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BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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:  
FERC SCOPING MEETING : PUBLIC HEARING  
DUKE ENERGY GAS TRANSMISSION/ :  
JEWELL RIDGE PIPELINE PROJECT : Docket No. PF05-03-000  
:  
- - - - -x

THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
SCOPING MEETING ON PF05-03-000  
  
Southwest VA Community College  
Richlands, VA  
  
Tuesday, February 23, 2005

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing,  
pursuant to notice, at 7:00 p.m.

1 PARTICIPANTS:

2

3 FERC staff:

4 Shannon K. Jones, project manager

5 Charles T. Brown, Senior Program Analyst, Environmental  
6 Review

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8

9 Speakers:

10 Monty Collins, Duke Energy Gas Transmission's project  
11 manager

12 Berlin Michael, area property owner

13 Jonathan Romeo, area resident

14 Robert Raines, area resident

15 Bill Osborne, area resident

16 Jack Spadero, interested party

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:00 p.m.)

MS. JONES: Okay, I think we're going to get started. Everybody hear me okay? No?

How about now? Better? All right, I'll speak as loud as I can.

Good evening, everybody. Thank you for coming. On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission I'd like to welcome you all tonight.

Let the record show that the Richlands public scoping meeting began at 7:03 on February 23rd, 2005.

My name is Shannon Jones and I work for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also known as FERC. I'm the environmental project manager for the Jewell Ridge Pipeline Project.

Charles Brown is here tonight, also from FERC. He was out at the sign-in table.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide each of you with an opportunity to give us your environmental comments on the proposed Jewell Ridge Pipeline Project. If you wish to speak tonight, please be sure you sign the speaker's list that was at the sign-in table.

We are here tonight to learn from you. If you have comments or concerns, we ask that you be as specific as possible to aid us in analyzing the issue.

1           If you do not wish to speak tonight, I urge you  
2           to write to the Commission with your comments. And those  
3           will be used to determine what issues we need to cover in  
4           our environmental assessment, which we also call an EA.

5           On January 31st, 2005, we issued a notice of  
6           intent to the parent EA for this project. I'd like to  
7           clarify for the record tonight that the notice had an error  
8           in it. It referred to proposed modifications at a  
9           compressor station and that is not part of the project at  
10          this time.

11          The notice requested that written comments be  
12          sent to FERC by March 4th, 2005. That is not to say we will  
13          not accept comments after that date. We will. However, we  
14          ask that you provide comments as soon as possible in order  
15          to give us time to analyze and research those issues.

16          We have extra copies of the notice at the sign-in  
17          table if you did not receive one in the mail. The notice  
18          has helpful information in it about FERC and our Web site  
19          and address and instructions on how to send us written  
20          comments.

21          I'd like to mention that the Commission strongly  
22          encourages comments to be filing electronically. The  
23          instructions are in the notice or can be located on our Web  
24          site, which is [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) under the e-filing link.

25          In addition, we offer a free service called e-

1 subscription. And this allows you to keep track of all the  
2 formal issuances and submittals for a specific project,  
3 which we organize into dockets. If you register with e-  
4 subscription, you'll automatically be notified by e-mail of  
5 any filings that come in or go out of our office regarding  
6 this project.

7 You can register for this service at our Web site  
8 under the e-subscription link. There are also some white  
9 note cards at the sign-in table that provided those same  
10 instructions.

11 Regarding our process, FERC has begun what we  
12 call a pre-filing review of the Jewell Ridge Pipeline  
13 Project. A formal application has not been filed with us.  
14 However, the staff began its review of the project early to  
15 allow involvement by the public, government entities, and  
16 other interested parties.

17 The purpose is to identify and resolve  
18 environmental issues as soon as possible. Other federal and  
19 state agencies have permitting or review responsibilities  
20 associated with the project and we will seek to coordinate  
21 our review with them.

22 That includes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
23 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Virginia Marine  
24 Resources Commission, and the Virginia Departments of Game  
25 and Inland Fisheries, Environmental Quality, Conservation

1 and Recreation, Historic Resources, and others.

2 As the lead federal agency, we will review the  
3 project to satisfy the requirements of the National  
4 Environmental Quality Act. We will assemble information  
5 from a variety of sources including the applicants; you, the  
6 public; state, local, and federal agencies; and our own  
7 field work. We'll analyze this information and present our  
8 findings in the environmental assessment.

9 The EA may be distributed to the public for  
10 comment. If you want a copy of the EA, there are three ways  
11 you can let us know. If you received a notice in the mail,  
12 there was an attachment at the back called an information  
13 request. And you can send that back to us. That will  
14 insure you stay on the mailing list.

15 Otherwise you could sign a mailing list that was  
16 at the sign-in table tonight.

17 Or you can send a written comment into our  
18 offices.

19 You must do one of those three things to insure  
20 that you stay on our mailing list.

21 It's very important that any comments that you  
22 send to us have our internal docket number for the project  
23 on them. That docket number was on the notice that was  
24 mailed out.

