefits in destroying the one community to
 9 help destroy another? Where is that benefit?
 10 Will the submitted briefs be skewed to
 11 attract more people to the State in order to
 12 fill the pockets of organizations that serve
 13 to grandize the reputation of Legislators?
 14 As a sovereign state we should not
 15 be led by disinformation that may be given
 16 to us by sinecures, be they federal or
 17 otherwise.
 18 Electrical energy consists of two
 19 paths, generation and transmission. It's
 20 that second word transmission that needs
 21 translation. We're not speaking about the
 22 transmission in use, with little altercation,
 23 since Edison and Tesla. We're talking about
 24 new forms of transmission.
 25 Today the existing forms of

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1 electrical transmission cause the destruction
 2 of our environment. To further develop such
 3 methods is an exercise in futility. They
 4 simply don't fill the need. Large numbers
 5 of dollars in the US and local monies in
 6 other countries are spent on promoting same
 7 old methods of pipeline or wire, aboveground
 8 or belowground, and more recently doubtful
 9 methods such as nuclear and wind. And I
 10 understand natural gas from shale presents
 11 problems with water pollution and so on.
 12 Naturally they would only have to be taken
 13 into consideration.
 14 And the really big money goes to
 15 develop computer technology. Let's be clear
 16 here, the computer's used up a lot of
 17 energy. And all this is happening when
 18 there is a dire need for venture capital to
 19 be spent in experimental studies for a new
 20 mode of electrical transmission.
 21 In the meantime the State with its
 22 numerous energy departments and agencies can
 23 begin just such an investigation by
 24 encouraging interest and experimentation in
 25 electrical transmission. The time is now.

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1 Financing can begin with existing budgets
 2 with the New York State department -- energy
 3 departments and agencies. Perhaps some of
 4 the great minds and monies dedicated to
 5 computer technology could be diverted to
 6 electrical transmission technology. Why not
 7 ask them?
 8 Let's shift briefly to fuel for
 9 heating and transportation. On the topic of
 10 fuel from food products, please, please turn
 11 thumbs down on any such foolishness. As
 12 many of your mother's said to you when you
 13 refused to eat your veggies, children are
 14 starving all over the world, so please don't
 15 put their food into our engines.
 16 The State of New York is in the
 17 position of initiating an entirely new look
 18 at electrical energy transmission that will
 19 do the job without devastating our
 20 environment. Please let's do it.
 21 Thanks so much for the opportunity
 22 to speak to you.
 23 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very
 24 much.
 25 Our next speaker is Michael Abbene.

<p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p> <p>1 MICHAEL ABBENE: Too hard up act to 2 follow. Before any energy -- new energy 3 plan is approved the following questions 4 really should be answered again. In some 5 cases they may have been somewhere, but I 6 don't know of. For instance, a ten-year 7 plan was -- was mentioned. Is this going to 8 be a ten-year plan or is it supposed to 9 solve problems out into the future twenty, 10 thirty, fifty, 100 years from now? And is 11 that being considered? 12 The reason I'm asking is because in 13 the 1970s, to show my age, we had a problem 14 with energy and there was an oil embargo and 15 all these things came up at that time. It's 16 now thirty-five and forty years later and 17 they're still coming up, the same situations, 18 sun, solar, wind, et cetera, what have you. 19 We can't waste -- afford to waste any more 20 money on this. We've got to have the 21 solutions as quickly as possible but we have 22 to know what we're doing. We shouldn't be 23 in the same situation as we were thirty-five 24 and forty years ago. 25 Because we in the upstate region are</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p> <p>1 really a very serious matter and we don't 2 have to have as much plan to take up by all 3 this other -- all these other methods. 4 Also, in referring to wind power, I 5 don't know if anyone has noticed we already 6 have windmills dotting our landscape up 7 Upstate New York here and -- and they're 8 constantly moving. Don Quixote would be 9 very, very pleased if he could be here 10 today. They're constantly moving whether 11 there's wind or not. And my question here 12 is is that: Do they possibly require more 13 energy than the energy which they are putting 14 out? 15 Thank you very much. 16 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very 17 much. 18 That is all for the preregistered 19 speakers. Is anyone else interested in 20 providing public statement in the audience? 