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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Perryville Gas Storage, LLC : Docket No. CP09-418-000  
- - - - - x

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING  
Environmental Assessment  
Crowville Salt Dome Storage Project

Crockett Point Baptist Church  
139 Crockett Point Church Road  
Winnsboro, Louisiana 71295  
Tuesday, July 14, 2009

The public hearing, pursuant to notice, convened at 7:20  
p.m. before a Staff Panel:

JUAN POLIT, Deputy Environmental Project Manager,  
  
Office of Energy Projects,  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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

2 MR. POLIT: Good evening, everyone. Welcome to  
3 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Public Comment  
4 meeting for the Perryville Gas Storage Project. My name is  
5 Juan Polit; that's J u a n P o l i t, and I work for the  
6 FERC.

7 With me to my right is Mr. Dan Hawkins, he's our  
8 court reporter that we hired to help ensure that we get an  
9 accurate record of tonight's meeting, including all your  
10 comments and some of my responses.

11 I'm the Deputy Environmental Project Manager for  
12 this proposed project. Tonight I'm filling in for Joanne  
13 Wachholder, who is the Environmental Project Manager. The  
14 Project Manager is in charge of preparing the environmental  
15 review of impacts expected from this proposed project. Also  
16 with me here tonight is Tom Hudzik. He's in the back, the  
17 sign-in table.

18 Let the record show that we began the public  
19 meeting at 7:25.

20 The project has been proposed by Perryville Gas  
21 Storage, LLC. The FERC is the lead federal agency  
22 responsible for the environmental review of the proposed  
23 project. This review is required by the National  
24 Environmental Policy Act of 1969, or NEPA for short. The  
25 NEPA requires FERC to analyze the environmental impacts,

1 consider alternatives and provide appropriate mediation  
2 measures for the proposed project. FERC is also the lead  
3 agency for the preparation of the an Environmental  
4 Assessment, or an EA for short. The EA will summarize the  
5 expected environmental impacts of the proposed project.  
6 This EA will become part of the information that the  
7 Commission, where I work, will use in examining the  
8 company's application.

9           Tonight I am providing you with an opportunity to  
10 comment on the issues related to the environmental review of  
11 this project. What I am doing is asking you to identify any  
12 specific environmental concerns that you may have that are  
13 related to the proposed project. Joanne and I will be  
14 preparing the EA. That EA will incorporate issues of  
15 concern raised during the scoping trip that we've been  
16 taking today, and also raised during tonight's meeting, and  
17 that will go into the EA.

18           The EA will become part of FERC's overall  
19 environmental review. This EA will become available for  
20 review by landowners, the general public, and invited  
21 agencies.

22           I want you to know, and stress that no  
23 certificate decision has been made on the company's  
24 proposal. Tonight's meeting is part of the Commission's  
25 scoping process in fulfilling our NEPA requirements. How we

1 consider our role in this process is that we're reviewing  
2 the Company's application, which has already been made, in  
3 the capacity as a regulatory agency that we are. We want to  
4 process the natural gas facility application that we've  
5 already accepted. We are not a project advocate or  
6 promoter; we want to stress that.

7 FERC has already received some environmental  
8 information submitted by the Company regarding its filing,  
9 and that was made I believe in June. FERC will still  
10 receive additional environmental information from  
11 potentially other inputs such as resource agencies, local  
12 governments and others.

13 FERC staff have been visiting the proposed  
14 project area today, and the reason why we're conducting this  
15 meeting is to assist in collecting some of that  
16 environmental information about the potential impacts of the  
17 propose project. These impacts would be on natural  
18 resources and landowners in the immediate area of the  
19 project. FERC's environmental scoping process, in short,  
20 uses this environmental information to develop the general  
21 scope and the level of detail of the EA that we will be  
22 producing.

23 Now the official one month scoping period began  
24 with our issuance of the Notice of Intent to issue an EA, or  
25 NOI for short. That was mailed out on June 26, and that

1 period officially ends on July 27th. This NOI was mailed  
2 out to a party list consisting of landowners, agencies,  
3 governments, elected officials and other organizations.  
4 However, the end of the scoping period, July 27th, is not  
5 the end of public involvement. At any time prior to the  
6 issuance of any certificate related to this project, the  
7 public can continue to send in written comments which will  
8 considered by FERC in its environmental review. The  
9 publication of the EA, which will be posted onto FERC's  
10 website, will include additional opportunity for comments.

