## LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE

Legislative Office Building, Room 201 Concord, NH Thursday, January 16, 2014

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rep. David Campbell, Chair

Rep. Gene Chandler

Rep. John Cloutier

Rep. Alfred Lerandeau

Rep. John Graham (Alt.)

Sen. David Boutin

Sen. James Rausch

Sen. Nancy Stiles

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gerard Murphy, Budget Director

(Governor's Office)

Michael Connor, Deputy Commissioner (Department of Administrative Services)

(Convened at 1:37 p.m.)

# (1) Acceptance of Minutes of the November 20, 2013 Meeting.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Let's open the Long Range meeting for this date. First order of business is acceptance of minutes of November 20th. Any additions or omissions? Any discussion? Do we have a motion?

\*\* REP. LERANDEAU: So moved.

SEN. STILES: Second.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Moved by Lerandeau, seconded by Stiles. All in favor, say aye? The minutes are adopted.

## {MOTION ADOPTED}

## (2) Old Business:

## (3) New Business:

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: We're onto new business. LRCP 13-053, Department of Administrative Services. Mike Connor is going to help us with this. Thank you.

MICHAEL CONNNOR, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, Mike Connor from Administrative Services where I serve as the Deputy Commissioner. I'm here today to seek your approval to approve an amendment to an existing electric utility transmission line license affecting property located at the New Hampshire Hospital Cemetery in Concord. The cemetery is located on the north side of Clinton Street between the Turkey River and the White Farm. Unitil is requesting an amendment in order to realign some electric transmission poles that are located in wet areas, actually currently frozen, to more suitable grounds.

The license amendment would result in a net increase of approximately 119 square feet to the license area, although the provisions of the original license as was approved by the State in 1982, including the annual fee of \$200, will remain in effect. I thank you

for your consideration. I'd be glad to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Is there a motion?

\*\* SEN. RAUSCH: Motion to approve.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Moved by Senator Rausch. Is there a second?

<u>REP. GRAHAM</u>: I want to ask a question. Was any thought given to burying the transmission line?

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Are you talking to the Chair, Representative Graham, or are you going through your own process?

REP. GRAHAM: I thought you gave me your permission.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Just kidding. Go ahead, Representative.

SEN. RAUSCH: He thought you were seconding it.

REP. GRAHAM: I was just going to ask if there was any thought given to burying the transmission lines.

MR. CONNOR: No, there wasn't, sir.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Any further discussion?

\*\* SEN. BOUTIN: So moved.

REP. LERANDEAU: Second.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Moved and seconded. Moved by Senator Boutin. Seconded by Representative Lerandeau. Any further discussion? All in favor, say aye? Opposed?

# \*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: We're onto the next item. Mike Connor, please.

 $\underline{\text{MR. CONNOR}}$ : The second item — Mr. Chairman, again, Mike Connor from Administrative Services, and Members of the Committee. I'm here to seek approval for a 15-year lease with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association for approximately 5,000 square feet of space in the State-owned Dwinell Building located on the Laconia campus.

The Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association shares the building with E911, and they have been occupying the building for 15 years under a lease formerly with the Department of Corrections that expired in December 16, 2013. They invested a significant amount of money in the building initially before they moved in, and they're responsible to maintain a portion of the building that they share as far as operating expenses with E911.

Their former lease was for a dollar a year. At one of the former meetings I got the message loud and clear that the dollar a year wasn't really a good idea, so we spent a little bit of time to actually calculate what the water and sewer expenses are for the building, and that's the only expense that they actually don't pay because it's one meter for the whole building, one bill for the whole campus. We calculated and estimated at \$1,500 a year. So we have -- um -- put that into the

lease. It's actually 1,500 for the first year with a two percent escalator over the 15 years. So that's been added as a cost now.

They will be also responsible to share in any other maintenance responsibilities and/or expenses for the building. So should the disposition of the campus change at any time in the future, there's an 18-month provision to get out for either party. So, with that, I'd be glad to answer any of your questions.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Any questions? What's your pleasure?

REP. LERANDEAU: I have a question.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Oh, you want to ask it now?

REP. LERANDEAU: No, I'll ask after.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: After. Okay. All
right. Any motion?

\*\* SEN. BOUTIN: I'll move.

REP. LERANDEAU: Second.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Senator Boutin moves, and Representative Lerandeau seconds that we adopt the motion. Any further discussion? All in favor, say aye? Opposed? Motion is adopted. Thank you.

