

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
FERC SCOPING NOVEMBER 5, 2007, MEETING

PANEL MEMBERS:

LARRY BROWN, Natural Resources Group

SHANNON JONES, Federal Energy Regulatory  
Commission

SELMA URMAN, Massachusetts Energy Facilities  
Siting Board

ALEX DANKANICH, DOT, Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety Administration

Held at:

Holiday Inn

1374 North Main Street

Randolph, Massachusetts

7 p.m. to 9:32 p.m.

November 5, 2007

Kathleen M. Madden

Certified Shorthand Reporter

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1 MS. JONES: Good evening. Welcome  
2 everyone. My name is Shannon Jones. I work for the  
3 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also referred  
4 to as FERC or F-E-R-C. Can you hear me okay?

5 Selma Urman is seated to my right. She is  
6 here from the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting  
7 Board. This is a joint FERC/Siting Board public  
8 scoping meeting to receive the comments and concerns  
9 about the Algonquin Gas Transmission East to West  
10 Hubline Expansion Project.

11 Also with me here tonight is Alex  
12 Dankanich. He is at the end of the table to my  
13 right. He is from the U.S. Department of  
14 Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
15 Safety Administration, and he's here to offer some  
16 information on pipeline safety if you should have  
17 any questions.

18 Larry Brown to my left is here with Natural  
19 Resources Group, as well as Amy Matt and Danielle at  
20 the sign-in table. Natural Resources Group is a  
21 consulting firm assisting FERC with this project and  
22 acts as an extension of our FERC staff. So during  
23 the meeting, if you have questions, please feel free  
24 to go to the back and speak with them. We have a

1 number of Algonquin representatives here tonight,  
2 and they will provide a brief project overview  
3 shortly.

4 I'm going to give you a little background  
5 on FERC in case you're not familiar with us. The  
6 FERC is an independent federal agency. We regulate  
7 the interstate transmission of electricity, natural  
8 gas, and oil. We're located in Washington, D.C.,  
9 headed by five presidentially appointed  
10 commissioners and about 1200 staff.

11 The FERC is ultimately responsible for  
12 approving or denying Algonquin's different projects.  
13 But before that happens, we have to conduct an  
14 extensive environmental review, and that review  
15 process is to comply with the National Environmental  
16 Policy Act.

17 So during our review, we will compile  
18 information from a variety of sources, and those  
19 sources include Algonquin, the public, other federal  
20 and state and local agencies in addition to our own  
21 independent analysis and field work.

22 In Massachusetts, the project will undergo  
23 a review pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental  
24 Policy Act, and we plan to conduct a coordinated

1 review with the MEPA office. In addition, we will  
2 compile all agency and public comments, such as  
3 we're doing tonight. We analyze potential resource  
4 impacts from everything from wildlife to residences  
5 to safety and archeology. We present our findings  
6 and recommendations in a formal report that we call  
7 an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS.

8 All interested parties will be given an  
9 opportunity to comment on a draft version of that  
10 EIS once it's issued. We will also do another round  
11 of comments, meetings, after that document comes out  
12 very similar to this one to give folks an  
13 opportunity to comment. So there's two  
14 opportunities to comment, orally tonight and then  
15 down the road after we issue a draft of the  
16 Environmental Impact Statement.

17 The final Environmental Impact Statement  
18 will address any additional comments that we  
19 receive, and they will be used by our commissioners  
20 in determining whether or not to authorize the  
21 project, so tonight we're here asking for your  
22 concerns that we should address in that  
23 Environmental Impact Statement.

24 If you wish to speak tonight, I hope that

1 you sign the speaker's list back there. If you  
2 change your mind, please head back and sign up on  
3 that list. If you don't wish to speak but you still  
4 have comments, you can provide those in written  
5 form. Oral or written comments both hold equal  
6 weight at the FERC, and you can do either.

7 Instructions were provided in the notice  
8 that announced this meeting, and we also have some  
9 handouts at the sign-in table to provide  
10 instructions on how to send in comments to the FERC.  
11 We would like to receive those comments by November  
12 21st. You may also send comments to the  
13 Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board, and  
14 Selma will speak to that in a moment.

15 If you did not receive a notice in the mail  
16 about this meeting, you are not on the FERC's  
17 mailing list. Being on the FERC's mailing list  
18 insures that you receive a draft and final copy of  
19 the Environmental Impact Statement. If you want to  
20 receive those documents either in paper or  
21 electronic form on CDs, there's three ways to let us  
22 know and to remain on our mailing list. You can  
23 send in a written comment, you can sign up at the  
24 table tonight to be on the mailing list, or you can

1 return the mail list retention form, which was the  
2 back page on the notice that FERC sent out that  
3 announced all these scoping meetings. You must do  
4 one of those three things to make sure you are on  
5 our mailing list. At this time, I'm going to give  
6 Selma an opportunity to give the Massachusetts  
7 Energy Facilities Siting Board's role tonight.

8 MS. URMAN: Can you hear me? Is the  
9 mike on? Thank you. As Shannon stated, my name is  
10 Selma Urman. I am here on behalf of the  
11 Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board to hear  
12 public comment regarding the prefiling with the FERC  
13 on Algonquin East to West project.

14 First, let me briefly describe the Siting  
15 Board in its role in this matter. The Siting Board  
16 is an independent board of the Commonwealth of  
17 Massachusetts within the Department of Public  
18 Utilities.

19 The Siting Board's nine members include the  
20 Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, who  
21 serves as its chairman; the Secretary of Housing and  
22 Economic Development; the Commissioner of the  
23 Department of Environmental Protection; the  
24 Commissioner of the Division of Energy Resources;

1 two commissioners from the Department of Public  
2 Utilities; and three public members appointed by the  
3 governor.

4 One of the principal functions of the  
5 Siting Board is to review the proposals for  
6 construction of new energy facilities in  
7 Massachusetts, including power plants, electric  
8 transmission lines, natural gas pipelines, and  
9 natural gas storage tanks.

10 The siting board does not, however, have  
11 the authority to approve or disapprove interstate  
12 national gas pipeline facilities such as the one  
13 proposed by Algonquin in this case. Instead, such  
14 authority rests with the FERC.

15 When an interstate natural gas pipeline  
16 company, such as Algonquin, applies to the FERC to  
17 construct facilities within Massachusetts, the  
18 Siting Board is required by its regulations to  
19 preserve the rights of interested citizens of the  
20 Commonwealth by intervening in the FERC proceedings  
21 in any such application.

22 The Siting Board is also required to hold a  
23 public informational hearing in the area where the  
24 proposed facility will be located. The interstate

1 pipeline company must attend the public hearing as  
2 they are today.

3 After the conclusion of the public hearing  
4 and an additional comment period, the Siting Board  
5 files written comments regarding the proposed  
6 project with the FERC. The Siting Board's comments  
7 are intended to identify difficulties and problems  
8 with the project associated with the environmental  
9 issues as required by the Siting Board's  
10 regulations.

11 The Siting Board's comments will be based  
12 in part upon the review of any pre-filing documents  
13 filed with the FERC, a site visit, which the Siting  
14 Board conducted today, along the proposed pipeline  
15 route, and upon the public comments and questions  
16 received by the Siting Board.

17 The Siting Board encourages those attending  
18 the hearing tonight to comment on the potential  
19 environmental impact of the Algonquin proposal. We  
20 are particularly interested in hearing your concerns  
21 about specific locations along the proposed routes  
22 and specific proposals you may have for eliminating  
23 or mitigating the impacts.

24 You are welcome to send written comments to

1 either the FERC or the Siting Board. All comments  
2 received by the Siting Board before November 21,  
3 2007, will be included in our submission to the FERC  
4 for its consideration.

5 The Siting Board's mailing address appears  
6 at the bottom of the legal notice for tonight's  
7 hearing, and I've placed copies of that notice on  
8 the table in the back of the room. That concludes  
9 my remarks, but I first would like to call on  
10 Attorney Jon Bonsall. Can I have your appearance  
11 for purposes of the Siting Board?

12 MR. BONSALL: For the record, Jon  
13 Bonsall. My office is at 265 Franklin Street,  
14 Boston, Massachusetts. I'm appearing here this  
15 evening on behalf of Algonquin Gas Transmission,  
16 LLC.

17 MS. URMAN: Is it my understanding that,  
18 Mr. Bonsall, that you will be providing return of  
19 service after tonight's proceedings.

20 MR. BONSALL: Correct.

21 MS. URMAN: I have nothing further.

22 MS. JONES: Before we start taking  
23 comments tonight, we've asked Algonquin to provide a  
24 brief overview of their project, and I ask that you

1 hold any questions until we get to the comment  
2 portion of the meeting which will follow. Jon?

