

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -x

IN THE MATTER OF: : Project Number:  
ROCKIES EXPRESS PIPELINE PROJECT : PF06-30-000  
EASTERN PHASE :

- - - - -x

Pike Conty Farm Bureau  
1301 E. Washington Street  
Pittsfield, IL

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping  
meeting, pursuant to notice, at 7:06 p.m.

BEFORE:  
DOUGLAS SIPE, FERC

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

(7:06 p.m.)

MR. SIPE: Good evening everybody. Can we get started with the formal part of this meeting and we'll all be here after the meeting and we can look at maps and answer any questions you have after that. I personally want to thank you guys for all coming out there tonight. My name is Doug Sipe. I work for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and I'm the Commission's environmental project manager, but not for this project. I'm actually subbing for Elisa Likens. We're putting on nine of these meetings this week and she's doing five to the east and I'm doing four of them to the west. So I'll be taking all your comments back tonight and of course they'll be on the record, and I'll be talking to her about what I learned out here this week.

Rockies Express Pipeline is proposing to build about 622 miles of 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline, five new compressor stations and other apparent facilities in the states of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The Rockies Express Project's eastern phase is currently in the preliminary stages of design. That's key. This is early on in the process. At this time Rockies Express has not filed a formal application with FERC. FERC is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I know that everyone doesn't like

1 the bureaucracy of acronyms, so I'll try to stay away from  
2 those tonight as much as possible.

3 For this proposal the Commission is initiating  
4 its National Environmental Policy review prior to receiving  
5 the application. This allows interested stakeholders to  
6 become involved early in the project planning -- such as  
7 yourselves. The National Environmental Policy Act requires  
8 the Commission to take into account the environmental  
9 impacts that could result from an action when it considers  
10 the issuance of a certificate of public convenience and  
11 necessity under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

12 FERC, we are in Washington, D.C. We're an agency  
13 comprised of about 1200 people. Right now at Union Station  
14 below the Capitol, if anybody's familiar with D.C. We do  
15 regulate interstate natural gas pipeline companies. You may  
16 be familiar with some local distribution companies. We do  
17 not regulate the local guys. We just regulate the  
18 interstate natural gas pipeline companies.

19 We have five commissioners at FERC. They  
20 appointed by the President. This part of the scoping we're  
21 coming early on in the process and we're doing all the  
22 scoping, taking all the concerns and issues and hopefully  
23 resolving a lot of those and developing an Environmental  
24 Impact Statement. We take what we find, along with markets,  
25 tariffs, rates, cost of service -- other departments of FERC

1 do that -- we put that in an order and we send it upstairs  
2 for the commissioners.

3 As Ryan will explain later, they plan on filing  
4 an application in April of next year. So April of next  
5 year, 10 months later, that's when we'll be putting all that  
6 information together, sending them up to the commissioners  
7 and they'll vote on the project to approve or deny this  
8 proposal. And like I said earlier, an Environmental Impact  
9 Statement will be prepared to disclose what environmental  
10 impacts would be if the project is approved and ultimately  
11 constructed and operated. From the operation side of  
12 things, Karen from DOT is here tonight and she'll give a  
13 brief presentation on that end of it.

14 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to hear from  
15 you. I think we have one person on the speaker's list. So  
16 I'll call the people from the speaker's list, but after that  
17 you can raise your hand if you want to come up or speak. Or  
18 I will answer certain questions, but when that happens we  
19 have to use that mike. We have a court reporter here  
20 tonight, so everything that happens during the formal part  
21 of this meeting tonight is going to be on the record at FERC  
22 and I'll explain what the record is later.

23 The agenda for this evening, after my  
24 introductory remarks, I'm going to have Ryan from Rockies  
25 Express present a short description of the project. Since

1           there maybe several attendees here that did not come to the  
2           open houses that Rockies Express held back in June -- you  
3           held one here?

4                       MR. CHILD:  We actually held one in Winchester  
5           and out Bowling Green, Missouri.

6                       MR. SIPE:  So there were a lot of open houses in  
7           the area and hopefully some of you guys attended those.  
8           Then I will go over how the Commission will take your  
9           comments on the record and from there on I'll open the  
10          record up to you.

11                      Now I'd like to introduce a few staff members  
12          with me on the environmental review team.  Gertrude  
13          Fernandez from FERC was one of the ladies you met when you  
14          came in at the tables.  She's a staff engineer.  From ICF,  
15          International Intrex, I'd like to introduce Trevor Loveday,  
16          Leslie Sapier and Fran Moore.  The ladies were at the back  
17          when you came in and you signed up and everything.  They're  
18          FERC's third-party contractor.  They help in assisting us in  
19          writing the Environmental Impact Statement for this project.

20                      At this time I'd like to introduce Karen Butler  
21          from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of  
22          Pipeline Safety.  Karen is with the Pipeline and Hazardous  
23          Materials Safety Administration.  At this time I'd like to  
24          invite Karen to speak to you about her agency's role  
25          regarding the project.

1 MS. BUTLER: Good evening. All right, great  
2 response.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MS. BUTLER: If you have a pipeline in your  
5 backyard already, I want you to raise your hand.

