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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:
SOUTHEAST SUPPLY PROJECT

La Quinta Inn
6563 US Highway 49 North
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Tuesday, May 22, 2007

The above-entitled matter came on for
public meeting, pursuant to notice at 6:10
p.m.

MODERATOR: VAN BUTTON, FERC

1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MR. BUTTON: Good evening, Ladies and
3 Gentlemen. We are here tonight at a public
4 comment meeting required by the National
5 Environmental Policy Act. We are here to
6 comment on the Federal Energy Regulatory
7 Commission's Draft Environmental Impact
8 Statement for the Southeast Supply Header
9 Project; that would be FERC Docket Number
10 CP07-44 and CP07-45, the proposed Southeast
11 Supply Header Project which consists of 270
12 miles of natural gas pipeline and associated
13 facilities capable of transporting 1.14
14 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas.

15 The proposed pipeline would start in
16 Delhi, Louisiana, run diagonally across the
17 state of Mississippi to Coden, Alabama. The
18 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is
19 considering authorizing construction of the
20 project under the Natural Gas Act. Other
21 agencies who are formally cooperating because
22 of their expertise or legally mandated role
23 in the NEPA process include the Army Corps of
24 Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
25 Service, the National Park Service and the

1 Environmental Protection Agency.

2 My name is Van Button, I'm a federal
3 employee. I work specifically for the
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I'm
5 the Environmental Project Manager for the
6 SESH project. Also with me tonight here is
7 Scott Flickinger who works for Tetra Tech who
8 is a contractor working for us who has done
9 most of the hard work of, uh, writing the, uh
10 - the Environmental Impact Statement.

11 We also have, uh, Libby Claggett in
12 the back who's taking the sign-up sheet. We
13 have, uh, two sheets in the back; one for
14 people who wish to speak, and, uh, another
15 for people who wish to be on the
16 environmental mailing list for the project.
17 We also have some information in the back
18 about how to, uh, access the information
19 about the project over the FERC's website,
20 over the internet.

21 Also, here tonight are
22 representatives of Southeast Supply Header.
23 The main purpose of tonight's meeting is to
24 provide you an opportunity to comment on the
25 Draft Environmental Impact Statement formally

1 and for the Record. We do, uh - We will,
2 after the meeting, uh, have an informal
3 question and answer session if, uh, you're
4 just interested in, uh, finding out where the
5 pipeline is in relationship to your land or
6 property, or have general questions about the
7 pipeline construction. We'll do our best to
8 answer those questions. But, the purpose of
9 tonight's meeting is primarily to, uh, get
10 input from you.

11 We've taken our best shot at
12 evaluating the impacts to the human and
13 natural environment which may result in the
14 construction of this project. It's time for
15 you to, uh, have an opportunity to point out
16 anything which we may have missed in our
17 analysis.

18 We will take speakers in the order
19 that they have signed up in the back. It
20 doesn't look like we have a large number of
21 speakers signed up so far, so I won't be, uh,
22 terribly rigorous about, uh, cutting people
23 off. And if you, uh - If somebody says
24 something that you would like to speak to or
25 you think of something else that you would

1 like to say, we'll stay here as long as there
2 are people who wish to speak.

3 I'd also like to point out that you
4 have until June 18th to, uh, make comments on
5 the DEIS. We also encourage people, if you
6 have a written copy of what you want to say,
7 to submit that to our court reporter. And,
8 as I said, you have until June 18th to make
9 comments which we will include in an appendix
10 to the Final Environmental Impact Statement
11 and are required to address directly in the
12 Final Environmental Impact Statement.

13 The Commission may consider comments
14 received after that time in it's, uh,
15 consideration of whether or not to authorize
16 the pipeline. But, again, that June 18th date
17 is, uh - that gives us the opportunity to
18 make sure that we get your comments as part
19 of the document itself and our answer to them
20 available to everybody to read and evaluate.