3 MR. BONSTALL: Thank you. Again, for the  
4 record, my name is Jon Bonsall. I would like to  
5 start by introducing the Algonquin team here this  
6 evening. Gene Muhlherr, who's the project manager;  
7 Frank Gesnner, who's manager of right of way; Ed  
8 Gonzales, who's construction manager; Terry Doyle,  
9 who's environmental manager; Mike Lychwala from TRC  
10 Environmental, and Mike Tynell, project manager with  
11 TRC Environmental. There are a number of other  
12 Algonquin representatives here this evening,  
13 including probably over a dozen of our right-of-way  
14 agents, that will be available at the end of the  
15 evening to answer any questions landowners with any  
16 particular questions or concerns they may have.

17 And at the request of FERC and the Siting  
18 Board, we in fact have -- sheets mounted at the back  
19 that can talk through any issues people may have  
20 concerning the project, in particular how it may or  
21 may not affect your piece of property.

22 Again, Algonquin is the project proponent  
23 interstate gas pipeline company located in Waltham,  
24 Massachusetts, formally in Brighton. It's been

1 operating in the New England area since 1953.

2 This project is market driven and will  
3 operationally enhance Algonquin's operating system.  
4 Overall, the project is actually involved with  
5 facilities in a number of states, Connecticut, New  
6 Jersey, and New York City, as well as Rhode Island.  
7 We're here tonight to talk about the Massachusetts'  
8 component of this.

9 In Massachusetts, there are several aspects  
10 of the project. Firstly, on Algonquin's Q system,  
11 which runs from Medway to Canton, Algonquin is  
12 proposing to lift and replace the existing pipeline  
13 that's in the ground with a larger diameter pipe.

14 From Canton to Weymouth, we've proposed the  
15 I-10 extension which would be along a new  
16 right-of-way corridor for Algonquin in that area.  
17 I've also proposed two compressor stations, one in  
18 Rehoboth and another one in the Northshore having  
19 identified a site in Boxford, Massachusetts, as our  
20 preferred site.

21 We've been conducting survey activities  
22 since the spring, and that is reflected in the draft  
23 resource report 1 and 10 that we filed with the FERC  
24 on October 10th. Copies of those have been placed

1 in all the public libraries in each of the  
2 communities that we pass through. They've also been  
3 provided to the town or city clerks, and copies have  
4 gone to the conservation commissions as well as the  
5 town manager or board of selectmen or mayor offices  
6 in each of those communities.

7 We're also continuing to evaluate a number  
8 of alternatives that have been advanced to us. In  
9 some cases, we are looking to obtain survey  
10 permission so we can complete our analysis and do a  
11 comparative data review of the survey information  
12 once it's been collected. We're hoping to get that  
13 survey permission later this fall, hopefully, by the  
14 end of November so we can complete those surveys in  
15 the early December time frame.

16 We've also conducted over 21 open houses in  
17 Massachusetts alone since the project began. I know  
18 a lot of the people here have in fact attended some  
19 of those. We have made project representatives  
20 available each of those evenings to provide  
21 information to people who attended.

22 Again, we appreciate the opportunity  
23 tonight to hear additional comments, and as I said  
24 at the outset, the Algonquin folks will stay at the

1 conclusion of tonight's session to be one-on-one  
2 with any landowners or other citizens who have  
3 questions, et cetera, et cetera. Thank you.

4 MS. JONES: We'll now get to the  
5 important part of the meeting, why we're all here  
6 tonight, and that's to receive your comments. I  
7 have the speaker list here, and I'll call the  
8 speakers in the order they're written.

9 I ask that when it's your turn to please  
10 come to microphone and state and spell your name for  
11 the transcriber, and identify the organization you  
12 may represent or if you're a landowner along the  
13 pipeline or any of the project facilities.

14 Your comments tonight should focus on  
15 environmental issues and concerns. In providing  
16 your comments, if you have any questions that could  
17 be readily answered by anyone here at this table or  
18 by Algonquin, we'll try to do so.

19 In the interest of time, if we can't go  
20 further with that, we'll all be here after the  
21 formal portion of the meeting to continue to answer  
22 questions. Otherwise, your concerns will be  
23 addressed during our project review and our  
24 conclusions will be presented in the Environmental

1 Impact Statement.

2 A note about the transcripts, the reason  
3 we're have the meeting transcribed tonight is so we  
4 have an accurate record of your comments so we can  
5 be sure that we address them during our project  
6 review. If anyone is interested in receiving a  
7 transcript immediately, you can see the court  
8 reporter after the meeting to make arrangements.  
9 Eventually, they will be placed in the public record  
10 at FERC, which can be freely accessed through the  
11 Internet. There's some pamphlets at the sign-in  
12 table with practical instructions on how to get  
13 electronic information off the FERC Web site.

14 Our first speaker is Joseph O. Scardino.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Panel.  
16 First of all, I would like to thank the Commission  
17 for hosting this event. My name is Joseph O.  
18 Scardino, S-c-a-r-d-i-n-o. I'm a landowner, 303  
19 Pine Street. My property directly not only abuts  
20 but the pipeline will be going through my property.

21 My property was developed in 2001. We  
22 selected the retreat lot because it was surrounded  
23 by hundreds of acres of pine trees. It contains  
24 many species of wildlife, such as herds of deer,

1 many bird species. We have seen no less than 22  
2 wild turkeys on the premises. We've enjoyed the  
3 wetlands that are adjacent to our property and the  
4 wild life that it is attached.

5 But perhaps as important as mother nature  
6 being our neighbor is the fact that the topography  
7 in that particular area is extremely rocky and  
8 contains a great deal of ledge. In fact, in order  
9 to construct my residence, I spent tens of thousands  
10 of dollars removing ledge.

11 This point is relevant because in order to  
12 restore the pipeline, Algonquin will have to engage  
13 in the use of explosives. Not only will this be  
14 disruptive to me, but it will disruptive to my  
15 neighbors in the conservation land adjacent to my  
16 property. In addition, it may compromise my own  
17 well which serves the house. I don't know how many  
18 other properties have well water that are contingent  
19 to this route.

20 The use of -- the extensive use of  
21 explosives up there will have a severe impact, we  
22 believe, in the wildlife as well as the aesthetics.  
23 We've been informed that many trees will be removed  
24 that provide a buffer screen from our property with

1 respect to the NStar towers that are our neighbors  
2 as well.

3 But as I said, the fact of the matter is  
4 there is an alternative route that is available that  
5 doesn't burden my premises and threaten the wildlife  
6 in the conservation area adjacent to our house. And  
7 many of our neighbors have enjoyed and several have  
8 built homes there recently in order to enjoy this  
9 natural surrounding. I would like to thank the  
10 Commission for the right to express these comments  
11 and reserve the right to submit comments at the  
12 appropriate time. Thank you.

13 MS. JONES: Thank you. Our next speaker  
14 is Arthur Gillis.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name  
16 is Arthur Gillis, G-i-l-l-i-s. I live at 348 Tilden  
17 Commons Lane in Braintree. I represent the  
18 residents of Devon Wood Condominium Association. We  
19 are a condominium complex of 398 units off Liberty  
20 Street in Braintree. At the Liberty Street  
21 presentation, we discovered that an alternative  
22 pipeline may have to be chosen that would affect our  
23 property. It would skirt the outer edges of our  
24 property and go on and connect down by the Lottery

1 building, but it comes quite close to our property.

2 If it's chosen -- I realize it's an  
3 alternate route, but we do value the setting which  
4 surrounds our homes, and we expect any pipeline that  
5 runs close to the complex will be handled in a  
6 manner that respects the lifestyle of our community  
7 as well as the value of our property. We look  
8 forward to working with the state and federal and  
9 Braintree and whoever else to make sure this happens  
10 if in fact it must happen. I thank you for this  
11 opportunity.

12 MS. JONES: Thank you. Our next speaker  
13 is Jim Gordon.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Thank  
15 you. My name is Jim Gordon, G-o-r-d-o-n. I am here  
16 on the behalf of Congressman Stephen Lynch, who is  
17 the United States representative of the 9th  
18 District, where we are this evening. On behalf of  
19 the Congressman, I want welcome you all to the 9th  
20 Congressional District and thank FERC and the Site  
21 Board in coming out tonight.

22 First off, I want to make it known I've  
23 have been monitoring the East West Pipeline since  
24 it's been proposed. We've met with the proponents

1 as well as talked with members of the community and  
2 town officials and state officials about this as  
3 well. We're aware of the many -- Congressman Lynch  
4 is aware of the many concerns that have been raised  
5 across the board at all levels from all  
6 perspectives, whether it be safety, environmental,  
7 disruption of wildlife, things of that nature.

8 I'm here tonight to listen on behalf of the  
9 Congressman to hear what everybody's concerns are  
10 and to urge the board to consider everything they  
11 hear here tonight when you move forward to make your  
12 decision. And, again, we will be submitting  
13 testimony prior to the date of December 21th. Thank  
14 you very much.

15 MS. JONES: Thank you. Eileen Mattis.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name  
17 is Eileen Mattis, M-a-t-t-i-s. I live at 19 Rebecca  
18 Road in Canton. And we already live with the  
19 pipeline. It's right behind my home. And I think  
20 perhaps you mentioned that you were on a siting  
21 tour, and I don't know if you saw that area, but I  
22 would say we -- from the back of my home I'm  
23 probably 100 feet from the pipeline, not yards,  
24 feet.

