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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF: PROJECT NO: PF06-1
CARTHAGE TO PERRYVILLE PROJECT
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing,
pursuant to notice, at the Delhi Civic Center,
Delhi, Louisiana, on Thursday, January 26, 2006,
beginning at 7:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

CHARLES T. BROWN
Senior Program Analyst
Environmental Review
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., NE
Washington, DC 20426
Email: Charles.Brown@ferc.gov

REPORTED BY:

ELLA J. HARDWICK, CVR, #1749

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1 MR. BROWN:

2 Good evening. I'd like to thank all
3 of you for coming tonight for the Carthage to
4 Perryville pipeline project scoping meeting.
5 My name is Charles Brown from the Federal
6 Energy Regulatory Commission. I'm the
7 environmental project manager for this project.
8 Here to my right is Eric Dilts. He works for
9 ENRIX, who is our third party contractor,
10 who'll be helping us put together a draft
11 environmental impact statement and a final
12 impact statement.

13 To the rear is Doug Mooneyhand. He
14 also works for ENRIX. He's environmental
15 science also. The purpose of tonight's meeting
16 is to provide each of you with an opportunity
17 to give us your environmental comments for the
18 proposed project and tell us the issues that
19 you believe that should be addressed in the
20 draft.

21 We are presently in the early phase
22 of the environmental review and are just
23 beginning to gather information on the project.
24 This meeting is an early step in the process.
25 The EIS is just one of many important steps

1 that takes place at the Commission to make a
2 decision on whether to issue a certificate to
3 CenterPoint Energy.

4 A public notice was issued on this
5 project January 6th, 2006, and that comment
6 period will end February 10th. It's during
7 this time that we receive written comments.
8 It's not to say we won't take comments after
9 February 10th. We will. But the sooner you
10 get the comments in to us, it's better, so we
11 can get involved in the environmental impact
12 statement.

13 FERC also encourages electronic
14 filing. You can go to our website,
15 www.ferc.gov, and go to our elink. Fill out
16 the -- you got to put the docket number,
17 PF06-1, and what that does you can fill out
18 your comments. We also offer esubscription
19 which allows you to keep track of each thing
20 that's submitted on the document.

21 You will automatically be notified by
22 email of these filings, with the document
23 summaries, and links to the documents. You can
24 register for this service at www.ferc.gov under
25 the esubscription link.

1 A formal application hasn't been
2 filed with FERC; however, the FERC staff has
3 just begun their environmental review for the
4 project to allow early involvement by the
5 public, government entities, and other
6 interested parties. The purpose of the NEPA
7 pre-filing process is to encourage involvement
8 by interested stakeholders in a manner that
9 allows early identification of environmental
10 issues.

11 We have two other federal agencies
12 that are also working with us: Fish & Wildlife
13 and the Corps of Engineers. Now, once we
14 gather all of this information, we'll be
15 issuing a draft environmental impact statement.
16 That will be out for comment to the public for
17 45 days. During this time, we would appreciate
18 that you read the document and provide us any
19 comments that you have.

20 Those comments will be incorporated
21 into a final document called a final EIS. Now,
22 that, along with other information, will be
23 submitted to our Commission at FERC which will
24 make a decision whether to issue a certificate
25 on the project.

1 Now, we're going to have some
2 comments -- we have one speaker -- but before
3 we do, CenterPoint wants to give a brief
4 overview of the project. Bud.

5 MR. PYLANT:

6 Good evening, everybody. My name's
7 Bud Pylant. I'm with CenterPoint Energy
8 Pipeline Services. My company, CenterPoint
9 Energy, is proposing to build a 42-inch natural
10 gas pipeline from Carthage, Texas to Delhi,
11 Louisiana. There's a lot of gas in Texas
12 that's been drilled in Barnett Shale and the
13 Bossier Sands, as well as a lot of gas in east
14 Texas, that needs capacity to get to the
15 markets in the Midwest and the East Coast.

16 There's also a lot of gas in the Elm
17 Grove Field and the Vernon Field in Louisiana
18 that we're routing the pipeline near such that
19 gas in those fields can be assessed with a
20 pipeline for transportation to those markets.

21 Also, as part of this project, we're
22 proposing two permanent compressor stations --
23 one at Panola County, Texas and one at Jackson
24 Parish, Louisiana. We're going to phase --
25 there will be two compressors at each site.

1 We're going to start off initially with one
2 compressor at each site, and those are about
3 10,310 horsepower apiece.

4 So we'll put one in, and if the
5 demand for capacity is there, we'll put in an
6 additional compressor at each station for a
7 total of two. We'll also have interconnects
8 with major pipelines over in this part of the
9 world, like A&R, Trunkline, Texas Gas,
10 interconnection to Columbia Gulf here also.
11 That way shippers along this pipeline system
12 will have access to different markets, and it
13 will help the infrastructure.

