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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Columbia Gas Transmission, Inc. Docket No. PF12-6-000
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LINE MP LOOP EXTENSION PROJECT

Youth's Benefit Elementary School
1901 Fallston Road
Fallston, Maryland 21047
Wednesday, May 9, 2012

The public hearing, pursuant to notice, convened at 7:05
p.m, before a Staff Panel:

MEDHA KOCHHAR, Ph.D., Environmental Project
Manager

ERIC HOWARD, Assistant to Dr. Kochhar

DOUG SIPE, Outreach Manager

With:

JOHN RINKUS, Manager of Asset Management,
Columbia Gas Transmission, Inc.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

DR. KOCHHAR: Good evening, everybody.

On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also known as FERC, I would like to welcome you all here tonight. This is an environmental scoping meeting for the Line MB Loop Extension Project proposed by Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC, we often call it "Columbia."

Let the record show that the public scoping meeting in Fallston, Maryland began at 7:05 p.m. on May 9th, 2012. The primary purpose of this meeting is to provide you an opportunity to comment on the project or on the scope of the environmental analysis being prepared for the Line MB Loop Extension Project.

My name is Medha Kochhar, I'm an Environmental Project Manager with the Commission's Office of Energy Projects. With me today at the table tonight is Doug Sipe, he's our Outreach Manager; and Eric Howard, he's assisting me with this project.

Working at the sign-in table we have Howard Wheeler; he is also in our certificates department. So we also have some representatives from other agencies like Joe Deviante sitting at the back; he's from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We have folks from Columbia, and you have seen the table set up outside with alignment sheets and monitors to help you out, locate any of your property

1 locations or help out with questions you may have. We also
2 have John Rinkus here with us, from Columbia.

3 Now I'm going to turn this over to Eric Howard,
4 who is going to present to us information about FERC and our
5 process. Thank you.

6 MR. HOWARD: FERC is an independent agency that
7 regulates the interstate transmission of electricity,
8 natural gas and oil. (Microphone adjustment.)

9 FERC is an independent agency that regulates the
10 interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas and oil.
11 FERC reviews proposals and authorizes construction of
12 interstate natural gas pipeline, storage facilities, and
13 liquefied natural gas or LNG terminals, as well as licensing
14 and inspection of hydroelectric projects.

15 As a federal licensing agency, the FERC has a
16 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act,
17 or NEPA, to consider the potential environmental impacts
18 associated with a project when it is under construction.

19 With regard to the Columbia Line MB Loop
20 Extension Project, FERC is the lead federal agency for the
21 NEPA review and the preparation of the environmental
22 document.

23 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to
24 participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of
25 the environmental document. They may use this documentation

1 to meet their respective NEPA responsibilities associated
2 with the Department of Army permit decision.

3 As I said earlier, the primary purpose of this
4 meeting tonight is to give you an opportunity to comment on
5 a project or on the environmental issues that you would like
6 to see covered in the environmental document. It will help
7 us most if your comments are as specific as possible
8 regarding the potential environmental impacts and reasonable
9 alternatives of the proposed Line MB Loop Extension.

10 These issues generally focus on the potential for
11 environmental effects, but may also address construction
12 issues, mitigation, and the environmental review process
13 itself. In addition, this meeting is designed to provide
14 you with an opportunity to meet the Columbia representatives
15 and to ask them questions and to get more detailed
16 information about their proposed facility, locations and
17 construction plans.

18 Tonight's agenda is relatively short. First I
19 would like to describe the environmental review process and
20 FERC's role in this project. Second, we're going to let the
21 project sponsor, Columbia, give a more complete description
22 of the project. And lastly, we will hear from you that have
23 signed up to speak. If you would like to present comments
24 tonight, please be sure to sign the speaker's list at the
25 sign-in table.

