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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -x
IN THE MATTER OF: : Project Number
CYPRESS PIPELINE PROJECT : PF05-7-000
- - - - -x

Bloomington Community Center
202 East Moore Street
Bloomington, GA

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping
meeting, pursuant to notice at 7:10 p.m.

MODERATOR: RICH McGUIRE, FERC

P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:10 p.m.)

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3 MR. McGUIRE: Let's get started. Good evening
4 and welcome to the public scoping meeting for the Cypress
5 Pipeline Project. My name is Rich McGuire. I'm the Project
6 Manager with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or
7 FERC.

8 As it says in the public notice for this meeting,
9 the Commission is preparing an Environmental Impact
10 Statement for the Cypress Pipeline Project.

11 The purpose of this meeting tonight is to hear
12 the types of issues that you feel we need to address in that
13 document, in the EIS or Environmental Impact Statement.

14 With me tonight, to my right, is Mark Padgett
15 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps will be
16 assisting the Commission in the preparation of the EIS, and
17 Mark is a Project Manager with the Corps.

18 To my left is Mitch Shields with NRG, the Natural
19 Resource Group. The Natural Resource Group is an
20 environmental consulting firm that's also assisting the
21 Commission in the preparation of the Environmental Impact
22 Statement.

23 I'll briefly go through tonight's agenda, and in
24 just a few minutes, I'll go through the FERC's environmental
25 process, the review process of the Cypress Pipeline Project.

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Then we'll hear from Southern Natural Gas Company, the company that's proposing the project. They will give you a brief overview of the project, and then we'll have a brief time to ask any questions to clarify any of the project description.

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Then we'll hear from those of you who have signed up to make formal comments into the public record. As you probably have noticed, we have a Court Reporter over here to the left.

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The transcripts from this meeting will be placed in the public file at the FERC, and there is information in the Notice, if you want to review those transcripts after the meeting. They will be available ten days after this meeting.

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The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent regulatory agency and part of the responsibilities of the Commission is to review natural gas pipeline facilities that are transporting gas in interstate commerce.

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The Commission itself is made up of a board of up to five Commissioners, and those Commissioners are appointed by the President and approved by Congress. Currently, we have four Commissioners at the Commission.

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The Commission Staff, which includes myself,

1 prepares technical information to assist the Commission in
2 making their decisions.

3 When an application is filed with the Commission,
4 which, in the case of the Cypress Pipeline Project, we
5 anticipate an application will be filed before the Summer of
6 2005; that application is used on our part to prepare the
7 Environmental Impact Statement.

8 The Cypress Pipeline Project is a 165-mile pipe
9 beginning in Effingham County and will be between Effingham
10 County and Jacksonville, Florida, in Clay County. It also
11 includes ten miles of pipeline looping along Southern's
12 existing pipeline, and it will also consist of three gas
13 compressor stations along the pipeline route. We'll hear
14 more about the description of that from Southern in a few
15 minutes.

16 Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the
17 Commission is required to conduct an environmental
18 assessment of a proposed project. In the case of the
19 Cypress Pipeline Project, we're doing that analysis in an
20 Environmental Impact Statement.

21 Now, briefly, we have a handout of the flow chart
22 that goes over the environmental process, and I will refer
23 to this flow chart. If you can't read this, there are
24 handouts of it as well.

25 In December of 2004, Southern filed a request to

1 use the Commission's pre-filing process. The pre-filing
2 process enables FERC Staff to begin reviewing the pipeline
3 project before the application is actually filed.

4 The purpose of the pre-filing process is to
5 ensure that we get early involvement with stakeholders,
6 landowners, interested parties, as well as agencies.

7 And through that process, we're able to get a
8 better feel for the issues, early in the planning process of
9 the project, which we feel we're still in. It's still early
10 on in the planning process.

11 In that way, issues can be resolved at this
12 stage, before the actual application filing, so that's the
13 purpose of the pre-filing process.

14 Now, FERC officially approved the project, on
15 this flow chart, in January, early January. We began to
16 identify agencies that we felt would be helpful in the
17 review of the application.

18 And that's when we contacted the Corps and met
19 with the Corps in early February, February 8th, I believe.
20 The FERC, as far as public input, when that began was in
21 mid-February. Some of you, I believe, attended some of the
22 open house meetings.