# \*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Representative Chandler had a quick question on an item.

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REP. CHANDLER: Thank you. I just was curious as to can you give us an update on the situation up at Laconia? Where are we standing on this whole debacle?

MR. CONNOR: There's been no change actually. We've had no offers since then. We actually went out by law to solicit some bids, some proposals. We've received none. The time frame expired, and we've been status quo ever since. We received no other offers or inquiries regarding the property.

SEN. RAUSCH: Can you clarify what we're talking about? What part?

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: The Laconia State School.

MR. CONNOR: The former Laconia State School.

REP. CHANDLER: Yes, I have an interest in that. It's an ongoing situation.

SEN. RAUSCH: No, I know. I didn't understand. You didn't delineate what property that was on.

REP. CHANDLER: Further question?

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Yes, please.

REP. CHANDLER: I lost my train of thought.

(Laughter.)

REP. CHANDLER: What was it? Oh, well. Someone

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else say something so I can get it back again. Oh, at the moment, so where - at the moment they're not in - there's nothing happening. There's not - I mean if someone came in with something, you're not even in a situation of accepting bids at the moment. Is that -

 $\underline{\text{MR. CONNOR}}$ : We would entertain them like we would with any piece of property that we had or any piece of property that's surplus, but we have not received — — we received a couple of calls from the City of Laconia inquiring, but no offers have been made at this point.

REP. CHANDLER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Thank you. Thank you. We do have another item that did not come to us as a written late item, but it is something that needs our attention, and it regards the - regarding the properties for sale over at Pease, the former Community College building. The Community College people are here. I'd like them to come and give us an update. They told me that - some things, and I want to make sure everybody here knew what was going on. So please come on up, and introduce yourselves, if you would, gentlemen.

ROSS GITTELL, Chancellor, Community College System of New Hampshire: Okay. Thank you. I'm here with others. I'm Ross Gittell, the Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire, and I'm here to talk to you about the Stratham property, and —— the sale of the Stratham property to Juliet Marine Systems.

And just a brief reminder. We're at a - we're at a P and S price, a purchase and sales agreement price above the assessed value. And Juliet Marine Systems is moving into the property in Stratham, so that's

significant economic development benefit to the State of New Hampshire, and that's why Chris Way is here from the State of New Hampshire's Econom — — DRED, the Department of Resources and Economic Development. He's the interim director of economic development, and we've been working with them. And they've asked us how they could help us with this transaction and with this company that would provide over 200 jobs for this area, well—paying jobs. It's an innovation—based firm. So Chris is here if you have any questions of Chris.

A background to refresh your memory. The Community College System of New Hampshire and Juliet Marine Systems entered into a purchase and sales agreement in March of 2013. The original closing date in the contract was September, 2013. This was approved by the Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee.

In July of 2013, JMS, Juliet Marine Systems, requested approval of an amendment extending the due diligence period from August 13th till December 31st. And if the buyer found the property satisfactory within that time, it would proceed to closing within 30 days. So this was the due diligence period ending on -

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Excuse me. Was more deposit money due at that point?

 $\underline{\mathsf{MR. GITTELL}}$ : Oh, yes, that is correct. Actually the deposit money would be 30 days after - you know, after the due diligence period, so it would come up the end of this month. That's correct. So the due diligence period has expired. During that due diligence period, as you remember, during the summer it

was -- um -- a summer where a lot of mold, and a lot of properties across the state became a problem, and it became a problem at this property. So it was identified during the due diligence period.

And we went in there, and we took action to remediate the mold. And that was done in the fall. We contracted with a company, EnviroVantage, out of Epping, and they went in there. And then in December of 2013, the company's board met to determine whether the property was satisfactory. And since mold had been discovered during the due diligence period, the board was concerned, and -

#### CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Whose board?

MR. GITTELL: The board of Juliet Marine Systems. We'll be keeping our own Community College System board involved on an ongoing basis. So this was the company's board. In their board meeting in December when they were told during the due diligence period mold had been discovered, they were concerned, and we had the - the mold remediated by a topnotch company.

And postremediation we had an assessment from a separate company, RPF Environmental, from Northwood, New Hampshire, and they said that the mold had been adequately remediated. The board of the company wanted an independent assessment, and that is being done right now. They have contracted Absolute Resource Associates, which is a company out of Portsmouth, and they were — started this independent assessment of the mold remediation January 9th, which was this past Thursday.