1 Now I would like to briefly describe our
2 environmental review process to you. To illustrate how this
3 process works, we have prepared a flow chart, and there are
4 several copies of it at the sign-in table. You will no the
5 Pre-Filing Environment Review Process over here to the right
6 of me. And we are still early in the review process. We've
7 got three yellow-shaded areas there that you'll notice; and
8 the first shaded area is where we are in the scoping
9 meeting.

10 Columbia entered into the FERC pre-filing process
11 on January 24th, 2012, which began our review of the
12 facilities that we refer to as the Line MB Loop Extension
13 Project. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to
14 encourage involvement by all interested stakeholders in a
15 manner that allows for the early identification and
16 resolution of environmental issues.

17 As of today, no formal application has been filed
18 with the FERC. However, the FERC along with other federal,
19 state and local agency staffs have begun review of the
20 project.

21 On April 16, 2012, FERC issued a Notice of
22 Intent, or what we refer to as an NOI to prepare an
23 environmental assessment, or E.A. for this project, and
24 initiated a scoping period.

25 The scoping or comment period will end on May 16,

1 2012. Don't confuse that with other comment opportunities;
2 you have that throughout this process, but this is just for
3 the scoping period for the NOI.

4 During our review of the project, we will
5 assemble information from a variety of sources, including
6 Columbia, the public, other state, local and federal
7 agencies, and our own independent analysis and field work.
8 We will analyze this information and prepare an
9 environmental document that will be distributed to the
10 public for comment.

11 Once scoping is finished, our next step will be
12 to begin analyzing this company's proposals and the issues
13 that have been identified during the scoping period. This
14 will include an examination of the proposed facility
15 locations, as well as alternative sites.

16 We will assess the project's effects on water
17 bodies and wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, threatened and
18 endangered species, cultural resources, soils, land use, air
19 quality, and safety. When complete, our analysis of the
20 potential impacts will be published in an E.A. and presented
21 to the public for a 30-day comment period. This E.A. will
22 be mailed to all interested parties. Please note that
23 because of the size of the mailing list, and the mailed
24 version of the E.A. is often on a CD. This means unless you
25 tell us otherwise, the E.A. that you will find in your

1 mailbox will be on CD. If you prefer to have a hard copy
2 mailed to you, you must indicate that on the return mailer
3 attached to the back cover of the NOI. That's the harder
4 page on the back that has the address as well as the form to
5 fill out on the back. You can also indicate that on the
6 attendance sheet tonight when you sign in.

7 As I mentioned earlier, our issuance of the NOI
8 opened a formal comment period that will close on May 16th.
9 The NOI encourages you to submit your comments as soon as
10 possible, in order, to give us time to analyze and research
11 the issues. If you received the NOI in the mail, you are on
12 our mailing list, and will remain on our mailing list to
13 receive the E.A. and other supplemental notices or documents
14 we may issue about the project unless of course you return
15 the mailer attached on the back and indicate you wish to be
16 removed from the mailing list.

17 There are copies of the NOI available at the
18 sign-in table, or there were some earlier. If you did not
19 receive an NOI in the mail, you should have and we
20 apologize. The mailing list for this project is large and
21 undergoing constant revision. You can be added to our
22 mailing list by signing up at the table in the back or
23 submitting comments to the project.

24 I would like add that FERC encourages electronic
25 filing of all comments and other documents. Brief

1 instructions were provided in the Notice, and a small
2 brochure that explains the FERC's eFiling process is
3 available on our website, and we have copies at the sign-in
4 desk.

5 Make sure, if you are e-Filing, to include your
6 complete name, mailing address and docket number.
7 Additionally, instructions for this can be located on our
8 website, at www.FERC.gov under the eFiling link. If you
9 want to submit written comments, please follow the
10 directions in the NOI.

11 It's very important that any comments you send,
12 either electronically or by traditional mail, include our
13 internal document number for the project. The docket number
14 is in the cover of this NOI and is available at the sign-in
15 table. If you decide to send us a comment letter, please
16 put that number on it; that will ensure that the members of
17 the staff evaluating the project will get your comments as
18 soon as possible. The Docket number for the Line MB Loop
19 Extension Project is PF12-6.