11 Now there are two items I just want to bring up  
12 to your attention at this point, and those are: Getting  
13 your comments to FERC and obtaining a copy of the EA. One  
14 way you can use to make comments, suggestions, or to bring  
15 up concerns about the impacts from this proposed project is  
16 to simply file written comments directly with the Secretary  
17 of the Commission. Another way to submit comments is to  
18 write them down on one of the comment forms, in the back on  
19 the table, and either hand those in tonight or you can take  
20 them home and work on them and file them later with the  
21 Secretary of the Commission. Try to file them as soon as  
22 you can.

23 Regarding the comments, try to identify specific  
24 concerns, observations or suggestions about any parts of the  
25 natural or human environment that you feel will be impacted

1 by the proposed project. Examples of comments that you  
2 could include are statements such as, statements about the  
3 actual routing of the various pipelines that are involved;  
4 noise from the proposed compressor station site, the  
5 location of the brine pond or water disposal wells, impacts  
6 on stock ponds, streams, water supplies, wetlands,  
7 agricultural operations, trees, forest, landscaping or on  
8 the general public safety. You can use maps or diagrams,  
9 section, township or range information, or property name  
10 information to help us as FERC Staff identify exactly where  
11 your concern is located along the proposed project.

12 Please make the comments specific to this  
13 particular proposed project. And whenever you do submit  
14 comments, please include the FERC Docket Number on any  
15 comment that you submit. That Docket number is on the sign-  
16 up sheet table in the back, and the Docket No. is CP09-418.  
17 We've brought sheets, available in the back, and these  
18 sheets contain all the specific instructions that you need  
19 to know for how to file your written comments.

20 The second item that I wanted to bring up is  
21 getting a copy of the EA. If you received a copy of the  
22 NOI, that does not mean you will automatically receive a  
23 copy of the EA. In order to receive a copy of the EA, you  
24 have to become part of the environmental mailing list in one  
25 of three ways. The first way is that you can return the

1 mailing-list retention form that was included in the NOI  
2 that was mailed out to you. The second way is that you can  
3 sign up on the sign-up sheet at the table in the back. The  
4 third way is to simply send in a written request to FERC to  
5 be included on that list. If you've already done so, in  
6 other words submitted comments, you are automatically on our  
7 mailing list and the FERC will mail out the EA to you.  
8 Anyone on the mailing list will get an EA. As a reminder,  
9 please be sure to put the docket number on any item that you  
10 file with the Secretary of the Commission; that's how we  
11 know it goes to this particular project.

12 FERC Staff will prepare a summary memorandum of  
13 all your comments collected at tonight's meeting. This  
14 memorandum will include such things as your comments, issues  
15 that you raised, and my responses, and you can read it.  
16 Both the memorandum and the transcript of tonight's meeting  
17 will be put into the public record on the FERC website, and  
18 that can be viewed or obtained just like any other publicly  
19 available information about this proposed project.

20 At this point, do we have any more speakers  
21 other than the first two?

22 Okay. Anytime you want to put your name on, just  
23 let me know. Please feel free to add your name.

24 Before we get to your comments, I just want to  
25 warn you that after closing the comment meeting, I and some

1 of the Company representatives who have come tonight will be  
2 available in the back of the room to entertain questions  
3 mainly about location of where the project is, or what the  
4 project entails.

5 I know some of you who have gotten the NOI or  
6 were not able to go to the Company-sponsored open houses  
7 that were held two months ago, I believe, may not have a  
8 clear picture in your mind of what all is involved with the  
9 storage project and where are all the facilities going to be  
10 located. So they can help answer those types of questions,  
11 but let's do that after the end of the comments.

12 I'm not going to impose the five-minute rule  
13 since we only have two speakers. Our main concern here  
14 tonight, and my main purpose is basically to receive  
15 comments. I can't go into too much detail in responding to  
16 environmental concerns; that's not what the meeting is  
17 designed to do. Given that we seem to have plenty of time,  
18 I'll do my best to answer some of the questions. And when  
19 you do come up -- actually, we'll just hand out the  
20 microphone, and say your name in the microphone so the court  
21 reporter can spell your name correctly.