23 Most of the landowners, if not all, should have
24 received an information packet about the project, and
25 information about those open house meetings. They were held

1 February 15th through the 17th, and the FERC participated in
2 those and attended those.

3 We issued the Notice of Intent, which most of you
4 have probably received in the mail. If you did not receive
5 that, we have additional copies in the back.

6 That explained the FERC process, explained the
7 pre-filing process, briefly explained the project, and
8 explained the issues that we feel need to be identified and
9 assessed in our Environmental Impact Statement. That was
10 issued on the 18th of February, and the public comment
11 period, which we call the scoping period, will end on April
12 7th.

13 That's as far as us receiving formal comments.
14 On page 7 and 8 of the NOI, the Notice of Intent, it
15 explains how to make written comments into the public
16 record.

17 Of course, we are having three formal public
18 meetings like the one tonight. We're having one here as
19 well as in Brunswick tomorrow night, and then Thursday in
20 Jacksonville, along the pipeline route.

21 Following these meetings, there will be a time
22 where the Company will be preparing what is known as the
23 Environmental Resource Reports that will be included as part
24 of their application. That's comprehensive resource reports
25 on the various resources that could be affected by the

1 project. We expect that that application will formally be
2 filed sometime before the summer.

3 Following the application filing, the FERC will
4 begin preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
5 and that will open up a comment period for the Draft EIS.
6 Following that, we'll have additional public meetings in
7 this area, as well as in Brunswick and Jacksonville on the
8 EIS itself.

9 Following that comment period, which is a 45-day
10 comment period, we will respond to your comments and to the
11 issues that you have with our document, and follow that up
12 with a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

13 I should say that the Impact Statement itself is
14 not a decision document. It's technical information that we
15 will put together to assess the project and the potential
16 impacts of the project.

17 We'll provide that, as well as non-environmental
18 information that will be provided to the Commissioners, the
19 board of Commissioners, for them to make a decision.

20 That decision could be to deny the project,
21 accept the project, or delay the project approval. If the
22 Commission does decide to approve the project, the
23 Commission Staff will follow the project through
24 construction as far as doing environmental inspections
25 during construction as it crosses your property, as well

1 through the restoration.

2 And we'll hear a little bit more about the
3 schedule, but they expect to begin or they are hoping to
4 begin construction, if the project is approved, in the Fall
5 of 2006.

6 So, that briefly explains the FERC side of the
7 application, and you can see little bit about what the
8 Company is doing, on the right-hand side of the handouts.
9 We have additional handouts in the back.

10 John, that's all I need on that. If you have
11 additional questions about the FERC's process or about the
12 Commission itself, we do have a home page that's very user-
13 friendly. That's www.ferc.gov, if you have Internet access.

14 Are there any questions about the flow chart or
15 the FERC's process?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. MCGUIRE: As I said earlier, the Corps has
18 their own separate process, and they will be reviewing the
19 project as well, and Mark will be here after the meeting, if
20 you have questions about the Corps's process and their
21 review. They are serving as a cooperating agency and we're
22 working together in the preparation of the EIS.

23 Now, I would like to introduce Bruce Hughes with
24 the Southern Natural Gas Company.

25 MR. HUGHES: Good evening. My name is Bruce

1 Hughes. I'm a Project Developer for Southern Natural Gas.

2 And we thought it might be worthwhile to give you
3 a little bit of background information on Southern Natural
4 Gas, to give you a better idea of why we're doing this
5 project.

6 In order to do that, I'm going to spend just a
7 minute or two on Southern Natural's history and what we do
8 in the Southeast. Some of you may be familiar with our LNG
9 receiving terminal in Savannah, our Elba Island Terminal.

10 I thought it would be worthwhile to give you a
11 brief update on the status of that terminal, because it
12 really would be the supply source for the project that we're
13 going to build, as Rich said, from Savannah down to
14 Jacksonville, the Cypress Project.

15 I'll spend a few minutes giving you a little bit
16 of background information on the project and why we're
17 building it.

18 I feel like I'm in your way. I'm going to have a
19 hard time staying in place with the mike. This is a system
20 map of the Southern Natural System.

21 Southern Natural Gas is an interstate pipeline
22 regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. We
23 serve principally the Southeast markets of Alabama, Georgia,
24 and South Carolina, with natural gas.

25 We're the largest supplier in the Southeast. As

1 you can see, our system runs from South Louisiana, East
2 Texas, North Louisiana, across the Southeast into
3 Birmingham, Atlanta; Columbus, Georgia, Macon, across to
4 Augusta.

