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DRAFT 2009 NYS ENERGY PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING

Date: August 18, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Kingston Theatre
Miller Campus Center
34 Cornell Drive
Canton, New York
Before: Thomas Congdon, Chair
NYS Energy Planning Board
Frank Murray, President and CEO
New York State Energy Research and
Development Corporation
Judith Lee, Executive Deputy to the
Chairman of the NYS Public Service
Commission
Peter Iwanowicz, Assistant Secretary for
the Environment, Governor Paterson's Office
William Little, Esq., NYS Department
of Environmental Conservation

1 MR. CONGDON: Good morning and welcome.
2 This is a hearing to accept public comments on the 2009
3 draft State Energy Plan that was released on
4 August 10th, 2009 on the Energy Planning website,
5 www.nysenergyplan.com.

6 The plan was issued in accordance with
7 Executive Order Number 2 which was issued in April 2008,
8 and called for the creation of the State Energy Planning
9 Board and tasked the Board with preparing a State Energy
10 Plan.

11 The Plan consists of a main volume, along
12 with seven assessments and nine issue briefs that
13 provide more in-depth supporting information for the
14 volume.

15 This is one of nine public hearing sessions
16 we are holding to hear your comments. Future sessions
17 will be held in Manhattan, Buffalo, Binghamton, Long
18 Island, Brooklyn, Albany, Kingston and Utica.

19 Written comments on the draft plan will also
20 be accepted through October 19th and information on
21 submitting written comments can be found on the Energy
22 Plan website.

23 If you decide to submit written comments,
24 please do so as soon as possible so they can be

1 carefully considered. All public comments, whether oral
2 or written, will be reported to the Energy Planning
3 Board for its consideration. They all count equally
4 regardless of how they were received and will be
5 considered in the development of the final plan to be
6 released the end of 2009.

7 My name is Tom Congdon, and I am the Chair
8 of the State Energy Planning Board and Deputy Secretary
9 to David Paterson for energy. My job today is to gather
10 information from all of you.

11 I would like to introduce to you other
12 members of the planning board. To my left is Frank
13 Murray, the President and CEO of the New York State
14 Energy Research and Development Corporation. To my
15 right is Judy Lee, who is the Executive Deputy to the
16 Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Garry Brown.
17 She's Garry's designee today. Peter Iwanowicz, who is
18 the Assistant Secretary for the environment, David
19 Paterson's office. He is designee for the planning
20 board member Judith Enck, who is the Deputy Secretary
21 for the Environment. And next is Bill Little, who is
22 here from the Department of Environmental Conservation,
23 the designee for Pete Grannis, the Commissioner of the
24 DEC.

1 The process today is simple. Those who want
2 to comment at this hearing have been asked to sign in
3 upon arrival. And those who have pre-registered on the
4 Energy Planning website will be called upon to speak
5 first. Walk-ins will be allowed to speak as long as
6 there is time remaining in our hearing time frame.

7 Your name will be called one at a time to
8 speak. Please come to the podium on stage to my right,
9 and when your name is called you can come right up to
10 the podium and provide your statement.

11 A court reporter is here to provide a
12 transcript to the board of everything that is said
13 today. It's very important there be only one speaker at
14 a time so that the reporter can hear clearly. Speakers
15 should address their comments in the direction of the
16 microphone and please make an effort to speak clearly
17 and slowly.

18 It is also very important that those in
19 attendance be courteous to the speaker so his or her
20 comments can be transcribed accurately by the court
21 reporter.

22 If you provide a statement and have a
23 written version with you, it would be helpful if you
24 would provide that to us either today or following the

1 hearing so we can provide those to the court reporter to
2 assist her in providing the transcript.

3 All speakers are asked to focus on issues
4 that pertain to the draft Energy Plan only.

5 Your comments should be as succinct as
6 possible so that we can hear from as many of you as
7 possible. We have set a five-minute deadline for that
8 purpose, but of course after everyone has had a chance
9 to address the Board repeat speakers may be afforded
10 another five minutes.

11 Formal presentations, such as PowerPoint,
12 aren't being allowed today. Again, our goal is to hear
13 from as many of you as possible.

14 As this is a statement hearing, the Planning
15 Board isn't entertaining questions. This is an
16 opportunity for us to receive feedback on the draft
17 plan.

18 Those who want to comment but do not want to
19 speak publicly, or don't get a chance to do so, again,
20 can submit written comments via our website. And,
21 again, that's www.nysenergyplan.com.

22 Our expectation is that this hearing will
23 run for up to four hours.

24 With that, I want to thank you all again for

1 coming today, and if there are any questions about the
2 process we can take those at this time.

3 Seeing none, I will call our first speaker,
4 John Charamella.

5 MR. CHARAMELLA: Hello, my name is John
6 Charamella. I'm a small solar energy business here in
7 New York and I promised to address some issues here from
8 the New York Solar Energy Association.

9 Just a few quick talking points here is we
10 would like to be able to create a long term plan that
11 provides clear incentives to develop 2000 megawatt load
12 by 2017.

13 We always here our Governor say he would
14 like to be this great solar state and lead the country
15 and whatever, but in order to do that we have to have a
16 clear concrete plan and we don't have one. So, it would
17 be really nice if we started working on that in detail.

18 The next point, provide a solar solution to
19 the 51 percent of the State's energy consumption using
20 heat and hot water. Just an interesting point: The
21 largest solar heating system in the country is at Fort
22 Drum. That's something that we could really use in the
23 State to help promote solar heating. If it couldn't
24 work why would the government, why would the Army spend

1 so much money to make it work at Fort Drum? It can
2 work. We have more examples of that other places in the
3 State.

4 Next point, institute a New York State
5 government solar energy purchasing program. If the
6 State really got on board and decided that in State
7 projects that go forth from this point on were going to
8 use a certain percentage of renewable energy in those
9 projects at the beginning, then that would be a great
10 incentive for New York State. But, again, it's getting
11 the wheels turning, greasing that wheel to get moving.

12 Recognizing the unique value that PV and
13 solar thermal systems provide and employ in different
14 areas and applications. One great example is solar
15 power water heating. It's the best bang for the buck,
16 everybody knows that, but in New York State there is
17 very few incentives other than the tax credit.

18 I really think that what NYSERDA should be
19 doing is giving people a rebate for solar hot water the
20 same way they give people a rebate for solar electricity
21 because, when you think about it, most people that do
22 have solar hot water, at least my customers, are saying
23 I get this electric hot water heater and I'm spending 80
24 bucks a month for a family of four. What can I do?

1 And they hear about incentives, the rebate
2 for photovoltaic, I'm sorry you don't have that for hot
3 water. So, I think that's something we can look at
4 having NYSERDA incorporate in a rebate program.

5 As we all know, the best power plant is the
6 one we don't have. If we really look at consumption and
7 the average home that has a hot water heater, at least
8 50 percent of it.

9 And another point is to change the
10 commercial net metering laws, make it more flexible so
11 that businesses can look at being able to see a clear
12 pay back when they are investing in solar. Just make it
13 very clear and having a real long term approach because,
14 as you know, money is what drives the energy.

15 If an investor can't see that I can look at
16 getting a pay back way down the line, they might look
17 elsewhere, or seeing that a pay back on some other
18 industry is going to get bigger bang for their buck
19 right away. So, you have to give investors that
20 incentive.

21 Anyway, thank you very much.

22 MR. CONGDON: Thank you.

23 Our next speaker is Louise Jensen.

24 MS. JENSEN: Good morning.

1 Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

2 The State's '80 by 50' goal is very
3 ambitious and requires everyone's willing participation
4 to achieve it. It will require partners, and we are one
5 of those partners, working with NYSERDA, to really
6 fulfill that '80 by 50' goal on the ground.

7 Not only to the partners, we would like to
8 also encourage synergy between the agencies and to the
9 programs in order to better enhance the partnerships and
10 see results. That is one of the key elements that we
11 see being here in the communities working, that
12 disjointed problems that we see working with State
13 government.

14 We are a non-profit. We successfully worked
15 with NYSERDA for the past seven years to transform the
16 North Country/Adirondack Park to a region where each
17 resident is energy aware and each building is energy
18 efficient.

19 We have a particular goal, CES, on
20 low-income, local government and small business. We
21 look forward to continuing our partnership with NYSERDA,
22 and in particular, those programs that dovetail with our
23 mission, and those include Home Performance, Local
24 Government and Energy Star Homes Program, EmPower and

1 the Multi-Family Performance Program that is currently
2 under review.

3 CES has the distinction of being honored
4 with our management with NYSERDA to be the first
5 multi-family program in the State and that achieved 27
6 percent savings, exceeding the minimum 20 percent.

7 In terms of the elements of the plan, in
8 particular, using energy more efficiently, we could not
9 support that goal at this time. We really believe very
10 strongly there is latent potential in improving energy
11 efficiency both in terms of achieving the State's
12 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal, as well as in
13 stimulating economic growth.

14 Awareness, education and access to programs
15 to assist homeowners and small businesses in this region
16 are critical. Access we believe to be the most
17 important.

18 Access, in our estimation, is ease of
19 learning about and entering into the programs. It's
20 difficult very often for small businesses, for a
21 homeowner, to access. It's one of the key things we
22 consider part of our role, but it doesn't always come
23 through to us.