1           When I went to the open house, I was a  
2 little disconcert because they indicated that due to  
3 the narrow swath where the easement goes through --  
4 I think the easement itself is probably 100, 120  
5 feet wide -- that they would be taking down  
6 virtually all the trees as well as, due to the  
7 narrowness of the easement, that they may have to  
8 infringe on my property taking down my trees, taking  
9 down fences, perhaps taking down sheds.

10           We are buffered from an adjoining  
11 industrial park by that easement, which is presently  
12 wooded. I think should those trees disappear, it  
13 will take decades to make whole what's there at the  
14 moment. We have a lot of 30- to 50-foot tall trees.  
15 There's natural growth along the easement, which is  
16 controlled by Algonquin. They do cut to a  
17 reasonable height, but I think by the time -- I'm  
18 sure it won't be in my lifetime that this will be  
19 made whole again. And when I asked about  
20 replacement mitigation of such destruction, I was  
21 told, "Well, we would put in some 6-foot tall  
22 trees." They've put higher trees on the greenway.  
23 Those 6-foot tall trees will take forever to grow,  
24 and they certainly won't provide a buffer from the

1 plumbing company and the trucking company and  
2 everything that exists in the industrial park and as  
3 well as providing just the beautification of the  
4 trees. Those trees provide noise and light  
5 mitigation to us from the overhead lights on the  
6 buildings as well as the noise coming from trucks  
7 which go through Will Drive day and night. So just  
8 in closing, it would be a huge problem to us as far  
9 as environmental damage done to that easement.

10 MS. JONES: Thank you. That is all the  
11 speakers I had on this list. If there's anybody who  
12 would like to provide some comments or concerns,  
13 we're all here to answer some questions. Please  
14 feel free to come to the mike and state your name  
15 for the transcriber.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Bill Devine. I  
17 just want to know who controls the safety part of  
18 the project. Is it the Department of  
19 Transportation? Who is it?

20 MS. JONES: The Department of  
21 Transportation has the regulations for pipeline  
22 safety.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is a representative of  
24 the Department of Transportation here tonight?

1 MS. JONES: There is. Alex Dankanich  
2 from DOT is here. Can you state, please, your name  
3 for the transcriber?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER DEVINE: Bill Devine.

5 MS. JONES: Did you have any particular  
6 questions for Mr. Dankanich?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER DEVINE: I wanted to  
8 know what the procedure is in how they monitor.  
9 They're expanding the lines a substantial size, up  
10 to 36 inches. Is there any safety concerns that you  
11 address before they construct, and do you continue  
12 to monitor after it's constructed?

13 MR. DANKANICH: Yes, I can address those  
14 particular questions. My name is Alex Dankanich,  
15 D-a-n-k-a-n-i-c-h. I work for the U.S. Department  
16 of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
17 Safety Administration.

18 The Administration is divided into five  
19 regions across the country. I work in the Northeast  
20 region. We represent states from Maine down to and  
21 including Virginia, as far west as West Virginia.  
22 We have a team of engineers. Four to five of us are  
23 out of Washington D.C., four of us, four or five --  
24 five are out of Trenton, New Jersey, and there is

1 one representative who works out of his house in  
2 Boston, and a representative who works out of his  
3 house in Pittsburgh.

4 We inspect the design, the construction,  
5 the maintenance of underground gas transmission  
6 pipelines. Transmission pipelines are the larger  
7 diameter interstate gas transmission lines that run  
8 across the country. A lot of gas comes up out of  
9 the Gulf of Mexico.

10 This particular gas, which was originally  
11 flowing from the south to the north, will now -- has  
12 been flowing from north to south with the  
13 introduction of Canadian Gas from the Maritime's  
14 Line, which is offshore of Nova Scotia,  
15 Newfoundland, in that area. Maritime was built  
16 approximately four to five years ago and, again,  
17 brings a lot of gas down into this region.

18 Again, the U.S. DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material  
19 Safety Administration will oversee the design, the  
20 construction, and the maintenance of this pipeline.

21 Did I answer all your questions?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER DEVINE: May I ask a  
23 follow-up question?

24 MR. DANKANICH: Sure.

1                   AUDIENCE MEMBER DEVINE: I'm  
2 specifically thinking about what they call a  
3 compression station that's being built. I'd like to  
4 know if there's any record whatsoever of any kind of  
5 -- not a disaster, but an accident or problems or  
6 anything relative to that relationship with a  
7 compression station, any memory at all of a problem,  
8 an accident?

9                   MR. DANKANICH: Well, all our incidents  
10 are online. You can actually go online, and I can  
11 give you a Web site.

12                   AUDIENCE MEMBER DEVINE: But you keep  
13 records of these?

14                   MR. DANKANICH: We keep records of all  
15 our incidents.

16                   AUDIENCE MEMBER DEVINE: And can you  
17 ever remember an incident -- how long have you been  
18 with them?

19                   MR. DANKANICH: I've only been with DOT  
20 since 2003. Since 2003, I cannot remember one in  
21 the northeast. Again, I only work in the northeast.  
22 There's five regions. Southwest out of Atlanta,  
23 southern region out of Houston, and the western and  
24 central region. I don't remember any since 2003 in

1 the eastern region. I believe we have had a few  
2 where probably overpressure protection released some  
3 gas into the atmosphere.

4 Compressor stations, we have strict designs  
5 for compressor stations where the pressure is  
6 monitored. There's what we call relief valves.  
7 Compressor stations, if you don't know, are needed  
8 to move the gas along the thousands of miles of  
9 pipeline that are across our country, to push the  
10 gas to the industrial areas where it's needed.

11 Compressor stations are, of course, by the  
12 term, compress the gas up to a higher pressure. The  
13 pressures are monitored. There is a safety valves  
14 at the compressor stations, and there's safety  
15 valves along the pipeline route. Compressor  
16 stations are very, very -- these days they are  
17 extremely safe. There is a number of mitigative  
18 measures, leak detection, equipment in the  
19 compressor stations, valves, automatic shutdown  
20 valves. They are a very safe method of operation.  
21 I've inspected some of them, and, boy, they are very  
22 well done. And the newer ones are even mitigated  
23 for noise, so the newer ones are very well designed.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER DEVINE: Thank you.

1 MS. JONES: We do have some additional  
2 speakers that signed up. Ma'am, did you have a  
3 question? If you could state your name.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Annette  
5 Shulton. I live at 3 Boothby Circle in Randolph.  
6 This question may have already been answered,  
7 because I missed your last meeting and I obviously  
8 came late tonight. I think people, from what I'm  
9 hearing, perhaps consider this project -- it tends  
10 to benefit people; however, everybody seems to have  
11 concerns primarily about the safety factor, which  
12 when you're dealing with gas is a normal concern.

13 My question is, supposing for whatever  
14 concern the various people here and other people,  
15 homeowners you have to go through say no, then what  
16 happens? Do you have the right to take over by  
17 eminent domain the property or what? In other  
18 words, if the majority of people say no to you, what  
19 are you going to do? What recourse do you have, and  
20 what recourse do we have if we object to your coming  
21 through out property?

22 MS. JONES: The FERC's policy is to  
23 encourage gas companies to negotiate easements with  
24 the landowners through a fair process. Ultimately,

1 if the project is approved, part of that FERC  
2 certificate of the federal authorities that go along  
3 with a FERC certificate provide the pipeline company  
4 with the power of eminent domain if easement  
5 negotiations fail. They will be provided that  
6 power, and that's handled in state courts.

7 At this time, we have a speaker Nancy  
8 Monroe.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I live  
10 at 209 Pine Street in Stoughton. I didn't expect to  
11 get up here so quickly. I thought there would be a  
12 long line ahead of me, and I didn't catch the first  
13 20 minutes of the presentation, so I apologize if I  
14 reiterate.

15 There are several things I would like to  
16 bring to your attention, and if this would be  
17 appropriate format, I trust you'll interject and let  
18 me know. I read in the Patriot Ledger today that  
19 Joseph Kelliher, who is the chairman of FERC, stated  
20 in his opinion there needs to be LNG resources  
21 approved in this region; and if not, the gas  
22 transmission had to be significantly increased in  
23 size. Sounds to me like this has been approved.

24 The question that remains in my mind is

1 where it's going to happen and when, and who's going  
2 to watch out for this to be done correctly.  
3 Everyone here is probably here because they don't  
4 want it, at least in their backyard. Stoughton came  
5 to the surface with the FSP not too long ago  
6 regarding an NStar project, and that correlates in  
7 our minds in the same way that this project does for  
8 several reasons.

9 This project is going to run right along  
10 the largest transmission project in the northeast  
11 region, the largest switch yard, and currently  
12 NStar's soliciting discussions about getting back --  
13 so that's one issue that people at least in my  
14 neighbor are concerned with.