6 (Show of hands.)

7 MS. BUTLER: Okay. So I've got seasoned  
8 pipeliners here. As he said, my name is Karen Butler. I  
9 work with the Department of Transportation. But the part of  
10 the Department of Transportation that I work with is now  
11 called PHMSA, which is P-H-M-S-A. Okay. So that stands for  
12 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The  
13 brochure out there, you're going to see, has OPS for the  
14 Office of Pipeline Safety. They changed our name. We  
15 became a new administration a little over a year ago now and  
16 so that is one in the same.

17 If you flip on the back of that brochure, you'll  
18 see our names and contact numbers. I'm out of the Kansas  
19 City office, which covers the State of Illinois. You're  
20 probably wondering, well, what do we do if we don't do what  
21 FERC does? Well, FERC's going to certificate the pipeline  
22 if they do it right and if Rockies Express does its  
23 application right. They will be involved with the routing,  
24 but when it comes what the pipeline group does that I'm  
25 involved with, we take over what happens during part of the

1 construction. We're basically working as a joint team  
2 during construction. And then, after that we have to do  
3 with the operation and maintenance of the pipeline.

4 So those of you that have pipelines in your  
5 backyard already, we're the agency that looks at the  
6 inspection process and the maintenance of those pipelines.  
7 So if you have your FERC brochure and you look on page 11,  
8 you'll see that there's a nice little diagram in there about  
9 the construction of the pipeline. Basically, our part in  
10 that construction phase will be that we verify that the  
11 materials they're using are adequate for what they're going  
12 to do with the pipeline and the pressures they're going to  
13 run. We verify that the welders are qualified to do what  
14 they're doing. We verify that the welding is done  
15 appropriately. That they joints are coated appropriately.  
16 That the pipeline is buried to the correct depth. That the  
17 backfill is appropriate and that the protection on the  
18 pipeline initially and while its maintained is adequate.

19 With that, I just want to say a couple more quick  
20 things because I want you to get your opportunity to put  
21 your comments on the record. Please remember that tonight  
22 is about you. It's not about a bunch of federal agencies  
23 talking to you or a pipeline operator talking to you. It's  
24 about the concerns that you have that potentially could help  
25 the operator do a better job. All right. So please

1 remember that. Also, please remember that pipelines have  
2 two major issues. One is corrosion and one is excavation  
3 damage.

4 Excavation damage can come in the form of a  
5 chisel plow or a farmer plowing his field if the pipeline is  
6 too shallow. What we want you to remember about excavation  
7 damage is you all play a key role in that and that is there  
8 is a one-call law in the State of Illinois. Before you dig,  
9 you are to call. That allows the pipelines to be marked and  
10 hopefully for you to avoid any potential damage. Okay. So  
11 please remember that when you see somebody else digging, you  
12 can also look for flags or paints on the ground to see if  
13 they've made a one-call and can help keep everybody safer.

14 I'll stick around to answer questions at the end  
15 of this. Anything you may have. And please know that my  
16 particular role is to assist you on an ongoing basis. So  
17 it's not just tonight. If the pipeline is certificated, on  
18 an ongoing basis with issues you may have. Okay.

19 MR. SIPE: Thanks Karen.

20 Along with PHMSA -- that's funny. I mean we  
21 worked with the OPS for years and now they're calling  
22 themselves PHMSA and it's hard for us. I mean I'm like  
23 PHMSA. What's that stand for? But anyhow, along with OPS  
24 we work with a lot of other federal agencies to assist us in  
25 preparing this Environmental Impact Statement. Right now as

1       it stands the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is cooperating  
2       with us to prepare this, the Farm Bureau -- that should be  
3       the state Farm Bureau -- I'm sorry. I get this confused.  
4       Illinois Department of Agriculture is going to assist us in  
5       making sure we have all the correct information in an EIS  
6       and we're going to go after more. I mean we keep asking  
7       agencies to help us. We have a memorandum of understanding  
8       with all federal agencies to assist us with these EISs for  
9       these pipeline projects. So we work really well under the  
10      federal umbrella.

11                At this time I'd like to ask Mr. Ryan Child from  
12      Rockies Express to give you a brief presentation of the  
13      project.

14                MR. CHILD: My name is Ryan Child. I'm with  
15      Rockies Express Pipeline. I'm the project environmental  
16      manager. I want to thank you all for coming out here,  
17      especially those folks who were here for our open house  
18      meetings that we held in the area back in June. As Doug  
19      mentioned, we held 18 meetings across the project area the  
20      last two weeks of June to introduce our project to the  
21      general communities. We didn't have one in Pittsdale.  
22      We're glad to be here tonight. I see some new faces and  
23      I'll be able to briefly describe the project and then just  
24      by way of our presentation, for those of you who came to our  
25      company-sponsored open houses, we had a lot more detailed

1 information covering all aspects of the pipeline project  
2 really.

3           Tonight this project, as Doug mentioned, is put  
4 on by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and we really  
5 just want to gather again all the comments and questions  
6 that you might have. But myself, some of our group from our  
7 survey, construction, rights-of-way groups will all be  
8 available after the meeting. We'll be back over here and we  
9 have the alignment sheets, the mapping that we had out at  
10 the open houses meetings that we held in the areas before.  
11 We can talk about individual locations there with those maps  
12 in hand.