24 Affordability of entry into an energy

1 efficient lifestyle, and the availability of products
2 and skilled service providers is also important.

3 The disjointedness, again, between the
4 different programs, between Department of State and
5 Social Services and NYSERDA limits the ability to learn
6 and entry to programs especially for low-income, who are
7 not able to decipher and wander through all the
8 different programs on their own.

9 In addition to the perceived conflict or
10 idea that there's a lack of affordability in having an
11 energy efficient lifestyle, whether it's perception or
12 truth, continued incentives and rebates are very
13 important to get past that here on the ground in the
14 North Country. Otherwise, those press points or that
15 perception will prohibit low and moderate income
16 households.

17 In addition, in the plan, investment in
18 energy and transportation infrastructure and in-State
19 energy supplies is a double edged sword for those of us
20 in the North Country. We would like very much for you
21 to think about that.

22 We are a region poor in jobs and very poor
23 in household income, yet we are rich in energy
24 resources, such as wind, hydro and biomass, both wood

1 and grass.

2 Energy is being generated but being
3 transported out of our region, and program funding is
4 disproportionately targeted toward urban centers, where
5 our energy is going.

6 We ask that any investment must look at
7 ongoing compensation to the communities whose resources
8 are going to the expansion of in-State energy supplies
9 and generation.

10 Historically, it has been very difficult for
11 us up here to compete for funds, which are typically
12 awarded based on population density, putting rural
13 regions, not just the North Country but the Southern
14 Tier, at a distinct disadvantage.

15 We are particularly pleased, though, with
16 the Plan and support improving end-use energy efficiency
17 programs, especially the measurements and reporting.
18 The challenge is the disjointedness across the agencies,
19 how to accurately capture cumulative reductions and
20 savings.

21 We have a hard time here as a program
22 learning about all of the programmatic savings, and it's
23 additionally challenging when we are looking at
24 different agencies, how do we get that clear path so we

1 can demonstrate success.

2 Updating of the Energy Code, that is so
3 critically important, as well as improving training of
4 code officers to enforce that advanced code. Without
5 enforcement it will not happen.

6 We are thrilled to see the link to real
7 estate transaction disclosures. We cannot leave out the
8 building trades. Architects to engineers and
9 contractors are pivotal to that success of that program.

10 In addition, the focus on low income
11 households must continue, at least in the North Country.
12 A large percentage of our homes are low income
13 households and they need that help, who are particularly
14 vulnerable and whose economic status can be most
15 directly impacted by savings in energy costs.

16 We also appreciate and encourage your
17 continued focus on public buildings, but please
18 encourage a holistic approach across the agencies,
19 looking at whole communities, not just the municipal
20 buildings.

21 I know it's easier to hold municipalities
22 accountable, but they have an opportunity to really be a
23 leader and to be a role model and to set the standards
24 for housing authorities and public housing as well as

1 individual homeowners and small businesses in their
2 communities.

3 In addition, thank you so much for
4 addressing the financing. Very often, as we work with
5 clients of NYSERDA here in the North Country, where the
6 challenges are faced is when we look at incentives and
7 we look at rebates and we look at the gap in funding and
8 finding the financing to complete the program for those
9 building owners or homeowners. That is the most
10 critical piece at the moment to move on very quickly so
11 that we can get buildings that are already in the
12 pipeline to closure and see results.

13 So, thank you very much.

14 MR. CONGDON: Thank you very much.

15 MR. MURRAY: Louise, I wanted to ask you a
16 question. In the Saranac Lake multi-family housing
17 project, you mentioned that there's 27 percent energy
18 savings for that project.

19 MS. JENSEN: Yes.

20 MR. MURRAY: Do you know how much of that
21 was electric and gas?

22 MS. JENSEN: I don't offhand. Our program
23 manager -- Ann, do you remember how much was electric
24 and how much was gas?

1 MR. MURRAY: That would be fine. Just send
2 it. I was just curious how much was electric and what
3 was gas.

4 MS. JENSEN: We will e-mail it to you this
5 afternoon.

6 MR. MURRAY: The other question I had was
7 something you could probably provide for the record down
8 the road. You mentioned three or four times the
9 disjointed State agency policy compactions and that's
10 something we always struggle with.

11 More specifically, can you cite cases where
12 that disjointedness occurred and then provide us with
13 specific suggestions how to avoid that in the future.

14 MS. JENSEN: We can follow up with that.

15 One in particular is the disconnection
16 between -- I will do it from the constituent standpoint.
17 If you look at it from the end user point of view, I am
18 homeowner, I am low income. If I go to the county
19 office I will learn about the weatherization program and
20 I will go to the weather agencies here in the county and
21 CDP, they are a wonderful organization, and they will
22 come in and do weatherization, but what I won't learn
23 about is all of the other opportunities to continue the
24 work in my home.

1 I won't learn about EmPower. That might
2 dovetail and that's something that the weatherization
3 team might not bring me. I won't learn about all the
4 loan programs that might be available to me. I won't
5 necessarily get the educational part of EmPower.

6 So, to get these agencies not just at the
7 top, but all of us in the field, to work together and
8 sort of come from above. What we have done is we have
9 created a little bit of a cheat sheet that we use with
10 our clients that show them how to access information, so
11 that at least they learn about all the programs they
12 would be eligible for, but then they need to navigate
13 that themselves, which is sometimes easy and sometimes
14 not so easy.

15 MR. MURRAY: Let me suggest you react to
16 this idea. When we are implementing NYSERDA, the
17 economic stimulus package, the Governor's Office,
18 Department of Public Service particularly, to put
19 together a website that's institutional so customers and
20 clients can go to and identify not just the programs
21 with NYSERDA and the potential assistance of them, but
22 all of the programs that various State agencies have.

23 So, in effect, one stop shopping at least
24 for informational to go to one site, website, and learn

1 what programs are available if you are a school,
2 hospital or non-for-profit.

3 Would something like that in the residential
4 sector be helpful?

5 MS. JENSEN: Very much so. Also talk to
6 Department of State. Social Services agencies have done
7 a website like that so there might be a way to link them
8 as well.

9 MR. IWANOWICZ: You mentioned that a large
10 percentage of the homes here are low income. If you
11 could provide that.

12 MS. JENSEN: I would be happy to.

13 MR. CONGDON: Thank you very much.

14 Our next speaker is Tony Collins, President
15 of Clarkson University. Thank you, Tony.

16 Good morning. My name is Tony Collins,
17 President of Clarkson University. Thanks for the
18 opportunity to be here this morning. Thanks for the
19 comments. I am actually deferring comments for our
20 provost Tom Young who is going to speak as well. I'm
21 happy to provide some written comments.

22 I would just like to speak from a little
23 broader perspective this morning. I'm a board member of
24 the Solar Energy Consortium, the strongest

1 public/private sector organization committed to bringing
2 a solar powered future to New York State.

3 The first speaker, John, I would like to
4 endorse his comments. I'll get to a couple specific
5 suggestions as to how we can perhaps pull all of this
6 together.

7 I am also the President of the
8 not-for-profit Seaway Private Equity Corporation that
9 invests in start-up businesses in St. Lawrence County.
10 We started a number, seven companies in total, three of
11 them focused on alternative and renewable energies.

12 I'm also Executive Board member of the
13 Metropolitan Development Authority of Central New York,
14 a board member of Syracuse Center of Excellence in
15 Environment & Energy Systems and Director of New York
16 Business Council.

17 So, with those positions that provide I
18 think a framework, I would like to provide my comments
19 in perspective of New York State in terms of economic
20 development and how the green area can, in fact, not
21 only solve environmental issues but provide a
22 springboard for economic development.

23 And also Clarkson's knowledge and activity
24 in those areas, that provides a foundation that the

1 university is regionally important in an area that is
2 really important to all of us.

3 So, in that context, I would like to make
4 some brief suggestions.

5 I would like to specifically advocate
6 NYSERDA consider three initiatives to assist the
7 aggressive development and commercial implementation of
8 renewable alternative energy opportunities.

9 First would be issues -- and this perhaps
10 gets to the first speaker -- how can we pull all of this
11 together. Issue competitively awarded PONs, Project
12 Opportunity Notices, to not-for-profits, such as TSEC,
13 Solar Energy Consortium, to support their efforts that
14 focus on promoting the research and development of
15 alternative industry technologies in New York State.

16 Support for organizations like those --
17 there are a number of them, many of them are fledgling.
18 They are not well resourced. If there was some Project
19 Opportunity Notices presented I think you might see two
20 or three of those emerge as strong and that would, in my
21 mind, link all of the industry and research activities
22 together. We like advocacy across the State and that's
23 something that NYSERDA can support.

24 And then bridging off the advanced

1 technology, they have what they call Mini-CATs, that if
2 NYSERDA were to fund such activities I think it could
3 commercially promote the use of different NYSERDA
4 selected technologies.

5 Examples would be small mini turbines that
6 produce heat and power and utilize, through various
7 sites. We need to do something, obviously, to get away
8 from coal and gas-fired plants, but Mini CATs, the
9 research conducted to industry. We have seen a very
10 successful application of that in materials at Clarkson
11 and elsewhere across the State. So, Mini CATs might
12 focus on industry and university research could
13 essentially end up generating jobs in this field that
14 would be useful.

