

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Dominion Transmission, Inc. Docket No. PF07-12-000

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Storage Factory Project

Lawrenceville Fire Department
9-11 Mechanic Street
Lawrenceville, PA 16901
Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The public hearing, pursuant to notice, convened at 7:08
p.m. before a Staff Panel:

DAVID HANOBIC, Environmental Project Manager
LARRY SAUTER, Environmental Project Manager
SCOTT CANTERBURY with Dominion Transmission

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

2 (7:08 p.m.)

3 MR. HANOBIC: Good evening and welcome to the
4 public scoping meeting for Dominion Transmission,
5 Incorporated's Storage Factory Project, filed under Docket
6 No. PF07-12-000.

7 My name is David Hanobic, and I am Environmental
8 Project Manager with the Federal Energy Regulatory
9 Commission, or FERC.

10 Let the record show that the public scoping
11 meeting began at 7:08 p.m. on September 18, 2007.

12 As it says in the public notice for this meeting,
13 the Commission is preparing an Environmental Assessment, or
14 EA, for the proposed Storage Factory Project. We are here
15 tonight to learn from you. The purpose of this meeting is
16 to give you an opportunity to comment on the environmental
17 issues that you think we should consider in the EA. The
18 more specific your comments are, the more helpful they will
19 be in our environmental analysis.

20 With me tonight is Larry Sauter, in the back of
21 the room, who is also an Environmental Project Manager at
22 the FERC. And we'll be assisting you at tonight's meeting.

23 As you can see, the meeting is being recorded by
24 a court reporter so that we can have an accurate record of
25 tonight's comments. A transcript of this meeting will be

1 placed in the public record so that anyone can access the
2 information discussed here tonight.

3 To help the court reporter produce an accurate
4 record of this meeting, I ask that you please follow some
5 ground rules, if you have any questions or comments during
6 the formal segment of this meeting. I will ask you to (1)
7 please come to the podium and speak into the microphone; (2)
8 introduce yourself, and if appropriate, the agency or group
9 you are representing; (3) please spell your name; (4) define
10 any acronyms you may use; and (5) speak one at a time.

11 Following the formal segment of tonight's
12 meeting, there will be an informal opportunity to ask
13 questions either of myself or the representatives from
14 Dominion who are here tonight.

15 I'll start out tonight by briefly explaining the
16 FERC application process. Then representatives from
17 Dominion Transmission will present an overview of its
18 project. Following Dominion's presentation, we will hear
19 from those of you who have signed up to speak, and would
20 like to make formal comments on the project.

21 If you do not want to speak tonight, you can also
22 send a letter to the Commission, addressing your specific
23 concerns. The Notice of Intent explains how you can mail
24 comments, on page 3. There is also a form on the back table
25 where you can write your comments and give them to me

1 tonight, or mail them in by following the instructions on
2 that sheet.

3 The FERC approval process. The FERC is an
4 independent federal agency that, among other things,
5 regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas. In
6 doing so, FERC reviews proposals and authorizes construction
7 of interstate natural gas pipelines, storage facilities, and
8 liquefied natural gas terminals.

9 One of the Commission's purposes is to protect
10 energy customers and the public, ensuring that regulated
11 energy companies are acting within the law.

12 The FERC is located in Washington, D.C., just
13 north of the United States Capitol. It has five
14 commissioners who are appointed by the President and
15 confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners serve five year
16 terms, and each have an equal vote on regulatory matters.
17 One member of the Commission is designated by the President
18 to serve as Chair and FERC's administrative head. The
19 Commission staff, which includes myself, prepares technical
20 information to assist the Commissioners in making their
21 decision.

22 When a company wants to build a storage or
23 pipeline facility to transport and sell natural gas in
24 interstate commerce, the company files an application with
25 the Commission. With Dominion's proposal, we have begun

1 what is called the prefiling process. A formal application
2 from Dominion has not yet been filed with FERC. The purpose
3 of the prefiling process is to encourage involvement by the
4 public, government entities, and other interested
5 stakeholders in a manner that allows for the early
6 identification and resolution of environmental issues.

7 The proposed project would consist of leaching of
8 two salt caverns, and placing the first in service by 2014.
9 The project consists of constructing leaching and pumping
10 facilities, a brine processing facility, water and brine
11 pipelines, and a new compressor station for gas storage,
12 injection and withdraw purposes here in Tioga County.