13           I'm just going to give you a real brief overview  
14 of the project, which is what Doug has asked me to provide  
15 to everybody. I'd start off by introducing the company  
16 itself. Rockies Express Pipeline is a business development  
17 of three major companies -- Kinder Morgan Energy Partners,  
18 Semplar Pipelines and Storage, which is itself part of the  
19 Semplar Energy, and Conoco Phillips and we have a really  
20 exciting project for those of us working on it that is  
21 designed to make better use of our domestic natural gas  
22 supplies and make those available to the market areas that  
23 need it in the upper Midwest and eastern part of the  
24 country.

25           We feel, and I think anybody would agree, that

1       there's a major investment in really the nation's energy  
2       infrastructure is how we see this project. By way of the  
3       overall system, I'll describe that first. And that is, as I  
4       mentioned, bringing gas from the Rocky Mountain regions,  
5       southwest Wyoming, northwest Colorado east all the way over  
6       here to southeast Ohio. It's going to be a multi-segment  
7       project system, basically, development covering several  
8       different years of construction.

9                 Right now we have part of the system already in  
10       service out West and we're building another portion of it  
11       this summer, and that will be the first 326 miles. And then  
12       we have -- that project was already certificated by the  
13       Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and we have received  
14       all the necessary permits and approvals from all the other  
15       federal, state and local agencies before we ever started  
16       construction of that. And as I said, a part of that is  
17       already flowing gas from Colorado up to Wyoming, and now  
18       we're building a portion, bringing it across the rest of  
19       southeast Wyoming here.

20                We have made an application. Basically, what we  
21       will be making for this portion of the project we've made  
22       through this middle segment, which we call Rockies Express  
23       West and that starts over in northeast Colorado and moves  
24       gas through 713 -- it will move gas through 713 miles of 42-  
25       inch all welded steel, buried natural gas pipelines. The

1       only product we're going to be moving through here -- just  
2       for everybody's understanding -- is natural gas.

3               This portion of the project, if we receive all  
4       the necessary permits and approvals, which we are actively  
5       seeking right now, and we've acquired all the necessary  
6       easements to build and operate that system will be built in  
7       2007. And then the portion of the project that we're really  
8       here to talk about this evening is the 622 miles that  
9       extends from Mexico, Missouri -- just outside Mexico,  
10      Missouri all the way across to Clarenton, Ohio in southeast  
11      Ohio in Monroe County over there.

12              As Doug said, there's a number of compressor  
13      stations necessary that will be built along the pipeline  
14      system that are necessary to move natural gas through the  
15      system as it continues on to the market areas. So really  
16      you have the 42-inch pipeline, which will be welded and  
17      buried and that's the major portion of the project, and it  
18      will be above-ground facilities like those compressor  
19      stations. The nearest one to this area, the only one in  
20      Illinois that would be constructed for this project is over  
21      by Blue Mill and I'll show you on this map. This is  
22      particular just to the Rockies Express East Project and it's  
23      over in Christian County, Illinois. There is one that will  
24      be over by Mexico, Missouri, but no compressor stations in  
25      this area.

1           We also have above-ground facilities called meter  
2           stations that allow us to move gas from our system into  
3           other pipeline systems for delivery to the market areas.  
4           Again, there's really no interconnects in this particular  
5           area, so we won't see meters stations around here. They're  
6           more to the east as we get more into the market areas. The  
7           only other above-ground facilities that you would realize  
8           that you would see around this area would be nighttime block  
9           valves that allow us to isolate our pipeline at intervals  
10          set by the Department of Transportation Safety Standards,  
11          allow us to isolate the segment.

12                 By way of the timing of this, as Doug mentioned,  
13          we do anticipating making a filing, a formal application to  
14          the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission asking for their  
15          permission and a certificate from them in order to build  
16          this project. We would do that in April of next year if not  
17          sooner. But basically what we're targeting right now is  
18          April of 2007 to apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory  
19          Commission, which would allow us to receive the certificate  
20          and start construction in this area in 2008 would be our  
21          targeted construction through this area for the pipeline  
22          that allows us to bring gas all the way across to southeast  
23          Ohio by the end of 2008. Some of the compressor stations  
24          that are along the route will be built in 2009, just kind of  
25          staged as the March demands come online with that.

1           That's the basic in a nutshell there about the  
2 timing. As I indicated, we're going to be here after the  
3 meeting. We're willing to take more of your questions and  
4 comments.

5           Karen had mentioned earlier and asked if any of  
6 you have pipelines on your properties right now, part of  
7 that is the routing process that factors into where we --  
8 actually the "where" part of this project and what we intend  
9 to do is basically follow the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline  
10 system through this area. In most instances we would be  
11 located basically immediately adjacent to their existing  
12 easements. There's areas along the pipeline on their  
13 pipeline system where we would have to deviate away from  
14 their rights-of-way in their system due to topography  
15 constraints or where there might buildings that have been  
16 built along their systems that we would, of course, want to  
17 avoid with ours. But in general, we're going to be trying  
18 to parallel that Panhandle Eastern system over all the way  
19 across the State of Illinois, just by point of reference.