15 Another issue, this will run down the same  
16 transmission path. Well, that path is going to lead  
17 them right by a small elementary school, a hospital,  
18 and other areas that we consider to be sensitive.  
19 So we've tried to present alternative routes, and  
20 you're here tonight, and you're not going to hear or  
21 know about any of those alternative routes, because  
22 it's my understanding that they haven't received all  
23 their permissions to investigate them properly, so  
24 it's almost like taking the cart before the horse

1 again, and that's a concern that I have, and I think  
2 it's a significant concern. It seems to me like  
3 we're doing things backwards.

4 This is a huge project, and I'm not going  
5 to be the person that says it's not needed, and I'm  
6 not going to be the person to say not in my  
7 backyard. Right now it's scheduled to go in my  
8 backyard, but I would like to see things done the  
9 correct way, make sure everything is looked at, make  
10 sure the alternate routes aren't better. Because  
11 last time we looked at alternate routes, there were  
12 a lot of arguments why they weren't better. And you  
13 know what? Three years later it turned out they  
14 sure were. A lot of the facts that came to the  
15 board's review weren't facts at all.

16 It's extremely discouraging to homeowners,  
17 to tax payers, and to residents to know that the  
18 only policing -- individuals that are policing these  
19 matters may not have all the facts at hand. They  
20 may be rushing because they're getting scared tactic  
21 advice from the chairman of FERC who are saying it  
22 has to be done and has to be done now or we're going  
23 to run out of the gas.

24 We heard that three or four years ago from

1 NStar, how we were going to go into blackout mode  
2 and we didn't. Let's just do it appropriately,  
3 please. Thank you for your time.

4 MS. JONES: Thank you. I would like to  
5 state that we are in the very beginning stages of  
6 the review, and we're just beginning to get some  
7 information from Algonquin about the proposal. But  
8 one of the very first pieces of information that we  
9 request from them are alternative analysis,  
10 alternative routes that they've looked at, so if  
11 there's rally concerns that we address that first  
12 and foremost. I believe there might be some maps  
13 tonight of alternatives that are under  
14 consideration. Is that correct?

15 MR. BONSALE: Yes.

16 MS. JONES: So if you wanted to see some  
17 of those maps and what's being looked at, they're in  
18 the back, and somebody from Algonquin can review  
19 that with you. We do -- FERC's aim is to make this  
20 as open a process as possible, and that's why we  
21 have an elaborate system on our Web site where you  
22 can look at the information that we're looking at  
23 for the most part, aside from some mapping  
24 information that's considered noninternet public.

1 That designation will be going away shortly so that  
2 the public will have access as well to the maps, and  
3 you'll receive hard copies from the company.  
4 Alternatives and major rallies is primarily one of  
5 the first things we look at when we start the  
6 review.

7 The next speaker on our list is Chief  
8 Charles Foley.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: Good evening,  
10 and thank you for this opportunity. I'm not quite  
11 sure who I'm going to ask my question to, but I'll  
12 address it to whoever will answer it for me.

13 We've had some experience with Algonquin  
14 Gas in the Town of Randolph for many years. I've  
15 been a member of the fire department for 35 years.  
16 Most recently, they put transmission line, an  
17 18-inch line through the Town of Randolph several  
18 years ago prior to my appointment as fire chief. I  
19 believe it was to feed the power plant down in  
20 Weymouth, a specific power plant. It was an 18-inch  
21 line they ran through the Town of Randolph.

22 I know that the experience with these gas  
23 lines in the local area has been quite good from a  
24 safety standpoint, but we did have several incidents

1 of injury and safety concerns during the  
2 installation.

3 Many of the contractors who run pipelines  
4 come from places like Oklahoma and Texas, and that's  
5 to be understood. Certainly, there is not a great  
6 deal of business in this area for a contractor. We  
7 found out that when some of these people came here,  
8 some of their credentialing was not in line with the  
9 Commonwealth of Massachusetts safety standards  
10 credentialing.

11 We had an injured party during one of the  
12 events that went on during the installation process  
13 here, and we involved the OSHA, the Department of  
14 Public Safety, and the appropriate authorities to  
15 get things turned around. I would just suggest that  
16 we make sure if they're working in the Commonwealth  
17 of Massachusetts, they have the necessary  
18 credentials, licenses. Many, many men with trucks,  
19 digging equipment, and welding, I'm sure they're  
20 very qualified to do what they do, but I think it's  
21 appropriate that they are licensed to work in the  
22 Commonwealth of Massachusetts when they come here,  
23 and I'm not sure that point was addressed  
24 previously. I don't know if they're grandfathered

1 because they work federally or the scope of the  
2 project. I'm not sure, but I know there was a great  
3 deal of distress and anxiety with the people here in  
4 the Town of Randolph when these injuries took place.  
5 Can someone answer this comment or question I'm  
6 making here?

7 MR. DANKANICH: I can attempt to answer.  
8 Again, my name is Alex Dankanich, Department of  
9 Transportation Pipeline Safety. We don't issue  
10 licenses to contractors or workers as such. We look  
11 at the Federal Code concerns that the design,  
12 construction, and operation, and maintenance of the  
13 pipeline. Certain contractors -- certain jobs like  
14 welding are a covered function where a welder has to  
15 be qualified according to a standard by either the  
16 API or the ASME, which is a national standards body.  
17 People like welders have to be qualified. The  
18 materials have to be qualified. The valves, the  
19 pipe itself has to be qualified to a standard. We  
20 don't cover worker safety. Worker safety is  
21 strictly the state or OSHA or the State of  
22 Massachusetts.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: Right, but my  
24 question is who would oversee that in the big

1 picture of the project. I understand there would be  
2 an entity, but in the building out of the process  
3 when contractors come here to do the work, who would  
4 be sure that all their credentials are in order  
5 prior to them being able to work on the project? Is  
6 there a specification or a standard they have to  
7 meet to bid on this project that would conform with  
8 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts? In other words,  
9 heavy equipment operators need to have hydraulic  
10 licenses and things like that. And if people are  
11 injured in the Commonwealth, the first thing they  
12 look at is credentials and licensing.

13 MR. GONZALES: Ed Gonzales, construction  
14 manager for Algonquin. I would just like to try to  
15 answer your questions. One, the contractors will be  
16 required to be licensed in the State of  
17 Massachusetts. Number two, they will have the  
18 realization when they come into the state as far as  
19 the operators to be qualified specifically meeting  
20 those requirements. Third, the contractors are  
21 required to have a health and safety plan, not  
22 something that's just a few pages. We're looking  
23 for a very detailed health and safety plan  
24 concerning materials they are going to have on the

1 job. Number two, worker safety and how they're  
2 going to apply training to those workers throughout  
3 the various activities of the construction project.

4 What we do is we take that health and  
5 safety plan and the company reviews it internally by  
6 their health and safety representatives that have  
7 construction experience background, looking at areas  
8 where there may be concerns or deficiencies. We go  
9 back to the contractor ask them to mitigate and make  
10 the necessary changes to their plan until we're  
11 comfortable with it.

12 Then we require the contractor to have a  
13 safety coordinator on the project, at a minimum one.  
14 Depending on the size of the project and the crews,  
15 they may have multiple.

16 In addition to that, what this company does  
17 is we have safety inspectors specifically on the  
18 projects, again, looking at the contractors' health  
19 and safety plan, assuring that they are meeting  
20 those requirements. If in fact we have any issues  
21 where the contractor is not complying with their  
22 specific plan, we will get with the supervisor  
23 personnel that the contractor has on site and get  
24 the appropriate matter taken care of.

1           If in fact we have instances where people  
2 still are not complying, then we work with the  
3 contractor and look at reassigning those individuals  
4 or relieving them from their task they're  
5 responsible for.

6           So, again, I can't speak for the project  
7 you're talking about from a few years ago, but these  
8 are things that the company has had in place for the  
9 last several years now that we have been  
10 implementing on the various projects throughout the  
11 area where the company operates its systems.

12           AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: Two quick  
13 questions, I guess what you said in the short term  
14 here was that you will work with the Commonwealth of  
15 Mass. to be sure that the people are credentialed  
16 according to Mass. state law and through the  
17 Executive Office of Public Safety for Licensing to  
18 work in the Commonwealth? Is that a yes?

19           MR. GONZOLES: Yes.

20           AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: Because we found  
21 many, many contractors working in this town who were  
22 not licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
23 the last time they were here. That's my concern.  
24 Do you designate a specific person, contact safety

1 person to each community, so that if the fire chief  
2 or the police chief or the public safety entity  
3 wants to talk with that person on a day-by-day  
4 basis, they can just pick up the phone? Is there  
5 notification made to the safety people in each  
6 community in the scope of the project?

7 MR. GONZALES: Yes. We will have during  
8 construction one key contact for the appropriate  
9 towns to make the phone call that will be on the  
10 project.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: So if I had a  
12 location in my town of concern, I could pick up the  
13 phone and that person would be there to see me  
14 within a half an hour, an hour to address my  
15 concern?

