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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number:
MIDCONTINENT EXPRESS PIPELINE : PF07-4-000
PROJECT :
- - - - - x

Minden Community House
711 Gladney Street
Minden, Louisiana

Monday, May 21, 2007

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping
meeting, pursuant to notice, at 7:09 p.m.

BEFORE:
CHARLES BROWN, FERC

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P R O C E E D I N G

(7:09 p.m.)

MR. BROWN: We're going to get started. Could I ask everyone to turn off their cell phones and pagers. We'd appreciate that.

Good evening. Thank you all for coming tonight. I'm Charles Brown with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I'm the Environmental Project Manager for the Mid-Continental Express Project. With me here tonight is Eric Bilt and out in the hallway we have Trevor Loveday. They work for a third party contractor who is going to help us do the environmental impact study.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to come here and get your environmental comments on the proposed action that Mid-Continental has.

Now the format for tonight's meeting is going to be we're going to bring the speakers up, we'll take all the verbal comments, close the meeting to the to the record and then open up for questions and answers. Is that okay with everybody? But I'd like to get all the verbal comments on the record first.

Also there will be a copy of the transcript that's going to transcribe all the comments so it can be placed in the record, and that should be available sometime in the next 10 days.

1 In our notice of intent that was issued on April
2 27th, we requested your comments and assigned a deadline of
3 May 30th. That's not to say we won't take comments after
4 that deadline, we will take comments throughout the whole
5 process, but I need your comments as soon as possible so we
6 can analyze the issues that you bring.

7 The speakers' list is located at the outside
8 table and we'll use that list to identify individuals which
9 will provide verbal comments. If you don't wish to speak
10 tonight, we also have a form out on the table where you can
11 provide your written comments. You can mail that in at a
12 later date or you can give it to us tonight and we'll make
13 sure it gets put in the record.

14 Anytime you file anything with FERC, please
15 include the docket number, that's PF07-4 for this project,
16 PF07-4.

17 You can also file comments electronically. The
18 instructions for that are on our website at www.ferc.gov
19 under the e-filing link. We also have a little handout here
20 that you can go by too and file your comments. Also the
21 instructions for filing are also in the notice that we
22 mailed out.

23 The Mid-Continental Express Project is currently
24 in our prefiling process. A formal application has not been
25 filed with FERC. However, the FERC staff began its

1 environmental review of the project to allow early
2 involvement by public, government entities and other
3 interested parties.

4 The purpose of the prefiling process is to
5 encourage involvement by interested stakeholders in a manner
6 that allows for early identification and resolution of
7 environmental issues.

8 During the scoping period, we try to gather as
9 much information as we possibly can. We get information
10 from the application itself. We get input from local,
11 state, and federal agencies and that process has already
12 started. Last week we had two inter-agency meetings with
13 federal, state and local agencies. We have one in Baton
14 Rouge, we had one in Mississippi and --.

15 We'll have another one on Wednesday and we're
16 starting to get input from the agencies already. We're
17 already getting a lot of information about the project. We
18 also do field work, but most importantly, we come here and
19 get information from you. This is your back yard. You know
20 the area better than anybody else. There is no way we can
21 possibly know what you know. So I encourage you to leave
22 your comments, please speak tonight.

23 If you're not signed up, you can come up at any
24 time during the process, we appreciate it.

25 Now once we gather all this information, we put

1 out what we call a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We
2 will issue that for comments and we'll have 25-day period
3 for comments. If you want a copy of that, there is two ways
4 to get one and I think we pretty much told you all when you
5 came in; mail this back to us or sign the mailing list out
6 there and we'll make sure you get a copy. If you don't do
7 that, you won't get a copy of the draft or the final.

8 I'd like to say a few words about the FERC
9 process. At the end of the 45-day period, we'll come back
10 here and we'll have another meeting. That will give you 45-
11 days period for the Draft Environmental Statement once we
12 issue, we'll come back here to gather more comments on it.

13 Once that 45-day period ends, we will start
14 preparing our Final Environmental Impact Study. The
15 Commissions at FERC will consider the Environmental
16 Information from the EIS along with non-environmental issues
17 such as engineering, markets, and rates, and making its
18 decision to approve or deny the project.