20           I guess I'll just turn it back over to the folks  
21 from FERC here in a second, but a lot of you have received  
22 this brochure at our open houses or in mailings from the  
23 company. It does have a brief description of the project.  
24 It's kind of hard to talk about a 622 mile project and  
25 condense it down into this, but it does have a map. Most

1       importantly, I feel it's got contact information. It has a  
2 toll-free number you can call and talk to our rights-of-way  
3 groups and if you have any questions that they can't answer,  
4 they'll put you in touch with those of us that do have the  
5 answer to it. It also has our project website. If you've  
6 got access to the Internet, [www.rightspipeline.com](http://www.rightspipeline.com) provides  
7 an awful lot of information on there about our project with  
8 mappings specific to each of the counties that we cross.

9               We'll also give you an idea of the kind of  
10 information that we will be gathering, that we are gathering  
11 right now that allows us to make a complete application to  
12 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. There's a lot of  
13 questions and answers, but we've seen across the project  
14 area and it's a good place to go look to answer a general  
15 question and kind of help maybe tailor you to a specific  
16 question that may be specific to your properties.

17               One word about your properties and everything, we  
18 really want to extend a word of thanks to all of you who  
19 have granted survey permission to our company at this point  
20 in time to allow us to get out on the ground and actually  
21 survey. As a project we start with a route that developed  
22 on paper basically. We look at existing systems and see how  
23 we can make use of those existing pipeline corridors or  
24 other easements, but the real next crucial stage is getting  
25 out in the field and seeing what's truly on the ground and

1 see if it matches up with the information that we have  
2 available from publicly-available sources.

3 We do have several survey crews out in and across  
4 the project area right now helping to design or come up with  
5 an initial design of the project. As Doug mentioned, it's  
6 our preliminary design stage of this, so we are making  
7 adjustments out there as necessary as we encounter different  
8 topography features or whatever that would affect  
9 construction across the project area. So the civil survey  
10 crews are gathering that information right now. Behind the  
11 civil survey crews, we have environmental crews that are  
12 gathering information on wetlands and land use on potential  
13 threatened and endangered species and cultural resources.  
14 All that information will be included in the application  
15 that we provide to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
16 and subsequently into the permitting process that we do with  
17 the other federal, state and local regulatory agencies that  
18 we need to obtain permits from.

19 I'm going to give it back to Doug. I've already  
20 talked to long and I apologize for that. But we will be  
21 available out here to answer anybody's questions and give  
22 you an idea of the specific locations on our project back  
23 there in the corner on the map. Thanks very much.

24 MR. SIPE: Thanks Ryan.

25 I'd like to talk briefly about the Commission's

1 pre-filing process. Hopefully, everyone in the room has  
2 received an NOI from the Federal Energy Regulatory  
3 Commission. Maybe that's why you're here tonight. If you  
4 did not receive one and your neighbor did or someone near  
5 you did, I'm sorry. The mailing list was huge and like  
6 13,000 mailers went out for this project. If you didn't  
7 receive one and you should have because this does affect  
8 you, make sure you sign up out at the sign-up table tonight  
9 and put your address on the little piece of paper and we'll  
10 make sure you become a part of the mailing list.

11 As Ryan mentioned, this project is still in the  
12 design stage. So that means if this pipeline is on your  
13 property now, it may not be in a couple of months from now,  
14 the next time you see me. The next time you see me will be  
15 a couple months after they file and the draft EIS is out on  
16 the street. So this project can change. Just like today we  
17 met in Missouri across the Mississippi River and they have  
18 kind of an alignment they want to use to cross that, but  
19 they're not exactly sure how they want to cross that yet.  
20 So we're out here very early on in the project. Like I  
21 said, if it's on you now, it might not be later.

22 The goal of the pre-filing process is to  
23 facilitate the interaction with federal, state and local  
24 agencies, affected property owners and interested  
25 stakeholders by preparing a more complete application for

1 the filing of the Rockies Express project. The pre-filing  
2 process is new at FERC -- well, not new. We've been doing  
3 it for a couple of years now. It's new to a lot of the  
4 project managers at FERC and it's new to a lot of the  
5 companies that file at FERC because a lot of them haven't  
6 gone through the pre-filing process before.

7 Originally, a pipeline company would be out doing  
8 their open houses and talking to the agencies and everything  
9 without FERC present, and then they would file an  
10 application. But now we're doing all these meetings up  
11 front before they actually file an application. We're doing  
12 the work, attending the open houses that Rockies Express  
13 has. We're holding our scoping meetings. We're having all  
14 of our interagency meetings. We're working with our  
15 cooperating agencies and some of the non-cooperating  
16 agencies, some of the state and local agencies that we're  
17 getting their information. So that helps. Once the  
18 application comes into FERC, it's going to help us turn  
19 around a better EIS to put on the street so when it comes to  
20 your hands at first it will be a more complete EIS than  
21 before. So the pre-filing process is really working out  
22 well for FERC.