25 And I'm going to give it to you now again so you

1 can write it down if you did not receive that. If you send  
2 us a comment it's important that you put that docket number  
3 on it to insure that I'll get a copy of it. That number is  
4 PF05-3-000. PF05-3-000.

5 After the EA is issued, you will have 30 days to  
6 review and comment on it. At the end of that 30-day comment  
7 period we will use your comments and any new information  
8 that we gathered to finalize our recommendations.

9 The EA does not make a final decision on the  
10 project. It's being prepared to advise the Commission and  
11 to disclose to the public the environmental impact of  
12 constructing and operating the project.

13 When it is finished, the Commission will consider  
14 the environmental information from our EA along with  
15 nonenvironmental issues such as engineering, markets, and  
16 rates. And they'll use all that information in making their  
17 decision to improve or deny the project.

18 If the Commission does vote to approve the  
19 project, FERC environmental staff will monitor the project  
20 through construction and restoration, performing on-site  
21 inspections to insure environmental compliance with the  
22 conditions of the FERC certificate.

23 Before we start taking comments tonight, we've  
24 asked Duke Energy Gas Transmission to provide a brief  
25 project overview. And Mr. Monty Collins is Duke's project

1 manager for the Jewell Ridge Pipeline Project. He's going  
2 to give you a quick overview of the project.

3 MR. COLLINS: How you doing? My name is Monty  
4 Collins. I am the --

5 (Pause as mike is adjusted.)

6 MR. COLLINS: My name is Monty Collins. I think  
7 everybody can hear me. Is that the case?

8 I'm the senior project manager for the Jewell  
9 Ridge Project. I was asked to kind of give a quick overview  
10 of the project.

11 Essentially what the project is -- is that we've  
12 developed a project to take gas reserves that are being  
13 gathered by the Consoll Energy up in the Appalachian area,  
14 the Jewell Ridge area, and move those gas reserves into the  
15 interstate natural gas market.

16 To do that we're looking to build a pipeline from  
17 the Jewell Ridge area down to the East Tennessee natural gas  
18 system, which is down in the southern part of Virginia,  
19 coming into the southern part of Virginia.

20 Preliminarily we looked at three primary routes  
21 of consideration to develop that project. Those route  
22 alternatives were on a map coming in the door there if you  
23 guys did not have an opportunity to get a copy of the map  
24 showing the three alternatives.

25 We did a preliminary evaluation of those three

1 routes. In doing so we assessed taking all things into  
2 consideration in evaluating those three routes, we came to a  
3 conclusion that route 3 or alternative 3 appeared to have  
4 the least impact overall for the project development.

5 At this time what we've started doing now is  
6 further looking and understanding what issues are involved  
7 with route 3. We've had our land men out visiting with  
8 landowners along that particular route visiting with them  
9 with the opportunity of potentially building a pipeline  
10 along that corridor.

11 We're also doing detailed environmental surveys  
12 and determine if there are any specific species or anything  
13 associated with that route that we would need to work with  
14 or work with the different agencies in permitting.

15 So essentially that is an overview of what the  
16 Jewell Ridge Project is. Do you have any other questions?  
17 I guess -- we will have -- we'll be here afterwards. If you  
18 all have any specific questions you all would like to ask us  
19 or any of our staff, feel free to stick around afterwards.  
20 We'll be glad to answer those.

21 (Pause.)

22 MS. JONES: Thank you, Mr. Collins.

23 We'll now begin the important part of the meeting  
24 with your comments. When your name is called, please step  
25 to this podium here to my right.

1           And we have a court reporter here tonight, so  
2           please state your name. And if it's a difficult spelling,  
3           please spell it for the court reporter. Your comments will  
4           be transcribed to insure that we get an accurate record of  
5           what is said here tonight.

6           Anyone who wishes to receive a copy of the  
7           transcripts within 10 days, you can make those arrangements  
8           with the court directly. After that we will have them  
9           posted at our Web site for download.

10           So we're going to start with the first thing on  
11           our list, which is Berlin Michael.

12           MR. MICHAEL: All I want to know is -- on the  
13           property or not.

14           (Pause.)

15           MS. JONES: Can you come to the podium there?

16           MR. MICHAEL: Up there?

17           MS. JONES: Yes. That will make sure everyone  
18           can hear you.

19           MR. MICHAEL: Over here?

20           MS. JONES: Yes, thank you.

21           MR. MICHAEL: What I wanted to know is whether  
22           the route is going to go cross my property or not. The way  
23           they surveyed it, it goes off across to a spring. And I  
24           just wanted to know if -- I believe route 3 will miss my  
25           whole place. But I don't know. I haven't got a map to look

1 at to tell how they -- that's all I got to say about it.

2 MS. JONES: Okay, thank you. Perhaps someone  
3 from the Duke representatives can talk with you after the  
4 meeting.

5 MR. MICHAEL: Okay.

6 MS. JONES: Thank you.

7 The next name is Jason Herndon.

8 MR. HERNDON: I've got no comments.

9 MS. JONES: No comments? Okay, thank you.  
10 Robert Raines.

11 MR. RAINES: I don't have any comments either.

12 MS. JONES: No comment. Okay.

13 Is there anyone else who would like to speak  
14 tonight? Please come forward to the podium and just state  
15 your name for the court reporter.