15 And then my third point is that those Mini
16 CATs could specifically look at a program called Grants
17 for Growth at the MDA, Metropolitan Development
18 Association of Syracuse, Central New York. That is now
19 eight rounds of funding. There are about 60 grants that
20 have been awarded that connect individual factors of
21 research activities with industry problems and have a
22 very specific aim of either creating new technologies or
23 enhancing any existing technology.

24 That program has been very successful across

1 the board. If we connect these Mini CATs, supported by
2 NYSERDA, a look at that program would be something that
3 would be very specific to address a lot of the questions
4 or comments so far, and that is get us all on the same
5 page and focus our energy resources.

6 So, thank you for the opportunity to make
7 these comments and good luck. It's a great issue for
8 our times. Thank you.

9 MR. CONGDON: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker is Robin McClellan.

11 MR. MCCLELLAN: Good morning. My name is
12 Robin McClellan from St. Lawrence County.

13 Energy conservation is the single most
14 effective and the only approach that yields immediate
15 results. Let me say that again. Energy conservation is
16 the single most effective and the only approach that
17 yields immediate results.

18 Anything else in the plan needs to be
19 secondary to that. That's the only thing that will get
20 things happening now and those things last.

21 I also wanted to briefly address the
22 improved coordination of end use efficiency programs
23 administered by the State's utilities and consistently
24 measure and report results and objectives in strategy

1 one.

2 As Louise mentioned, there is a lot of
3 disconnect, that it's not just between NYSERDA programs,
4 it's between programs for CDPG grants and housing
5 consult, and overcoming that is clearly something that
6 will make a difference.

7 Low income housing is not the easiest
8 housing to work on. It's often more difficult. It's
9 often more expensive but it usually yields great
10 results. The problem with the low income, the
11 weatherization programs and all the programs that are
12 focused on low income is they are low budget, and it is
13 by definition in our culture low income and low budget.
14 It's always a struggle against that. It's a cultural
15 thing. It's endemic in our culture and it's something
16 that works against the end results of the program.

17 The other aspect of that is coordinating
18 data collection and not only data collection for
19 measuring results and efficiency and effectiveness, but
20 also holding on to the data so that later on when you
21 are going back on this house that's been in one program
22 for five years, and five years later it's eligible for
23 another program and you go back and see what's done so
24 you are not rebuilding things.

1 The other aspect of that, in terms of
2 coordination between programs, is putting money in so
3 that the money from different programs has a synergistic
4 effect instead of duplicating effort.

5 On the energy code, this standard has
6 changed progressively over the years, but it is time to
7 overhaul it. While it has expanded beyond specifying
8 simple minimum R-values for walls and ceilings, there is
9 still another quantum leap that needs to be made. That
10 leap is understanding that the "state of the art" is a
11 fleeting thing.

12 Yesterday's 2 by 4 construction with
13 fiberglass batts was "state of the art". Acknowledging
14 the transient nature of codes leads to developing
15 building design that is flexible and easy to retrofit.

16 So, one of the building criteria should be
17 for energy efficient buildings is not just they are
18 energy efficient today, not that they take advantage of
19 today's technologies, but that they will be able to take
20 advantage of tomorrow's technologies.

21 I think that, more than anything -- when you
22 look at some of the buildings up here, 1950s, those are
23 -- they are very difficult to retrofit. They are no
24 more difficult to retrofit than the stuff built in the

1 1960s, but we need to change that.

2 The other aspect of the code is that it is
3 limited by the availability of appropriate materials.
4 By laying out a schedule of increasing standards,
5 materials suppliers can respond to that demand.

6 In addition, having a two tiered code, part
7 is minimal standards but also laying out a preferred
8 standard, a higher standard, that will eventually become
9 the standard, allows for a growth of that code. And
10 it's going to by definition change over time until we
11 get to the point where we can heat a house with a heated
12 conversation.

13 Ensure energy efficiency programs reach low
14 income customers, that's just the most important thing
15 and it probably is the biggest drain on the system.

16 Smart Grid, I am really hoping that Smart
17 Grid will obviate the need for a larger grid. I don't
18 think the answer to our energy problems is developing a
19 grid that wields more power. Wielding power is
20 expensive. I strongly support reducing vehicle mileage
21 travel.

22 I do oppose the development of the Marcellus
23 shale gas formation and I can tell you why. It has to
24 do with responsibly managing energy resources. We

1 should not be developing new ones, clear and simple. I
2 don't know much about the project, I just don't think we
3 should be developing anything but renewables until we
4 are able to manage our energy responsibly.

5 That's it.

6 MR. CONGDON: Thank you very much.

7 Our next speaker is Tom Young, Clarkson
8 University.

9 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Congdon and the
10 members of the panel. I'm very pleased to have the
11 opportunity to speak before you this morning. I do have
12 copies of my presentation.

13 Again, my name is Thomas Young. I am a
14 resident of Potsdam, New York and the Provost of
15 Clarkson University. Coming after Tony Collins, I am
16 here to say a few things about Clarkson's students.

17 In that sense, I represent the nearly 2,600
18 undergraduate students at Clarkson University and 450
19 graduate students, 200 faculty and 350 other staff
20 members; 36,000 alumni, and 30 trustees.

21 For the record, I am also a tenured faculty
22 member at Clarkson and I began my career at Clarkson in
23 1977. I did my research and teaching in the areas of
24 environmental impurity, principally in the areas of

1 water quality. Energy was always in the background.

2 I want to get into a few facts and figures
3 about Clarkson. This teaching and research enterprise,
4 if you will, has energy bills. We face energy bills in
5 terms of electric energy usage in excess of \$2 million
6 per year and over \$1 million per year for natural gas
7 used to power, heat and light the campus.

8 That's a bill that represents five percent
9 of our annual budget and in terms of the number of
10 students on our campus, it's about \$1,000 per student
11 every year. So, it is not a small number. It is
12 significant to us.

13 We are concerned about the availability of
14 reliable, low cost electric power and natural gas. As
15 an institution, we are certainly well informed about
16 these issues, and not just as consumers, but also
17 because we prepare our graduates to go into the
18 workforce in areas that hinge directly on the energy
19 industry. As you may be aware, a number of our
20 graduates have been leaders within the State of New York
21 in positions related to energy.

22 Such organizations as NYSERDA, the Public
23 Service Commission, New York Power Authority, and on the
24 private sector National Grid, and a number of other

1 investor owned private electric utilities. Some within
2 the State and some outside of the State as well.

3 Part of our relationship, as President
4 Collins mentioned his activities within the State of New
5 York. The number of connections that we would have from
6 a venerable institution that is 113 years old does
7 become very large and very diverse.

8 So, having said all that, with Clarkson's
9 talent in the right places, and the abundant hydro power
10 all around us, we still pay some of the highest rates in
11 the State. That is a concern.

12 The building that we are in is roughly 10
13 miles from the Raquette River. The Raquette River flows
14 north out of the Adirondacks to the St. Lawrence River,
15 which, of course, is our border with Canada.

16 The Raquette is the second longest river
17 within the State. It does have the distinction as being
18 the most dammed river in the State for low-head power
19 production, and is, in fact, one of the most dammed
20 rivers in the nation.

21 Nevertheless, the power that's generated
22 through those low-head facilities doesn't benefit the
23 residents of Northern New York as it does those of
24 downstate. So, to an extent, we see that it is clearly

1 an issue of environmental justice, which is a key issue
2 in the State Energy Plan.

3 Relatedly, the Moses-Saunders Power Dam.
4 The St. Lawrence Seaway and the power project are
5 certainly engineering marvels, but as a matter of
6 environmental and economic justice, the people of this
7 area do look to the Power Authority and the State
8 government in other areas to find innovative ways to
9 grow the local economy from the electric power revenues
10 that are generated from the dam at Massena.

11 Currently, much of that power, and the
12 revenues from that, are reserved for economic
13 development for purposes outside of industry in the
14 area. Again, that does continue to be a concern.

15 Clarkson University is recognized as an
16 engine of economic growth in the North Country of New
17 York and we believe, as the economic growth engine, the
18 university merits continued participation in the Power
19 Authority's Power for Jobs program. It's been very
20 beneficial to Clarkson and other colleges and
21 not-for-profits across the State.

22 New Yorkers I think justifiably are proud of
23 the diversity of their State; the diversity of the
24 State's economic mainstays will require continued

1 economic development incentives, such as the programs
2 like Power for Jobs program.

3 Clarkson University competes successfully
4 for alternative energy research and development and
5 education projects funded by the State and by federal
6 entities.

7 Looking at such areas as photovoltaics,
8 solar-thermal, small wind, biomass, energy efficiency,
9 and fields such as -- that do impact other areas, such
10 as climate change, all of which are critical to the
11 achievement of the State Energy Plan's very ambitious
12 and laudable energy efficiency goals, decreasing the new
13 fossil fuel generation plants and lowering emission
14 levels all at the same time, of course, it won't happen
15 without help.

16 It is simple to say that greatly increased,
17 intelligent, well-directed spending in alternative
18 investing, if you will, on alternative energy research
19 and development, those are very helpful in that regard.