21 (Whereupon there was no verbal 22 response) 23 HEARING OFFICER: Seeing none then 24 that concludes today's public hearing and 25 concludes the public hearing phase of the</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p> <p>1 using much less power than what is being 2 generated the excess should be rerouted at 3 its point of origin toward where it is 4 needed. If this cannot be done there is no 5 reason to continue with the Plan. The 6 transmission of electricity must be flexible. 7 Power lines, whether they be overground or 8 underground, are obsolete. We must force the 9 power system of wireless transmission, 10 possibly via satellite or some other form. 11 Wireless is the key to our future. 12 And I bring a couple of examples as 13 to power which is wireless. You can call 14 over to any other part of the world on a 15 cell phone which has no wire. You have a 16 drone which is used by the military which 17 can be controlled here in the US and do 18 whatever it has to do in Iraq or in 19 Afghanistan. Also wireless. There has to 20 be a power unit, there's no question about 21 it, but it does not have to have wires. 22 And I believe there are people who are 23 possibly already in this field trying to get 24 this to work and I don't know of them. 25 I've heard that there might be. But this is</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p> <p>1 energy planning process. Again, thank you 2 all very much for being here. Thank you to 3 the Board members for being part of the 4 public hearing process. I think that we 5 gathered very useful information that will be 6 helpful in completing the Plan. Thank you 7 very much to our staff. Thank you and this 8 concludes the public hearing session. Thank 9 you. 10 (Whereupon the proceedings were 11 concluded at 1:49 PM) 12 HEARING OFFICER: We're going to 13 reopen the public hearing. Another speaker 14 has joined us. Mr. Matthew Yonkin from 15 Malcolm Pirnie. 16 MATTHEW YONKIN: I apologize for 17 keeping you all here a little longer than 18 you were hoping to, so -- 19 HEARING OFFICER: Fair enough. 20 MATTHEW YONKIN: -- thank you for 21 your -- for sticking around to give me the 22 opportunity to speak. Leaf peekers were out 23 in a little bit more force than I was 24 expecting on the way out here. 25 As I said, my name is Matthew Yonkin</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p> <p>1 and I work with Malcolm Pirnie. I've been 2 consulting in the energy field for fifteen 3 years. During that time I've witnessed a 4 lot of improvement in the way of New York's 5 public and private sectors, been viewing 6 their energy use and understanding the 7 important role it plays in their ability to 8 cost effectively meet the needs of their 9 residents and also to compete with our 10 manufacturers globally.</p> <p>11 Much of the improvement I think has 12 taken place really can be attributed to what 13 the State has done to this point with their 14 energy programs and energy plan. Regardless 15 to say that nearly all energy projects, 16 whether it be energy efficiency, renewable 17 generation, was somewhere touched either 18 technically or financially through existing 19 programs that are in place through the State. 20 A lot of progress is made. I do think 21 there's a lot of progress still. And I 22 think the State Energy Plan as written really 23 does a great job at establishing framework to 24 get some of those opportunities that are out 25 there.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p> <p>1 on the energy generation and supply side, not 2 a lot of discussions about the energy 3 efficiency programs or the energy efficiency 4 strategies you're looking at. I do think, 5 and I think you're aware of this, that to be 6 truly effective the energy efficiency piece 7 needs to be getting as much attention and as 8 much fund and focus as the renewable energy 9 pieces do. So, that end I think it's very 10 important that the funding remain in place 11 for it and not only that it remain in place 12 but somehow commitments be made to lock in 13 that funding for a longer period of time.</p> <p>14 A lot of these programs and projects 15 have long paybacks, take a while for the 16 investments to maybe take hold, and if the 17 Plans aren't having a long enough commitment 18 or a long enough time commitment to these 19 entities, whether they're public or private, 20 the investment won't be made, so balancing 21 the uncertainty of the market with the 22 flexibility to deal with the market which is 23 changing is a very important piece of the 24 Plan.