16 MR. GONZALES: It may be a couple of  
17 hours, but yes, they will be there.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: And we will  
19 receive that notification and understand that you  
20 would meet with all the public safety entities prior  
21 to the beginning of the project? Is that a  
22 requirement, or is that something that you can do if  
23 you want to do it?

24 MR. GONZALES: We'll do that. As the

1 project further evolves, we will be meeting with the  
2 fire department and police department in all the  
3 various communities that we're going to be going  
4 through, talking about the project, the scope of the  
5 project, assuming it gets approved, going through  
6 our construction schedule. Our plans would also be  
7 to bring in our construction contractors. We plan  
8 on insuring that they have sufficient time to  
9 properly plan and schedule the project, and I see no  
10 reason they can't be part of the those discussions.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: Outside of the  
12 environmental impact of the project here in the Town  
13 of Randolph, I don't want to speak to that issue.  
14 I'm not an expert. I have no knowledge of that. My  
15 chief concern is safety. You understand that. And  
16 I think it would be beneficial if there are nine  
17 communities involved in this, that nine police  
18 chiefs and nine fire chiefs sit in the same room and  
19 get the same story at the same time, because we work  
20 in each others' towns many, many times.

21 MR. GONZALES: I would support that.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: From my  
23 standpoint, the risk to the community as well as the  
24 workers that are coming here from out of the state,

1 as well as my people, the fire fighters in the Town  
2 of Randolph, are greater at risk during the  
3 installation period than they will be after the  
4 project is complete. That's my immediate concern.  
5 Thank you.

6 MR. BONSALE: One other item. Chief, a  
7 number of communities have involved their fire  
8 chiefs in discussions with us, so why don't you see  
9 us after the meeting and we can discuss further --

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: I have another  
11 meeting to go to.

12 MR. BONSALE: We'll follow up with you.  
13 Not a problem. We've been meetings with police  
14 chiefs and fire chiefs in some of the communities.  
15 Obviously, your community has not --

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: We need to bring  
17 everyone together at once.

18 MR. BONSALE: Right, but in your  
19 community, your board has not brought you in. We'll  
20 follow up with you.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: I'm aware of a  
22 meeting that you had with the board of selectmen.  
23 Were you there that night, when they came and talked  
24 about where it was going to go, across South Main

1 Street? I saw that meeting, but I did not attend  
2 that meeting.

3 MR. BONSALE: Right. We'll be glad to  
4 follow up with you.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER FOLEY: We just want to  
6 be on the same page as public safety people. Thank  
7 you.

8 MS. JONES: Thank you very much. Thomas  
9 Colburn.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi, my name is Tom  
11 Colburn. I'm chairman of the school committee in  
12 Stoughton. And what I wanted to voice my concerns  
13 on primarily are that the way the pipeline has been  
14 scheduled to go goes right across the driveway of  
15 the Dawe Elementary School in Stoughton, and that's  
16 an elementary school of approximately 400 students.  
17 This will go within about 400 feet of the school.

18 It's very much of a concern to our  
19 community for safety that it would go in such close  
20 proximity to an elementary school. And what it  
21 would do would be to go right across the driveway  
22 which is the exit to that elementary school, and  
23 then just a little ways down the road, it's right  
24 across the street from the Sinai Rehabilitation

1 Hospital.

2 So in looking at what the impact would be  
3 with having this, for me, I look at this and say  
4 that within our community I don't know how you could  
5 have a larger impact than going right across the  
6 grounds of one of our larger elementary schools and  
7 immediately across the street from a rehabilitation  
8 hospital.

9 So we know that there are alternative  
10 routes that are being considered, and with those  
11 alternative routes, I would suspect that you would  
12 want to have the route be whatever would be the  
13 least amount of impact to -- you listed a lot of  
14 environmental concerns within your concerns but also  
15 the impact to the community.

16 Now, when you're determining the routes, is  
17 something like elementary schools and rehabilitation  
18 hospitals, are those something that come into  
19 concern as far as something that you would see as  
20 something of concern from your group?

21 MS. JONES: Yes.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER COLBURN: Now, with  
23 having the route go, like I said, it goes right  
24 across the grounds to the Dawe Elementary School.

1 Now, as soon as this project was brought to our  
2 attention, we looked at this as a committee, a  
3 school committee, and we voted our unanimous  
4 opposition to this project at this meeting. And  
5 what we would like to do is -- obviously, you'll be  
6 receiving a report from our committee that details  
7 what our concerns are, but what can we do in  
8 addition to verbally telling what our concerns are  
9 to relay what our -- to relay our concerns? Is  
10 there anything in addition to coming to this type to  
11 have meeting to express it?

12 MS. JONES: That is the best way to  
13 relay your concerns, by letting us know and  
14 providing your comments at these types of meetings  
15 and written format so that we can analyze those and  
16 do the field work and request information that we  
17 need to analyze those appropriately.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER COLBURN: Now, with the  
19 concern of the elementary school, it's a combination  
20 of things that concerns us. Number one, obviously,  
21 it's safety. If there ever were to be say some sort  
22 of a leak, no matter where it would occur, it would  
23 be tragic, but to do it where you have such a  
24 centralized location with so many children in one

1 spot or right across from the rehabilitation  
2 hospital, where not only do you have so many people  
3 there, but they're so difficult to transfer, that  
4 would be catastrophic.

5 I know that when we brought this up in our  
6 meeting when Algonquin was kind enough to come and  
7 attend our meeting, we had asked what happens if  
8 there is a leak. And they had explained that in  
9 about 30 seconds, I think it was, that you're aware  
10 of a drop in pressure down in Texas, and they say  
11 they would relay that up to the area, and the  
12 closest in proximity would be notified. They would  
13 drive over to that area, and they would look around  
14 to see where the leak potentially could be.

15 Well, that didn't really calm our concerns  
16 too much, that somebody would drive over there to  
17 see where the leak was as opposed to shutting down.  
18 This is such a large amount of pipeline, that  
19 there's huge amounts of gas going through. I would  
20 think you would want to go through a less dense  
21 population.

22 The other concern we have is the disruption  
23 to the elementary school, because putting in a  
24 pipeline of this magnitude would have to mean an

1 awful lot of construction. So in having that much  
2 construction going on would be a lot of noise  
3 pollution going on.

4 We have an elementary school that --  
5 Stoughton has a fairly modest budget, so we don't  
6 have air conditioning in our school, so in the  
7 windows there's as good as what we can afford to put  
8 in, but I would assume it would make an awful lot of  
9 noise with all the large scale construction going  
10 through. And that's of concern to us as well as, as  
11 I said, with the rehabilitation hospital down the  
12 street.

13 Now, also another thing that would be of  
14 concern is that with that magnitude of construction  
15 going on, that is an area where the kids are let out  
16 of the school and they go right down the driveway.  
17 That is their egress from the school. That's where  
18 they go home. That's where they walk home to. If  
19 that were sealed off, they would not get to that  
20 whole section of town, and so that would be a  
21 problem as far as with hospital itself. If it was  
22 disruptive of the vehicles coming and going from  
23 there, that would be of concern to me as an  
24 individual person, as a taxpayer in Stoughton.

1           But I very much would like you to  
2 seriously consider other alternatives to going  
3 through that area. I know that we were shown that  
4 there were other alternatives that would not go past  
5 those areas, and I would hope that they would be  
6 very seriously considered and that you would look at  
7 the density of just how catastrophic that would be  
8 with the elementary school and rehabilitation  
9 hospital to circumvent that area and find an  
10 alternative route.

11           MS. JONES: Thank you. State Senator  
12 Brian Joyce.

13           SENATOR JOYCE: Thank you. Good  
14 evening. I wanted to echo and amplify some of the  
15 earlier comments, and specifically Ms. Urman with  
16 the State Energy Facilities Siting Board.

17           I want to follow up on a recent experience  
18 in Stoughton, and it is germane to this hearing,  
19 where NStar came before us and sought to cite what  
20 was depicted as a very benign, nondescript, almost  
21 invisible, what was described to me literally as an  
22 animus to a light switch, "Think of a light switch.  
23 We'll cover it. No problem whatsoever."

24           One of the earlier speakers, Nancy Monroe,

1 I wanted to publicly apologize, because you were  
2 right, and I should not have listened to NStar.  
3 They sold us a bill of goods and made every  
4 assurance to that community.

5 I have the pleasure of representing five  
6 communities that this gas line will go through in  
7 Braintree and Canton and Stoughton and Avon and  
8 Randolph. But I'm here to speak specifically to the  
9 portion in Stoughton and tell you first that if you  
10 ever have anything in your power to make NStar go  
11 back and keep its promise and its contract, written  
12 contract written by their lawyers, with a lot of  
13 wiggle room apparently, to the Town of Stoughton  
14 wherein they promised -- a gentleman that I've known  
15 for a long time gave me his word representing NStar  
16 that this facility would be benign -- not this  
17 gentleman who I know to be a good man -- but it  
18 would be hidden, that there would be all kinds of  
19 berms and plantings and such. If you were to drive  
20 by York Street, Route 138 in Stoughton right at the  
21 Canton line, it looks like spaceship earth, and it  
22 is nothing like what had been depicted to us by  
23 NStar, so if there's anything in your power to make  
24 them go back and keep their promise to that town and

1 to that neighborhood, I would ask you most  
2 emphatically that you do so.