13 Dominion is also proposing enhancement to other
14 facilities in Pennsylvania including piping upgrades to the
15 Sabinsville Storage Pool.

16 Under the National Environmental Policy Act, or
17 NEPA, the Commission is required to perform an environmental
18 analysis of the planned project's potential effects on the
19 environment. The FERC is the lead federal agency
20 responsible for NEPA review of the Storage Factory Project,
21 and the lead federal agency in preparation of the EA.

22 Tonight's scoping meeting is one of the first
23 steps in our process to develop a complete record for
24 Dominion's planned project. We are here tonight to get your
25 input on issues that you feel need to be analyzed in the

1 environmental assessment. Your comments, along with those
2 of interested groups and agencies, will help focus our
3 analysis on significant impacts. The Commission will make
4 its decision about whether to approve the storage project
5 after considering the project's environmental and economic
6 impacts.

7 I would like to emphasize that the EA is not a
8 decision document; it is being prepared to advise the
9 Commission and to disclose to the public the environmental
10 impact of constructing and operating a proposed project.
11 When it is completed, the Commission will consider the
12 environmental information from the EA along with non-
13 environmental issues such as engineering, marketing and
14 rates, in making its decision to approve or deny a
15 certificate of public convenience and necessity, which would
16 be FERC's authorization for the project.

17 There is no review of FERC decisions by the
18 president or Congress which maintain FERC's independence as
19 a regulatory agency and provides for fair and unbiased
20 decisions. If the Commission votes to approve the project,
21 and a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is
22 issued. Dominion would be required to meet any conditions
23 attached to the Certificate.

24 FERC environmental staff would monitor the
25 project through connection and restoration, performing

1 onsite inspections to ensure environmental compliance with
2 the conditions of the FERC certificate.

3 If you have additional questions about FERC, I'd
4 encourage you to talk with me after the meeting or visit the
5 Commission's web page at: www.FERC.gov.

6 The notice for this meeting was mailed to
7 affected landowners, federal, state and local agencies,
8 elected officials, and other public interest groups. To
9 remain on the mailing list for this project, you will either
10 need to return the information request in Appendix B of the
11 Notice, sign the mailing list sheet in the back of the room,
12 or provide written comments by September 28th.

13 At this point, does anyone have any questions
14 about our EA process or tonight's program?

15 (No response.)

16 Okay. Now I would like to introduce Scott
17 Canterbury with Dominion Transmission.

18 MR. CANTERBURY: Thanks, David.

19 I'm Scott Canterbury with Dominion Transmission.
20 My title is Manager of Engineering Projects, I'm out of our
21 Clarksburg, West Virginia office. And I'm really here
22 tonight to tell you about the project facilities, what the
23 facilities include, and where they're located, and a little
24 bit about the Storage Factory Project.

25 Traditional gas storage is, the gas is stored in

1 depleted gas fields and oil fields and that type of thing;
2 we generally store it in formations that once held gas
3 before. With this storage, as the name implies, Storage
4 Factory, we intend to manufacture storage for gas by
5 solution mining caverns out of bedded salt. This is
6 something that's quite common in the country; it's just
7 something that's new to Dominion.

8 With that, I'm going to go through the gas -- the
9 salt storage portion of the project; and that's here in
10 Tioga County, Pennsylvania, there's five key components with
11 the salt storage; one of them being the intake of water and
12 piping for fresh water, the solution mining. That would be
13 at the Cowanesque River -- I'm sorry, the Lake; that's our
14 primary source of fresh water for leaching. We've been
15 asked by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission to look at
16 an alternate source of water, and we're pursuing that to
17 find out if it's feasible. But right now, our current plans
18 call for fresh water to come from Cowanesque Lake.

19 The second component of this project and the salt
20 storage would be the leaching facilities, and that's about a
21 mile and a quarter south of Cowanesque Lake; and what that
22 includes mainly is some holding tanks, some pumps, systems
23 that basically take this water, mix it with condensates
24 that's returned from the brine processing plant, and return
25 the solution mining like brine back to the caverns where the

1 saturated brine comes out. So it all comes through the
2 leaching facility.