20 As Tony mentioned, he is helping us with
21 that connection between university and industry.

22 We do fully support New York's Renewable
23 Fuels Roadmap and Sustainable Biomass Feedstock Study to
24 fully assess the effects of existing State policy on the

1 development and use of various renewable fuels. We do,
2 of course, support greater appropriation support for
3 ongoing projects in these areas.

4 We do have a couple of Clarkson faculty in
5 the audience today. I think they, towards the end of
6 the program, will be willing to speak a bit about their
7 engagement in that.

8 Professor Stefan Grimberg is here with some
9 of his graduate students. Professor Diabold is here as
10 well. And Tony had mentioned the Center for Advanced
11 Materials, the Advanced Technology Center that Clarkson
12 has, and the Deputy Director for that Center, Jack
13 Prendergast, is here as well and Jack may have a few
14 words to say.

15 I thank you very much for the opportunity to
16 speak. I do have my testimony before you.

17 MR. CONGDON: Terrific. Thank you very
18 much.

19 MR. MURRAY: Tom, I have a question for you,
20 please. Along the theme of increased coordination and
21 cooperation between universities and industries in R&D,
22 are you at all familiar with the program that SUNY
23 Binghamton has put together, industries down in the
24 Southern Tier. I think that accomplishes exactly what

1 you are talking about.

2 MR. YOUNG: Related to solar energy?

3 MR. MURRAY: Looking at a variety of
4 renewable energy technologies. Solar is one.

5 I raise that only because I am curious if
6 you are not familiar with it -- there may be no reason
7 why you should be -- I'm curious in having you look at
8 that model and letting us know if that model might be
9 something that is adaptable up here in the North
10 Country.

11 Down in Binghamton, I wasn't aware of the
12 program. They seem to have their act together along the
13 theme you are talking about. Might be something you
14 could replicate.

15 MR. YOUNG: Very encouraging. I'm quite
16 familiar with the Grants for Growth program that Tony
17 mentioned. I have been on the review panel since the
18 outset.

19 By the numbers Tony mentioned, this also is
20 doing a pretty good job of making industry and
21 universities. I certainly will take a look at the
22 Binghamton model and provide some comments on it.

23 MR. MURRAY: Thanks.

24 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

1 MR. CONGDON: Our next speaker is Stephen
2 Geier, UniStar Nuclear Energy.

3 MR. GEIER: Good morning, my name is Stephen
4 Geier, and I am a Vice President of New Nuclear Site
5 Projects for UniStar Nuclear Energy.

6 It's very good to be back in the North
7 Country. I am a Clarkson grad and I have lived and
8 worked up in this area for several years.

9 I would like to thank Tom Congdon for
10 holding this and the Energy Planning Board.

11 On behalf of UniStar Nuclear Energy, I
12 applaud New York State for its extensive process and
13 analysis resulting in a draft Energy Plan that is
14 committed to the promotion, deployment, and advancement
15 of clean, safe and reliable energy.

16 More specifically, the plan recognizes the
17 important role that new nuclear energy must play in
18 meeting New York State's future energy needs, combatting
19 climate change, and creating good American jobs.

20 As the nation moves towards a
21 carbon-constrained future, New York State is positioned
22 to be in the lead in the development of advanced nuclear
23 generation. Nuclear energy supplies the non-carbon, 24
24 hours a day, 7 days a week power that is necessary to

1 help secure a clean energy future for New York.

2 Nuclear facilities are a critical complement
3 to wind and solar projects, which are limited and
4 produce electricity intermittently. Three sources
5 combined provide a balanced clean-air energy portfolio.

6 Nuclear energy is an effective, proven way
7 to combat greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, studies
8 have shown that lifecycle carbon emissions are
9 comparable to other renewable sources of energy, such as
10 wind, geothermal, and hydro.

11 Additional nuclear energy facilities will
12 fuel the State's economic growth and can combine with
13 renewables to keep New York's air clean and safe while
14 improving the State's energy supply, pricing, and
15 reliability.

16 The US nuclear industry for many years has
17 been helping supply America's need for electricity in a
18 safe and secure environment. The current fleet of
19 nuclear energy facilities is among the safest and most
20 secure facilities of any kind in the world.

21 Nuclear energy technology and know how has
22 expanded so that today's advanced reactor designs
23 include improved safety and security features. The
24 advanced designs, along with regulatory oversight and

1 guidance, ensure that America's nuclear fleet will
2 continue to be among the safest and most secure
3 facilities in the world.

4 UniStar Nuclear Energy is a strategic joint
5 venture between Constellation Energy and EDF Group, and
6 is considering the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station site
7 in Oswego for an advanced nuclear energy facility. This
8 project exemplifies the principles outlined in the draft
9 Energy Plan.

10 Currently, Constellation Energy owns and
11 operates the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, a two-unit
12 nuclear energy facility, and Ginna Nuclear Plant, a
13 one-unit facility. Both sites play a vital role in the
14 Central New York economy.

15 For example, as one of Oswego County's
16 largest employers, Nine Mile Point provides critical
17 economic support to the surrounding community, including
18 900 very good paying jobs, nearly \$100 million payroll
19 in 2008, and more than \$25 million in property tax
20 revenue to State and local districts.

21 UniStar Nuclear Energy is committed to
22 meeting the region's needs for clean, safe and reliable
23 energy. Adding a new facility at the site would expand
24 employment in the area and, perhaps equally important,

1 add more future revenue to New York's tax rolls.

2 A new facility at Nine Mile Point will
3 provide approximately 4,000 jobs during construction,
4 with about 400 well paying permanent jobs during the
5 operations of the plant, expanding the tax base,
6 providing more revenue for critical but financially
7 strained county for services.

8 On the average, nuclear energy facilities
9 add significantly to State and local tax bases, and
10 generate approximately about \$430 million in total
11 output to the local community on an annual basis and
12 nearly \$40 million in total labor income.

13 The economic benefits of nuclear energy
14 facilities extend well beyond jobs. Each dollar spent
15 by that nuclear facility generates about another \$1.07
16 in the local economy, according to the widely used
17 IMPLAN model for estimating direct and indirect economic
18 impacts.

19 It is important to note that the expansion
20 of the Nine Mile Point could be financed without
21 burdening New York's ratepayers.

22 The existing Constellation Energy nuclear
23 fleet has an outstanding safety record during the almost
24 40 years it has been in operation. In fact, in 2009,

1 Nine Mile Point and Ginna were both recognized for
2 outstanding safety program by achieving STAR status
3 under the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program. STAR is
4 the highest rated designations given by OSHA and the
5 federal government.

6 The Constellation nuclear energy fleet is
7 routinely among the nation's best for safety and
8 operational factors based on industry performance
9 objectives. UniStar's proposed new nuclear facility is
10 based on that same commitment to safety and operational
11 excellence.

12 Although new transmission projects are not
13 necessary to proceed with construction of our Nine Mile
14 Point facility, we support a long-term transmission
15 strategy that would improve the capability to
16 effectively move electricity from upstate generation
17 facilities to metropolitan New York, one of the largest
18 demand load centers in the country.

19 Nuclear energy is the keystone to any plan
20 to curb carbon emissions effectively while supplying
21 reliable, safe, and cost effective electricity. Nuclear
22 energy can reduce our dependence on fossil fuel power
23 plants and foreign sources of energy. It is a
24 technology of today that will continue to provide even

1 cleaner, environmentally friendlier energy for
2 generations to come.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to address the
4 board and provide input to this process.

5 MR. CONGDON: Thank you, Stephen.

6 Any questions for Stephen? Thank you.

7 Our next speaker is Ben Foote from Coakley
8 Carpet One Ace Hardware.

9 MR. FOOTE: Good morning. My name is Ben
10 Foote. I am the local manager of our store in Canton,
11 New York. Coakley is a locally owned business. It's
12 been operating since 1902. We have one store here and
13 one store in Saranac Lake.

14 We have been very active in the NYSERDA
15 program for several years and have appreciated being
16 selected as their featured partner of the month. We
17 also work very closely in CDP on their weatherization
18 programs.

19 One issue is the windows they put in in the
20 weatherization programs are windows that meet the bare
21 minimum for Energy Star ratings. For just a few more
22 dollars Coakley could put windows in these homes that
23 far exceed the Energy Star rating that has now been used
24 and for years to come save these low income people

1 money.

2 We also have had the opportunity to work
3 with NYSERDA and we see it as a win/win situation for
4 ourselves and our community. We have had the
5 opportunity to help educate the public about energy
6 conservation and have had great success converting
7 customers to CFL bulbs and now turning them on to LED
8 bulbs.

9 We have an electric meter in our store, we
10 are putting in a regular incandescent light bulb that
11 show how much energy there is using CFL and now LED, and
12 the LEDs just blow everything else right out of the
13 water.

14 Right now we are working with the Village of
15 Canton and the Village of Saranac Lake in switching all
16 their Christmas lights to LED Christmas lights.
17 Coakley's takes part in several energy fairs and
18 seminars. We have had seminars in the stores about
19 energy conservation.

20 We sell replacement windows, dehumidifiers,
21 air conditioners that are all Energy Star compliant.
22 Over the years we have seen our customers become much
23 more aware of energy savings and the environment.