3 With respect to this siting, which would be  
4 in the same exact spot, I just want to echo some of  
5 the comments with respect to this proposed I-10  
6 extension through the Town of Stoughton in that it  
7 does indeed impose serious safety risk.

8 This route would run along that NStar  
9 transmission line corridor and directly beneath  
10 those power lines. In addition, the proposed route  
11 would be, as we've heard, in close proximity to many  
12 residents' homes, and of greater concern that it  
13 would be within 100 feet of that elementary school  
14 and the New England Sinai Hospital which, as I think  
15 you picked up from earlier testimony, has patients  
16 that simply could not be moved readily.

17 In light of those very serious safety  
18 concerns, Algonquin has identified a viable  
19 alternative, the so-called I-2 Cross-Country  
20 alternative, which may help avoid many of these  
21 potential safety hazards of the I-10 route and  
22 impact far fewer residents.

23 So I would ask you politely and  
24 respectfully that you indeed conduct a very thorough

1 and detailed analysis of both of these proposed  
2 routes in Stoughton and indeed any others so as to  
3 obviate the very legitimate concerns articulated by  
4 the school committee chairman with respect to the  
5 school and also the power lines, the spaceship earth  
6 that's already there, and importantly the New  
7 England Sinai Hospital and that together you come up  
8 with another route, whether it's this I-2  
9 Cross-Country alternative or another.

10 And finally to the gentleman from Algonquin  
11 who spoke earlier, in the earlier project that came  
12 through Randolph, my experience with Algonquin was  
13 all quite positive. And at that time there was a  
14 willingness to use local contractors and local labor  
15 force, and I would hope and pray that you would  
16 recommit, as you did earlier, to use local  
17 landscapers, local laborers, and local workers when  
18 a route is finally determined. Thank you.

19 MS. JONES: Thank you very much. That's  
20 the end of the speaker list that I have. Any other  
21 comments. Please state your name.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Richard  
23 Levine. I'm the chairman of the board of selectmen  
24 in Stoughton. That's L-e-v-i-n-e. I won't go over

1 everything that has been said.

2 Ms. Monroe, who is one of the leaders  
3 against NStar was right on. We, about two years  
4 ago, fellow selectman Sousa and myself testified  
5 before the ESB regarding NStar, and they sat up  
6 there at the table and very politely pretended to  
7 listen to everything we had to say. And before we  
8 reached our vehicles, the decision had been made.  
9 Actually, the decision had been made probably weeks  
10 before.

11 I would sincerely hope that that isn't the  
12 case concerning FERC. I hope you take everything  
13 into consideration. Mr. Colburn has told you about  
14 the schools and the hospital. I'm very sympathetic  
15 with our neighbors in Weymouth and Braintree and  
16 Randolph and Canton and so forth.

17 We have a particular situation in Stoughton  
18 where this line is coming exactly where that NStar  
19 monstrosity now sits. I have worked with the folks  
20 from Algonquin. I've met with them, my town  
21 engineer, my town manager, and we've gone over some  
22 alternative routes, and they seem to be very  
23 receptive to an alternative route. We hope that  
24 it's not just -- that they're not condescending to

1 us. We hope that you in your wisdom will sincerely  
2 look at those alternate routes and not disrupt the  
3 residents of that area of Stoughton any further.  
4 They've been through enough with NStar and don't  
5 deserve to be put through this again with Algonquin.  
6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. JONES: Would you like to speak?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Eileen Mattis of  
9 Canton. With all due respect to the people in  
10 Stoughton and the state senator, I'm living with the  
11 risk that they're worried about. This exists behind  
12 my house 75 feet from the back of my home. If this  
13 pipeline, which I'm pretty much told I have no  
14 chance of getting rid of, this is an existing line,  
15 if it's not safe for a hospital and it's not safe  
16 for a school and it's not safe for the people of  
17 Stoughton, it's not safe for the people of the  
18 Rebecca Road Wampatuck Park -- of Canton.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Or anywhere else.

20 MS. JONES: Alex, would you care to  
21 speak to any of these DOT safety regulations if that  
22 would be helpful.

23 MR. DANKANICH: Yes, I would like to  
24 speak about the design of the pipeline. Pipelines

1 are designed considering a class location factor.  
2 There's four class location factors. They are all  
3 based on the density of the housing or above ground  
4 structures, whether private single-family houses or  
5 office complexes or schools.

6 The class location -- Class 1 is the lowest  
7 class location factor, Class 4 being the highest.  
8 The higher the class location, the more robust pipe  
9 you will get. In other words, the thicker the wall  
10 and the stronger material of the wall. Pipelines  
11 are graded by the ASME, again, a national standard  
12 entity who grades the strength of certain steels in  
13 the pipeline. So the pipeline is graded, again,  
14 according to the location factor.

15 If you have a pipeline that is pretty  
16 rural, not that many homes along the route of the  
17 pipeline -- they actually go out and count homes.  
18 Algonquin has to go out and count homes within a  
19 sliding one mile -- 220 yards and one mile in  
20 length, and there's a -- it goes by numbers. So the  
21 higher the number within that sliding mile, the more  
22 robust of a pipeline you will get. So to answer  
23 your question, if a pipeline goes through a  
24 community, it is designed with a safety factor, a

1 more robust safety factor.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You just said that we  
3 can take into consideration of schools and hospitals  
4 as a place not to place a pipeline; but yet there's  
5 probably 200 children, old people, everybody, we  
6 live in an area not any bigger than this room from  
7 the pipeline. Why is it safer for us --

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear down the  
9 back.

10 MR. DANKANICH: The question is a  
11 question of safety. Why would we consider schools  
12 above houses. The DOT strictly considers the  
13 population density. The question you ask I can't  
14 answer. Our regulations don't consider -- they  
15 consider high-rise buildings, buildings of greater  
16 than I believe four stories, if I'm not mistaken, to  
17 be a higher classification. If you have a large  
18 high-rise apartment, high-rise office buildings,  
19 then you're in a higher classification factored to  
20 design your pipe. But, again, single-family homes,  
21 they count them as they would count other residences  
22 like that.

23 MR. BROWN: Algonquin, would you like to  
24 add anything to the discussion.

1                   MR. MUHLERR: Yes, I would like to.  
2     Gene Muhlerr, M-u-h-l-e-r-r. Just to address your  
3     question about why you can have a pipeline -- well,  
4     what happens is if the class location around the  
5     pipeline changes, Algonquin is required by the DOT  
6     to go out there periodically and check what the  
7     class location is for the pipeline.

8                   If, for instance, many years ago when we  
9     installed the line, it was a Class 1 rural area and  
10    over time they built some apartment complexes, a  
11    school, something like that, that changes the class  
12    location. Then Algonquin is required to go back in  
13    there, and we have to upgrade that pipe. So we  
14    would go back in there, and we would put in heavier  
15    wall pipe to address whatever the codes and  
16    restrictions are. So that's part of a constant  
17    safety program that we have where we go out there  
18    and address increases in population on pipelines  
19    that we've already got in the area.

20                   For pipelines for new areas where we're  
21    putting, for instance, on this project where we're  
22    proposing the itinerary, that's brand-new. So we  
23    would go in and look at according to the regulations  
24    section by section and we would design the pipe, and

1 we may just go ahead and make everything the same  
2 class and upgrade it so we would not have to come  
3 back in at a later date and disrupt everything and  
4 go with a heavier wall pipe.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just don't  
6 understand how -- first of all, in our neighborhood  
7 the houses were there before the pipeline. The  
8 pipeline was shoved down --

9 MS. JONES: Can you please use the mike.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: From my understanding,  
11 our neighborhood existed before the pipeline, so  
12 there were a number of homes there before any  
13 pipeline was thought of. We now have Shaw Farm  
14 condominiums which backs up to us, which is several  
15 hundred condominiums, and we have large industrial  
16 complex with offices. I just don't understand why  
17 that merits less concern than a school with 400  
18 children. I understand it's children, but there's  
19 plenty of children in my neighborhood. There's  
20 plenty of children in Shaw Farm. What is it that  
21 precludes this pipe from coming up behind us and  
22 being put elsewhere? In addition, I worry  
23 about -- you say it's robust pipe, but what about  
24 things like direct lightening strikes and what about

1 things like earth quakes? Can these things  
2 withstand all these things? When we have had fires  
3 in that area behind my home, brush fires, kids  
4 playing with matches, et cetera, we get fire trucks  
5 from all over creation showing up in that area. I  
6 mean, a small brush fire, we get Stoughton, we get  
7 Canton, we get Norwood, every place. If this is so  
8 safe, what are they worried act? Why don't I just  
9 go out there with my garden hose? What is it?