3 The third part or component would be the brine
4 supply line and return line that runs between the leaching
5 facilities and the proposed brine processing plant. That's
6 about five miles, four and a half to five miles of 10 inch
7 and 8 inch piping. And those of you today that were on the
8 tour, we basically traveled from the brine plant through the
9 corridor, and followed the proposed path of those pipelines.

10 The fourth component would be the brine
11 processing, or the salt refining plant. That would be built
12 just about a mile north of Tioga. That plan is proposed to
13 be in service in, start construction in 2009, and be in
14 service in 2011. In fact, all of the leaching would start
15 that year.

16 The final component of salt storage will be the
17 compression for the gas storage. As Mr. Hanobic mentioned,
18 we're proposing to finish leaching and get the first cavern
19 into service in or around the first of 2014. So the year
20 previous to that, we would start construction of the
21 compressor facility; and this is the facility that will pump
22 gas from our transmission facilities into storage and then
23 be able to take it back out when we free-flow the gas out
24 back to the customers.

25 So that's basically the components for salt

1 storage. The other part of Storage Factory, are
2 enhancements to our Sabinsville Storage Pool, which is a
3 traditional storage pool where we would be replacing some
4 trunk line piping to limit velocity issues when we take gas
5 out at a lower pressure. And we're looking now at about
6 14,000 feet of pipe replacement in place. In other words,
7 we're replacing existing pipe with larger pipe.

8 The last component, and the component of most
9 projects that Dominion files, would be transmission-related
10 in regard to customers, and where they want gas delivered.
11 Generally when we sell a project to customers, they want
12 storage service and they have transmission service.

13 The transmission facilities that were previously
14 listed in our filing, in our pre-filing, that were in Elk
15 County, PA and Clinton County, PA, have dropped out of the
16 project. And that's a result of the open season that our
17 marketing folks held with customers between mid-July and
18 mid-August. There was more interest in other areas.

19 So Dominion is currently pursuing trying to meet
20 some customer demand in the mid-Atlantic area, so we will
21 not be doing the work in Elk and Clinton County.

22 So we're focusing on that. That's pretty much of
23 an overview of the facilities and where they are.

24 MR. HANOBIC: Thanks.

25 Are there any questions at this time concerning

1 the proposed project description?

2 MR. RICHARDSON: My name is Jim Richardson. I
3 live at 515 Halliday Road.

4 I was wondering, your comments said there would
5 be upgrading to the pumping facility. Is that the one where
6 Palmer Station is?

7 You were saying how you would be upgrading part
8 of the gas systems for future?

9 MR. CANTERBURY: That's in Sabinsville.

10 MR. RICHARDSON: That's in Sabinsville?

11 MR. CANTERBURY: Sabinsville Storage Pool.

12 MR. RICHARDSON: Nothing new would be built at
13 your existing facility?

14 MR. CANTERBURY: No.

15 MR. RICHARDSON: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. HANOBIC: Is there any other question
17 concerning the project description?

18 If you are unsure if or how the proposed project
19 may affect your property, I'd encourage you to look at the
20 maps and other materials that Dominion has brought with them
21 tonight after this meeting.

22 Now we begin to hear from those of you who had
23 signed up to present formal comments. For the court
24 reporter's benefit, please introduce yourself and, if
25 appropriate, the agency or group you are representing.

1 If you have concerns that are specific to your
2 property, I urge you to either tell us about it on the
3 record tonight or send in written comments to the
4 Commission.

5 The first speaker tonight will be Robert Blair.

6 MR. BLAIR: Good evening. I'm Robert J. Blair,
7 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Tioga County
8 Development Corporation.

9 The Tioga County Development Corporation thanks
10 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for this
11 opportunity to present testimony on the Dominion project in
12 Tioga County.

13 The Tioga County Development Corporation is a
14 countywide economic development corporation, with county
15 designation by the Tioga County Board of Commissioners, and
16 with state designation from the Pennsylvania Department of
17 Community and Economic Development.

18 The Tioga County Development Corporation is a
19 not-for-profit 501(c)(6) corporation, as designated by the
20 U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Our Board is comprised of 27
21 volunteers throughout Tioga County. We have a staff of five
22 professionals, and we are located at 114 Main Street,
23 Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

24 Our mission is to foster and promote the economic
25 development of Tioga County, passionately striving to

1 improve the quality of life of our communities, our
2 residents, our business and industry, and our environment in
3 our quest to make Tioga County a place to call home.