24 The NYSERDA program has allowed us to become

1 more involved in their energy buying decisions. We
2 would definitely like to see these programs expanded.

3 NYSERDA has an advertising incentive that
4 has helped us to dedicate more of our time and more of
5 our money to educating the people about how they can
6 save money.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MR. CONGDON: Thank you very much.

9 Our next speaker is Michael Newtown from
10 SUNY Canton.

11 MR. NEWTOWN: Good morning. I am an
12 Assistant Professor here. I am a professional engineer
13 and I teach here in our renewable energy program and I
14 also do work with NYSERDA, Hudson Valley for energy and
15 science program for contractors. We also are engaged in
16 trying to get the habitat going up here.

17 Couple of comments that I saw in the Energy
18 Plan. First, I would like to comment you and your staff
19 put together a plan. I would like to see a little more
20 how you are going to implement some of it.

21 The recommendations are good. I, as an
22 instructor, trying to convince the public we should be
23 changing the renewable energy issues need to know how
24 the State wants to get there.

1 Couple things that I see -- and I deal with
2 contractors trying to change the BBI -- is the issue
3 between code enforcement and contractors, getting them
4 on the same page. We talked earlier today about
5 interagency discussion about working better. That's
6 primary to building homes and being able to be more
7 efficient.

8 We at SUNY Canton just got approval for a
9 class in BBI as a continuing education credits for code
10 enforcement. We are doing a class this weekend.

11 The other is the homeowners and business
12 owners. I saw mentioned in your report that there is
13 introduction to mass media type advertising. Currently
14 all I see as an engineer out there is stuff on PBS
15 that's advertised at the end of the show for five
16 seconds, five minutes tops, to promote the need to get
17 this up in mass media.

18 We need to have the average citizen in New
19 York State get an education on how this works and how
20 they can improve the life style. Without that, anything
21 I do here at the college is just an uphill battle.

22 I get contractors wanting to be changed. We
23 will provide New York State with the work force that
24 they need to change the energy situation in the State.

1 I guess at this point I am confident that we
2 can help and I look forward to employing the State of
3 New York to help the State get to where it's got to go.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. CONGDON: Thank you for hosting us
6 today.

7 Your comment on implementation was a
8 particularly good one. The intention of the Planning
9 Board is to develop a more detailed implementation plan
10 that will be inserted into the final State Energy Plan.
11 Feedback we are getting through the public hearing
12 process will inform us on specific action items we need
13 to take to accomplish our recommendations and
14 strategies. That's a very good point we do appreciate.

15 Our next speaker is Stefan Grimberg from
16 Clarkson.

17 MR. GRIMBERG: I am Stefan Grimberg, I am
18 Associate Professor at Clarkson University. I've been
19 involved with renewable energy and specifically found
20 ways to assist in the energy process or projects. I
21 want to speak to that. I appreciate the opportunity to
22 comment on the plan.

23 Biogas for waste, as well as grass, is an
24 important renewable energy resource recognized in the

1 plan. It's not a very large one. Certainly, the
2 advantage is being it's a continuous resource,
3 continuous renewable energy process.

4 Unfortunately, in New York State, only about
5 50 percent of the cows are on very large farms and would
6 be cost effective to build continual anaerobic digesters
7 for farms.

8 The other 50 percent of the cows are on very
9 small farms, on relatively small farms, so it's not cost
10 effective to build single anaerobic digesters.

11 The current incentive structures, net
12 metering is not applicable for community methods, which
13 would be a resource for smaller farms where they can
14 pool, essentially, their waste together and be cost
15 effective on a larger scale.

16 So, relaxing the net metering to allow
17 community digesters for an increased percentage of
18 non-farm waste to be added to farm digesters would
19 significantly improve the economics of digesters and
20 therefore allow you to tap into that resource, farm
21 resources.

22 And I think that's the point I wanted to
23 make. Thank you.

24 MR. CONGDON: Thank you.

1 Just to get clarification, non-farm waste?

2 MR. GRIMBERG: The net metering law at the
3 current time allows going up to 25 percent of non-farm
4 waste to be added to a digester so you can still net
5 meter. If you were to increase that percentage over
6 25 percent or more then the farmer should be able to
7 receive more energy rich material.

8 MR. CONGDON: Could you give us some
9 examples of actual non-farm waste?

10 MR. GRIMBERG: Cafeteria waste from
11 restaurants, waste from dairies, cheese manufacturing
12 processes. That material can also be added to the
13 digesters. Any energy rich feedstock. Municipal waste.

14 MR. CONGDON: Thank you.

15 Jerry Haenlin from National Grid is our next
16 speaker.

17 MR. HAENLIN: Good morning. I am Jerry
18 Haenlin. I am representing National Grid here today.
19 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

20 National Grid congratulates the State Energy
21 Planning board on its issuance of the draft State Energy
22 Plan. The Draft Plan represents a monumental effort by
23 the Board and its staff with input from hundreds of
24 stakeholders.

1 The State Energy Plan should provide an
2 excellent roadmap for New York's energy future, as well
3 as a useful picture of where we are today.

4 National Grid is very pleased to see that
5 the Draft Plan surfaces a number of issues that will be
6 critical to New York's energy and environmental future,
7 and we share the Governor's vision for a robust and
8 innovative clean energy economy that will stimulate
9 investment, create jobs, protect the public health and
10 the environment, and meet the energy needs of businesses
11 and residents reliably, safely and affordably over the
12 next ten years.

13 National Grid supports the energy resource
14 priorities established in the Draft Plan, notably
15 increased energy efficiency, renewable energy, and
16 pursuit of greenhouse gas reductions in the energy
17 portfolio.

18 Achieving the State's goals will require
19 leadership both from policymakers and utilities that
20 provide energy services to New York customers.

21 National Grid stands ready to take action to
22 help the State achieve its energy and environmental
23 goals.

24 Today, I wish to comment on three issues

1 that will be critical to the successful implementation
2 of the State's energy and environmental objectives.

3 Number one, energy efficiency. The draft
4 plan identifies energy efficiency as the priority
5 resource for meeting its objectives, and sets a '15 by
6 15' goal of reducing electricity use to 15 percent below
7 forecast levels by 2015.

8 As we all know, energy efficiency is the
9 most effective way both to help customers manage their
10 energy costs and to reduce their carbon footprint. It
11 is the win-win solution for customers and the
12 environment.

13 Achieving New York's ambitious energy
14 savings goals will require a partnership of policymakers
15 and regulators, the State's utilities, NYSERDA and
16 energy service companies.

17 We need, first of all, hands on deck --
18 NYSERDA, the utilities, and energy service companies
19 working together -- to reach this target.

20 We also need to streamline the energy
21 efficiency approval process so that we all can bring
22 energy savings to our customers as quickly as possible.
23 Our customers are eager to take advantage of the
24 programs we are proposing.

1 We also need flexibility in the
2 implementation of new energy efficiency programs so that
3 utilities and other providers can work effectively with
4 their customers to achieve the '15 by 15' goal.

5 Number two, we need clean energy. As the
6 State Energy Plan recognizes, renewable energy is
7 another important priority for New York State.

8 National Grid fully supports the State's
9 efforts to promote renewable energy as another way to
10 improve New York's energy security and combat climate
11 change.

12 It will be important for our customers to
13 support renewable energy in as cost-effective a manner
14 as possible.

15 Utility deployment of solar and other
16 renewable energy resources is one way of reducing the
17 costs of these new technologies.

18 Also, investing in transmission to deliver
19 renewable energy from remote locations to customer load
20 centers will be critical for ensuring that customers can
21 take advantage of the benefits of New York's renewable
22 energy development. Transmission is the backbone that
23 moves clean, reliable energy from its point of
24 generation to the customer's door.

1 New York's State Energy Plan should give due
2 consideration to the issues of financing, permitting and
3 building transmission projects to deliver wind and other
4 remote clean energy to New York customers.

5 Investing in the Smart Grid is also key to
6 tapping the opportunities for clean energy in New York.

7 National Grid recently applied to the US
8 Department of Energy for funding for a New York Smart
9 program that will target approximately 82,000 customers
10 in the Syracuse and Albany-Capital areas. This program
11 will enable us to help our customers to manage their
12 energy costs, and learn how to integrate renewable
13 resources and electric vehicles into the energy grid of
14 the future.

15 We encourage this board to develop action
16 plans that will bring the benefits of new technology and
17 renewable energy to our customers in the most cost
18 effective way.

19 As the plan notes, clean energy development
20 in New York presents an economic development opportunity
21 and the potential for new jobs, and National Grid stands
22 ready to work with the State and local communities to
23 make this a reality.

24 Number three, infrastructure investment.

1 National Grid stands ready and is eager to
2 make this investment in New York's energy future but we
3 cannot do this without a supportive investment climate.

4 New York's policy and regulatory framework
5 must provide for timely recovery of costs and industry
6 standard returns in order to attract the investment
7 needed to achieve the goals articulated in the State
8 Energy Plan.

9 Thank you again for your attention and the
10 opportunity to speak here. National Grid looks forward
11 to working in partnership with the board, the State,
12 other utilities, stakeholders, and most importantly, our
13 customers, to implement the Governor's vision for New
14 York's energy and environmental future.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. CONGDON: Thank you.