23 FERC is not a proponent of the Rockies Express  
24 project. A lot of times we get that because you see us so  
25 many times and we're side-by-side working with the company,

1 and we do do that. But we have to do that to -- I don't  
2 treat the company as an enemy like some agencies would want  
3 to do to an applicant. I want to work with them as much as  
4 possible to make sure that the project they have coming  
5 through your area is a good one and all the input that we  
6 receive, you know, and issues are addressed. We're not a  
7 proponent. We're an advocate for the process that we use --  
8 I mean to have these companies file an application with us  
9 so we can put out a good project.

10 FERC is charged with infrastructure. That's one  
11 of the things that our agency is responsible for, to make  
12 sure the infrastructure is in the ground to provide natural  
13 gas so that people can use it. We're also responsible for  
14 protecting the public and the environment at the same time.

15 The FERC's e-Library system is a very good tool  
16 to use. The instructions are in the NOI. There's  
17 instructions on -- I see a lot of people with the pamphlets  
18 here "What Do I Need to Know About a Pipeline Project on my  
19 Property" and your guide to electronic information at FERC.  
20 There's a lot of pamphlets out at the table. Pick those up.  
21 It's a very good tool to use. You can e-subscribe to this  
22 project, which means you set up your own account. You e-  
23 subscribe to the project. An e-mail will be sent to your  
24 server every time something is filed concerning this  
25 project.

1           If FERC issues a letter, you'll see an e-mail go  
2 out. If Rockies Express files something, you'll see an e-  
3 mail come in. If a landowner files something, you'll see  
4 it. I mean I use it. That's how I track my projects. I e-  
5 subscribe to all the projects I'm responsible for and get e-  
6 mails so I know what's coming in the door. It's very good  
7 for our consultants, also.

8           The docket number for this project to track it is  
9 PF06-30. It's on the NOIs out there. Once they file an  
10 application, that number will turn from a PF docket, which  
11 means pre-filing, to a CP number. It will be a PC07-  
12 whatever as they come in the doors, you know, because who  
13 comes in first gets the number. So if they file in April,  
14 it's probably going to be a PF-07-50 or something like that.  
15 I mean a CP number. CP stands for Certificate Proceeding.

16           The notice states that the comment period expires  
17 September 29th. That's the initial scoping period comment.  
18 This is what we're doing. This is scoping. We have all  
19 kinds of different timeframes where we do things. This is  
20 considered scoping and it ends September 29th. That does  
21 not mean that you cannot send comments in after that on this  
22 project. That just means we have to set timeframes for the  
23 initial comments we receive and start putting those comments  
24 received working with the company and getting that stuff in  
25 the EIS. That doesn't mean your comments coming after that

1 won't be in the EIS, but there will be certain timeframes  
2 down the line that you will have to meet, which you'll  
3 receive documentation on that. That will be in the EIS and  
4 I'll go over a little bit more of that later.

5 Let me discuss the EIS process a little bit.  
6 Ryan hit on it a little bit. Rockies Express is conducting  
7 environmental surveys on the preferred route and per FERC  
8 regulations and the National Environmental Policy. It's  
9 also studying several route variations and alternatives,  
10 which, like I said, may not be on your property when you see  
11 me next. Well, you won't see me. Well, maybe you will see  
12 me. I don't know.

13 When Rockies Express files its application, it  
14 will file several environmental resource reports for its  
15 preferred route based on the survey results. The resource  
16 reports cover geologies, soils, vegetation and wildlife,  
17 including federally-listed species, land use, recreation,  
18 cultural resources, reliability and safety, air and noise  
19 quality and alternatives. Ryan hit on it earlier. He  
20 thanked everyone for survey permission. I can't stress  
21 enough that, if a company asks you for survey permission,  
22 please allow them to do that. Make sure when they ask you  
23 for survey permission you ask them what they're going to do  
24 because I mean some survey crews will come out on your  
25 property and they need a line of site on a lot of things

1       they do and they may have to trim a tree branch or something  
2       like that. Make sure you ask them that before they do that,  
3       but we need that information. We need that survey  
4       information in order for us to make a good decision on  
5       whether that pipeline should be on your property or not, and  
6       maybe they may discover some cultural thing on your property  
7       where the pipeline has to be moved or some sense of species.  
8       So survey permission is very important.

9               The resource reports that they file, once they  
10       file in April, that information that they file is everything  
11       up to that point, all the comments we receive tonight, all  
12       the agency input, all the input from us, our consultants and  
13       everyone involved. That's what information they will have  
14       in those resource reports. We take those resource reports,  
15       12 of them, and that's how we turn out our EIS,  
16       Environmental Impact Statement. We use that every day, so  
17       sorry if I said the acronym thing.

18              The draft EIS is our independent analysis based  
19       on what is filed in the environmental proceedings for this  
20       proposal. The FERC staff also contacts and works directly  
21       with the other agencies involved like I mentioned before.  
22       How we do that is the cooperating agencies that we work  
23       with, once they file their application, we send out an  
24       administrative draft EIS to all those cooperating agencies.  
25       They take a look at it and that's what goes into our draft.