5 We supply about 70 percent of the gas consumed in
6 the states of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. We've
7 got roughly 8,000 miles of pipeline across the Southeast.

8 The original pipeline was constructed in 1929 to
9 move gas supplies from North Louisiana over to Birmingham
10 and Atlanta. As the Southeast economy grew, we expanded the
11 pipeline system and extended the pipeline system.

12 In 1953, we built the pipeline down to Savannah
13 that is the Savannah line, so we have been in the
14 neighborhood a long time. We've served the Southeast for
15 over 80 years. We've served the Savannah area for over 50
16 years.

17 Our largest customers are residential and
18 commercial suppliers, the local LDCs. Atlanta Gas Light is
19 our largest customer, SCANA, which is South Carolina
20 Electric, is our second largest customer, Alabama Gas is our
21 third largest customer.

22 We serve a lot of municipal customers and
23 industrial customers along our system, as well.

24 This is an aerial photo of our LNG receiving
25 terminal at Elba Island. The three smaller tanks you see in

1 that photograph, are the existing tanks and terminals.

2 The dock that you see in the river, is our
3 current docking facility where LNG tankers come into the
4 terminal, offload the liquified natural gas. The gas goes
5 into those tanks as a liquid.

6 When the liquids come off the tanks, we heat the
7 gas so that it vaporizes and is converted into natural gas -
8 - not converted, but it's regasified as a natural gas, and
9 the gas goes back into our pipeline systems and comes off
10 the Island.

11 We're in the process of -- well, we reactivated
12 the terminal in 2001. We're currently in the process of
13 expanding the terminal, and that expansion will go into
14 service in February of 2006.

15 I wanted to give you that background information
16 before I explained why we're building the pipeline. There
17 are a couple of reasons why we're building the pipeline and
18 why we're building the pipeline where we are building it.

19 One is to serve additional markets. As we expand
20 our pipeline infrastructure, it's usually to serve
21 additional markets. In this particular project, we're also
22 distributing supply.

23 The terminal at Savannah is one of four operating
24 terminals in the U.S. There's one at Lake Charles,
25 Louisiana; our terminal in Savannah; and there's one in

1 Baltimore and one in Boston.

2 But with this terminal and the gas supply that
3 we're bringing into the Southeast, we're just adding
4 infrastructure to distribute this gas to markets that are
5 growing in Georgia and Florida.

6 The scope of our project, as Rich mentioned, is
7 165 miles of 24-inch line. We are proposing to locate the
8 pipeline adjacent to existing utility corridors in an
9 attempt to minimize impact on landowners.

10 The second phase of the project would include
11 compression in Glen (ph.) County, and the third phase of the
12 project would include ten miles of loop that Rich mentioned,
13 on Southern Natural's existing right of way, and additional
14 compressor stations in Liberty and Nighsaw (ph.) County,
15 Florida.

16 I think I've covered the project scope already.
17 The project timeline, as Rich indicated earlier, we
18 requested that FERC begin the NEPA pre-filing process in
19 December of 2004.

20 We plan to file our application in late May,
21 early June, or as soon as we have completed the necessary
22 information and agency consultations and resource reports
23 that are required to file a complete application. It that's
24 later in the year, it might be later in the year, but our
25 current timeline suggests that we will reach that in late

1 May or early June.

2 Our plan and our expectation would be to start
3 construction in the third quarter of 2006, and place the
4 pipeline in service in May of 2007. We have commercial
5 commitments for this project from Progress Energy, which is
6 an electric utility headquartered in Raleigh, North
7 Carolina. They have a generation company and power
8 distribution company in Florida called Progress Energy of
9 Florida.

10 Another commercial commitment to supporting the
11 project is from BG/LNG, which is a supplier of gas to the
12 Elba Island Terminal. In addition, we will be serving
13 Jacksonville Electric Authority. Jacksonville Electric
14 Authority is putting in a power plant that's fueled by
15 natural gas.

16 And the last two commitments that are listed
17 there are the City of Austell, Georgia, and Georgia Pacific.

18 The project benefits - We've listed a number here
19 and they are: Additional pipeline infrastructure to serve
20 incremental markets. That's the biggest driver for our
21 project, proving access to multiple LNG sources and
22 suppliers;

23 Incremental gas supply for Georgia and Florida
24 markets, we believe, is the real need to bring additional
25 gas, particularly into the Southeast, to Florida and

1 Georgia, and it will allow us to move more gas into
2 Southwest Georgia, as well.

3 In addition to those attributes, there are system
4 benefits for having two large interstate pipelines
5 interconnected. This pipeline will allow Southern Natural
6 Gas and Florida Gas Transmission Systems to be
7 interconnected.