19 If the Commission does vote to approve the
20 project, FERC environmental staff will monitor the project,
21 preconstruction and restoration, performing onsite
22 inspections to ensure environmental compliance with the
23 conditions of the FERC certificate.

24 Once they start construction, I'll have monitors
25 on the ground six days a week, 10 hours a day, and those are

1 reporting daily back to me. This is how we're going to
2 monitor, to make sure the project gets built in accordance
3 with the certificate.

4 At this time, I'd like to bring Kevin Dehncke up
5 from Mid-Continental Express. He is going to give you a
6 brief overview of the project and then we'll bring up all
7 the speakers. Once the speakers -- we've exhausted our
8 list, we'll open the floor up to questions and answers.
9 Kevin.

10 MR. DEHNCKE: Welcome. I'm Kevin Dehncke, Vice
11 President and the Director of the Mid-Continental Express
12 Pipeline Project. I'd like to introduce the other members
13 of the project team that are here with me tonight. We have
14 some in the front and a few in the back. Please raise your
15 hands. Thank you. We will be available at the conclusion
16 of tonight's program to answer your questions and get into
17 some individual issues.

18 I know that the idea of a natural gas pipeline
19 across your land is not something that is welcome by
20 everyone here. I also know that many of you here tonight
21 have questions regarding how the project is going to affect
22 you.

23 I want to explain why the project is important,
24 give a quick overview of the project, and touch on some of
25 the benefits and reaffirm our commitment to work with each

1 one of you get through this as easy as we possibly can make
2 it.

3 Our nation needs this pipeline. The use of
4 natural gas, the cleanest burning fossil fuel is expected to
5 increase by 20% in this country by the year 2025. The
6 central U.S. is home to growing energy of gas supplies, but
7 additional capacity is needed to transport these supplies
8 from the market area in the central United States where we
9 are building from to the marekts.

10 Historically, pipelines move about 1/4 of the
11 nation's freight, yet by far have the best safety record of
12 any of those forms of transportation. At Mid-Continental
13 Express, we are committed to building and operating a safe
14 pipeline.

15 To sum up, new pipeline projects like Mid-
16 Continental Express help improve our nation's energy
17 security through better access to a domestically produced
18 fuel, cutting our dependence on foreign energy sources.

19 The pipeline also will help keep energy prices
20 affordable and protect against service interruptions from
21 hurricanes and other destructions that are common with off
22 shore supplies.

23 Our project will extend approximately 500 miles,
24 from near Bennington, OK near the production fields, across
25 Northeast Texas, Northern Louisiana, Central Mississippi,

1 and into Alabama. Along the way, we want to connect to
2 existing pipelines that will be used to transport that gas
3 to markets in the midwest, northeast and the southeast.

4 The project also include compressor stations
5 alone the route that will provide power to push the gas
6 across the system. Our goal is to have the project built by
7 March 1, 2009.

8 As an interstate pipeline system, Mid-Continental
9 Express is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory
10 Commission, or FERC, which oversees the involvement of a
11 number of other federal, state, and local agencies.

12 We are working closely with these agencies to
13 design a pipeline that is safe and has minimal impact on the
14 environment.

15 We also want to be sensitive to your concerns and
16 respectful of the neighbors whose land the pipeline is being
17 proposed to cross. Mid-Continental Express Pipeline is a
18 joint venture between Kinder Morgan Energy Partners who will
19 build and operate the system, and Energy Transfer Partners.

20 Kinder Morgan with approximately 40,000 miles of
21 pipeline, is one of the U.S. biggest pipeline companies,
22 with a deeply felt commitment to safety and environmental
23 protection.

24 We post our performance on the website and are
25 proud of the fact that our performance is better than the

1 industry averages in virtually all categories of safety.

2 We have already been talking to some of you
3 during the survey process in which we are fine-tune our
4 proposed pipeline route. A number of factors come into play
5 as we pick the best route. Our goal is to balance landowner
6 preferences with environmental issues, safety regulations,
7 and construction needs.

8 In many cases, we have been able to make changes
9 to address individual landowner concerns. We are eager to
10 continue working with you as the project moves forward. In
11 many areas we began sitting down with landowners to document
12 their concerns, their specific issues for construction, such
13 as fencing, access, livestock, and timber.

14 Evaluation experts currently are developing
15 market analysis and we expect to begin negotiating easements
16 with landowners in June. While we can't always accommodate
17 all requests, our goal is to find a mutually agreeable
18 solutions.