10 MS. JONES: I appreciate your comments  
11 and I would encourage you to keep the conversation  
12 after the formal part of meeting. Certainly,  
13 routing is one of the most difficult parts of  
14 planning a pipeline, and nobody is saying that a  
15 residence is any less or more important than a  
16 school. They are all concerns that we look at, but  
17 there are safety regulations that are based on  
18 density. You have to find a model to work off of  
19 for design purposes, and routing is very difficult,  
20 and it's a balance. Yes, sir, would you like to  
21 make some comments?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, I would. I would  
23 like to come up to the mike if that's all right with  
24 you.

1 MS. JONES: Please do.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Ed Finn. I  
3 liver at Number One Pine Street in Stoughton, and I  
4 would like to back up with Joe Scardino said about  
5 the rock and ledge. Starting in Randolph, and I'm  
6 not sure exactly where, underneath the line that  
7 they plan on running the gas line, there's rock and  
8 ledge. It's not sand. It's not like what you ran  
9 into coming from the Canadian border all the way  
10 through the State of Maine to wherefore you went.  
11 You probably went through 990 farms, but this is not  
12 farm land. This is rock and ledge.

13 The emphasis that's being put out about the  
14 schools is dynamiting near the schools. Now, one of  
15 your representatives said, "Do you realize how much  
16 progress has been made in the art of dynamiting?"  
17 "No, I don't know." "Well, it's really like putting  
18 a cup of tea on the table." Is it really that easy  
19 for 450 students? Do you know what our greatest  
20 natural resource is? Do you know what it is? Our  
21 greatest natural resource is the minds of our  
22 children, the minds of our children. Not the tomato  
23 that's growing on the vine or the potatoes that grow  
24 in the ground. Our children. Just think about it

1 for a couple of seconds. Anybody, everybody, think  
2 about it for a couple seconds and tell me I'm wrong.  
3 Dynamiting next to a school -- it's all rock and  
4 ledge. As far as I know, over in Randolph and it's  
5 going to go right through the BJ's property, across  
6 Page Street, across Turnpike Street, across Pleasant  
7 Street, across Pine Street, across the school road.  
8 In my wildest imagination, I cannot believe that  
9 somebody would discount the schools and the  
10 children. Thank you very much.

11 MS. JONES: Thank you. Is there anybody  
12 else that cares to speak tonight. Ma'am, please  
13 state your name.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Jean Gately. I'm  
15 a resident of Randolph, and I'm also on the  
16 conservation committee for Randolph. I want to  
17 address some of the concerns that the commission and  
18 the town would have separate from any concerns that  
19 I have as a citizen.

20 A couple of the concerns I have is I  
21 haven't seen any material yet that identifies any of  
22 the wetlands, any of the streams, or waterways that  
23 are impacted by the proposed expansion, whether it  
24 be the I-10 connector or the alternative. Where

1 might I get those materials? Is that something that  
2 would be available this evening?

3 MS. JONES: If Algonquin can update us  
4 on the citizen survey. The FERC, to this date, has  
5 only received some very preliminary project overview  
6 information and alternatives. Those are the first  
7 two large blocks of resource information we ask for.  
8 Then, down the road, we will receive some draft  
9 resource reports that will cover wetlands, and water  
10 bodies, soils, land uses. I believe all of that  
11 information is currently in development, and there's  
12 teams by Algonquin that are gathering that data.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: So that's still  
14 an ongoing process.

15 MS. JONES: I believe so. I think they  
16 will update us on the status of the surveys.

17 MR. DOYLE: Sure. Terry Doyle from  
18 Algonquin, for the record. Survey of the I-10  
19 proposed quarter is underway and near completion,  
20 but we have not finished doing alternative surveys  
21 because we're still seeking permission on those  
22 alternative routes. But the aligned drawings that  
23 are in the back of the room here tonight are the  
24 I-10 proposed alignment with the wetlands delineated

1 on there -- the materials also were in the Resource  
2 Reports 1 and the Alternative Resource Report 10  
3 that have been filed in the local library.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: If I might, do  
5 you also plan to file all the proper notice of  
6 intents that you need to as far as wetlands go, or  
7 are you guys exempt from doing that?

8 MR. DOYLE: We'll be filing a notice of  
9 intent with Randolph as well as the other  
10 communities. We'll also be filing for an Army Corp  
11 permit and 401 with the state as well as going  
12 through the MEPA process.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: Do you have a  
14 current ballpark time frame of when you'll be doing  
15 those particular --

16 MR. DOYLE: Yes. Right now we  
17 anticipate the filing of our notices of intent  
18 starting at the end of the year, so in  
19 December/January time frame.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: You'll be  
21 starting the file those?

22 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: So does that  
24 include the formal application? When is the actual

1 formal application be filed.

2 MR. DOYLE: The formal application, the  
3 notice of intent, you mean?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: No, just in  
5 reference to the project itself.

6 MR. DOYLE: The Federal Energy  
7 Regulatory Commission application will be filed in  
8 March of 2008. We filed Draft Resource Reports 1  
9 and 10 were recently filed, and we'll be filing a  
10 full set of draft reports in December of '07. We  
11 plan on filing our 401 water -- certificate  
12 application with the Massachusetts DEP and our Army  
13 Corp application in March as well at the same time  
14 our federal application goes in.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: Is there a way  
16 of you to forward copies of those to the  
17 conservation commission or is that --

18 MR. DOYLE: Sure those all get sent to  
19 conservation commissions.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: We have  
21 received something that's briefly to this extent,  
22 which I also received as a resident of the town and  
23 an abutter to the project. Besides this, have you  
24 sent anything else to the commission?

1 MR. DOYLE: Resource Report 1 and  
2 Resource Report 10.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: Which is just  
4 the basic drafts?

5 MR. DOYLE: Right, the initial drafts.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: Again, when did  
7 you say the alternative was going to be prepared?

8 MR. DOYLE: The Resource Report 10 is in  
9 draft right now and that's going to be filed.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: Will that need  
11 to be completed before you file any of your notice  
12 of intents or other applications?

13 MR. DOYLE: All the alternative analysis  
14 will be part of our application through the MEPA  
15 process as well as the federal process.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: Would it be all  
17 right for me to assume, then, that you'll have the  
18 alternative done prior to your completing any of  
19 those forms.

20 MR. DOYLE: Absolutely. The alternative  
21 analysis will be part of that.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER GATELY: Thank you.

23 MS. JONES: Yes, sir.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Since this is a

1 scoping meeting, I assume that there's nothing  
2 definitive. Do you revisit this exact same  
3 procedure after you get the final submission? Do  
4 you come back to us after we have all the  
5 environmental data? You're asking for suggestions  
6 to be submitted by 21st, when in fact there is very  
7 little information available at this time. Do you  
8 come back and see us after the information is  
9 available for the general public to see, including  
10 the maps and environmental assessments?

11 MS. JONES: We do come back but not  
12 until after our draft analysis is prepared and put  
13 on the street and has our environmental impact  
14 statement. Algonquin right now is preparing their  
15 draft resources reports that address each resource  
16 area as they provide those to us, we'll provide  
17 comments on them and ask questions, and other  
18 federal and state local agencies will be doing the  
19 same. Those draft resource reports will be  
20 available on our E-library system, and we'll accept  
21 public comments on all of those. When Algonquin  
22 does file their formal application in March, they  
23 will have to address every comment that is received.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is the time line

1 in your decision, assuming they submit everything  
2 they're supposed to?

3 MS. JONES: Assuming they submit a  
4 complete application that meets all the scoping  
5 requirements and minimum filing requirements, we  
6 generally a 10- to 12-month review process, and that  
7 includes preparing our analyses, doing our field  
8 work, issuing a draft which goes out for a comment  
9 period, and we come back and conduct a similar  
10 meeting such as this one tonight after everyone gets  
11 a chance to see that draft. And any questions or  
12 comments provided at that time, we do a revision  
13 addressing those comments and concerns, and that's  
14 final document is what goes to our commissioners.  
15 That environmental analysis is a portion of what  
16 they look at when they're making a final decision  
17 whether a project is in the public's interest. They  
18 also look at markets and tariffs and rates analysis  
19 that occurs in other departments of the FERC. But  
20 all of those pieces come together, and the  
21 Commission makes a final determination of whether  
22 they should approve or deny the project at that  
23 time. Once they file that process, for this project  
24 probably will take generally 10 to 12 months.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

2 MS. JONES: You're welcome. Yes, sir.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Mark Snyder  
4 from Stoughton. I guess I'm going to ask the same  
5 question I've already asked at two previous  
6 meetings. As of yet, I still haven't received what  
7 I consider a good answer to it.

8 Before I ask that question, let me just,  
9 for the folks who are here who may not have attended  
10 previous open houses, the alternative routes have  
11 been discussed numerous times. And many, many  
12 months ago, Algonquin told the people of Stoughton  
13 that they had to get permits to survey properties,  
14 and then they would begin to survey the alternative  
15 route. Months later, they held another open house.  
16 When they were asked directly about the surveys,  
17 they hadn't even begun, and as far as I know right  
18 now, they still haven't begun. Meanwhile, they're  
19 going to come up with a complete draft regulations  
20 by December of 2007.