</p> <p>25 A lot in the Plan -- and I think</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p> <p>1 There are a few comments that I'd 2 like to share. Most of them are quite 3 supportive and really it's a matter of 4 digging into some details, making sure that 5 when you're writing the action pieces of 6 these -- of these tasks and strategies you 7 keep a few things in mind that I've seen.</p> <p>8 As I mentioned earlier the importance 9 of the New York State Energy Research and 10 Development Authority's Program and those 11 programs that are administered by the 12 utilities really can't be overstated. I 13 think the Plan recognizes the important role 14 of these entities relative to implementing 15 energy efficiency and implementing renewable 16 energy processes in New York State and in 17 advancing the Plan's initiative, but I really 18 do want to reiterate the thinking these 19 entities need to stay in the core of 20 whatever statewide strategies you're putting 21 forward.</p> <p>22 I've gone to these public hearings. 23 The other ones I was actually on time for. 24 This one I apologize for running late. But 25 typically they've been dominated by comments</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p> <p>1 it's essential that the metrics are 2 consistent, that they're actually very well 3 thought out, and you understand what you're 4 trying to measure with the metrics you're 5 capturing. Certainly dollars and kilowatt 6 hours saved or dollars per kill -- kilowatt 7 hours is a great baseline metric but that's 8 not going to tell the whole story. That's 9 going to prevent these programs from getting 10 to small utilities. The kilowatt hour 11 savings may not be huge but the municipality 12 benefits on a percent basis. I also think 13 that those methods are going to, you know, 14 probably not capture the true value of 15 outreach and education which really is a big 16 part of creating culture statewide. It's 17 really pushing for efficiency and for 18 renewable generation.</p> <p>19 And then finally the last point I'd 20 like to talk to is actually tied into net 21 meter and distributed generation. I do 22 support modification of the Net Metering 23 Laws. I think there is some room for 24 improvement in those laws. I think that 25 maximizing the number of the facilities and</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p> <p>1 output of the facilities that are actually 2 generating distributed energy sources really 3 is going to help the State achieve the 4 renewable generation goals. 5 It's particularly important, and I 6 think this is the sack that gets lost a 7 little bit, is small hydro. There are a lot 8 of small dams out there. There are a lot 9 of small facilities where we're not talking 10 about impeding waterways, the existing 11 structures are there, but under the current 12 regulations hydro generation on a small scale 13 doesn't make sense. You can't get through 14 the licensing procedures. You can't benefit 15 enough. So, I think trying to capture that 16 would be a very positive thing. 17 In particular with municipal entities 18 some areas where they've got a large 19 geographic expansion they have ability for 20 renewable generation but not necessarily where 21 the loads are. Somehow being able to allow 22 them to get the retail value of that 23 electric as opposed to having to put it back 24 at the wholesale value, the lowest wholesale 25 value, I think will make a lot of projects</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p> <p>1 2 CERTIFICATE 3 4 STATE OF NEW YORK: 5 COUNTY OF CORTLAND: 6 7 I, MICHELE L. KEMAK, RPR, do hereby 8 certify that the foregoing is a true and 9 accurate transcription to the best of my 10 ability of the proceedings in the Matter of 11 a PUBLIC HEARING, held in Utica, New York, 12 on the 26th day of September, 2009. 13 14 15 16 MICHELE L. KEMAK, RPR 17 18 DATED: OCTOBER 12, 2009 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p> <p>1 that can't make a lot of economic sense now 2 move forward. That would really support the 3 overall goals of the renewable generation 4 percentage. 5 So, you weren't staying for anything 6 particularly critical. I do appreciate the 7 opportunity to speak to you, and again thank 8 you again for giving me the opportunity. 9 HEARING OFFICER: Thanks for your 10 statement and that concludes this public 11 hearing and the public hearing phase of the 12 planning process. Thank you all for being 13 here. 14 (Whereupon the proceedings were 15 concluded at 1:59 PM) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>	