8 Florida Gas Transmission is a very large market
9 in the summer; Southern Natural Gas is predominant in the
10 heat markets during the winter, and this pipeline will allow
11 us to meet those seasonal demands more efficiently.

12 Okay, that's all I have.

13 MR. McGUIRE: Thanks, Mr. Hughes. Before Bruce
14 sits down, are there any questions for Southern about
15 clarifying the project?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. McGUIRE: Okay, Southern has brought with
18 them tonight alignment sheets. If you're a landowner that
19 may potentially be affected by this project, I would
20 encourage you to look at those alignment sheets and discuss
21 with the Company, while they are here tonight, and take
22 advantage of that to see exactly how they are proposing to
23 cross your properties.

24 If you don't care to speak on the record tonight,
25 you can still send in written comments through the FERC

1 webpage, www.ferc.gov. On the webpage you can get
2 information on providing written comments to the Commission,
3 information about the project and the effect on your land.
4 I encourage you to take advantage of this and learn as much
5 as you can about the project.

6 Now we begin to hear from those of you who have
7 signed up to make formal comments into the public record for
8 this meeting. The first commenter tonight is James Scholl.

9 I'd ask that you come up to the microphone so the
10 Court Reporter can get your comments into the record. If
11 you would please identify your name again, and if you are
12 affiliated with any farm or agency, if you could let us know
13 that, as well.

14 MR. SCHOLL: I'm James Scholl, and I'm not too
15 sure if this is an environmental question, but I understand
16 that where I'm located, which is in the Cold Brooke area --
17 and I'm not sure what the mile post was, but it's on the
18 loop part of the system, that this says that no permanent
19 right of way will be required where I am.

20 But it says that there will be a 45-foot
21 temporary easement, and I was under the impression that
22 there will be no trees to be taken down, because I am on the
23 west side of the existing easement, where the new pipeline
24 will be going.

25 And I wanted to get that cleared up. And I don't

1 know if it's relevant, also, but we do have a salamander,
2 and I'm not too sure if it's the one you're talking about,
3 the flathead salamander, the flat wood salamander, but I've
4 got some of those, and there's nesting boxes for Eastern
5 Bluebirds, and they do use those and that is very close to
6 where the pipeline will go.

7 But, there again, if it's not an endangered
8 species, y'all probably don't care about it, but we sort of
9 do.

10 MR. MCGUIRE: Well, we do care about it. That
11 will be part of our assessment of what effects the project
12 will have.

13 Of course, as far as FERC is concerned, we're
14 very -- it's very early in the review of the project, so, as
15 it says in there, the permanent easement, as far as we
16 understand it now, there will be no additional permanent
17 easement along the routing of that ten-mile loop section.

18 MR. SCHOLL: Right.

19 MR. MCGUIRE: They will need temporary work
20 space. We have not seen -- they have not filed the
21 alignment sheets for us to know, for me to be able to answer
22 that question, but they brought their alignment sheets with
23 them tonight, and after the meeting, they would be able to
24 answer that question.

25 MR. SCHOLL: Well, Mr. Malone, though, I

1 understood from him that there would be no clearing in
2 addition to what is already cleared, required.

3 And if there's going to be, I'm going to have big
4 problems with that.

5 MR. MCGUIRE: Okay, well, I would encourage you
6 to look on their alignment sheets after the meeting, and you
7 should be able to clarify whether that's the case, whether
8 there will be additional clearing on your land, as it's
9 proposed now.

10 So, you can bring that up with the Company. They
11 have not filed the application. We're still in the planning
12 process, so you can work that out with the company.

13 Thank you, Mr. Scholl. The next speaker tonight
14 is Lamar Zipperer. The spelling: It's L-A-M-A-R, and
15 Zipperer is Z-I-P-P-E-R-E-R.

16 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: That's right. I am Lamar
17 Zipperer, and I'd like for my entire family to stand up,
18 please.

19 MR. MCGUIRE: You're well represented tonight.

20 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: What you see here is a
21 representation of about 4,000 feet, not quite a mile of
22 right of way. And the right of way -- I'm not quite sure of
23 the existing delineation on the maps, also, but it's on
24 Bluejay Highway.