21 It seems to me there's something missing  
22 here, something really big. One of the things that  
23 really is still sitting in my mind is that in the  
24 world, this entire planet, there is currently no

1 place in this world that has a power company  
2 generating the power that the NStar facility in  
3 Stoughton is coupled with gas line and a school in  
4 the exact same vicinity. Nowhere.

5 Now, I've been told by folks in there that  
6 they have schools that they built by pipelines, and  
7 they certainly have. There have been schools built  
8 after pipelines all over the country. But there's  
9 nowhere where something like NStar is right above  
10 the facility all the way around.

11 I understand why they want to do this,  
12 because it's there, and it's much cheaper to follow  
13 that route, and I understand that, but I am thinking  
14 only from the a safety point of view, and I know  
15 none of us want that built.

16 I understand the need for the gas. There's  
17 no question that we need to fuel and heat our homes  
18 and fuel the other things that we need to do. But  
19 no one has actually given me an answer to that. I  
20 asked it before, and anytime I ask it to anybody  
21 from Algonquin, from FERC, from any of the suits  
22 over here on the left, I get the same answer.  
23 They'll get back to me, or they'll have their press  
24 rep come and give me their canned speech.

1           I think this is absolutely appalling that  
2   it is even being discussed as a primary route,  
3   appalling. I think that there should have already  
4   been a serious discussion of an alternative route  
5   that understands the risk of a catastrophic problem  
6   here.

7           I very much admire our senator for coming  
8   here today, our school committee person, Nancy  
9   Monroe, who said the same thing. I fear the  
10   decision-maker in this case could be dually  
11   influenced. I already documented -- it's already in  
12   official files in the senate. The inspector has  
13   paid -- \$140,000 for federal lobbying including  
14   FERC. That bothers me. I find this whole thing a  
15   little distressing.

16           And, again, I'll ask the same question  
17   again, and maybe someone can give me an answer. Why  
18   would you choose to build this facility in an area  
19   that's never been tested, because, again, there's no  
20   place in the world with an NStar or anything like it  
21   of that size putting out that kind of power -- why  
22   would you build that within 365 feet of an  
23   elementary school with 400 children? I mention this  
24   to someone up front, I find this to be an

1 experiment, and I don't like our kids as part of it.  
2 That's what I have to say, and I would love to hear  
3 an answer to my question.

4 MS. JONES: Mr. Snyder, I don't believe  
5 we can probably answer all of your questions here  
6 tonight. Obviously, there's some things that we  
7 need to analyze -- but there is a general policy  
8 when trying to locate routes to collocate utilities  
9 in existing corridors, to try to limit environmental  
10 impacts, obviously a remote location is ideal when  
11 it can be done. It's a balance. It's a difficult  
12 process, but I can assure you that all the  
13 alternatives will be analyzed, and we will look at  
14 that. And regarding any lobbying efforts, I  
15 couldn't speak to that.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I understand, by the  
17 way, why they would build there. There's no  
18 question as to the reason why. But, again, it  
19 disturbs me that someone from FERC wouldn't know  
20 that this facility in Stoughton is the largest of  
21 its kind in country.

22 MS. JONES: That's why we're here  
23 tonight.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, it's been

1 published. Everybody knows about it. That's why I  
2 think it shouldn't be considered at all.

3 MS. JONES: Thank you. Yes, sir.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name  
5 is Peter Vandamere. I'm speaking from Rehoboth and  
6 and I'm a resident within a half mile of the  
7 compressor station proposed to be there. I just had  
8 two questions. And, also, I feel for the people of  
9 Stoughton and what you're going through in this  
10 process.

11 In Rehoboth, they're proposing a 15,000  
12 watt power compressor station. I don't feel like  
13 I'm at a place to say whether to go there or not go  
14 there. It's a couple of pipelines. We have a great  
15 open meeting in Rehoboth that explained a lot about  
16 it, and I met some of these gentlemen here, and they  
17 were very helpful.

18 I'm only concerned about two things for the  
19 record. One is, are there other 15,000 horsepower  
20 compress stations around? That seems like a lot of  
21 power to me. I've heard about eight, ten, twelve  
22 thousand horsepower, and I would love somebody to  
23 address why the 15,000 horsepower facilities -- if  
24 that's something you guys have had experience of.

1           And, two, the noise factor. We live in a  
2 very tranquil neighborhood, and I believe there are  
3 blankets and different types of insulation that the  
4 building can be modified with, and there's probably  
5 a noise survey that has been done in the area. I  
6 would like to know what the results of that were.  
7 The area we moved out of, the Boston area, to live  
8 because it's quiet. Not that there wouldn't be one  
9 there, a compressor station made as quiet as  
10 possible in that neighborhood. Thank you.

11           MS. JONES: I can speak to the noise  
12 issue. Noise is a large factor when we consider  
13 when looking at the compressor stations. And often  
14 there are preconstruction noise surveys, modelling  
15 done to try and anticipate projected noise after  
16 completion. The EPA has established a nuisance  
17 level of noise at 55 decibels. We have noise  
18 engineers that will conduct that analysis, look at  
19 the modelling, and often what we'll do is our  
20 postconstruction confirmation of the noise levels,  
21 so that we can verify that the engineering that was  
22 designed in there is not at nuisance level and is  
23 working properly. That's generally how we address  
24 the potential noise issues from compressor stations.

1           As far as your question about the level of  
2 horsepower and experience with that, is that  
3 something that Algonquin is prepared to speak to?

4           MR. DOYLE: For the record, Terry Doyle,  
5 Algonquin. We're currently constructing a  
6 compressor station in Oxford, Connecticut. It's  
7 37,000 horsepower, so 15,000 is a small station for  
8 us. We have a station in Burrillville, Rhode  
9 Island, again that's over 20,000 horsepower, so  
10 15,000 really is a single unit, a small unit.

11           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Fairly quiet?

12           MR. DOYLE: Yes. It's a  
13 state-of-the-art design.

14           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

15           MS. JONES: Yes, ma'am.

16           AUDIENCE MEMBER MONROE: Again, I'm just  
17 here to ask a simple question about a comment you  
18 made regarding your Web site. Has there been some  
19 recent change or are you anticipating a change as to  
20 how your Web site is set up as far as accessing  
21 information and recommendation?

22           MS. JONES: Yes. For quite some time  
23 now after September 11th, we established security  
24 categories for what type of information on pipelines

1 and their location were post to the Internet. There  
2 was a category called "Noninternet Public." That  
3 encompassed a majority of the routing maps that the  
4 companies would supply to us.

5 We make a portion of them public record,  
6 but we would not post them to the Internet. We  
7 recently issued an order, I believe in November,  
8 that that category is going to go away so that those  
9 maps will become public and posted on the Internet.  
10 In fact, we're providing more information in regards  
11 to mapping than we previously were able to do so.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER MONROE: Thank you. I  
13 larger concern was with the docket and the filing of  
14 the docket. I still can't access it. Is that  
15 updated where more information is available to the  
16 public on the Web site?

17 MS. JONES: There's been no major  
18 changes to E-library system. The only change is the  
19 amount of mapping material that we will now make  
20 available that previously was part of the public  
21 records. You could come and get it from our reading  
22 room, or you could request it, but we weren't  
23 posting it on the Internet.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER MONROE: But the rest of

1 the information you still have to make a visual  
2 inspection of the docket to get at that information.  
3 You can't get it online.

4 MS. JONES: The docket is online. The  
5 docket is available online. All of the notices the  
6 FERC issues will get posted there, and all the  
7 materials that are public that Algonquin provides to  
8 us will be posted there. Sometimes there is a  
9 delay --

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER MONROE: A big delay.

11 MS. JONES: Well, they have to  
12 physically go through every page and scan in a  
13 format that can be downloaded, so sometimes there is  
14 a delay to posting, but it does get up there.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER MONROE: Is there  
16 someone I can speak to on the details of that --

17 MS. JONES: Certainly.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER MONROE: Who can I speak  
19 with?

20 MS. JONES: You can speak with me. Is  
21 there anybody else that would like to speak tonight?  
22 Without any more formal speakers, we'll conclude the  
23 formal portion of this meeting. On behalf of the  
24 FERC and Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting

1 Board, we would like to thank you all for coming  
2 tonight, and this meeting is concluded. We will all  
3 be here for a little while longer. There's a lot of  
4 maps, and Algonquin folks, FERC, Siting Board, and  
5 DOT's Alex Dankanich if you have any questions for  
6 us. Thank you.

7 (Whereupon, the meeting was  
8 adjourned at 9:32 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kathleen M. Madden, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript, Volume I, is a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes taken on November 5, 2007.

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Kathleen M. Madden  
Certified Shorthand Reporter

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