22 With that, we'll go ahead and start. The  
23 microphone is over here; I'd like to have Larry Banks go  
24 ahead and give his comments first.

25

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1           MR. BANKS: Okay, I really don't have any comment  
2 prepared; I'm trying just to catch up with really what's  
3 going on with this project.

4           When I read about it in the paper, I went to the  
5 website and spent several hours cruising around FERC's  
6 website on this project and never could get any information  
7 for it. So that's the first comment, is the website needs  
8 to be such that it's a little more user-friendly and a  
9 little more accessible to the general public.

10           Let me first say my name is Larry Banks, I have  
11 two farms within a few miles of where this site is; about  
12 248 acres between the two. I've been on the other side of  
13 these public meetings, many times working as a professional  
14 engineer, registered in Louisiana for the Corps of Engineers  
15 for about 37 years; so I've been to many, many meetings very  
16 similar to this, talking about flood control issues.

17           I know the NEPA process, I've been in a bunch of  
18 lawsuits involving the NEPA process, and the first comment  
19 I'd like to make relative to what's in the brochure and what  
20 you said is that I don't think you can make the decision  
21 that you're just going to do an EA under the NEPA process.  
22 You can do the EA and it leads you to an EIS or a finding of  
23 no significant impact. And it's hard for me to say with a  
24 project the size and scope and complexity of this one how  
25 you can end up with just a FONSI on it.

1           The fact that you're looking just to go to an EA  
2 process, I think is not the right way to go, when you really  
3 get down to the NEPA roots, at least from the way the court  
4 has always interpreted it.

5           Another question I might have or just a comment  
6 that the agencies within both the federal government and the  
7 State of Louisiana that are involved in groundwater, wetland  
8 resources and things like that need to be involved in, I  
9 don't know where any of them are represented here. The  
10 Louisiana DEQ should be here, possibly a representative from  
11 the USGS, since the water quality and groundwater impacts of  
12 a project like this can be significant if not handled  
13 properly. So I might just encourage coordination thoroughly  
14 with those agencies as far as this process.

15           I guess the main concern I would have as a  
16 landowner that's going to be in close proximity to this  
17 project is the impact on our groundwater. These days, most  
18 of us probably here that are farming know that you can't  
19 hardly make a crop without using groundwater. Irrigation is  
20 a necessity, and a few years back the wells on my place were  
21 salty. You could start out in May watering and couldn't  
22 taste the salt; and by July, middle of July, it's where you  
23 couldn't even drink the water.

24           It's not that way now, I don't know what changed,  
25 but I hope that this project doesn't reverse that trend.

1       What I've seen and what I know just limited as far as  
2       geology, I don't think it will; but I'd like to know and  
3       have something within the documentation here that assures us  
4       that it will not impact the quality or the quantity of  
5       groundwater that we have in the immediate vicinity of this  
6       project.

7                   I believe that's the main concerns that I have.  
8       I would encourage you, I believe the process in a meeting  
9       such as this, if you didn't sign your name on the sheet you  
10      can still have an opportunity to speak, and so I would  
11      encourage anybody that's got questions to go ahead and speak  
12      up. Because this is one of your few opportunities; that's  
13      what these meetings are for. The decision is going to be  
14      made a long way from Franklin Parish on this issue, and  
15      these guys -- all they're going to know what we think about  
16      is what we voice in either a meeting like this or what we do  
17      through the Internet or mail writing about what's going on  
18      here. So I encourage you, if you've got any concerns, to  
19      speak up here tonight. Thank you.

20                   MR. POLIT: Larry, thank you. I'm glad you're  
21      encouraging people to speak.

22                   I'll make a deal with people -- can you hear me?

23                   VOICES: No.

24                   MR. POLIT: I think I accidentally turned this  
25      off.

1 (Swapping microphone.)

2 MR. POLIT: I just wanted to thank you very much,  
3 Larry.

4 You don't even have to sign up; just raise your  
5 hand, we'll hand the microphone around. And Larry, just to  
6 answer your question about the geological concerns,  
7 concerning groundwater, we typically have a standardized  
8 groundwater discussion. We break it down into groundwater  
9 including public and private wells, irrigation; and then we  
10 have surface waters and then wetlands.

11 In the few storage projects that I've done, and  
12 also have been done in-house from FERC, we have tried to  
13 stretch that section out of it to discuss as much about  
14 groundwater concerns as we can.