25 MR. MCGUIRE: In Effingham County?

1 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: It's in Effingham County.
2 It's very near where you make the tap-in at. And I'd like
3 to go on record tonight by saying that we strongly object to
4 this project -- very strong object.

5 The reason we strongly object is not because we
6 don't need natural gas. It's not because we are not trying
7 to be public-minded citizens.

8 We strongly object because we don't think this
9 thing is being thought through as well as it should. There
10 are some things that have happened lately to make us wonder
11 about these things.

12 On this particular right of way that's proposed,
13 there are two gigantic power lines, and these power lines
14 have taken up a tremendous amount of space. And it appears
15 to us that the gas company, Southern Natural, and the
16 electric companies, both Georgia Power and Savannah Electric
17 Power, that they should cooperate together and partner
18 together in order to reduce the environmental impact and
19 really a lot of different things.

20 In my preparation for this thing here tonight, I
21 took a look at this docket, and if you turn to page 6 -- and
22 I recognize that you'd probably go over this -- on our
23 property, on which -- there's 165 miles of it, and we
24 represent almost a mile of it -- there are 11 general
25 resource headings that's been prepared for us to discuss

1 tonight.

2 I'm not going to discuss them all, but I will
3 tell you that out of the 11, I know for sure that we have
4 seven out of the 11 that's impacted on our property, and
5 they are: Geology and soils; water resources and wetlands;
6 fisheries, wildlife, and vegetation; endangered and
7 threatened species; land use; alternatives; and cumulative
8 impacts.

9 Now, there may be others. Surely, there's a
10 socioeconomic issue to this thing; air quality and noise;
11 reliability and safety; cultural resources -- I'm not
12 prepared to address those, but I would be, the other seven,
13 with anybody that would care to talk to us about this.

14 And we look forward to working with the Corps,
15 with Mark, and y'all on this, to talk to you individually,
16 and to anybody else that would listen to us.

17 Let me tell you what happened last week: At the
18 our invitation and Southern Natural, we all got together --
19 Bruce Hughes, Joanne Harris, Gerry Kreel (ph.) from Southern
20 Natural, myself and several more family members.

21 And we visited the site where it's going to cross
22 our land, and we all agreed, gentlemen and gentle ladies
23 agreed that there was plenty of room there to have both the
24 electric line and future electric expansion, as well as
25 pipelines.

1 And to me, this makes a lot of sense, to partner
2 to things, because we all know that this part of Georgia is
3 growing. We all know that we are growing just gangbusters
4 in this area.

5 And there's going to be future projects. Why are
6 we -- just tel me, why are we embarking on a project like
7 this with one eye closed, when we should have Georgia Power
8 sitting here tonight; we should have Savannah Electric Power
9 sitting here tonight; we should have all the utilities
10 sitting here tonight working together on these projects.

11 We are all Americans, we are all Georgians, we
12 all like natural gas. I like electricity, and I'm not going
13 to stand in the way of anything like this, but I do think
14 that there are common-sense ways that you can go about
15 projects like this, and this project has not been well
16 thought through from an environmental standpoint. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. MCGUIRE: Thank you very much for your
19 comments. I also have Alan Zipperer signed up to speak.
20 Are there additional comments you'd like to make for the
21 record.

22 MR. ALAN ZIPPERER: He's pretty much covered it.

23 MR. MCGUIRE: Okay, thank you. Can I ask, across
24 your property, is there an easement with the transmission
25 line company on your property?

1 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: Yes.

2 MR. MCGUIRE: On your property currently.

3 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: Yes, there is. Alan if more
4 familiar with the feet and this kind of thing along the
5 line, and he may want to comment a little bit about that.

6 MR. MCGUIRE: Okay. It would be helpful for us
7 to understand how the power line interacts with the proposed
8 pipelines.

9 MR. ALAN ZIPPERER: As we stated earlier, my name
10 is Alan Zipperer. I live on Bluejay Road.

11 There are two power lines that cross our
12 property, and probably most of the folks that are in this
13 room -- Georgia Power, Savannah Electric Power, they take a
14 400-foot wide swipe of land all the way to wherever they go,
15 wherever the power line goes.

16 On the north --

17 MR. MCGUIRE: And that's continuous 400 feet?

18 MR. ALAN ZIPPERER: Yes, continuous. On the
19 north side, from the outside edge of the last line, there's
20 125-foot wide strip that Savannah Electric Power has got an
21 easement on, that's not being used for anything and hasn't
22 been for the last 30 years.