21 In terms of the speakers, we're
22 having a little bit of a problem with
23 electronics tonight; this is the one
24 microphone that I have. People seem to be
25 hearing me okay, so I will ask the speakers

1 to basically do the same thing that I'm
2 doing; holding the, uh, microphone here at
3 the podium up about six inches from your
4 mouth. I think it's working okay. Are
5 people hearing me in the back? Okay, good.

6 If you would, um, speak into the mic
7 and state your name, and if your name is
8 difficult to spell, spell it for us or give a
9 card to the reporter, that would help us.
10 And if you're representing someone other than
11 yourself, please state who that is that
12 you're representing. Please talk one at a
13 time.

14 And, finally, I assume that everybody
15 here is aware of the fact that this meeting
16 tonight is part of a process which has been
17 going on for really quite some time. The
18 pre-filing process for this project started a
19 year ago. There have been numerous meetings
20 between, uh, both the open house meetings
21 which Southeast Supply Header has had, and
22 also meetings sponsored by the Federal Energy
23 Regulatory Commission; scoping meetings that
24 we had last August. And an awful lot of
25 interaction between Southeast Supply Header

1 and landowners and the various agencies in
2 terms of collecting the information that has
3 gone into the planning of their proposed
4 project and also collecting information about
5 the environmental impacts which are included
6 in this document (indicating).

7 So, as I said, again we'll have a
8 session -- a more informal session after the
9 formal for the Record part of the meeting.
10 If for some reason you have not yet been
11 contacted directly by us or by Southeast
12 Supply Header, we very much want to correct
13 that and get that started. As I said, we
14 believe that everybody who is in any way
15 directly affected by this project has been
16 aware, uh, that it's in the planning process
17 and has been contacted for quite some time.
18 So, if that's not the case, we need to get
19 that fixed.

20 Does anybody have any questions about
21 the process or procedures that, uh, we're -
22 of tonight before we start the, uh, the other
23 speakers?

24 (No response).

25 Our first speaker is Darrell Turner.

1 MR. TURNER: Thank you, sir. Ladies
2 and Gentlemen, my name is Darrell Turner and
3 I am a member of the Pipeline Workers of
4 America. My wife, Bunny Turner and I, we
5 came over today from Heflin, Alabama to
6 attend tonight's public hearing.

7 I have ties to Mississippi that are
8 both strong and very dear to me. I have
9 relatives in this state and in this part of
10 Mississippi. Mississippi State University,
11 as a matter of fact, has been a recipient of
12 my money as our son pursues his baseball
13 career. My ancestors settled this part of
14 Mississippi. My great, great grandpa served
15 at Vicksburg and surrendered with the 31st
16 Alabama. So, I hope that my speaking here
17 tonight will add merit to this public
18 hearing.

19 I think I should tell everyone here
20 that I've made pipelining my life's work. In
21 fact, 40 years have passed since I walked
22 onto my first pipeline right-of-way right
23 here in Mississippi. No less than a dozen
24 times have I crossed this state building
25 pipelines for companies such as Southern

1 Natural Gas, Transco, Dixie, Texas Eastern,
2 Plantation, Colonial, and I know there's
3 others that I don't even remember. I been a
4 helper, I been a welder, I been a foreman,
5 and I been a superintendent on pipeline jobs
6 and I know what it takes to build a sound
7 pipeline.

8 I am a member of the Pipeline Workers
9 of America. It's an organization dedicated
10 to improving working conditions for all
11 pipeline workers and protecting the interests
12 of these workers and their communities. The
13 Pipeline Workers of America are strong
14 advocates for best value contracting and the
15 Blue Green Alliance. As such, our
16 organization seeks to ensure that the project
17 applicants, CenterPoint, Spectra Energy and
18 the contractor, Willrose, for the Southeast
19 Supply Header Project will comply with all
20 applicable requirements including NEPA and
21 other environmental laws like the Clean Water
22 Act, as well as health, safety and public
23 safety requirements. In other words, we're
24 here to make sure that every square corner is
25 turned during every aspect of the

1 construction and operation of the Southeast
2 Supply Header pipeline.