15 The Company, they will be able to provide -- if  
16 you want to ask them later -- some specific answers to some  
17 of the problems that may have occurred in the past related  
18 to old, abandoned gas and storage wells that weren't capped  
19 properly, maybe those act up during a project such as this.

20 As far as the EIA-EIS decision, that's a  
21 procedural question. Pretty much what FERC does is we scale  
22 the level of our analysis according to the size of the  
23 project strictly because we have so many projects that are  
24 of a larger size; and we probably would find it infeasible  
25 to do the EIS level for all of them.

1                   Sometimes we do EISs for smaller-scale projects,  
2                   for particularly severe impacts or maybe a lot of public  
3                   interest; but beyond that, I can't really comment or tell  
4                   you exactly why the EAs are so popular with us.

5                   With that, we have Vincent Wilson, he's our next  
6                   speaker. And I apologize if the microphone is not that  
7                   loud.

8                   MR. WILSON: My name is Vincent Wilson, and what  
9                   I want to know is, my being a landowner, if one of the  
10                  caverns collapses, who is responsible for it? Can anybody  
11                  answer that for me.

12                 MR. POLIT: Well, that's a technical question;  
13                 but we can have the Company, if they want to answer that  
14                 after the meeting or if they want to go ahead and do it now,  
15                 we're fine with that; but try to keep it brief.

16                 COMPANY REP: The question is what happens if one  
17                 of those caverns collapses?

18                 MR. WILSON: Yes.

19                 COMPANY REP: The cavern design, from a  
20                 structural strength standpoint, and the salt itself -- the  
21                 well that we just drilled, and we took salt cores, those  
22                 salt cores have gone to a lab, and they're doing all the  
23                 structural analysis on the salt. All that does is design  
24                 the cavern, then we have to -- as a result of that, we  
25                 actually have to maintain a specific amount of gas pressure

1       that we'll have to maintain in the cavern to maintain  
2       structural stability of the cavern.

3               But they're designed such that the cap lock is  
4       over -- the top of this cavern would be about 4,000 feet  
5       below the surface. But that actual cap lock also helps to  
6       support the cavern strength itself.

7               If a cavern were to collapse at the depth,  
8       basically the roof collapse, the sides collapse, or fall in.  
9       The actual over -- because they're so deep, the overburden  
10      or loft above actually supports the earth overlying -- the  
11      earth above it, and actually you would probably not see, at  
12      that depth, not see any effect on the surface itself.

13              On a shallow cavern, we have seen it in other --  
14      not under our operations, but we've seen the results of  
15      those happening -- in South Texas, in Mississippi, they get  
16      these sink holes. Those come from very shallow caverns  
17      where the top of the cavern is actually near the surface;  
18      and then when the cavern itself, were it to collapse,  
19      there's not enough overburden to support it, and so the  
20      ground above it actually sinks with it. Because these are  
21      so deep, there's enough stability and enough strength above  
22      it to actually support the actual surface.

23              Without the specific answer from the core  
24      analysis, the final design of the caverns -- I don't have a  
25      specific answer, but in general at this depth, with that

1 kind of overburden you wouldn't see any effect on the  
2 surface.

3 MR. HILL: Larry, thank you for that  
4 introduction.

5 My name is Stuart Hill, S t u a r t H i l l.  
6 I'm the Editor of the Franklin Sun Newspaper. Also, I'm a  
7 retired federal employee with the Environmental Protection  
8 Agency. We used to do environmental meetings for the public  
9 relative to very critical environmental conditions in  
10 communities.

11 Fortunately, this is not anything that's anywhere  
12 near to some of the things that I'm accustomed to. However,  
13 I am here to object to the process as Larry, our first  
14 speaker did, that we have here. One of the reasons there  
15 are so many questions, and particularly questions by the  
16 general public, is because no one knows anything about this  
17 project up until this point. This is a meeting where only  
18 comments are being taken; questions are not being  
19 entertained. How can you comment on something that you know  
20 nothing about?

21 Larry was employed with the Corps of Engineers,  
22 is that correct? We would do public meetings where we were  
23 obligated to entertain questions; we would welcome  
24 questions. If you can't question, how can you make a  
25 decision or a legitimate comment? Mr. Washington's comment

1 or question about the potential collapse of a dome was  
2 certainly adequately answered, and that's a great thing, but  
3 it's only one of the many things that we need. Larry's  
4 suggestion that we have input from DEQ, Natural Resources,  
5 Wildlife, things like that, are very, very important. We  
6 should know the results of their thinking before we have an  
7 opportunity to contribute our thinking to the process.