4 Natural gas has a long history in Tioga County,
5 dating back several decades. Dominion has been a good
6 corporate partner in economic and community development
7 projects in Tioga County, currently employing 87 people,
8 with a payroll of \$8.6 million in Tioga County.

9 Based on this history and the caliber of our
10 corporate partner, and the economic impact this project will
11 have on Tioga County, the Tioga County Development
12 Corporation fully endorses this major economic project.

13 Our testimony centers on the economic impact that
14 this project will have on Tioga County. We will not address
15 other components of the project, since we do not have
16 expertise in environmental issues. We're confident all
17 environmental and social issues will be addressed by others.

18 The Dominion project, with an investment of over
19 \$700 million and 200 construction jobs, and 75 permanent
20 jobs, will have a major impact on the economy of rural Tioga
21 County. The gas storage and salt refinery project is
22 currently one of the largest economic development projects
23 Tioga County has been the recipient of. Going beyond the
24 local impact, this project will contribute greatly to the
25 national energy plan by providing storage of natural gas

1 during low demand times, and being available to high demand
2 cycles.

3 Tioga County traditionally falls below most state
4 and federal economic indicators, including higher
5 unemployment rates, lower wages, lower median income, and
6 several other categories. This project will contribute
7 greatly to improve the quality of life of our residents.

8 Annually, the Tioga County Development
9 Corporation contracts with an independent consultant to
10 perform an annual economic analysis and forecast of Tioga
11 County. The 2007 report, covering the economy of Tioga
12 County for 2006 is attached as an exhibit to our testimony.

13 Manufacturing, even with a reduction in 2006,
14 continues to be the major economic sector in terms of
15 employment, with 2818 employees, and wages increased during
16 2006 by \$12 per week.

17 The salt refinery portion of the Dominion project
18 will have a positive impact on the manufacturing sector and
19 overall economy of Tioga County. Manufacturing jobs remain
20 the primary job creator of secondary support jobs in Tioga
21 County. Additional retail and service jobs will spin off
22 from the 75 new manufacturing jobs projected in Tioga
23 County. The temporary construction jobs will also have a
24 positive impact on our economy.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to present our

1 testimony.

2 MR. HANOBIC: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker tonight is Fred LaVancher.

4 MR. LaVANCHER: My name is LaVancher, and I live
5 at 14 Broad Street in Tioga.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the
7 public scoping meeting for the Dominion project tonight.
8 Thank you for the opportunity. I understand that the record
9 will be open until the 28th, and we'll reserve the
10 opportunity to respond further in writing if I determine
11 that to be the case.

12 I'm a member of the Lower Tioga River Valley
13 Regional Planning Commission, and I'm a former member of the
14 County Development Corporation, which Mr. Blair represents,
15 and also have served for 25 years as a past member of the
16 Tioga Borough Council.

17 I had the opportunity to attend the open house
18 that Dominion sponsored on July 11th here in this building,
19 and also a meeting of the Lower Tioga Planning Commission on
20 the 11th of July, I believe it was -- the 18th of July, for
21 presenting the project to that Commission. So I'm generally
22 familiar with the project.

23 Generally speaking, I view the Storage Factory
24 Project as a very positive prospect for the Lower Tioga
25 region, and for Tioga County as a whole. Anytime we can

1 prime the economic pump in this area, and add jobs, we need
2 to make every effort to see that that happens.

3 As such, from an economic development standpoint,
4 I fully support the Dominion project to be located in
5 Lawrence, Farmington, and Tioga Townships, including the
6 salt cavern development and the salt recovery plant.

7 Dominion has been an outstanding corporate
8 citizen in this area, and we welcome its expanded
9 operations. That being said, let me express some personal
10 concerns, and allow me to make a recommendation to help
11 ensure that community development and environmental problems
12 do not plague the project either during the planning and
13 permitting phase, or during construction and operations in
14 the future.