3 Why? Because our livelihood and the
4 health and safety of pipeline workers, our
5 families, our communities and the environment
6 of Mississippi depends on every pipeline
7 being built and operated safely, properly and
8 in full compliance with all applicable
9 federal, state and local laws and
10 regulations.

11 So, I want to make sure that this
12 pipeline - excuse me -- the Southeast Supply
13 Header project is built right. First
14 responders like firefighters, police officers
15 and medical personnel need not be put at
16 risk. I want to make sure that our rivers
17 and streams are not spoiled by sloppy
18 construction techniques or poor inspection
19 methods. I want to know that our fishing and
20 hunting is not harmed. I want to know that
21 our wetlands remain protected so that
22 populations of threatened and endangered
23 species like the gopher tortoise and the red
24 cocked-head woodpecker can be restored.

25 I want my grandchildren and yours to

1 learn about and explore rare wetlands like
2 the pitcher bogs that currently will be
3 destroyed if this project goes forward as -
4 as it's proposed to be. I want to make sure
5 that my friends' forest and farmlands are not
6 trampled on. That all these people are
7 treated with respect and dignity. And I want
8 this part of Mississippi to remain the
9 special place that it is to me though I live
10 in Alabama.

11 The Pipeline Workers of America will
12 be submitting written comments on the
13 Department of Army permits that are
14 identified in the Corps of Engineers public
15 notices for the Southeast Supply Header
16 project. We will also submit written
17 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
18 Statement that FERC has issued that
19 elaborates on my comments here tonight.

20 Per Corps Regulations 33-CLR Section
21 327.8, Article G, we request, sir, that the
22 public comment period remain open and written
23 comments should be accepted by the Corps of
24 Engineers until Monday, June 4, 2007, which I
25 understand is the minimum period of time

1 specified by the Corps Regulations.

2 I want to thank all of you for your
3 attention. You've afforded me the courtesy
4 to tell you how I feel about this state and
5 our resources. I appreciate that very much.
6 Thank you.

7 (Clapping.)

8 MR. BUTTON: The next speaker is
9 Dawson Wilkerson.

10 MR. WILKERSON: Thank you. I'm not
11 sure I can follow Mr. Turner. He was much
12 more eloquent than I think I'll be tonight.

13 Um, I guess my question is directed
14 on the - on Page 249 of the Draft
15 Environmental Impact Study, there's a
16 recommendation made to Southeast to modify
17 their project right-of-way requirements and
18 alignment sheets on any areas that abut
19 existing pipeline right-of-ways. I guess my
20 question is: Has that been filed yet? Has
21 that recommendation been filed by Southeast
22 yet?

23 MR. BUTTON: Your question will be in
24 the Record and answered, but it has not yet
25 been filed.

1 MR. WILKERSON: Has not been filed.
2 Okay. Then, I guess my follow-up statement
3 would be that as a landowner who has
4 adjoining easements, you know, I would
5 strongly recommend that the Environmental
6 Statement continue to say and FERC enforce
7 that all easements abut up next to each other
8 so that you're not left with ten feet of
9 unusable temporary work space. I think
10 that's the best environmental thing and it's
11 the best thing for landowners also.

12 So, you know, in talking to - it's
13 not too often you get two entities like
14 landowners and environmentalists who agree on
15 something, but that's something that needs to
16 happen. So, that's my statement.

17 (Clapping.)

18 MR. BUTTON: Barbara Beasley Newell.

19 MS. NEWELL: Good evening. I'm
20 Barbara Beasley Newell. I'm representing my
21 mother, Frances Beasley, landowner in Copiah
22 County, Mississippi and property of the
23 Beasley Family Trust.

24 In August of 2006 my mother wrote a
25 letter to FERC voicing the following

1 concerns: safety for herself, her home, her
2 farm animals and farm buildings on her
3 property. Two, concerns for the pipeline
4 crossing near the dam of her farm pond,
5 across the spillway and wetlands below the
6 pond ground. Currently, the farm pond is
7 home to over 200 geese and ducks. Dangers
8 imposed on the event of a pipeline emergency
9 to her property, the worst case scenario for
10 a pipeline emergency. And fifth, could
11 emergency response officials reach her area
12 in time to prevent a disaster for her and
13 livestock in the event of a pipeline
14 emergency?