And we're having discussions with them saying, you

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know, if there's further mold found, we're committed to removing it at our cost to ensure that it meets their satisfaction. And, again, this was discovered during the due diligence period, and we're fully prepared to address it, but the board is not willing to - to put down the second deposit which would be required to complete the sale.

And, as you noted, we're at the end - you know, the purchase - the due diligence period is over. So we're in front of the Committee to - to ask you to allow us to have some more time to resolve this issue before we can formally declare the contract terminated. Again, this is at a good sales price, a sales price above the assessed value. The company has - would have significant, positive economic development impact for the State of New Hampshire.

We've been in contact. Ron Rioux, the Vice Chancellor of the Community College System, has been sort of the day—to—day person on this. I've met on several occasions with the CEO and founder. He truly has a commitment to New Hampshire. He has stated that. They are not looking at any other property. This is the property they want. But with the deal like this in commercial real estate, these things come up, and we're trying to address it. And we ask the Committee's support in continuing.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: It seems to me we're at somewhat of a stalemate here in the sense that you've remediated the mold. They're concerned that it may come back or there may be latent mold.

MR. GITTELL: They are actually concerned that it's fully remediated, which they want to make sure that

it's - it's - if there's mold there, which it could come back, that it can be addressed. And the board is concerned with the liability issue, yes.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: I understand they would be.

MR. GITTELL: Yes.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: They're concerned with that. So how much time do they need to be satisfied? Is there a time to be satisfied in? First question.

MR. GITTELL: Yeah. No. For our own purposes, we have to set a date. So before we propose a date we wanted to talk to you about this. We know we require your support for that.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Are you suggesting one to us now?

MR. GITTELL: I am. May 1st.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: The second question I have - or second point I have is that I've experienced these things in private life, and sometimes what's done is you go ahead, and the seller maintains liability for a set period of time, say one year. If any more latent problems appear, that - that it falls upon the seller versus the buyer so the sale can proceed versus just waiting forever to see if something pops up.

MR. GITTELL: Yeah. And we're prepared to do that, but at this stage we want the independent report to come back, and then we'll further discuss and negotiate with the company. We feel at this time we are - we have this assessment that the mold has been

remediated, and it's from an independent, you know, company that's provided the report. I've met with them. We've made that contractor available to the buyer, and the board wants an independent assessment. And we're not going to come forward with that proposal until — if mold has been identified. If the buyer — potential buyer wants us to make an arrangement like this, we're fully prepared and willing to discuss it.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Senator Stiles.

SEN. STILES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for bringing that in. When do you anticipate the independent report will come back? Do you have any idea?

MR. GITTELL: We're told, Senator Stiles, that it will take approximately two weeks.

\*\* <u>SEN. STILES</u>: Two weeks. Then I would move to give them till May 1st, and that's the motion. And the reason for that is that is property that has been hanging and hanging and hanging, and it's only going to get worse unless we actually move it, so.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: I'll take the motion, and then we'll have discussion. Is there a second to the motion?

REP. CLOUTIER: I'll second for the purpose of discussion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Yes. I'm sorry, but before - yeah, I know. Mike.

MICHAEL KANE, Deputy Legislative Budget Assistant, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Just a concern. We don't have an item from our office.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Right.

MR. KANE: Back on August 6, 2013, the - there was an item to amend it to move the closing date - the due diligence period from August 13th to December 31st. At that time you changed the closing date to January 30th, 2014. We'd like to have an item obviously to come before the Committee before they can make a motion and vote on it to keep track of it. So that's a concern from our office.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Right. I understand that. That's why we have nothing in writing. Is there any way we can do it off the — — off the one that's already there? I mean can we reference that and change the date so we can do it legally?

REP. CHANDLER: Can't they create one in 10
minutes?

MR. KANE: You would hope.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: No.

MR. KANE: The amendment was 13-033- sorry. The item was LRCP 13-033, which was amended on August 6th. You can make it contingent upon receiving it in writing from the Community College System or, if you feel it's appropriate, you want to amend that previous motion back in August.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Tell me how to do it so we're

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doing it correctly, and we'll - do you want to take a short recess and consider it?

MR. KANE: We'd rather have a letter. I mean we always want to have a letter so we can keep a paper trail.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Senator Rausch.

<u>SEN. RAUSCH</u>: Well, my question -- I guess I don't quite understand. It's going to take two weeks for their consultants. That still -- does that get us to the 30th? That almost gets us to the -- so if that consultant comes in and everything is negative, you're saying that still doesn't satisfy the company?