16 MR. ROMEO: Hello, good evening. My name is  
17 Jonathan Romeo. And I work here. R-o-m-e-o, like Romeo. I  
18 work here at Southwest Virginia Community College. And I am  
19 from the Richmond area of Virginia. And I came here four  
20 years ago from New York City. I've lived up there for six  
21 years.

22 And my wife and I live in the Painlick area. And  
23 we are in the process of trying to open an Appalachian  
24 cultural center for the purpose of preserving the culture  
25 here in southwest Virginia. Having been in the northeast in

1 the Richmond area and seen the rate of development of these  
2 areas and the little bit of pristine land that's left around  
3 these areas, we are concerned about the way that this area  
4 develops.

5 I just recently learned about this project. But  
6 in looking at the proposed route alternate 3, I see that it  
7 goes through the most pristine land that I've seen in this  
8 area. And I would just like to voice my serious concern for  
9 that proposed route.

10 I mean, I don't know if, you know, the other  
11 routes are much better, but I see that it's going to be  
12 going through some land that, to my knowledge, is some of  
13 the most beautiful in the area. I know that it also goes  
14 through areas that have endangered species. And I'm very  
15 interested in learning more about this project and doing  
16 what I can to avoid it taking the route number 3.

17 Again, as I said, this is all sort of new to me.  
18 I wasn't aware of the project until very recently. But I  
19 would just like to voice my concern about this route, about  
20 the land that it's going to be going through.

21 And this sort of development, once this takes  
22 hold, there is no turning back. There is no restoration of  
23 this land. And I think that we should all think very  
24 seriously about the consequences for future generations.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. JONES: Thank you for your comments.

3 Is there anyone else who would like to speak  
4 tonight? Do you have any issues of concern that you want to  
5 bring to our attention?

6 MR. RAINES: I had said -- and I would like --

7 MS. JONES: Please.

8 MR. RAINES: I take note of what the gentleman  
9 just said.

10 COURT REPORTER: Can you state your name, please.

11 MR. RAINES: Oh, Robert Raines. I'm on the list.

12 To start with, to put it in plain mountain  
13 language, there ain't no land here that ain't pristine.  
14 This pipeline goes through it. I don't like it. There's  
15 nothing I can do about it.

16 And it does leave less damage on going the way it  
17 is projected now than it would if it used the other two  
18 routes. And it probably does less environmental damage.

19 It is a poor route. But it could probably go a  
20 better route except it would go where some mussels are. It  
21 would go through more of a wildlife area. And it's sort of  
22 a shame in the country that mussels and other wildlife are  
23 put ahead of people.

24 But route 3 would be the least damaging to me  
25 personally of any of them. And again, there ain't no land

1 out here that's not pristine.

2 MS. JONES: Thank you for your comments.

3 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?

4 (Pause.)

5 MS. JONES: Please come to the podium. Just be  
6 sure to state your name.

7 MR. OSBORNE: My name is Bill Osborne. And, of  
8 course, the pipeline comes through me too.

9 But what I'm here to speak about, I think that we  
10 should thank you all for coming down here and holding this  
11 hearing instead of expecting us to come up for Washington,  
12 D.C. And I think we'd be remiss if we didn't thank you all  
13 for having a meeting here tonight.

14 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name, please.

15 MR. OSBORNE: O-s-b-o-r-n-e.

16 MS. JONES: Thank you.

17 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?  
18 Anymore speakers?

19 Okay, without anymore speakers -- oh, we have one  
20 more.

21 MR. SPADARO: My name is Jack Spadero. That's  
22 S-p-a-d-a-r-o. I've been talking -- I'm from -- actually  
23 from West Virginia. But I've been talking in recent weeks  
24 about this region and how precious it is. It's a place for  
25 people to come to to enjoy what is here naturally.

1           And the cove is an area that I know about as  
2 being a unique area that is very fragile environmentally.  
3 We have -- a lot of folks don't realize that we really have  
4 in this region one of the most environmentally unique areas  
5 in the world and certainly in North America.

6           There is something like 215 bird species in the  
7 forested regions here, particularly in places like the cove.  
8 There are 150 tree species. There are countless plant  
9 species that would be destroyed if the option to go through  
10 the cove area were chosen. But I believe the other two  
11 areas that are shown as options are sensitive and should be  
12 reconsidered.

13           So I just wanted to express -- and I'll also say  
14 if any of you are involved in trying to change the plans for  
15 this gas pipeline, I'd be glad to work with you. I have  
16 quite a bit of expertise in this area. I'd be glad to help  
17 you in finding some other solutions.

18           Thank you.

19           MS. JONES: Thank you for those comments.

20           Is there anyone else who would like to speak?

21           Okay, without anymore speakers, the formal part  
22 of this meeting will conclude.

23           On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory  
24 Commission I'd like to thank all of you for coming out here  
25 tonight. Let the record show that the Richlands scoping

1 meeting concluded at 7:21 p.m.

2 Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, at 7:21 p.m., the scoping meeting  
4 concluded.)

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