1 So hopefully, when that draft comes out, it will be a good  
2 one.

3           Once the draft EIS is issued for public comment,  
4 the public will have 45 days to provide comments on that.  
5 What happens there, after that 45-day comment period is  
6 over, we will hold comment meetings similar to this one,  
7 basically, really similar to this one. We'll hold comment  
8 meetings on the EIS itself. So hopefully you guys will get  
9 a chance to look at the EIS and read it before you go to bed  
10 at night or in the bathroom or whatever you want to do, but  
11 hopefully we can get good comments from the EIS and  
12 hopefully all issues are addressed in that.

13           Comments received on the draft EIS and from those  
14 comment meetings will be incorporated into the final EIS.  
15 So there will be a draft and then there will be a final.  
16 Like I mentioned earlier, the final EIS is the information  
17 that we use to pass on to our commissioners to approve or  
18 deny the projects -- for them to make their decision on  
19 that.

20           At this point, if you don't have any questions  
21 about what I've said so far, we're ready to hear from you.  
22 Like I said, we have one speaker on the list up here. I  
23 can't stress enough that if you do want to speak I will  
24 answer questions, but this is being recorded. So if you  
25 have a questions, you can come up to the mike, ask me your

1 question, tell me whatever you want and you have to come to  
2 the mike, state your name and state your address. It's real  
3 key to have your address so we know where your property is  
4 located.

5 That's it. We're ready to hear from you guys.  
6 So the first speaker on the list will be Hamer Tate.

7 MR. TATE: I thought it was going to be more of a  
8 Question & Answer type forum.

9 MR. SIPE: It will be. I mean I will take  
10 questions.

11 MR. TATE: Okay. I really wasn't wanted to get  
12 up here and speak as such.

13 MS. BUTLER: Could you give your name and your  
14 address?

15 MR. TATE: Oh yes. I'm sorry about that. My  
16 name is Hammer Tate, H-A-M-E-R T-A-T-E, Post Office Box  
17 411, Briggsville, Illinois. The property that I have is  
18 down in Martinsburg Township area. Is that what you want?

19 MR. SIPE: Exactly.

20 MR. TATE: I know one comment that I would make  
21 is that I've heard that the Panhandle Pipeline system is  
22 full and this type of a project is -- I'm relatively sure  
23 it's going to be approved because the country needs it.  
24 Some of the concerns as a landowner that I have are the  
25 amount of disturbance to the land that there would be. A

1 lot of people around here know Pipe County is kind of unique  
2 and that there is a lot of feed hunting done in this area  
3 and the value of the land is quite dependent on the amount  
4 of timber and brush area that you have on there, the right  
5 proportions.

6 Right now timber, brush land is selling for a lot  
7 more than farmland is. So disturbing a lot of timber and  
8 brush off the land would probably reduce the valuation of  
9 some of the ground and that's a concern of mine. How many  
10 catha fields would there be and how much clearing would  
11 there have to be for those? I'm somewhat familiar with them  
12 and I'm not sure how they would do it for the new pipeline,  
13 whether they would use the same type of catha field for that  
14 and how closely would they be located? That would be  
15 another concern of mine.

16 What kind of cover will they put back over the  
17 pipeline? Will they just backfill whatever came out of the  
18 hole or will it be backfilled so that you could farm it at  
19 some point in time? Will there be a lot -- the ground  
20 around here is quite rocky and one of my concerns is having  
21 a lot of rocks and stuff like that to try and farm through  
22 that. Right now my ground is in CRP, but at some point in  
23 time I expect that program will go away and I have to go  
24 back to farm again and that's another concern that I have.

25 Also, how much heat will this pipeline generate?

1 One of the problems that I can see now, and I'm not sure  
2 whether I'm noticing it more or we're producing more heat,  
3 the Panhandle lines, the two Panhandle lines since they put  
4 the new compressor station it seems like they're burning the  
5 grass more and producing more heat and drying the ground out  
6 more. I don't know whether that's just me noticing it more  
7 or whether it's true it's happened that way. With the  
8 compression station all the way in Mexico, will it produce a  
9 lot of heat in the ground or would affect the crops and the  
10 grass, such as that? I guess that I would have for the  
11 pipeline people. That's all I have.

12 MR. SIPE: Great. Thank you.

13 When he comes up and gives us comments like that,  
14 all those issues will be covered in the draft Environmental  
15 Impact Statement. The heat is something you will have to  
16 talk to the company about. I could probably answer it, but  
17 I'd rather you, after the meeting is over, talk to the  
18 pipeline company about that.

19 We do understand that hunting is very popular in  
20 this area and that's something that we'll work with the  
21 local agencies on and the game commissions and such and get  
22 their input on that, and that's something that the company  
23 themselves will have to work with. A lot of pipeliners are  
24 hunters too, so they feel that.

25 Timber, they try to avoid taking down as much

1 timber as possible, but they do need a certain amount of  
2 work space to put these pipelines in. These guys don't want  
3 to mow down trees if they don't have to because that just  
4 cost them more money and takes more time. Reduction of the  
5 value of land that will be covered in the EIS. There's a  
6 pretty good section on that. You can read that. And  
7 cathodic protection that's another thing that you will have  
8 to address with the company. They will have certain areas  
9 they will use cathodic protection, which is a good thing for  
10 the pipeline itself and that's something you can ask the  
11 company when it's over.