MR. GITTELL: No, sir, I didn't say. I said, you know, there's a lot of — they would — there — that would have to satisfy their board. Their board would have to approve the contract. The board has a lot of people nationally from out of town. The entrepreneur, CEO have to call on this board to get their approval. If there is some further mold identified, we would have to then remove it and then get another independent assessment.

So the May 1st that - we want to close as soon as possible. The May 1st date appreciates your time, and the reality of real estate transactions is it's probably going to be back - a more back and forth. We're not going to be able to close the deal in two weeks.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Representative Chandler.

REP. CHANDLER: Thank you. I have a

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question. Who's paying for the independent assessment, this one going on now?

MR. GITTELL: The independent assessment is being paid by the potential buyer.

REP. CHANDLER: So they're covering the cost of
what's going on now?

MR. GITTELL: Yes. Correct.

REP. CHANDLER: Okay. Thank you. You referred to the present price, which I guess I'd like to know what that is.

MR. GITTELL: Well, sure. Sure.

REP. CHANDLER: You say it's more than the assessed
value. I want to know is it more than the appraised
value?

MR. GITTELL: Yeah, it's 2,750,000.

REP. CHANDLER: Is the sale price.

MR. GITTELL: That is the sale price.

REP. CHANDLER: Okay. Thank you. Question on that.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Yes, please.

REP. CHANDLER: I'm just concerned. I agree with Senator Stiles. This thing has been dragging on and on, and that's my concern. All we're doing is dragging it on more and more. I mean I would recommend - I'm not

sure what I would recommend. I need to think about it, but there's no reason they can't sign a contract to put down an additional deposit contingent upon the independent assessment being okay rather than just drag this out without them putting down any more money.

MR. GITTELL: Their board has been very cautious on this. You know, we've discussed this with them. We've met with them. And they're a - you know, this is not unusual where the startup company that has high growth potential, they are being solicited by South Carolina. We know that. We know we're not going to - you know, New Hampshire is not in any position to offer what South Carolina has, but they're willing - the CEO of the company is very interested in New Hampshire, but they do have some leverage on us. I'm not going to argue that they don't.

REP. CHANDLER: Well, I'm not saying that. It would be contingent upon them having the okay of their independent assessment. It's just saying okay, we want an additional deposit. If the independent assessment doesn't meet your satisfaction, you get your money back. I don't think that's unreasonable rather than tie this property up -

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Can I make a suggestion?

 $\underline{\text{REP. CHANDLER}}$ : - till sometime in May with just what they've put down so far, which is a very insufficient deposit.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Can I make this suggestion? That currently we're out of contract. The due diligence period is over. The contract is cut and clean, null and void. If they wish to -- and we're

being asked, and it troubles Senator Boutin and I guess all of us that we're being asked to do something without a piece of paper in front of us.

So it seems to me what I would suggest is that if they wish to extend the contract — — we're out of contract. If they wish to extend it, that they execute a purchase and sale agreement to that extent and bring it back to us with whatever data you have at our March meeting. I mean we're out of contract anyway until we approve it. If we mutually agree to extend, we can mutually agree to extend. That's fine. If we don't, we won't.

SEN. BOUTIN: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Yeah.

SEN. BOUTIN: I'm - I understand Senator Stiles. I am very uncomfortable. I'm elected to uphold the laws and rules and regulations of the State of New Hampshire. Doing something without public notice is not upholding those laws and regulations. I will not participate in the vote to do this. I will not vote to do something that has not been publicly noticed.

 $\underline{\mathsf{MR.\ GITTELL}}\colon$  Well, could we come before the Committee again in March -

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Yes.

MR. GITTELL: -- and just -- I wanted to come here to inform you, and --

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Right, right.

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 $\underline{\mathsf{MR. GITTELL}}$ : -- we'll continue to try and make further progress.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Well, that was my suggestion before that they come back in March, and if they can negotiate an extension, that we have that extension in front of us, that we have the item in front of us, and - and - well, we don't have our next meeting - well, we can come earlier.

REP. CHANDLER: We meet in February.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: We can come earlier. We plan to do it in March. We can come earlier if we need to.

REP. CHANDLER: Yeah. I think it's important enough. I don't want to sound like I'm not in favor of getting this done, but I'm in favor of getting it done -

MR. GITTELL: No, we want to work with you. I'm open to suggestions. I want to work with you.

 $\underline{\text{REP. CHANDLER}}$ : We could have a meeting with just this on the agenda.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: We could have a special meeting just for this. We certainly could. What's the time line on the remediation? We don't want to do it before we get that remediation.