8 So this is one of several reasons that I'm  
9 objecting to the way the process is being handled by the  
10 Regulatory Commission; they are the ones that do that.

11 Now the Company has done an excellent job  
12 reaching out to the landowners, and I commend them for that;  
13 and they are certainly a critical part of this project. But  
14 the general public of Franklin Parish is also very critical  
15 to this. They are the ones, they also have a dog in this  
16 fight. They will benefit or pay, however things may fall.

17 I have many questions. Has anyone done an  
18 economic study or an impact: What does this mean to  
19 Franklin Parish? Not only to the landowners. I don't have  
20 any particular experience in land deals or anything like  
21 that, or anything with the nether world of oil and gas  
22 leasing, things like that; but nevertheless, I would like to  
23 know what does it mean? What's the potential, for example,  
24 in the ad valorem tax for the gas storage? What would that  
25 mean to Franklin Parish?

1           I would suggest that things like this would be in  
2           the best interest of the government to come and tell the  
3           general public, to make a presentation: What this means to  
4           you, how it would be helpful to you. This would benefit  
5           your company in the short and long term. Again, I hope you  
6           will excuse me, and not think that I'm rambling too much,  
7           but in closing, I'd like to fully support what Larry said  
8           about the comments; these are critical. Although I just  
9           intimated that you probably can't make wise comments because  
10          you don't have enough information, I urge you to try to get  
11          the information, and if you have comments and concerns, make  
12          them known, because they are the only way that your concerns  
13          will be heard. You will not get much of another chance.

14                 So I would like to ask, although I know perhaps  
15          this one will be entertained: Could we have a description  
16          of the next steps following this meeting that would lead up  
17          to the actual start of any construction of anything physical  
18          that could be viewed by people in the Parish?

19                 MR. POLIT: I'd like to answer that in a bit of  
20          detail here. Thank you for your input, and as someone who  
21          knows about the process here.

22                 Before I go into the next procedural steps that  
23          FERC will go through, if that will clear your mind up a bit,  
24          what we will be doing as FERC staff with the information and  
25          leading toward an EA and what the Company needs in order to

1 get the certificate, in order to get the authorization  
2 letter to construct. I'm assuming that most people have a  
3 basic understanding of what all is involved in the overall  
4 project. And I'll just spell it out for the benefit of  
5 those who may not, to put you in the same mind frame that  
6 I'm in.

7           What I understand is, with the salt dome being in  
8 this area, it affords a natural gas storage company the  
9 ability to carve out, basically, using water, fresh water, a  
10 cavern within the salt dome that is more or less airtight,  
11 you would say; it enables the company to inject natural gas  
12 of a large volume under certain pressure that will not be  
13 able to leak out, and so they can control that gas, keep it  
14 there, send it back out in various directions according to  
15 various needs of the pipeline grid, attached to the storage  
16 project.

17           Specifically they need some fresh water, a gas  
18 well on top of the cavern, and a casing that will go down,  
19 and they'll begin a process to carve out and dissolve a  
20 cavern that if I read properly, is 300 feet in diameter and  
21 goes down quite a ways. If I understand it properly, the  
22 top of it begins far below the surface of the earth. And  
23 they'll dissolve that out, and that will produce a brine,  
24 basically salt water that needs to be piped, using pipelines  
25 from each one of these two caverns that is proposed to be

1 built.

2 That salt water, or the brine water, will be  
3 pumped to a temporary storage area called the brine pond;  
4 and I did not get the chance to visit that today, but my  
5 colleague did. Basically it's a series of ponds that lets  
6 the salt, soluble parts settle out, and then that water gets  
7 moved on to, through additional pipelines to another area,  
8 approximately two to three miles away, where it will be re-  
9 injected into the earth through about four or five brine  
10 disposal wells. These wells will inject the salt water at a  
11 depth of perhaps 3000 to 4000 feet, well below any of the  
12 fresh water aquifers that are used for fresh water and  
13 irrigation purposes.