12 Do we have any more speakers or do we have a lot  
13 of questions? Here's what I'm going to do so you guys don't  
14 have to keep walking up to the mike.

15 Gertrude, is she here? Or Leslie, if you could  
16 take this mike and hand it to the people and then I'll use  
17 this one.

18 MR. LOMENIO: Yeah, my name is Jerry Lomenio. I  
19 live at 1653 Strictown Road in Scott County and I'm probably  
20 one of the people that it's their worst nightmare because I  
21 really don't want no pipeline going across my place. I  
22 didn't allow no survey on it and I got a question for her.  
23 What are you people doing about like this 9/11 we had this  
24 disaster. These pipelines from Panhandle Eastern some of  
25 them just cross ditches. What would stop somebody from

1 blowing one of them up?

2 MS. BUTLER: I think that it would be unfair for  
3 any of us to attempt to predict where someone might want to  
4 hit, but I also want to explain to you, sir, that there are  
5 critical infrastructures identified throughout the United  
6 States through our security plans put in place. It doesn't  
7 mean that it can't happen, but I also want to emphasize to  
8 you that there would be a lot better issues that a terrorist  
9 could go after to cause greater damage than that.

10 MR. LOMEINO: Well, if one of these pipelines go  
11 -- I have four across my land after I bought it -- before I  
12 bought it, I mean. Now if one of these go, they're all  
13 going to go because it's going to rip -- I mean it's going  
14 to rip miles and if you add another 42-inch line or  
15 something like that in there, you're going to have a lot  
16 more fuel to it and I'm the one that's got to live there.  
17 You live in Kansas, but I'm living there.

18 And another thing I'd like to know about the way  
19 I understand it this program here is a new federal program.  
20 It's pretty much if you guys approve it, they can just come  
21 in and go across my place whether I want them to or not.

22 MR. SIPE: You're referencing the eminent domain  
23 portion.

24 MR. LOMEINO: The what?

25 MR. SIPE: It's called eminent domain. Is that

1       what you're asking about?

2               MR. LOMEINO:  I'm asking you, if you guys pass  
3       this bill for this pipeline company, they will have the  
4       right to come in, go across my place even though I pay taxes  
5       on it and I bought it and they don't pay nothing on it, but  
6       they can go across there with their pipe.

7               MR. SIPE:  If the Commission does give them the  
8       certificate of public need and necessity and they have tried  
9       to negotiate with all landowners on this whole entire route  
10      and have not successfully negotiated with them, then they  
11      can take your property with the use of eminent domain.  But  
12      then that goes to the courts, the state courts in this  
13      state.  So the answer is yes.  They can take your property  
14      for this easement.

15              MR. LOMEINO:  In other words, I'm just an old  
16      man.  There wouldn't be much of a fight.  If they tried to  
17      cross my place, there's going to be a fight.  I guarantee  
18      you that.  I ain't gonna -- it ain't going to take them very  
19      long to kill an old man, but I mean thousands more are going  
20      to rise up and say, hey, what the hell's going on in this  
21      country, you know?

22              MR. SIPE:  Thank you, sir.

23              Does anybody else have any questions?  Gertrude  
24      will give you the mike.

25              MS. CLEAVER:  I'm Angela Cleaver from Louisiana,

1 Missouri Press Journal, and how do you bury -- do you bury  
2 them under the Mississippi River or how does it cross?

3 MR. SIPE: The proposal right now is the  
4 directional drill underneath the Mississippi River, which  
5 means they'll set back from the river, from a certain  
6 distance and use a drilling rig that will go under the river  
7 like in the shape of a "U." There will be approximately 30  
8 feet underneath the Mississippi River before they'll come  
9 back up on the other side. That's how they plan to cross it  
10 now.

11 MS. CLEAVER: Do you know where in Missouri it's  
12 going to cross?

13 MR. SIPE: I'm sorry?

14 MS. CLEAVER: Do you know where in Missouri, in  
15 Pike County it will cross exactly?

16 MR. SIPE: You can get with the pipeline company  
17 after the meeting and they'll show you all the maps for  
18 that.

19 MS. CLEAVER: And are gas pipelines, natural gas  
20 pipelines are they generally safe?

21 MR. SIPE: Interstate natural gas pipelines, yes,  
22 they generally are very safe and I can hit on that a little  
23 bit with the Pipeline Safety Act, Improvement Act of 2002,  
24 these interstate guys are required to test their pipes.  
25 They put different timelines on them once they have to test

1 it. The high-consequence areas they have to test it at a  
2 certain timeframe. And then once it moves out to lower  
3 areas, they have a different timeframe. But all these  
4 timeframes come a lot shorter. I think it's within every 10  
5 years they have to come back and retest the pipes. What  
6 that does is it takes care of a lot of the old pipes that  
7 usually cause problems in the area. It's actually a very  
8 good thing. That was just passed in 2002 and the companies  
9 right now are performing. So maybe the people with the  
10 pipelines on their property right now have seen some of the  
11 companies come and doing the hydro tests. There are testing  
12 procedures they need to do to their lines to see if they are  
13 holding up how they should right now.