MR. GITTELL: Again, we were told it takes two weeks. You know, the experience that -

REP. GRAHAM: It may be more.

MR. GITTELL: Yeah. I would be very -- I would be much more comfortable with -- in early March. I think it's more realistic that we can come back to you.

SEN. RAUSCH: I agree with Senator Boutin. I mean this - this building, this campus has gone from 10 million to this, to that, and, you know, at this point, an empty building, I mean this is what you end up with is mold. So my - I agree. My only concern is - is the legalities of we basically have a contract that is now done.

MR. GITTELL: I think each - both sides have to declare to terminate, and we - we haven't done that. And we're asking you to - before you do that, we allow for them to come back to us, which a March reappearance here would allow us to do.

SEN. RAUSCH: Yeah. So - -

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Go ahead.

MR. GITTELL: Yeah.

SEN. RAUSCH: And I'm okay if the legalities of that are okay. Because at this point I'm not worried about another buyer because nobody's been interested. So to give them until March and then proceed, you know, I'm okay as long as the legalities of this whole thing are okay.

 $\underline{\text{MR. GITTELL}}$ : It's my understanding that we could keep this open — — you know, open unless the contract — — both parties terminated.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: We've been in limbo and out of

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contract since December 31st.

MR. GITTELL: Yeah.

 $\underline{\text{CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL}}\colon$  We've been out of contract. So whether we do this for two weeks or two months -

SEN. RAUSCH: Then I'm okay.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: But at that point we can either extend the contract or we can say we don't want to extend the contract.

 $\underline{\text{MR. GITTELL}}$ : And if we're asking for that, we'll have it officially and be on the record.

REP. CHANDLER: I guess my concern is -- and I'm arguing a little against myself here. And I don't know why we need to wait till March. I would like to get it under contract. And I don't necessarily disagree, but once you don't have a contract, the fact that both -- each party being able to get out of it, I mean we're already out of it.

MR. GITTELL: No. I agree.

REP. CHANDLER: So let's say it even took a month, we've already been - it's already been going on for how long? A week?

 $\underline{\text{MR. GITTELL}}$ : It's a little — — it's a week now. It's Thursday, yes.

REP. CHANDLER: Okay. So one week. Give it another week, and then even two more weeks gets us into

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February. It just seems like we could meet in February to get this resolved, but I don't care.

MR. GITTELL: Again, I'm being cautious in saying this takes time, and we could come in front of you in March. It gives us a little more time with the company. They have an out-of-state board of directors, which makes it difficult for them to get the board's approval on these types of issues.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: Senator Stiles.

SEN STILES: I guess I would like to see this move forward. I will withdraw my motion if it will make it easier for him to continue.

REP. LERANDEAU: And I withdraw my second.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: If that's the case, is the Committee willing to put this on the agenda, which is March 4th, I think, and expect to have an action item one way or the other from - from them?

SEN. RAUSCH: Yes.

REP. GRAHAM: Yes. And the other thing is we have a week off in February, too.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: So I don't know if it needs a motion or just that's the intent of the board.

\*\* REP. LERANDEAU: So moved.

REP. CLOUTIER: I'll second that motion.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: All right. Lerandeau moves,

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and Cloutier seconds that we place - that we expect the Community College to come in with an action item for us at our March 4th meeting.

MR. GITTELL: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL: All in favor? Opposed? All right. So we will expect to see you back then and with some kind of resolution one way or the other where we're going to go, either extension or proposal, but in any way some kind of P and S.

MR. GITTELL: Yeah.

\*\* SEN. BOUTIN: Adjourn.

## (4) Miscellaneous:

## (5) Informational:

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Okay. The last thing is just informational only, and Senator Boutin moves to adjourn.

REP. LERANDEAU: Second.

<u>CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL</u>: Seconded by Lerandeau. All those in favor, say aye? Opposed? We are adjourned.

# \*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

(Adjourn at 2:03 p.m.)

#### CERTIFICATE

I, Debra L. Mekula, a Licensed Court
Reporter and Justice of the Peace of the State of
New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the
foregoing, to the best of my knowledge, skill and
ability, is a true and accurate transcript of my
stenographic notes of the Long Range Capital
Planning and Utilization Committee Hearing, taken
at the place and under the circumstances present
on the date hereinbefore set forth.

Debra L. Mekula, LCR, RMR Licensed Court Reporter Registered Merit Reporter N.H. LCR No. 26 (RSA 310-A)