15 In response to her letter, on
16 September the 5th, 2006, Mr. Art Cook and Mr.
17 Ron Miller of Southern - Southeast Supply
18 Header, better known as SESH, met with my
19 mother, sister and myself in my mother's
20 home. Many of our questions and safety
21 concerns could be answered, and we were
22 referred to the website of Duke Energy and
23 CenterPoint Energy for those questions that
24 could not be answered. During this meeting,
25 the proposed pipeline site was 425 feet from

1 my mother's home. At this time we asked that
2 it could be moved more in the western and
3 southern portion of our property.

4 The proposed route currently goes
5 diagonally through my mother's property. Mr.
6 Ron Miller stated the proposed route was the
7 most economical route for the companies
8 represented. And he, again, referred us to
9 their website.

10 On March the 24th, this year, my
11 mother and I met with representatives from
12 SESH, Mark Hall and Mike Fannin, right-of-way
13 representatives. We were informed that the
14 pipeline had been moved several more feet
15 from my mother's home, but an exact
16 measurement could not be given. During this
17 meeting, confirmation was made that the
18 pipeline size had been increased from 36-
19 inches to 42-inches. And right-of-way
20 footage for the construction would increase
21 from 100 feet to 125 feet. I, again,
22 addressed the issue of safety and not getting
23 answers from the questions asked in August of
24 2006.

25 During the meeting with these

1 gentlemen, they were shown our proposal where
2 to relocate the pipeline. I took these
3 gentlemen to the proposed site and showed
4 them parts of the area. They told me they
5 would take back the information to their
6 engineers. Again, I asked questions on
7 safety and directly asked what would be the
8 environmental impact if an explosion should
9 occur with this 42-inch pipeline.

10 For your information, data supports
11 that if a 36-inch high pressure pipeline were
12 to explode, everything within a hundred foot
13 radius from the fireball ignition where the
14 explosion occurs, a thousand foot radius
15 would be ignited. And this was confirmed and
16 stated in a congressional hearing.

17 I asked the question: What would be
18 the foot radius ignition if a 42-inch
19 pipeline with 1200 psi were to explode? This
20 is the size which is to go on my mother's
21 property. And we know it's gonna be at least
22 425 feet, maybe a little bit further, but we
23 don't know how much further, from her
24 property. Mr. Fannin stated that there had
25 never been such an explosion, but assured my

1 mother that he would get us information. Mr.
2 Fannin delivered, I must add. He sent me
3 over five pounds of papers to go through,
4 which I carefully went through every one of
5 them. The information was not there.

6 During our August meeting with SESH
7 representatives, Cook and Miller, we were
8 told that the pipeline would be built to high
9 consequence regulations. Now, this too has
10 changed; a thinner wall construction. How
11 safe is this really to human life and the
12 environment?

13 The proposed route will destroy many
14 large hardwoods and will open up my mother's
15 property making it more accessible for people
16 who hunt illegally. Her property is noted
17 for being the home to numerous large deer and
18 turkey.

19 I viewed the websites suggested by
20 Mr. Cook and Miller; Duke Energy and
21 CenterPoint Energy. On the Duke Energy
22 website they say that they're committed to
23 health, safety, the environment, our
24 community, respect every individual, foster
25 win-win relationships. And in CenterPoint

1 Energy's website, they state they're
2 committed to doing business every day with
3 integrity, accountability, and respect. Can
4 you have a significant impact - and can have
5 a significant impact on the quality of life
6 in areas we serve and safeguard the
7 environment.

8 How then can these two companies say
9 they want to place emphasis on being
10 environmentally friendly when they are
11 causing destruction of hardwood trees and
12 ruining, as well as devaluing, our property?
13 I would like to know how this fosters a win-
14 win relationship and how they can justify
15 doing business with integrity,
16 accountability, initiative and respect.