14 MS. CLEAVER: And what can you really say to  
15 people that are worry about the condemnation and eminent  
16 domain? I mean do you have any -- what do you say to them?  
17 Like he was kind of upset.

18 MR. SIPE: I mean it is upsetting to some people  
19 to have the pipeline come across their property. That's why  
20 we're out here right now in the scoping to try to figure out  
21 if the pipeline should be crossing your property and I just  
22 ask the people to work with the pipeline company at this  
23 point and allow them to have survey access and then to give  
24 me the information I need to figure out if that's where it  
25 does need to be.

1           Like I said, certain people think that just  
2           because there's a pipeline on your property right that it's  
3           just going to be -- you know, here's comes Rockies Express  
4           and they're going to put their pipeline here and when is the  
5           next guy going to come through? They might put another  
6           pipeline here. So when does it stop? We are looking into  
7           that in D.C. right now with encroachment, not only on  
8           pipelines themselves, but encroachment of pipelines on  
9           houses. So it doesn't mean that the next pipeline that  
10          comes through, if Rockies Express gets approved, that it's  
11          going to be on your property just because you have a  
12          pipeline on there now.

13                 You want to work with the right-of-way agent that  
14          has been assigned to you from the company and work through  
15          the negotiations with them. It's hard sometimes because a  
16          lot of people are not trained in negotiations and they don't  
17          exactly know what's being asked of them and asked to be on  
18          their property from a pipeline company. Just ask questions.  
19          I mean they're using your property so you have every right  
20          to know everything that you want to ask to that right-of-way  
21          agent. If you're not happy with that right-of-way, contact  
22          the company themselves, contact reps. You have that  
23          information. Sometimes people aren't happy with the right-  
24          of-way agent they've been assigned to -- personality reasons  
25          or whatever -- and then if you're not happy with that,

1 contact FERC. I mean we're here to protect the public, you  
2 know. We're here to give you the answers that you should  
3 have. But like I said, we're going to look hard at this  
4 pipeline project to make sure it is where it's suppose to  
5 be.

6 MS. CLEAVER: Thank you.

7 MR. SIPE: Thanks.

8 Any other questions? Now what I can do is I can  
9 close the formal part of this meeting. Then I can just stay  
10 up here and answer questions without the microphone or I  
11 could still use it, but the court reporter can go home. So  
12 if that makes you happy, I can do it that way, too. Sorry.

13 MR. BRUNLEVE: I'm Will Brunleve with Pipe Press.  
14 I just want to know did you guys consider building the  
15 pipeline in another place other Pipe County or did you see  
16 this as like the ideal place to do it?

17 MR. SIPE: Well, you'd have to ask Rockies  
18 Express that one to this point because we're early on in the  
19 process. They just filed with FERC. We're just starting to  
20 look at their proposal at this point. But a pipeline  
21 company will initially route pipelines along existing right-  
22 of-ways. We don't want them just, you know, going through  
23 freewill and wherever they want to put a pipeline line  
24 because we don't want a pipeline here and there and  
25 everywhere. We want to keep them in somewhat of a corridor

1 area if it has to be along side a road or along side a power  
2 line or along side another pipeline. Like I said, we will  
3 look if to see if it should be in this area and so will  
4 Rockies Express.

5 MS. O'CONNOR: I just want to say --

6 MR. SIPE: Your name, please.

7 MS. O'CONNOR: My name is Nuhanna O'Connor and I  
8 recently graduated from Yale High and most of the places  
9 that offer, that have electric stoves and they're very,  
10 very, very inconvenient and they consume electricity without  
11 any reason.

12 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

13 Any other questions?

14 MS. CARNE: My name is Pauline Carne from  
15 Waverly, Illinois and I would like to submit a letter to you  
16 on the record.

17 MR. SIPE: That's one portion I forget to  
18 mention. If anyone's not comfortable in asking questions or  
19 speaking tonight in this forum, we do have comment forms at  
20 the sign-in table. You can write your comments right now  
21 tonight and hand them to us and they'll be put on the record  
22 or you can take the brochures and you can e-File comments.  
23 You can sent them by the mail directly to our Secretary.  
24 There are multiple ways that you can comment on this  
25 project. You can do it the easy way on the court reporter

1 or write them down or however you wish.

2 MS. CARNE: I wrote them down. Do you want them  
3 now?

4 MR. SIPE: Sure. You can just hand them to  
5 Gertrude there. She'll take them.

6 (Pause.)

7 MR. SIPE: Any other questions?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. SIPE: I'd like to, first of all, thank Pipe  
10 County Farm Bureau for allowing us to have this meeting here  
11 tonight and without any more speakers the formal part of  
12 this meeting will conclude. On behalf of the Federal Energy  
13 Regulatory Commission and OPS, I would like to thank you all  
14 for coming here tonight. Let the record show that the  
15 meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m. Thanks.

16 (Whereupon, at 8:00 p.m., the above-entitled  
17 matter was concluded.)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25