14 That's the basic nutshell of what is going to be  
15 involved. Once the project is constructed, what you will  
16 see on a permanent basis, going from the most simple to the  
17 most complex -- or let's say go to the end and back to the  
18 beginning -- we'll have these five disposal wells operating  
19 on and off; these pipelines will be in the ground on a  
20 permanent basis. The salt brine pond will be there on a  
21 permanent basis and probably fenced off, and the caverns  
22 will be there with their pumps going on and off on a  
23 permanent basis. We'll then see some of these areas look  
24 like your typical gas well or oil well in terms of having a  
25 gravel surface, and fencing.

1           I believe the largest impact will be the  
2 compressor station site which will be used to inject the gas  
3 into the caverns and to get it out. This compressor station  
4 looks roughly like something you may find on the photo board  
5 in the back room under the title, gas storage facility.  
6 That's an above-ground facility, it's a soundproof building  
7 with lots of smaller above-ground facilities surrounding it  
8 and a large, gravel-covered penstock area.

9           And that will produce some noise on a permanent  
10 on and off basis. For the four, five or six landowners or  
11 residences, then maybe within one to two to three thousand  
12 feet at that site they may be able to hear that noise.  
13 That's one of the things we'll be discussing a lot in the  
14 EA, because we've already guessed that based on past  
15 projects like this, noise generation is a big issue.

16           So that is my rundown of what the project  
17 entails, from my understanding, and you can get some  
18 graphical depictions of that. Take a look at them, they're  
19 in the back.

20           Now as far as the FERC process, we're going to  
21 start right away, and one of the first things that we do, in  
22 looking at the application that has already been filed,  
23 there are several sections of environmental information,  
24 going over things like water, wildlife, threatened and  
25 endangered species, wetlands, agriculture, groundwater,

1 noise, and a little bit of a discussion about socioeconomic  
2 impacts which will be -- usually we have a brief section on  
3 that topic.

4           While we've got this sitting on the record, we're  
5 going to be looking at it and we are preparing our data  
6 request, and that will go out to the Company; that will ask  
7 for additional information which is almost always the case.  
8 We always find that we are lacking the level of  
9 environmental information that we want to have to be able to  
10 put into the EA.

11           Once that is done you can expect another response  
12 from the Company with a lot of information in it; that's  
13 publicly available, most of it. We'll then prepare the EA.  
14 We feel that an EIS will probably not be warranted, but we  
15 officially keep it as an EA, which is a decisional document,  
16 which has a statement along with it that's called the FONSI,  
17 and if we find that we don't have any incredibly severe  
18 impact on the local people or on the local environment,  
19 we'll say that and we'll have it there, and we will not  
20 issue an EIS; we'll just issue the EA. The EA will be a 50  
21 to 100 page document that we will produce and publish on the  
22 website along with a notice. So there's a notice of the  
23 availability of the EA, which will go out to all the people  
24 who got the NOI.

25           Of course we will be updating the landowner list

1 to make sure it's as current as we can have it. Once that  
2 EA goes out for public comment, you will have it, so a more  
3 strict public comment period. Usually it's 30 days, but we  
4 can make it 45; we'll decide that at the time. Once that is  
5 done -- working toward the end of the summer now -- we'll  
6 give maybe a week or two for the comments to come in that do  
7 come in; we'll incorporate those into the EA, and then we  
8 give that to the lawyers, and the lawyers at our agency who  
9 are in charge of taking the EA along with all the other  
10 company information, will write what is known as an order,  
11 and the Commission at one of its meetings decides that NEPA  
12 has been met and we've adequately addressed the environment  
13 impacts, and we've recommended some mitigation measures that  
14 we feel will try to lessen the impacts, they will go ahead  
15 and issue that order at that time, they will make the  
16 decision.

17 So when that happens, we're expecting that, the  
18 soonest that could probably happen is probably at the end of  
19 the year. Then the company gets their certificate. At  
20 that time they can request authorization to construct. If  
21 they have to comply with additional environmental  
22 conditions, they still have to do that before they could  
23 construct; and as far as the construction schedule, I'm not  
24 totally familiar with the length of these. They could range  
25 from six months to a year or maybe two years. Usually what

1 happens is they'll do one cavern and get the compressor  
2 station up and running, and I guess that will take all of a  
3 good year, but they can answer that.