23 There's probably enough footage there to put 20
24 gas lines of that size down. I know that Savannah Electric
25 Power has a 24-inch gas main running to their natural gas

1 turbine electric plant that they run, and I think that
2 they've either got ten or 15-foot right of way.

3 And there's also a railroad track going down
4 these power lines to Plant McIntosh, but in our opinion,
5 there's plenty of land that's already set aside back there
6 for these type projects, without affecting any additional
7 landowners.

8 And that's what our opposition is to the project.
9 It's not that we're opposed to the gas people or the gas
10 line; it's just the use of land. There's a choice in the
11 use of land. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGUIRE: Thank you very much. Our next
13 commenter is Carl Arndt, and that's spelled, for the Court
14 Reporter, A-R-N-D-T; is that correct, Carl?

15 MR. ARNDT: Yes, that's correct. Well, tonight,
16 I'm here to kind of wear two hats: I'm a farmer, and I have
17 never really seen a detailed map of where this pipeline is
18 going.

19 We think it's a very broad scale. My farm is on
20 Little Neck Road, and the -- well, from the map, it looks
21 like you're going to be going right through my land, and I
22 never really -- I have no idea where the pipeline is going
23 to go.

24 Now, on the other hat I'm wearing, I'm with the
25 Canal Society, and it looks like the pipeline is going to go

1 right over or under the Canal.

2 Well, that is an historic landmark. How are you
3 going to take care of that? And that's all.

4 I guess the big thing is that I would like to
5 have a map of the detailed area of where the pipeline is
6 going to go.

7 MR. MCGUIRE: Okay, thank you, Carl. I think I
8 can quickly answer some of those questions. We are aware
9 that it is crossing this historic canal. We've identified
10 that as a potential issue for us to address in the EIS.

11 It's our understanding that the Company will be
12 drilling under that canal, and that still has issues related
13 to that, but we will need to address that issue with the
14 SHPO, the State Historic Preservation Office in the State of
15 Georgia, and we'll address that in the Environmental Impact
16 Statement.

17 As far as detailed alignment across your
18 property, if your property is crossed, that should be -- the
19 maps that the Company has brought with them tonight, and the
20 staff that's here, should be able to clarify exactly how
21 your property, if your property is crossed, and their
22 alignment sheets are much more detailed than what was
23 included in our Notice of Intent that was sent out.

24 Thank you again. We have another Zipperer. Chad
25 Zipper, do you have any comments you'd like to add into the

1 record?

2 MR. CHAD ZIPPERER: Just one.

3 MR. MCGUIRE: Okay.

4 MR. CHAD ZIPPERER: If nothing else, it would be
5 to say again, what they have said. The reason that you see
6 so many of us here, is because of the history of this land
7 that's been generations and generations and generations of
8 our family.

9 I mean, it's survived the Revolutionary War, the
10 Civil War, the Depression. The only thing it has not
11 survived has been large corporate greed, as I call it. And
12 that is our environment, and that's pretty much it. Greed
13 destroyed our environment.

14 And, like I said, there's ample room, about 145
15 feet on the north side of that pipeline. We don't have a
16 problem with that, because that's what it's for.

17 I mean, like I said, they need to couple
18 together, make a partnership, and I don't see any problem.
19 Those trees there that you're going to take down, are 150,
20 100 years old. Who knows how old they are? I mean, that's
21 the environment; that's our environment, our heritage.

22 MR. MCGUIRE: Thank you, Mr. Zipperer. Our next
23 speaker is Steve Hester.

24 MR. HESTER: It's nice to see the Zipperers out
25 tonight. I'm in the Lionheart (ph.) Area, Hester Farms. My

1 grandfather and great granddaddy started that farm, so I'm
2 about the fourth generation. My children are the fifth.

3 The property where the gas line is located, is on
4 my portion of the farm or will be my inheritance. Also, my
5 brother will be sharing in this inheritance.

6 Our concern is that we have an existing road that
7 crosses the pipeline easement. We had to put that there,
8 because at one time, we thought of using the one field
9 that's on the property there.

10 That land that I'm speaking of is listed as Dr.
11 J.R. Hester's land. It's some 90 acres there, but that
12 road, we had to put there, because we were using the field.
13 At one time, we were thinking about a recycling venture in
14 the early '90s.

15 Well, you had to have something to get over those
16 pipes with, and, of course, the Southern Gas people have
17 always been very nice to us, very cooperative, but we did
18 build this road. So, what I'm concerned with -- I know
19 you're going to have to dig through that, that road that
20 crosses the easement that serves not only my part, but the
21 first part, the old 30 part. It's about 12 acres in the
22 frontage of this property.