17 Our next speaker is Eric Gustafson from the
18 Massena Electric Department.

19 MR. GUSTAFSON: Good morning. Thank you for
20 the opportunity to be here this morning.

21 My name is Eric Gustafson, I'm the General
22 Counsel for the Massena Electric Department. I want to
23 first say that this electric department is supportive of
24 the goals of the draft State Energy Plan and applaud

1 your efforts to reduce the net retail price of
2 electricity, to reduce reliance on energy imports and
3 fossil fuels, to reduce possible negative health
4 environmental impacts of those fossil fuels to lower
5 peak demand, to relieve transmission and distribution
6 bottlenecks, all the while attempting to create jobs.

7 We believe New York, with your assistance
8 and leadership, can accomplish these goals; however, we
9 see one important omission from the plan. That is is
10 that the plan should ensure that all licensed hydro is
11 treated equally under the State renewable portfolio
12 standard.

13 Massena Electric Department is currently
14 pursuing a unique multi-purpose hydro electric facility
15 and may not receive the benefits of the renewable
16 portfolio standard because it's considered a new
17 project. Hydro projects must undergo a rigorous
18 licensing process that sets forth the conditions for
19 meeting environmental and generation goals.

20 The process is open and transparent, giving
21 all stakeholders an opportunity to participate in the
22 licensing process. In Massena Electric's example, those
23 agencies involved include the Army Corps of Engineers,
24 the Department of Environmental Conservation, New York's

1 Department of State, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and
2 those are only a partial list of the parties
3 participating in FERC's licensing of this facility.

4 As such, a successfully permitted project,
5 after completely vetted, should not be treated as a
6 lesser type of renewable standard or resource.

7 While we applaud the goals as outlined in
8 the State Energy Plan, we believe it should recognize
9 projects like Massena Electric's and other similar
10 projects for what they are. That is an integral part of
11 a laudable goal.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. MURRAY: Eric, one consideration on that
14 particular issue, Judy might be helpful here. The
15 Public Service Commission is in the middle of or about
16 to embark upon a cross-examination of the RPS program
17 and what changes in energy will be incorporated going
18 forward. I would encourage Massena Electric, if you are
19 not involved in that, to become involved and to use that
20 as a mechanism as well.

21 Ultimately, short of legislation, it's a
22 decision to be made by the Public Service Commission.

23 MS. LEE: I would ask them to reach out to
24 you directly about that RPS process as it's ongoing.

1 MR. CONGDON: Our next speaker is Jason
2 Clark.

3 MR. CLARK: Good morning. Thank you. My
4 name is Jason Clark. I am the Director of EnCon
5 Development in Massena, New York. I'm here to speak
6 primarily about the idea that energy policy can help
7 stimulate income growth.

8 As I think everyone here will agree, this is
9 an area that's very much in need of economic stimulus.
10 Speaking specifically Massena, this is an area the
11 community lost General Motors facility, have been
12 impacted by secondary and tertiary supplier markets.

13 We have a number of brownfield sites that
14 are basically or have been developed over the course of
15 years relative to industrial growth and the decline in
16 the region.

17 I have written this up because, as I
18 understand, this panel has some weight in terms of
19 helping to select sites for bringing component
20 manufacturing operations, and I would request that you
21 strongly consider Massena and the North Country as one
22 of those sites or as a series of those sites.

23 Myself and colleagues from other situations
24 in the North Country spent numerous hours in trying to

1 recruit particularly wind turbine manufacturers. On
2 behalf of my organization, our thought is that as a
3 State, as a community, as an organization, we can help
4 change the energy paradigm by using low cost hydro to
5 sort of change the energy paradigm to produce these
6 three components -- wind components, solar components --
7 again, using what's already available and it's proven to
8 be environmentally sound to help produce additional
9 energy that's also environmentally sound.

10 I think on behalf of Massena, probably be as
11 good as anywhere else in the country. As I said, we are
12 dealing with the downturn in the General Motors, dealing
13 in downturns in Alcoa.

14 On a whole as a region, this was discussed
15 earlier, this region is probably the poorest in the
16 State in terms of per capita income. The five northern
17 counties of New York State make up what's otherwise
18 known as the North Country, have been among the five
19 worst counties in the State almost consistently for the
20 last 50 years.

21 That's something that hasn't changed. We
22 have worked feverishly for decades to try and remove
23 that stigma from the area. I believe the energy policy
24 can help us focus on helping accomplish that.

1 Thank you, and I certainly hope you consider
2 Massena as part of any decision the panel may recommend.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. CONGDON: Thank you, Jason.

5 Our next speaker is Wade Davis, the
6 Executive Director of Ogdensburg Bridge and Port
7 Authority.

8 MR. DAVIS: Good morning. My name is Wade
9 Davis, I'm Executive Director of Ogdensburg Bridge and
10 Port Authority. And first of all, on behalf of the
11 North Country in general, thank you very much for
12 holding this public hearing here at SUNY Canton. It's
13 vital that local officials, local folks, concerned
14 citizens, have input into this overall process.

15 As I mentioned, I am Executive Director of
16 Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, Vice Chair of the
17 Alliance of Municipal Power. I'm a certified manager
18 and auditor. I'm a Community Energy Services board
19 member and also a concerned citizen of Northern New
20 York.

21 Renewable energy sources, as pointed out in
22 the plan, are extremely important. Requires flexibility
23 of generation and transmission options. The '15 by 15'
24 goal and the '80 by 50' goal requires partners,

1 specifically North Country partners.

2 The Bridge and Port Authority and other
3 North Country affiliated companies are willing to become
4 partners in the implementation of this plan. For
5 example, we have several bridge piers located in the St.
6 Lawrence River ideally suited for running river
7 turbines, which are proven technology.

8 We have existing bridge infrastructure
9 providing a potential link to the Canadian grid to
10 import additionally. The Port of Ogdensburg is
11 potentially exporting bypass materials which could be
12 used for renewable generation and combined heat and
13 power projects here in the State of New York.

14 I want to keep my comments brief today, but
15 one thing I did want to point out is energy is the base
16 of economic development, and I would urge this panel to
17 consider the strategic partnerships with existing North
18 Country entities, such as you heard today, from
19 authorities, universities, both public and private, and
20 existing entities like Community Energy Services.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. CONGDON: Thank you.

23 I am very pleased that Senator Aubertine has
24 joined us. Senator Aubertine is the Chair of the Senate

1 Energy Committee. If you would like to make a
2 statement.

3 Senator.

4 SENATOR AUBERTINE: Good morning. Welcome
5 you all to this area of the State, my area of the State.
6 And I certainly want to recognize the Governor as well,
7 and all of you for initiating the series of hearings
8 here.

9 I think that this region of the State on
10 many different levels is unique in a very positive way
11 in that generating facilities, transmission lines, some
12 of the largest users, industrial users, the largest
13 industrial user of electricity in the State is in the
14 region. We have nuclear plants and so forth.

15 Our goal is to have affordable energy when
16 and where we need it and that's something that I believe
17 is certainly attainable, whether it's residential or a
18 large mega user, as I said, as we have in this region of
19 the State.

20 I believe that we are today, anyway, we are
21 moving beyond the days of a relatively simple generation
22 and distribution system and we are moving to the next
23 level of generation and distribution that will include
24 all forms of alternative energy, as well as

1 conservation, and the use of existing energy projects,
2 and possibly the replacement of generating projects as
3 well.

4 I think existing generation and transmission
5 needs to have a hard look taken at it, clearly. These
6 are some of the initial steps in that direction.

7 The idea of on site generation is something
8 that seems to be taking on a life of its own more and
9 more so, not only limited to industrial and commercial
10 users but even small users. Users even in a residential
11 setting are looking more and more into the opportunity,
12 ability to have on site generation.

13 Transmission, I think there are many things
14 that are being looked at certainly from an engineering
15 standpoint, but also from the standpoint of changing the
16 way we transmit energy altogether, looking more and more
17 at things like DC, direct current, such as the Neptune
18 in Long Island. I think that all those type of things
19 will no doubt have a role to play in this comprehensive
20 plan that's being drafted.

21 The storage of energy. The concept of
22 storing energy is something that's been around literally
23 for a millennium. It goes back to the Egyptians, if you
24 want to go back that far, storing energy by simply

1 storing water.

2 We have right here in this country we can go
3 back 150, 200 years, you have mill ponds which store
4 water, store energy for use. Taking that same concept,
5 we worked on -- I am sure you are all familiar with the
6 Niagara project and others that use that same concept,
7 and certainly a much different technology, but, again,
8 expanding, on that with some of the new pump storage
9 station to help us meet the peak demand when it's
10 needed.

11 I think that this area of the State offers
12 many unique opportunities. This campus, for example,
13 has made one of its roles to help educate the work force
14 in the future, to help them be better positioned to work
15 on energy needs, such as solar, wind and so forth.

16 Clarkson really -- no pun intended, I don't
17 know if Tony's still here or not -- is a power house.
18 It really is. Clarkson University is really on the
19 forefront of engineering many different types of
20 alternative energy, and they certainly -- Canton
21 College, the University as well will play a role, I
22 believe, or have a role to play in the comprehensive
23 plan.