14 And, basically, that's the pipeline
15 project we're proposing to you is a 100-foot
16 wide construction right-of-way with periodic
17 extra temporary workspaces, like road
18 crossings, street crossings, things of that
19 nature where you may have to have additional
20 space to haul dirt from the ditch.

21 And once the pipeline is constructed,
22 then the right-of-way would revert back to a
23 60-foot wide permanent right-of-way and the
24 temporary extra workspace and the temporary
25 construction right-of-way can revert back to

1 its normal use. So basically, that's our
2 project.

3 MR. BROWN:

4 Thanks, Bud. We have one speaker
5 tonight. Is there anyone else out here that
6 would like to sign up? Okay. Before our
7 speaker comes up, could I get everyone to
8 please turn your cell phones off?

9 Okay. What I'll do tonight is what
10 we've done at the other two scoping meetings.
11 Since we only have one speaker, we'll let the
12 gentleman come up and speak. Then I'll close
13 the meeting officially for the docket.

14 And then, what I'd like to do is open
15 up the meeting for questions for myself and for
16 the pipeline company. We'll do that at that
17 period if that's okay with everyone. That's
18 worked out very well in the past, so I'd like
19 to do that.

20 MR. PATRICK:

21 Would that also be on record, though,
22 those questions and answers?

23 MR. BROWN:

24 No. What this meeting is for is for
25 official environmental comments for our

1 address. And the questions -- unless you want
2 to come up and speak, if you have something
3 you'd like us to address in the environmental
4 statement, we'd be happy to do that.

5 Okay. Mr. Benson?

6 MR. BENSON:

7 My name is Eugene Benson. I
8 purchased 40 acres of land here in Delhi
9 sometime ago. I graduated here at Delhi, went
10 to school here. Then I went to California,
11 made a man out of myself. Went to community
12 college.

13 I've got two objections for the
14 pipeline. Number one, when they put a pipeline
15 in, we have to have some kind of way to
16 maintain it. We need to have somebody to keep
17 it cut, make sure they test it. You have every
18 safety issue that's possible.

19 Now, they done run one line through
20 my 40 acres. That was there before I bought
21 it. They didn't maintain that. So we come to
22 number 2. Somehow we got to make sure that
23 these people cut the right-of-way and keep it
24 clean and have it tested.

25 Somewhere I read that they had a big

1 blowup up here north of Delhi about two or
2 three years ago. We need to make certain that
3 we don't have that blowout again, especially on
4 the 40 acres that I purchased. I was planning
5 to buy a house and put there. If they want to
6 put a line in there, I can't afford to have a
7 pipeline that's going to blow up.

8 And especially my wife. We want to
9 move back here to Delhi, but I'm kind of scared
10 to move back with this gas line coming until
11 I'm assured of the safety plus the maintenance
12 of this line. Thank you very much.

13 MR. BROWN:

14 Thank you. John Patrick?

15 MR. PATRICK:

16 I'm Johnny Patrick. I really had a
17 question, but I wanted it on the record. And,
18 of course, I'm concerned about the
19 environmental issues, too, about the danger of
20 it. But I'm also very concerned about the
21 future use of the land.

22 And I understand that y'all are going
23 to close this off maybe within 45 days and give
24 a ruling. I think the landowners are still
25 going to be in the dark as to what we're going

1 to get. I mean, that's -- I mean, I got to be
2 honest about it.

3 We're all concerned about what we're
4 going to get paid for our land, because
5 basically, the usage of it's taken away from
6 us, especially those of us who have any trees
7 in the tree program. I mean, it's over with as
8 far as we're concerned.

9 And how can we tell you we object to
10 it if we don't know what they're going to do
11 for us? I think that y'all ought to leave this
12 open until the landowners are contacted by the
13 company so then we can really say we're for or
14 against this project. Because if we're not
15 fairly compensated, we're not going to be for
16 it.

17 MR. BROWN:

18 Thank you. Mr. Wells? Mr. Wells,
19 can I get you to state your full name, please?

20 MR. WELLS:

21 Paul Allen Wells. I'm a resident of
22 Richland Parish. I live south of Dunn,
23 Louisiana. Already have two existing pipelines
24 on our property. I have the Michigan-Wisconsin
25 pipeline that runs to the gulf --

1 Michigan-Wisconsin I understand now it's A&R --
2 with three big lines.

3 I have one at my house that runs from
4 Columbia Gulf that ties into
5 Michigan-Wisconsin, the compression station
6 there just inside of I-20, north of it, between
7 Dunn and Hollow Ridge, and I don't feel like I
8 need anymore pipeline. I got one in front of
9 my house, I got one behind. They're now
10 proposing to put one south of me, and I'm going
11 to be in the middle of them.