23 The rest of the 90 acres is on the other side of
24 the easement, so, you know, in order for us to use that land
25 for anything, you know, back on that side is -- as you all

1 know, there are three billboard signs and also a cellular
2 tower.

3 So these folks have to have a good road, you
4 know, in order to get back there and service their ventures
5 back there. So, that is the thing; I don't want to get to
6 where we have to do something to the road.

7 I want the gas company to take care of it this
8 time. And also I would venture to say that if you have a
9 need to empty dirt -- sometimes you've got all this volume
10 of dirt. We know the water line has recently has gone
11 through the property. They needed a place to unload this
12 dirt, excess dirt that the pipeline was taking, and we'd be
13 open to that, if you need a place to empty some of this dirt
14 that you're going to get, you know.

15 But in our particular part of the line, it's very
16 low in there, and I would like to see some of that filled up
17 a little bit, if that's environmentally acceptable. You
18 know, you'll have to work it out, because some of it's a
19 wetland, but I would like to -- there's no use for it, I
20 would like to see where it's up to at least where we could
21 ride down it, if we wanted to, and use it as a road.

22 But it just kind of bellies in there right on our
23 property. So, it's those two things, the road and the
24 lowness of the land that I'd like to see addressed, not out
25 of our pocket, but out of yours.

1 I think we can work with you on this, so we're
2 right in that area where you're going to go under 95 and
3 shoot across. That concerns us.

4 I'm at 440 Lionheart Road, and you know, please
5 call me. I'd like to talk to you in detail about the
6 construction of it, and maybe there might be some benefit
7 that I can gain when you're coming through there.

8 And now, it's my understanding that you are
9 widening the easement with the tree line. Is that going to
10 be necessary, or can you use it as it exists?

11 MR. MCGUIRE: Well, I should probably clarify
12 that this is not a FERC project. The Commission is
13 reviewing Southern's project. We will not building it.
14 It's a Southern project that we will be reviewing and
15 assessing under FERC's jurisdiction.

16 So, I would encourage you, after the meeting
17 tonight, to ask the Company to clarify that, and they can
18 refer you to the alignment sheets they have.

19 MR. HESTER: Okay.

20 MR. MCGUIRE: They include the existing pipe, an
21 they should have your property on those alignment sheets.

22 MR. HESTER: Our need is to be able to use all of
23 the property, and, you know, not be fenced off from the rest
24 of it.

25 MR. MCGUIRE: Understood.

1 MR. HESTER: That's the concern. We appreciate
2 it; thank you.

3 MR. McGUIRE: Thank you very much, Mr. Hester.
4 Our next commenter is, I believe Chandra Brown.

5 MS. BROWN: I'm with Community Riverkeepers.
6 It's a nonprofit organization that works to preserve the
7 Ogeechee River. And I have a couple of questions, actually.

8 On page 6 of the statement, it lists a number of
9 rivers that included, could be impacted, and the Ogeechee is
10 left out, so, we'd like to be sure that the Ogeechee is
11 included, because it does look like this is going to impact
12 the Ogeechee as well, so we want to make sure that people
13 are aware of that.

14 MR. McGUIRE: Okay.

15 MS. BROWN: And then as far as our concerns, we
16 want to make sure that the EIS addresses a number of issues
17 that we're concerned with. I'm going to pull out my notes.

18 We are concerned about the cumulative impact of
19 this pipeline, along with other pipelines in Georgia.
20 Again, we've heard that there may be a number of rights of
21 ways, existing power lines and things that could be used
22 that may not be included in this plan as it is, and we want
23 to make sure that all of the impacts are assessed and that
24 this pipeline has a minimal impact and uses existing rights
25 of way.

1 We're also interested in the scope of the project
2 and interested that there's a pipeline running down the
3 coast of Georgia to what it looks like to serve Florida, and
4 just a small piece of southern Georgia, that it may make
5 more sense if another LNG facility could be established,
6 rather, in Florida, so we don't have to impact all of these
7 wetlands along the Georgia coast to service Florida's
8 electrical needs.

9 We're also interested in how it would affect
10 wildlife migrations, east-west across the pipeline, that the
11 habitat fragmentation that will be impacting the wildlife
12 migrations.