15 Permit me to provide some background history.
16 During the course of the past 40 years, substantial efforts
17 have been made to improve the water quality in Tioga County.
18 These measures have included abatement of mine-acid
19 pollution in the Tioga and Pike Creek watersheds; the
20 construction of the Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque reservoirs
21 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for flood control and
22 recreational purposes; the establishment of small watershed
23 protection programs by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service;
24 extensive efforts by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission,
25 and the Chesapeake Bay clean-up projects; the increase in

1 the level of the Cowanesque Lake storage pool for low-flow
2 augmentation in the downstream reaches of the Susquehanna.
3 Major clean-up efforts in the Chemung River Basin just north
4 of the project area in New York State; and very importantly,
5 local efforts at significant cost to ratepayers in new
6 wastewater treatment facilities in each of our communities
7 along the Tioga and the Cowanesque watersheds.

8 With the efforts and expenditures of this
9 magnitude to accomplish these objectives, the last thing we
10 want to happen is to have an accidental brine spill
11 deteriorate any of these accomplishments.

12 While I'm not an expert, and speak strictly as a
13 layman, I am concerned about the possible contamination of
14 our fresh water aquifers in the area by high pressure
15 injection of water into the salt cavern leaching areas.
16 While we are told the technology of the process is state of
17 the art and the chance of pollution is remote, it seems to
18 me that the possibility exists for potential bypass leakage
19 through the -- I say 40 in my written comments; it's
20 actually 60 year old abandoned wells, that are scattered
21 throughout the project area.

22 While Dominion representatives and their
23 environmental consultants assure us that such a scenario is
24 remote, I would like to see a mechanism established to
25 review each stage of the process to ensure that potential

1 issues are fully monitored at the local level.

2 Another issue that needs to be monitored closely
3 during and after construction of the Storage Project is our
4 local road system. Tioga Township has endured an almost
5 impossible situation with disruption of the Park Hill Road
6 as a result of a major slide caused Route 15 construction
7 project. While PennDOT has addressed the issue, it has
8 inconvenienced the residents of the area in a significant
9 way.

10 Every effort should be made by Dominion as it
11 utilizes the local road system during the construction
12 process to ensure that they are maintained in as comparable
13 a condition as would be carried out by the local townships.

14 In addition, with the location of the salt
15 recovery plant at Bear Creek, and the resulting truck
16 traffic, the Bear Creek Road should be upgraded, widened and
17 paved, in order to maintain safe traffic in that particular
18 area.

19 In order to ensure that such issues are
20 addressed, I suggest that as part of the FERC permitting
21 process a technical review task force or coordinating
22 committee, made up of review agency personnel and local
23 concerned citizens be establish to monitor the project and
24 work together to overcome any conflicts and potential
25 pollution issues.

1 Let me point out that I served as a member and
2 eventually as chairman of the Susquehanna River Basin
3 Citizens Advisory Committee at the time of the reformulation
4 studies leading to the increased storage area in the
5 Cowanesque Reservoir, and found that to be an effective way
6 to ensure that local interests and concerns were addressed
7 during the planning phase of the projected.

8 A similar Project Area Committee, or PAC, was
9 established by PennDOT during the preliminary planning phase
10 of the Route 15 project, which is currently under
11 construction.

12 I suggest that the following entities be invited
13 to participate in such a task force:

14 The Tioga County Commissioners, the County
15 Planning Commission, the County Development Corporation, the
16 County Conservation District, the municipalities of Elkland,
17 Farmington, Lawrenceville and Lawrence Township, Nelson,
18 Tioga Borough and Tioga Township; and there are probably
19 other entities that should be included, along with
20 representatives of the state and federal regulatory agencies
21 as appropriate. DEP, FERC, EPA, and again there are
22 probably others that should be included.

23 Agency representatives could serve as valuable
24 advisors to the task force. I would suggest that Dominion
25 be charged or required to provide staff support and

1 technical advisers to such a task force, including limited
2 financial support to fund the administrative costs of the
3 group.

4 I have one further comment, and this is not
5 related to the FERC process; I would direct it to the
6 representatives of Dominion. And this may have already been
7 made by other groups. But as I mentioned earlier, Dominion
8 has been an outstanding corporate citizen in Tioga County.
9 With the Storage Factory Project, Dominion will be
10 increasing its presence in the area dramatically, and
11 certainly will have an impact on the local economy and the
12 physical environment.

13 Might I suggest that as part of its community
14 stewardship effort, it take on a significant role in
15 sponsoring some type of community or environmental endeavor
16 that will benefit the local area impacted by the project.

17 This is simply a suggestion; I'll be happy to
18 discuss this further with company representatives if they
19 wish to pursue such an opportunity.