12 And my experience hasn't been good
13 with the pipeline that's come through. I'm
14 like you, Mr. Patrick. I recently purchased
15 land from some more kinfolks where they wanted
16 to come across, and I bought it with the
17 intention of recreation and timber. And it
18 comes back to the landowner, but it won't be
19 any good to me because I can't raise timber on
20 it anymore. This thing will have to be open.
21 That land will be of no value to me anymore.

22 They're wanting to angle across open
23 fields. If later on things develop, and I'd
24 like to sell house spots, who's going to build
25 a house by a pipeline? Who would want to buy

1 one by a pipeline?

2 I'm sorry. I don't care whether the
3 Yankees get anymore gas or not. We're in the
4 State of Louisiana that probably has more
5 natural resources than any state in the United
6 States. We pay more for gas and oil right here
7 than you can in our neighboring states:
8 Mississippi, Oklahoma. You can go buy fuel
9 cheaper.

10 I've got a good friend that just
11 moved from Wisconsin. He can contract and buy
12 heating oil cheaper than we can purchase it
13 here. Something's wrong about this picture.
14 It's not right.

15 The pipeline that's in front of my
16 house, I've contacted -- it was at the last
17 meeting that we had here. It was so wet when
18 they installed this and put this in, I have
19 holes that are two to three feet deep that have
20 sunk in and just -- it's a mess.

21 And at the last meeting, now, they're
22 wanting to propose to put another one in. The
23 next morning, I had men knocking on my door
24 willing to correct the situation. And as a
25 matter of fact, Mr. Black from Arkansas that's

1 over that maintenance, he said that -- he
2 apologized. Said he was embarrassed about the
3 situation.

4 And I'm a steward of the land. God's
5 given me that land. It doesn't belong to me;
6 it belongs to Him. I love the land. I don't
7 want it marred. I don't want it messed up.
8 That's the way I feel. I'm sorry if it stops
9 the project like that or it doesn't.

10 Not only me, but I understand -- was
11 told I was the only one that objected other
12 than one more man in Texas about the pipeline
13 coming across his land. Come to find out, my
14 neighbor, Mr. W. H. Lee, he doesn't want it,
15 that's west of me. The Sheltons that join me,
16 the cattle company, they don't want it.

17 I certainly don't want it. They're
18 coming over a mile across me the way they're
19 coming. Probably a mile and a quarter. My
20 neighbors to the east of me, the Landis', don't
21 want it, and I don't know how many more. But
22 this is what I was told that I was the only one
23 that objected other than one more, but that's
24 not true. I'm sorry, but that's the way I
25 feel.

1 MR. BROWN:

2 Thank you. Douglas Duty?

3 MR. DUTY:

4 My name is Douglas Duty. I'm a
5 resident of Ouchita Parish, Louisiana, and a
6 landowner in Richland Parish, Louisiana that
7 will be impacted by the pipeline.

8 I have several concerns that I think
9 probably are environmental concerns, the first
10 of which is soil compaction and permanent
11 damage to the soil and will it be mitigated and
12 what actions will it take to mitigate soil
13 impaction, particularly in the egress areas
14 where they come in with heavy equipment.

15 It also crosses precision leveled
16 land with me, and I'm very concerned about the
17 runoff implications from rains that come in the
18 period of the pipeline construction and the
19 inability for it to get off in a natural manner
20 and causing a lot of dirt to go into the stream
21 and impacting off of me as well as impacting my
22 property.

23 I'm also concerned about a safety
24 issue from the pipeline. I can't get any
25 answers from anyone. How safe -- if something

1 happens, and I know it's not likely, but
2 something does happen, how much distance do you
3 really need from a 42-inch line for
4 construction to be safe, property as well as
5 the human and animal impact, that could be from
6 some accident on the pipeline?

7 MR. BROWN:

8 Thank you. Any other questions?
9 Okay. Let me just go over a couple of things.
10 On esubscription, you can go on our website,
11 like I said www.ferc.gov. You've got to have
12 the docket number, which is PF06-1. Now, what
13 this service does -- it's a really good
14 service.

15 All of us use it, even all the
16 environmentalists and all the staff at work.
17 When a filing comes into the Commission, you
18 get notified that that's been received, and it
19 gives you a brief summary of what that document
20 was, and it gives you an elink where you can
21 get a copy of it. So it keeps you abreast of
22 what's going on on the project.

23 Now, if you want to provide an
24 efilings, you can do that. Go back and go to
25 elink and do the same thing. You got to have

1 the docket number, and you can just type in
2 your comment. If we don't have anymore
3 comments, what I'd like to do is close the
4 meeting and open the floor up for questions for
5 about 30 minutes. Is that okay with everyone?

6 Okay. Let the record show that the
7 meeting closed at 7:20.

8 (Time noted: 7:20 p.m.)

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