4 From that point on you will see these facilities  
5 being constructed in the various areas that they've mapped  
6 out. So just a rough time schedule is sometime next year is  
7 when you may see construction if we give a certificate. I  
8 hope that wasn't too long of an answer.

9 MR. HILL: Clarification, please. As I  
10 understand it, there will be a second comment period  
11 following the issuance of your environmental assessment?

12 MR. POLIT: Right. The day that we issue an EA,  
13 there will be another comment period.

14 MR. HILL: There will be an opportunity to review  
15 your assessment?

16 MR. POLIT: Yes. So you're going to have a  
17 chance to look at my assessment.

18 MR. HILL: Or if it's not issued, an alternative  
19 document will be issued.

20 MR. POLIT: Yes, that's standard for all of our  
21 EAs, pretty much. Well, let me back up. Not all of our  
22 EAs go through that, but for this one we know we are going  
23 to want to have the public to be able to look at the EA and  
24 comment on it. And additional analysis and additional  
25 mitigation, even the very specific ones related to specific

1 landowners, or environmental issues brought up, can and  
2 often do come out of that secondary comment period.

3 Would anyone else like to comment?

4 MS. COMACK: I want to say something.

5 MR. POLIT: Sure. The microphone is coming.

6 MS. COMACK: And I'm a landowner. Cathy Comack.

7 We have existing catfish ponds. Jim is 65, he's  
8 going to weed them out. And the guys that came out to the  
9 house maybe spent ten minutes there, asked Jim and I if they  
10 could buy 20 acres. Didn't say what the 20 acres was for,  
11 didn't say where they wanted the 20 acres off the property,  
12 off the 240, and just left it at that; because Jim said  
13 "Man, I would like to sell the whole place." But they  
14 didn't explain themselves. They said "No, thank you," and  
15 left.

16 Well, then we find out that they bought the place  
17 right across from the pond. And Sherry, who -- she doesn't  
18 want the pond to cross there, which -- you know, I can  
19 understand that. I said "Well, Jim is getting out of the  
20 business, the ponds are there, we have wells there that they  
21 could use, there's aeration that you're going to need" and  
22 they just didn't think it through and they didn't discuss  
23 it.

24 It's kind of like they're doing their own little  
25 thing and I really would have thought that would have been a

1 super place because Jim's already got two empty ponds in the  
2 back and it's closer to your site. So why wouldn't you  
3 consider it?

4 MR. POLIT: Well, usually we don't get in the way  
5 of lease negotiations between the company and landowners;  
6 the people they need to get permission from. Whether they  
7 support the project or they want the company to use their  
8 facilities is something we really don't get involved with.

9 MS. COMACK: But it would really be a good  
10 location for your brine pond because it's already there.

11 MR. POLIT: I hope that they've made the best  
12 decision, but you're free to discuss with them in the back,  
13 if you like.

14 MS. COMACK: Well, I talked to Ron a week ago. I  
15 didn't realize we could just make comments.

16 MR. POLIT: We're taking all comments here; but  
17 that's another thing. I kind of like to break it out and we  
18 have a more informal discussion at the end, so specific  
19 questions can be answered more directly. And I expect a lot  
20 of you may want to look at the maps a little bit more, if  
21 you weren't able to come to the open house.

22 Thank you very much for your comment.

23 MS. COOPER: I have a comment, too. Sherry  
24 Cooper, C o o p e r.

25 I am directly across from the pond site, and I

1 have direct concerns about, you know, what if this lid  
2 breaks? I mean, I have small children. And I'm like Cathy;  
3 I don't think they did their homework. And we were not  
4 consulted. I mean, I'm just saying that that wasn't our  
5 land to say whether we want it sold or not, that wasn't our  
6 concern. I think that they should have been a little bit  
7 more lenient with what was going on. I feel like I wasn't  
8 informed, you know.

9 MR. POLIT: Are you saying you weren't as  
10 knowledgeable about what it was going to be used for?

11 MS. COOPER: Exactly.

12 MS. COMACK: They didn't tell us at all. We  
13 found out at your open house that it was going to be a pond.

14 MR. POLIT: I see. Myself, I don't even know  
15 how big these ponds are, but I'd like to be in on the  
16 discussion, if you want to go in the back. I thank you for  
17 your comment as well.