20 Now I'd like to explain the rules of the FERC
21 Commission and of the FERC environmental staff. The
22 Commission is led by five members, who are responsible for
23 making a determination on whether to issue a Certificate of
24 Public Convenience and Necessity to the applicant. In this
25 case, that is Columbia.

1 The E.A. prepared by the FERC environmental
2 staff, which I am a part of as well as others, describes the
3 project facilities and associated environmental impacts,
4 alternatives to the project, mitigation to avoid or reduce
5 impacts, and our conclusions and recommendations. The E.A.
6 is not a decision document. It is being prepared to
7 disclose to the public and to the Commission the
8 environmental impact of constructing and operating the
9 proposed project. When it is completed, the Commission will
10 consider the environmental information from the E.A. along
11 with non-environmental issues such as engineering, markets
12 and rates in making its decision to approve or deny
13 Columbia's request for a certificate.

14 There is no review of FERC's decision by the U.S.
15 President or Congress, maintaining FERC's independence as a
16 regulatory agency and providing for fair and unbiased
17 decisions.

18 At this point, are there any questions about the
19 agency's roles or our process?

20 AUDIENCE: What's the significance of May 16th?

21 MR. HOWARD: That is the end of the scoping
22 period. That's merely a step in the NEPA process. The NEPA
23 process is a long range throughout the production of the
24 environmental assessment. So that just ends the scoping
25 period for the Notice of Intent to prepare an E.A.. So

1 there's plenty of other comment period times throughout
2 this process; that's just a milestone, so to say, for the
3 project. It is not an 'end of comment period' for the
4 project.

5 AUDIENCE: Thank you.

6 MS. SCHEIR: When during the process does it
7 become a contested proceeding which, I understand, is
8 predicated by an actual filing by Columbia Gas. Is that
9 post the E.A. production or during?

10 MR. SIPE: The mic situation will be a little bit
11 tricky. Usually we have a mic sitting out there, but we
12 don't.

13 Doug Sipe, I'm Outreach Manager at FERC. To
14 answer your question, it's only contested once the
15 application is filed. Right now we're in what is called the
16 pre-filing process; the company has not filed an application
17 yet. Usually they have to be in pre-filing for six months.
18 So they're about around three months right now. Most
19 companies are in it longer.

20 But once they file the application, and we notice
21 that application, we have ten business days to actually
22 notice it. Either accept that application or reject that
23 application. At that point what comments come in, we view
24 those comments either as a protest or as not a protest.

25 You may have a project that is filed at FERC and

1 is never really officially protested; we make that call.

2 MS. SCHEIR: It's my understanding that during
3 the pre-filing phase while comments are submitted, those
4 same comments need to be resubmitted under the contested
5 proceeding docket number?

6 MR. SIPE: No. The comments we're getting here
7 tonight, which is being court reported, the comments that
8 have already come in the door, the comments throughout the
9 whole process are all treated equal. It doesn't matter when
10 they come in the door.

11 The only thing, like these dates, like the May
12 16th date, that's a NEPA time frame. That's under the
13 National Environmental Policy Act; is a time frame that's
14 set on an E.A. just to give us a date where once we can --
15 you know, we're going to produce an E.A. once the
16 application is filed. This date is just a NEPA time frame.
17 We're going to continue accept comments until the Commission
18 votes on this project.

19 MS. SCHEIR: Understood. So if you have e-
20 subscribed and you're receiving information about Docket No.
21 PF12-6 and the docket number changes, those comments filed
22 under PF12-6 are going to roll over?

23 MR. SIPE: They will.

24 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes.

25 MS. SCHEIR: And be filed under the new docket

1 number?

2 MR. SIPE: Right. It's all part of the docket
3 number. Right now, PF stands for pre-filing. The only
4 thing, there is a glitch in the FERC system, which we were
5 going to mention anyhow, is the fact that if you e-subscribe
6 to this project, which an eSubscription is you go in through
7 the eFiling process and you e-subscribe. So everything is
8 filed on the record, or that we issue; anything that comes
9 in eLibrary, you will get an e-mail notification about it.
10 You can either open it, delete it, or do whatever you want
11 with it.