20 That concludes my remarks. Thank you for your
21 consideration.

22 MR. HANOBIC: Thank you.

23 Our next speaker will be Burton Phillips.

24 MR. PHILLIPS: Good evening. My name is Burton
25 Phillips, and tonight I'm here representing my mother, who

1 lives at 80 Tioga River Road, and she lives on property that
2 is jointly owned by myself, my brother, and four sisters.
3 She has lived on that property, it's been in the family for
4 hundreds of years.

5 At any rate, it is adjacent to the -- I believe
6 it's called the evaporation salt plant, where that's
7 proposed to take place.

8 Basically, we are not opposed at all on an
9 economic level, we think it's a great thing economically for
10 the Township and for the County. On an environmental level,
11 we have two concerns that we would like to have addressed at
12 this point, and make sure that they're looked into
13 seriously.

14 One of those is a possibility for noise
15 pollution. We have concerns that increased noise directly
16 resulting from this project could negatively impact quality
17 of life for our mother and other nearby residents.

18 Potential sources for this noise include the salt
19 brine evaporation plant, along with increased traffic from
20 railroad trains, commercial trucks, and vehicles.

21 Our more serious concern -- which is our second
22 concern -- is the discharge of water and sewage from the
23 plant itself. We understand that the water that will be
24 discharged is approximately, once every two years this takes
25 place, but it is a significant discharge, and there's also

1 the possibility of an ongoing sewage discharge from the
2 plant.

3 We have extremely serious concerns, if either of
4 these were to be discharged into Bear Creek or Crooked
5 Creek. Both these creeks have limited seasonal water flow,
6 and especially during periods of extended dry weather, are
7 basically dry creek beds at those points. I've been able to
8 walk across both of those and not get my feet wet when it's
9 been extremely dry.

10 About nine years ago, during NE Hub's planning
11 process for the same project, I worked with them extensively
12 on this exact point; and during that time, we had identified
13 two alternative sites that were agreeable to NE Hub at that
14 time, that would have meant more money and more -- that's
15 basically a little more work on their part; but it took the
16 discharge points to where there was a confluence of the two
17 rivers; the Tioga River and Crooked Creek. And there was
18 actually some type of a mixing type environment that was
19 occurring there that made it advantageous. Although it was
20 more expensive, it was the agreed-upon route at that time.
21 And I would basically hope that we could continue along
22 those same types of discussions, if in fact there is going
23 to be a discharge from the plant.

24 I have saved, from nine years ago, the maps and
25 actually the legal agreement that we were -- gosh, steps

1 away from entering into.

2 Thank you very much for your time, and I
3 appreciate it.

4 MR. HANOBIC: Thank you.

5 Our next speaker will be Marion Worthington.

6 MS. WORTHINGTON: Thank you. My name is Mary
7 Worthington. I'm Executive Secretary-Treasurer for Growth
8 Resources of Wellsboro Foundation. Shorten that to GROW.
9 GROW is a federal 1(c)(6) industrial development
10 corporation, and has been in existence for 51 years.

11 We would like to express our support of this
12 project. I would further explain that GROW is owner of the
13 rail line, Wellsboro to Gang Mills, New York. Certainly the
14 rail line and freight operations will benefit directly; but
15 the impact to Tioga County will be very positive with the
16 jobs, and we will trust you to address the environmental
17 concerns of the citizens being expressed tonight. And thank
18 you for this opportunity.

19 MR. HANOBIC: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker will be Tom Owlett.

21 MR. OWLETT: My name is Tom Owlett. I'm the
22 outside counsel for GROW, or Growth Resources of Wellsboro
23 Foundation. I was also involved, and my firm was involved
24 at the time probably 12 years ago with NE Hub, a storage
25 project, which is pretty comparable to the project detailed

1 here today.

2 I negotiated with a lot of landowners, so it's
3 nice to see Burton Phillips; he and I spent some quality
4 time together and worked out a lot of different issues. The
5 issues that Mr. LaVancher has raised, legitimate issues that
6 were also worked out, and I think pretty well resolved from
7 an environmental standpoint.