18 MR. BANKS: My name is Glen Banks, I'm a retired  
19 engineer with the Corps of Engineers, also.

20 Today is the first real knowledge that I've  
21 discovered about this project and asked some questions today  
22 at the site visit.

23 One thing, in all my experience with the Corps of  
24 Engineers in dealing with disasters that occur,  
25 environmental disasters not even related to the oil field

1 industry, is that there's not enough foresight taken when  
2 you design the project to consider what happens if this  
3 country goes bankrupt 75 to 100 years from now. It just  
4 walks off and leaves four holes in the ground going down  
5 five and six thousand feet, in extremely salt water, and  
6 walks off. There's no funding, there's no bond set up to  
7 support any agency to go in there and cap that potentially  
8 dangerous situation that could possibly render all of our  
9 fresh water aquifer in Louisiana in danger for vegetable  
10 production, which may occur in the next 100 years here.

11 I just think that someone really needs to look at  
12 what happens if this particular company gets hit with  
13 disaster in some other situation and goes belly-up and has  
14 to abandon these facilities, and nothing is done with those  
15 deep injection wells.

16 The project sounds good in its overall conception  
17 if everything works fine; but nothing lasts forever, and  
18 there's a lot that can happen in 75 years, and somebody  
19 needs to look at it. And if I was in the federal agencies,  
20 I think it should be a national policy where a bond is set  
21 up to cover the cost of plugging these wells if a company  
22 abandons the wells for any reason to where there's funds set  
23 up to immediately stop potential contamination.

24 MR. POLIT: Thank you very much.

25 MR. BASS: Is there someone here who can answer

1 that question now?

2 MR. POLIT: From an engineering point of view?  
3 I'll bet you.

4 MR. BASS: Someone with the company.

5 MR. POLIT: I think so.

6 MR. BASS: It would be interesting.

7 MR. POLIT: Any more comments tonight?

8 MR. BASS: I have a personal question.

9 MR. POLIT: State your name, too.

10 MR. BASS: Mike Bass. I received a letter  
11 inviting me to this meeting as a landowner, and the nearest  
12 land that I have is up Section 10, out of Baskin, Louisiana.

13 (microphone adjustment)

14 I want to know if this salt dome here is  
15 connected or related in any kind of way with the ones at  
16 Baskin.

17 MR. POLIT: At where? At what location?

18 MR. BASS: Baskin, Louisiana. East of Baskin.  
19 They were recently attempting to develop those salt caverns  
20 also for natural gas storage, had contacted me several  
21 months ago about that one. Is this connected to that one up  
22 there?

23 MR. POLIT: Well, they're all connected in some  
24 way, shape or form, because they all connect to the natural  
25 gas system; but on that specific one maybe the Company is

1 the one to ask tonight.

2 Just to make sure I spelled your name correctly,  
3 is it B a s k i n?

4 MR. BASS: B a s s. Bass.

5 MR. POLIT: Oh, Bass. Like the fish.

6 Mack is the first name.

7 MR. POLIT: Oh, I misunderstood. So it's Mike  
8 Bass asking about the salt bass storage project, so I guess  
9 I missed it.

10 MR. BASS: Okay.

11 MR. POLIT: Make sure you ask that question in  
12 the back, as well.

13 MR. POLIT: Well, it's 8:15, if we don't have any  
14 additional questions or comments, I would like to go ahead  
15 and close. And if that's possible, I'm eager to go in the  
16 back and answer some more questions and have the company  
17 help me out with more technical questions and locational  
18 questions that you may have.

19 MR. WASHINGTON: Otis Washington.

20 The salt dome, how many years is it going to  
21 perform?

22 MR. POLIT: How many years will it be running?

23 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes. You don't know, or ten,  
24 twenty years from now?

25 MR. POLIT: You mean how many years will it take

1 to begin the project?

2 MR. WASHINGTON: Until you're operational.

3 MR. POLIT: Fully operational?

4 MR. WASHINGTON: Yes.

5 MR. POLIT: Probably on the scale of a half to  
6 one year.

7 COMPANY: Three years.

8 MR. POLIT: I see three years in the back. So  
9 it's not too long.

10 All right, with that I'll go ahead and close the  
11 meeting; and I thank you very much for coming and being  
12 patient tonight. It's 8:15 and this meeting is closed.  
13 Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, at 8:15 p.m., the scoping meeting  
15 concluded.)

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