24 I am also the Chair of the Standing

1 Committee on Agriculture and I don't think we can
2 necessarily talk about energy, alternative energy or
3 otherwise, without having a role to play for
4 agriculture.

5 Again, this region of the State is unique, a
6 lot of open space, a lot of agriculture, a lot of
7 potential, whether that's issues you are all familiar
8 with, whether corn ethanol or methane digesters, and the
9 list goes on.

10 Agriculture is also a major user of energy
11 as well, so, I think that any discussions going forward
12 need to have agriculture. That needs to be threaded
13 through the whole plan as you take a more comprehensive
14 look at it.

15 Finally, one of the things that I think
16 needs to be part of the plan is the importation of
17 energy, both long term and short term. I, as Energy
18 Chair, have started a dialogue with Quebec Hydro. I am
19 certain that Tom and others are very familiar with the
20 importation of Quebec Hydro Now power.

21 I think that having that figured or factored
22 in as part of our long term energy plan certainly has a
23 major role to play as well.

24 So, I think that I really do, I applaud you

1 starting initiating this series of public hearings right
2 here because I really do believe this is a unique region
3 of the State. We share that border with Canada. We
4 have a lot of agriculture. We have a lot of currently
5 existing generation.

6 We have the largest single user of energy
7 right here in our back yard. We have residential users
8 in this region of the State. If you have not had an
9 opportunity to drive around a little bit it can be very
10 sparse and very expensive to distribute.

11 I think, as this plan is developed, to take
12 those and all the other factors that have been brought
13 to you so far and will continue to be brought to you,
14 take all those into account, I think we still will need
15 to have a good working comprehensive energy development
16 plan.

17 Again, I want to applaud all of you and the
18 Governor as well for taking this step to put this plan
19 in place.

20 MR. CONGDON: Thank you, Senator. I want to
21 thank you for your leadership as Chair of the Senate
22 Energy Committee. Despite an otherwise tumultuous
23 session, legislative session, you were able to have a
24 productive session from extending the Power for Jobs

1 program, and also the statutory planning process. You
2 have cemented energy planning going forward so that this
3 body won't be subject to future gubernatorial
4 administrations' executive orders but rather it will be
5 a permanent place in planning for government.

6 So, we applaud your leadership and thank
7 you. Look forward to working with you.

8 SENATOR AUBERTINE: Thank you. Look forward
9 to working with all of you. Thanks.

10 MR. CONGDON: That is all of the
11 preregistered names we have at the table, so we will
12 take a five-minute break and let others register and if
13 there are others who would like to provide statements we
14 will reconvene.

15 Thank you.

16 (Recess taken.)

17 MR. CONGDON: At this time I would like to
18 reconvene. There are a number of other folks who would
19 like to provide statements. The next speaker is Jack
20 Prendergast from Clarkson University.

21 MR. PRENDERGAST: Good afternoon.

22 I want to follow up with just a few
23 comments, I won't take long, from Tony Collins and Tom
24 Young's statements.

1 My name is Jack Prendergast. I'm the Deputy
2 Director of CAMP, which is Center for Advanced Material
3 Processing, at Clarkson University. CAMP is one of 15
4 centers that are sponsored by NYSTAR, and the principal
5 behind that is for NYSTAR is for economic development
6 and job creation across New York State.

7 What I do is I, as Deputy Director reporting
8 to Dr. Babu at the center, I interface with industry and
9 the other universities across the State to try to reach
10 out and bring research projects and programs back to the
11 CAMP center, where I work with about 35 professors, and
12 attempt to get projects, programs that are funded either
13 by the company or in joint by the companies and other
14 organizations, such as NYSTAR, who we know very well on
15 projects. And those projects then have the master's and
16 Ph.D. students working on these advanced programs.

17 Now, materials is a very broad term so we
18 get involved in a lot of things. In the energy area, we
19 spoke about solar. We do biomass. We do wind. There
20 are other programs. But in your proposal on page 42 you
21 have one paragraph basically which is on solar thermal.

22 And we also know people very well at the
23 TSEC down at Kingston, New York. We have been engaged
24 with them for two years or so in the University looking

1 at areas where we can do research with companies in New
2 York State and, again, to bring industry to New York
3 State.

4 What we would like to see is manufacturing
5 done in New York State and job creation in New York
6 State. So, that's our effort.

7 The group, the TSEC Group, which has been
8 working to bring PV manufacturers to the State of New
9 York, they have successfully come to bring low
10 metallurgic to Niagara Falls, which is a very good
11 project. I go up to that area every two to three months
12 to see the progress they made on the plant.

13 This plant will be producing polycrystalline
14 solar, which could then be upgraded to single
15 crystalline which would be used for single crystalline
16 PV cells. The hope is that the material that they
17 produce will then go to another manufacturer in New York
18 State up along Massena to produce PV panels here in New
19 York State rather than in China, Germany, Spain, other
20 countries around the world, for installation in New York
21 State and the northeast corridor, which is probably the
22 largest market in the US. That is how we get involved.

23 Now, solar thermal. They have asked us to
24 engage to see if we can't help bring solar thermal, a

1 little bit more knowledge and understanding of what's
2 going on and bring that to New York State.

3 So, we have been working with members from
4 industry in Canton and the University on our own. So,
5 we have been in contact with companies in the Central
6 New York region in solar thermal work.

7 The first gentleman, John Charamella,
8 Borderlands Energy, spoke about most of the energy used
9 in the home, 51 percent used for heat and hot water and
10 air conditioning. That's a lot of energy.

11 If you cannot have boilers, whatever, you
12 can pull the energy out of air, etc., for the heating or
13 hot water on the sun using hot water solar panels. He
14 also talked about one installation, which is at Fort
15 Drum, which is a solar wall installation. It's
16 supposedly the largest solar wall I believe in the
17 United States. It's here in New York State.

18 I have not been to see it yet but I am
19 going. I am working with a professor at Clarkson, Dr.
20 Doug Moles, who is going to be technical advisor in this
21 group. And our goal is working to put together a road
22 map for solar thermal expansion in New York State. This
23 is something you will need in your report.

24 That's our goal is to put together this

1 project, and so we are attempting to form a solar energy
2 consortium in the State.

3 We have been at this now for some period of
4 time. The aim is to have a meeting in Kingston, New
5 York at Tech City on October 20th where we will kick off
6 probably the first two meetings. These are intended to
7 be a small group of key members from industry, from
8 universities more than just Clarkson University, to have
9 education become a key component of this.

10 We will have to train people to install
11 these units, etc, to sell these units. At the
12 University we hope to benefit by being able to look at
13 new advanced modeling, different pump systems, trying
14 to increase efficiency of systems by one, two, three
15 percent. It's a big, big difference on energy. And for
16 the State the advantage of this would be deferred power
17 plant installation.

18 Now, this is not new. What's going on here
19 in New York State for New York State is where we may
20 have 500 of these installations across the State for hot
21 water. Places like Germany are installing over
22 20,000 units. Spain has been big in this. Greece has
23 been big in this. California has got a pretty big
24 program in this area. It's all to defer energy

1 generation and a lot to do with deferring carbon
2 initiatives.

3 I will take any questions. Thank you.

4 MR. CONGDON: Thank you very much. I'm glad
5 you raised the example about metals. It's one of the
6 economic developmental strategies that the State has
7 linked our energy policies to really important economic
8 development projects. Thank you for that.

9 Our next speaker is Mark Venczel from
10 Clarkson.

11 MR. VENCZEL: My name is Mark Venczel from
12 Clarkson University. I am a Ph.D. candidate working in
13 the environmental science and engineering department
14 program at Clarkson.

15 My research is on environmental impacts and
16 how alternative energies, renewable energy technologies
17 affect different environmental impacts, positive and
18 also negatives.

19 I want to just comment on the importance of
20 considering how a new technology, or developing
21 incentives for a new technology can impact the
22 environment, which I didn't hear too much of today.
23 More about economic development, and those two overlap
24 very closely.

1 In particular, the renewable portfolio
2 standards and their relationship with price premiums put
3 on renewable energy as an incentive to develop them.

4 I think it's really important to quantify
5 those price premiums based on an in depth understanding
6 of the bigger perspective of how environmental impacts
7 are changed with renewable energies, different
8 technologies for renewable energy.

9 Also with corn ethanol and it looks really
10 good if you just look at the aspect. If you take the
11 big picture approach, all of a sudden it's not so hot
12 and you have completely the opposite of what you
13 expected.

14 I've actually found the same thing when I
15 was looking at anaerobic digestion. There are benefits,
16 and it looks really beneficial across the board, but the
17 biggest impacts are actually not where you are looking
18 at the beginning. More related to nutrient emissions to
19 the environment rather than fossil fuel use.

20 I am not downplaying anaerobic digestion,
21 it's an important technology, but it's really important
22 that some of my preliminary results have been
23 surprising. It's important to take a big picture
24 approach. So, that was one thing.

1 Second, there was very little if anything in
2 the plan regarding education. And I have done some
3 environmental education in high school classrooms here
4 in Potsdam, next town over. Doing that, being
5 experienced in that, I understand the importance of
6 educating the younger generation about why these things
7 are happening and why we need to develop a new Energy
8 Plan, and why it's so important.