13 And I think that that pretty much addresses it,
14 but, of course, any cumulative impacts to jurisdictional and
15 non-jurisdictional wetlands, we would be interested in
16 making sure that the EIS looks at all of those. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGUIRE: Thank you, Mrs. Brown. Are there
18 any -- do we have anyone else that has signed up?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. MCGUIRE: Well, that's the list that we have
21 of those that have signed up. Is there anyone else that
22 would like to make formal comments into the public record
23 tonight?

24 Ma'am, if you could give us your name?

25 MS. JENNINGS: I'm Judy Jennings, and I'm a Board

1 member for the Savannah Riverkeepers, and I'm representing
2 them. And I share all of the concerns that Ms. Brown just
3 mentioned -- the wetlands, the route -- and I have a couple
4 of questions, and maybe we can talk about this after or you
5 can address them now.

6 Maybe everybody here knows this and I'm the only
7 one who doesn't, but I really don't understand the little
8 jog into Effingham County, because it really is sort of like
9 it's going out of you way, but it seems to me that you must
10 be going there for something.

11 And I'm a little bit curious about why a 30-inch
12 pipe dead-ends into a 24-inch pipe. I guess I'm just kind
13 of curious, why did that jog up into Effingham County the
14 way you did.

15 MR. MCGUIRE: That's a good question. After the
16 meeting, Southern will be available at the back at the
17 tables, and they should be able to answer that question.

18 MS. JENNINGS: Thanks.

19 MR. MCGUIRE: We will be looking at the
20 alternatives to the Project, as was mentioned, as well as
21 what's proposed.

22 Again, if you could identify yourself?

23 MR. HUGHES: My name is Brett Hughes. My brother
24 and I own two 290 acres, of which 14 acres is already in
25 power line right of way. The primary use of this property

1 is growing timber.

2 And that 14 acres hasn't grown a stick of timber
3 in 20 years. And I'd just like to echo Mr. Zipperer's
4 comments, that there is plenty of room underneath there to
5 place a gas line right of way, without going and taking
6 additional room.

7 And if they have to go outside of the right of
8 way that's there now and need additional space, I would like
9 to see an explanation given by -- a written explanation
10 given by the Company as to why they cannot use the existing
11 right of way. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGUIRE: Thank you very much, Mr. Hughes.

13 Is there anyone else that would like to make
14 formal comments into the public record?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. MCGUIRE: Again, as I mentioned earlier, you
17 can write in comments, if you prefer to do that rather than
18 making formal comments. They are weighted just as much as
19 formal comment into the record.

20 You can file those comments. We have forms in
21 the back at the table. They explain how to write comments
22 in.

23 The NOI that many of you received in the mail,
24 explains how to provide public comments to the FERC. That's
25 on page 7 and 8 of the document.

1 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: Question: If you appeared
2 here tonight and gave the testimony, do you also need to --

3 MR. MCGUIRE: We're going to need you to come up
4 to the podium with your question.

5 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: My name is Lamar Zipperer,
6 again. I spoke a few minutes ago.

7 If you made comments tonight at this hearing, do
8 you also need to make comments in a written manner? Is
9 there a need for that?

10 MR. MCGUIRE: The comments that you have made
11 tonight will be in the public record as if it was a written
12 comment, so they will be in our public record.

13 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: So no use to duplicate,
14 right?

15 MR. MCGUIRE: There's no need to duplicate, but
16 if there is something in addition that you would like to put
17 into the public record, that you didn't think of tonight,
18 you can add that by filing comments.

19 You can file those comments, either written or
20 electronically.

21 MR. LAMAR ZIPPERER: Thank you.

22 MR. MCGUIRE: Thank you.

23 Again, I encourage you to take advantage of the
24 maps and alignment sheets that the Company has brought with
25 them tonight, to better understand how their proposed

1 project affects your land, if you're a landowner who has
2 received the notice or the information packet. You may
3 potentially be affected by this proposed project, so I
4 encourage you to take a look exactly, talk to Southern here
5 tonight, while they are here, to understand how the project
6 affects your property.

7 I mentioned earlier that the transcripts of this
8 meeting will be available in the public record for those
9 individuals who were not able to attend this meeting, and
10 they will have access to read the public record of the
11 comments and the issues that you brought up tonight.

12 That concludes our formal presentation of
13 tonight's meeting. On behalf of the Federal Energy
14 Regulatory Commission, I thank you for coming here tonight
15 and expressing your comments.

16 (Whereupon, at 7:53 p.m., the scoping meeting was
17 concluded.)

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