8 From my work with this project with NE Hub, I
9 know of no environmental issues that were left unresolved
10 between the company and the regulatory agencies at that
11 time, and I certainly believe that with the project being
12 proposed now, those environmental issues and concerns that
13 people have will also be adequately addressed as a result of
14 what people have said tonight about Dominion and its good
15 corporate stewardship here in the County.

16 So based on my past work with the project, I
17 firmly believe that the environmental issues and the
18 concerns that people have talked about will be adequately
19 addressed, and look forward to having this project benefit
20 the county.

21 MR. HANOBIC: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker is Erick Coolidge.

23 MR. COOLIDGE: Good evening. I'm Erick Coolidge.
24 I live in Wellsboro, 78 Sweetbriar Road.

25 I'm a lifelong resident of Tioga County, a dairy

1 farmer, and I had the privilege to represent this county for
2 the past 12 years as one of its county commissioners. I've
3 also had the opportunity to experience a previous effort
4 and/or endeavor to develop the salt brine area. We received
5 a great deal of education in that interim, if you will, to
6 develop the salt brine area.

7 We received a great deal of education in that
8 interim, if you will, but most of it was almost with a
9 possible threat, a fracturing of the storage field. The
10 reason I mention it, not as a negative, but more importantly
11 as to the approach by Dominion has a different approach in
12 terms of, from the beginning and to this present time, is
13 about the preservation and/or the development of that area
14 in a positive way for not only their use but in regard to
15 the community's.

16 I hear clearly expression of individuals here who
17 are closely located to or concerned about the area and the
18 environment. That's all very important, and as one of the
19 County Commissioners, we share that interest and/or concern.

20 Furthermore, the active role as a county
21 commissioner causes one to become involved with various
22 groups and organizations. A lot of years I believe, were
23 served on TCDC, Tioga County Development Corporation Board,
24 have been a member of GROW, and currently serve, as recent
25 as the last three years, on the State Conservation Board

1 appointed by this president and secretary. Also served on
2 the local conservation board.

3 I mention that simply because I think it's
4 important that you, as residents and as this testimony will
5 reveal, we all who live in this county have legitimate
6 concern and interest, and the reason we get involved in
7 these efforts is to preserve and protect our community and
8 its growth and its development in a proper manner.

9 Personally, I believe Dominion has the best
10 interest of this community and this project, with the best
11 interests of the community and its development; how
12 important is it. I believe Mr. Blair clearly defined, it's
13 a major impact in a positive way for jobs and/or economic
14 growth and development. I share that interest and/or almost
15 with excitement to think that it will be a possibility of
16 jobs, and then the use of the rail and the use of the
17 infrastructure that's being developed in our county.

18 I would like to impress upon FERC to take that
19 into consideration its deliberation. We're not desperate,
20 but we're interested in its possibilities. It's about a
21 future of a community that has experienced some loss of jobs
22 and/or revenues and incomes. So when we look at this, as a
23 board of commissioners and as community leaders and as
24 community at large, we understand this is a viable and a
25 very important economic development that could take place,

1 given all the measures met in degrees of consideration taken
2 under advisement.

3 I applaud the individuals who have previously
4 spoken, because they said it so well; I just want to echo
5 that there is a strong and very concerned and public
6 sentiment that this is an opportunity that sees a future for
7 many years, and we'd like to echo everyone else: Thank you
8 for the privilege to give testimony, and we hope that this
9 project goes forward expeditiously.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. HANOBIC: Thank you.

12 At this time, there's no one else signed up on
13 our speaker list, so I'll ask if anyone else would like to
14 speak that has not signed up.

15 (No response.)

16 Okay. As indicated in the public notice for this
17 meeting, the comment period for written comments ends
18 September 28th, 2007. There are some forms available at the
19 sign-in table to make sending written comments easier.

20 Also, if you have specific concerns, please
21 identify your location relative to the planned project
22 facilities as best you can when you mail in your comments.

23 Without any more speakers, the formal part of
24 this meeting will conclude. Again, I would encourage you to
25 stay and look more closely at the maps and information that

1 Dominion has brought with them. Their representatives will
2 be able to assist you with these maps, and to answer any
3 more specific questions you may have.

4 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
5 Commission, I would like to thank all of you for coming
6 tonight. Let the record show that the Storage Factory
7 Project public scoping meeting concluded at 7:51 p.m.

8 (Whereupon, at 7:51 p.m., the scoping meeting
9 concluded.)

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