17 Yes, the Duke Energy site states they
18 are committed to health. And CenterPoint
19 Energy states they can have a significant
20 impact on the quality of life in areas we
21 serve. Here, these two large powerful
22 companies are playing - are placing our
23 health in jeopardy.

24 Yes, there is a significant impact on
25 quality of life. I personally say I have had

1 many sleepless nights and my stress level has
2 increased. Stress can lead to high blood
3 pressure, strokes, and diabetes according to
4 medical research. My mother has voiced her
5 fears about the pipeline after it's in
6 operation and should a pipeline emergency
7 should occur, will she be able to get out of
8 her home safely.

9 Can these two companies place the
10 most economical route in dollars and cents
11 for their profit and disregard the stress it
12 is causing my mother, sister and myself?

13 I understand that part of Duke Energy
14 has changed to Spectra Energy. Spectra
15 Energy states that ethical behavior is the
16 foundation for our measures of success. The
17 core value is integrity, ethically and
18 honestly doing what we say as we will do both
19 as individuals, employees and as a company.

20 Life cannot be measured in dollars
21 and cents, nor can the preservation of our
22 land. I know that America is a country
23 that's very dependent on natural gas. And
24 I'm aware that transmission lines do have to
25 be placed on people's property. I'm not

1 saying that the pipeline cannot be routed on
2 my mother's property, however, I would like
3 to see the proposed site be routed more in
4 the western and southern portion of the
5 property. This then would make a win-win
6 relationship. Thank you.

7 (Clapping.)

8 MR. BUTTON: I, uh, neglected to
9 mention earlier, just simply by oversight,
10 that David Young with the Army Corps of
11 Engineers is also here; the gentleman in the
12 red shirt in the back. And during the
13 question and answer session also, he will
14 also be available if you have questions about
15 the Corps process in, uh - in this project.

16 Those are all the speakers that have
17 signed up initially. Uh, do we have, uh,
18 some more people that would like to speak to
19 the Record?

20 (No response.)

21 Libby, is there - there's nobody
22 else?

23 MS. CLAGGETT: No other sign-ups.

24 MR. BUTTON: Okay. Thank you, Libby.
25 In that case, uh, again I would like to

1 remind you that, uh, the date to, uh, be sure
2 that we can include your comments in writing
3 is June 18th. Again, the Commission will
4 consider - can consider comments after that
5 date, but I would encourage you to submit any
6 written comments that you have by that time
7 so that we can be sure to respond to them in
8 writing.

9 And with that, I believe, we can
10 close the Record. And, as I said, we will
11 stay around as long as people are interested
12 in asking us questions about the project.
13 Thank you for attending tonight.

14 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at
15 6:36 p.m.)

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1 R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

2 I, Lisa Bell, Certified Court
3 Reporter, in and for the State of
4 Mississippi, the officer, as defined in
5 Section 9-13-101 of the Mississippi Rules of
6 Civil Procedure, before whom this proceeding
7 was taken, do hereby state on the Record:

8 That due to the interaction in the
9 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
10 dashes (--) have been used to indicate
11 pauses, changes in thought, and/or talkovers;
12 that same is the proper method for a Court
13 Reporter's transcription of proceeding, and
14 that the dashes (--) do not indicate that
15 words or phrases have been left out of this
16 transcript;

17 That any words and/or names which
18 could not be verified through reference
19 material have been denoted with the phrase
20 "(phonetic)."

21

22

23 Lisa Bell, CCR, CVR, CSR #1713

24 Certified Court Reporter

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This certification is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and license number.

I, Lisa Bell, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Mississippi, as the officer before whom this proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that this proceeding was reported by me in the Stenomask method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein; am not otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter; and am a valid member in good standing of the Mississippi State Board of Certified Court Reporters.

Lisa Bell, CCR, CVR, CSR #1713
Certified Court Reporter