9 So, probably this plan that we are talking
10 about today is not associated too much with education,
11 but I think it would be really important, even if not
12 providing funding for education, or even guidance, but
13 to at least mention the importance of education, have a
14 section in there to sort of acknowledge the fact that we
15 know how important education is successfully, K through
16 12 education.

17 Lastly, just to comment on a real subtle
18 topic that is kind of a pet peeve of mine. So, Robin
19 was up here earlier and he said energy conservation is
20 the single most important and immediate thing we can do
21 to reduce our energy use. You guys responded yes, we
22 agree.

23 We have lots of things about energy
24 efficiency in our plan, but there is a real significant

1 Borderlands Technology.

2 Thank you for coming back.

3 MR. CHARAMELLA: One thing, I wanted to give
4 you a kind of unique perspective on the industry. I
5 started my first oil business in 1976 after Jimmy Carter
6 put solar panels on the White House and I was inspired
7 and I had a lot of customers and everything was going
8 nice and rosy and then Ronald Reagan came along and
9 pulled them off, and all of a sudden the rug was pulled
10 out from myself and maybe others because there were no
11 incentives.

12 So, the industry, unfortunately, for the
13 past 30 years has been beaten around by economic
14 political interests that were sometimes for and
15 sometimes against. So, what you mentioned earlier about
16 what you are doing now would be beyond the reach of
17 executive order of the Governor I think it's very good.
18 You will have some continuity of what we will be able to
19 do in the future. Really be helpful to the industry.
20 But one thing I think really has to be done is that we
21 have to market the industry better. Give you an
22 example. I was at an auto dealer yesterday and I asked
23 him, how are things going? He says, we're selling
24 trucks like mad. I said, How come? All that cash for

1 clunkers? We can't keep them in the showroom.

2 I thought, well, isn't that interesting.

3 Here it is people are running out and buying the vehicle
4 that the minute they leave the auto dealership it
5 depreciates in value. That vehicle does not give any
6 money in return and within five years it's worthless and
7 they traded it in.

8 Yet, there is a solar energy system, be it
9 hot water or solar electricity, the day you put it in
10 starts making you money. It's designed to last 30 to
11 50 years and you get an immediate pay back and it's
12 saving the environment.

13 Why is it that people will rush out and buy
14 that vehicle and lose money from day one but they can't
15 somehow connect in their mind I can buy a solar energy
16 system and be ten times ahead of the game by doing it?

17 There is a disconnect there. The disconnect
18 is the education in the marketing. We have to think
19 about how can we make people realize that there is this
20 opportunity out there that is so unique.

21 And the interesting thing: Solar energy
22 will never be as cheap as it is this year because
23 there's an overcapacity of solar energy panels being
24 made in factory to the point where you can get an

1 installed system for \$6 a watt.

2 That's a price we used to dream about. As
3 capacity rose we will be able to lower the price.
4 That's almost competitive with current electrical rates.

5 When you consider the average electricity
6 rate goes up six percent of the year, that's the
7 national average. When you buy a system today or the
8 next couple of years with the incentives that are out
9 there, savings are only going to triple and quadruple as
10 time goes on.

11 So, that's something you have to think
12 about. I'm sure there will be other people bringing
13 this forward to you and I will gladly submit in writing
14 some of my ideas. The marketing, how do we educate
15 people better so they realize that this is an investment
16 that far outweighs going out and buying a new truck or
17 car.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. CONGDON: Great. Thank you.

20 Next speaker is James Waldon.

21 MR. WALDON: Good afternoon. Welcome to the
22 North Country. My name is James Waldon, assistant
23 business manager Local 1.

24 On behalf of my Union brothers and sisters

1 throughout Central New York and North Country I thank
2 you for holding today's hearings and soliciting the
3 input of people.

4 To keep the lights on, to revitalize our
5 economy, our leaders in government must take a realistic
6 and balanced approach to safeguarding our future. This
7 will require New York continues to support clean, safe,
8 reliable power sources, such as nuclear and hydro power,
9 while supporting the continued development of
10 alternative energy sources, such as the wind,
11 geothermal, to complement New York's base load power and
12 infrastructure.

13 As you know, the availability of affordable,
14 reliable base load power is critical to creating jobs
15 and stimulating investment in growing our economy. The
16 Energy Plan has identified efficiency as the priority
17 resource for meeting its multiple objectives.

18 And while we agree that energy efficiency
19 and conservation should be vital components of any
20 credible Energy Plan, we feel that the plan relies too
21 heavily on increasing energy efficiency. No reasonable
22 person is against efficiency, but it won't be enough.

23 There are many solid initiatives within this
24 report, and in particular, I recognize the board for

1 supporting the creation of a new nuclear facility in New
2 York State and supporting the construction of a new
3 nuclear reactor, Nine Mile Point.

4 For the families and businesses who proudly
5 comprise this region, I cannot begin to reinforce how
6 vital is the support of this. In addition, we support
7 the new power plant siting law and utilizing existing
8 right-of-way for transmission improvements which are
9 vital to making these two initiatives work. Thank you
10 for that.

11 Despite these positive developments, our
12 State is still facing growing demands for power. Even
13 after conservation and efficiencies, the New York
14 Independent System Operator still projects demand from
15 power increasing into the next decade.

16 To maintain and enhance our quality of life
17 New York needs to keep and expand its use of clean base
18 load sources, particularly nuclear and hydro, which
19 account for 53 percent of our electricity from coal.

20 Of particular importance is downstate's
21 Indian Point energy center in Westchester County. What
22 does Indian Point have to do with Canton and the North
23 Country? Well, Indian Point supplies 100 percent of the
24 State's power. It is in the midst of applying for a

1 license renewal.

2 Indian Point is a union facility with
3 thousands of Union brothers and sisters either directly
4 employed or as contracting work at the plant. In the
5 current economic crisis, American job losses, who in
6 their right mind wouldn't support a power plant that
7 virtually emits no carbon in the atmosphere which
8 hundreds of employees to keep it safe.

9 Friends and colleagues, much of this plan is
10 to move the State forward and I salute you for the
11 transparent process and, again, I salute you for having
12 the vision to support critical initiatives, such as the
13 new nuclear plant, new reactor at Nine Mile Point, as
14 well as the proposed Jamestown carbon sequestration
15 facilities.

16 These will help get our members back to
17 work. So, on behalf of our members, I thank you for
18 your time.

19 MR. CONGDON: Thank you. Our next speaker
20 is Tony Collins.

21 MR. COLLINS: Thank you for the opportunity
22 to just cover a few things I missed on the way through.
23 One of them was I wanted to respond to Senator
24 Aubertine's comment that we want -- the goal of this is

1 low cost energy. I don't think that's what we want.

2 I think what we want is responsible energy.

3 And the energy that's there is available for what we
4 need, but not just low cost energy any time, any place.

5 That would not serve the goals.

6 It was mentioned pump storage, I am not sure
7 what the efficiency of pump storage is, but it does seem
8 like that's a good way to integrate many of these energy
9 production forums that aren't continuous, like wind and
10 solar, subject to weather and climate.

11 There are two other issues I wanted to touch
12 on briefly. Primarily, NYSERDA programs. I'm working
13 with BPI and I am certified to do energy analysis. When
14 I looked at the engineering and how things worked that
15 was fairly easy. What was really hard for me, and I
16 have a pretty analytic mind, figuring out how the
17 government structures and all the pieces fit together
18 between NYSERDA and Honeywell and BPI and conservation.

19 It's a morass. And that's been I think a
20 problem for getting contractors into the program, these
21 institutional hurdles there. I understand there may be
22 some things that are necessary about having kind of an
23 intricate structure to keep things in hand at arm's
24 length, but somehow it has to become more attractive for

1 contractors to become involved.

2 That's been a real big problem I think with
3 the program. There needs to be some sort of a way for a
4 contractor who wants to do this kind of work but doesn't
5 really want to be involved in NYSERDA or the programs to
6 be able to do energy outside of the purview of the
7 current programs but still providing support to the
8 contractor.

9 Whether they do it because of their
10 political beliefs or not, wanting to get government
11 involved, or do it because they are just not willing to
12 navigate the morass of the paperwork, they still should
13 be supporting those people.

14 The final point I wanted to make is some of
15 the things that NYSERDA is developing, I am thinking of
16 the software -- the program that does the energy
17 analysis. That's a proprietary program owned by NYSERDA
18 and the control of that program, availability of that
19 program, is very limited.

20 I am not sure whether there is a reason I am
21 not getting about that, and I understand that NYSERDA is
22 not technically a government agency, but somehow along
23 the line it seems that ought to be available for live
24 use so that people can do good work even if they are not

1 involved in the program.

2 I think that would allow people to get a
3 ramp up to getting involved in certain things as
4 contractors.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. CONGDON: Thank you.

7 That is all the registered speakers we have
8 at the table. We will take another 15-minute break and
9 see if any other speakers wish to speak at that time.
10 Thank you.

11 (Recess taken.)

12 MR. CONGDON: There are no speakers left on
13 our list, so I want to thank everyone for joining us
14 today at our first public hearing on the State Energy
15 Plan.

16 I hereby conclude this session and we look
17 forward to the remaining public hearings. Thank you all
18 very much.

19 (Public hearing concluded.)

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