19 In addition to jobs and economic stimulants,
20 particularly during the planning and construction stages,
21 the project will pay significant dollars, taxes dollars over
22 its lifetime to benefit both schools and the counties that
23 we're in. In many areas we'll be among the county's largest
24 taxpayers.

25 We look forward to continuing to work with you

1 and to being a good neighbor for years to come. Thank you
2 for your time and for this additional opportunity to visit
3 with you.

4 MR. BROWN: We'll start taking speakers. When
5 you come up to the microphone, I need you to state your name
6 and spell it for the record.

7 SPEAKER: We have several people that signed in
8 to provide comments but if you decide that you would like to
9 provide verbal comments, you're welcome to do so as well.
10 Just a gain, as Charlie said, please state your name and
11 spell it so that it can be accurately transcribed. The
12 first speaker we have tonight is William Powell.

13

14 MR. POWELL: We were told that for existing
15 right-of-ways, where available these might be used. And, of
16 course, we don't know that they consider it or not from an
17 environmental standpoint. We have one pipeline across our
18 place that was put in by Louisiana Interstate Pipeline, they
19 said they could get the right of imminent domain, it now
20 belongs to Duke Energy.

21 That pipeline went from North Louisiana over to
22 Sterlington to provide gas I think for their -- there. It
23 has maintained a 30-foot right-of-way and it's been under
24 consideration so most of these pipelines that we've
25 discussed, that you have inherited, started from Louisiana

1 and we don't have information as to where, when it was
2 bought by Duke, it became an interstate pipeline, where does
3 that pipeline goes, so that's up to you all to look at.

4 In the land that I own and my great nieces and
5 their nephews, we had planted trees in 1990 when we divided
6 the parcel up among us after my mother died. They have just
7 reached the point now where they are reaching their period
8 of maximum growth and the problem is its like a big bunch of
9 them are going to be cut down by two right-of-ways.

10 And I say you have looked at the other one to so
11 it would be considered? Since they've filed now, you have
12 to consider them right? And that means before we lose out
13 on a -- good trees do. We now have two pipelines, Regis and
14 Duke across each other 80 acres that belong to my father
15 and mother.

16 There are flow lines from now private gas wells,
17 three of them across the parks of this land. In the EIS
18 will the use of the Duke pipeline be addressed?
19 Furthermore, I got this book, I think it's the meeting of
20 its Directors, and there are several things in there that
21 say it's going to be done and I've heard Duke talk about the
22 depth of the pipeline, but the way I figure, if it's 42
23 inches, it's three and a half feet. And if its buried three
24 feet, its going to be six and a half feet deep, at least.

25 And if that's correct, then there are other

1 statements in there like that. So I will be sure that not
2 only what we know about it, but what you all have put out is
3 the gospel, is also considered. Thank you.

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. Powell. Next speaker
5 is Bobby Collen.

6 MR. COLLEN: I don't have any comments.

7 MR. BROWN: No comments, okay. Thank you.
8 Shirley Brown.

9 MS. BROWN: I think I'm going to send mine in on
10 paper.

11 MR. BROWN: Okay. That's it. Randy Denmon.

12 MR. DENMON: R-A-N-D-Y D-E-N-M-O-N. I'm just
13 going to make a brief statement. I'm here on behalf of the
14 State of Louisiana and the 1,400 acres of magaside that this
15 pipeline proposes to cross in Franklin Parish.

16 We will be submitting a formal comment. I just
17 wanted to say that we are interested in -- this is not even
18 an environmental issue, this is kind of a form of route. We
19 were just interested in sitting down with Mid-Con somewhere
20 before the acquisition commences to see if we can negotiate
21 an agreeable route through this track.

22 It's a track that's being developed for economic
23 development, industrial site. I really supposed to get
24 comments on the official record and I have some
25 correspondence going to Washington and to Mid-Con on this

1 issue. That's it.

2 MR. BROWN: Okay, thank you. I think that's the
3 last of the speakers. Is there anyone else that want to
4 come up and speak please?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. BROWN: Okay, if there are no more speakers,
7 what I'll do is close this meeting to the record and then
8 we'll open the meeting for question and answers of myself
9 and the company. Questions?

10 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned.)

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