12 Once the application is filed, the PF number will
13 change to a CP number, which stands for certificate
14 proceeding. You will have to re-eSubscribe. We've been on
15 our IT department for years to try to fix that, and I have
16 no idea why they can't.

17 MS. SCHEIR: Once you all have produced the E.A.
18 and it becomes available for public comment, is that a time
19 when Columbia Gas files, or that's completely up to them? It
20 could be now, it could be later, we don't have any idea when
21 that's going to happen?

22 MR. SIPE: No, they need to file the application.
23 That's the data that we use to produce an environmental
24 assessment. They're required under regulation to file
25 certain data to us. That information, along with all the

1 comments we receive and all the agency work that goes on
2 throughout the process, all that data is used in producing
3 that environmental assessment. Okay?

4 We'll take one more question. This was a
5 process-type of question. Sir, we'll take one more.
6 There's going to be plenty of time; we have a speaker's list
7 here, we're going to go down through the speakers. We will
8 try to answer as many questions as we can tonight, but we
9 have to respect the speaker's list and go from there.

10 You'll take your question, sir. You have to have
11 a mic and you have to speak your name for the court
12 reporter.

13 MS. SCHEIR: My name is Beth Scheir, I'm with the
14 Greater Fallston Association.

15 MR. TOMKO: My name is Mike Tomko, I'm a
16 homeowner, one of the affected homeowners.

17 The emphasis on these hearings is about
18 environmental. At what point, does public safety get the
19 same amount of emphasis? And at what point would that be?
20 Because I was at the meeting last night, too, and then
21 obviously here the emphasis is on the environmental impact.

22 But there are as many public safety questions and concerns
23 I think, as environmental questions facing this project.

24 MR. SIPE: Correct. This is a public scoping
25 meeting. You have environmental staff from FERC running

1 this meeting, along with Outreach, the Outreach staff. This
2 is your venue for a public meeting.

3 The safety aspect, we will discuss safety in the
4 environmental analysis of this project. We work with the
5 Department of Transportation, PHMSA, which stands for
6 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
7 They will review the safety section. They are the agency
8 that is in charge of safety for all pipeline projects. Not
9 just natural gas; any pipeline project. PHMSA does that for
10 pipelines. DOT obviously does it for a bigger picture.

11 So any comment that you have tonight, like when
12 you heard his opening speech, this is a public scoping
13 meeting; it's not just environmental. We are your face at
14 FERC for you guys to give us any comment you want, and we'll
15 try to answer any question that you may have. So sir, you
16 can ask your question a little bit later.

17 AUDIENCE: I just wanted to find out when will
18 you let us ask questions. I don't have a comment, but I
19 have some questions.

20 MR. SIPE: Okay. We will get to that later
21 tonight. Let us get to -- we only have a couple more
22 minutes here. Columbia Gas is going to give a little bit of
23 a presentation about their project. I have a speaker's list
24 here with about 11 people on it, so I'm going to need to get
25 down through there.

1 Now if the speakers have questions while they're
2 speaking, we'll try to answer those also. But in respect to
3 whoever signed up on the list, I need to go down through
4 that list first and then, at that point you guys can ask as
5 many questions as you want. Anything I say or caution you
6 on is when you do ask a question or speak, since this is
7 being court reported to night, you see the transcriber, you
8 have to have a mic in your hand and say your name before you
9 ask the question. Because that builds the record.

10 This transcript will be available to everybody on
11 our eLibrary system; they can view it a couple days
12 afterwards; as quick as he can type it up and get it into
13 our record, okay?

14 MR. HOWARD: As Doug mentioned, we have Columbia
15 here tonight to discuss the project. We have John Rinkus,
16 he's the Construction Superintendent for this project.

17 MR. RINKUS: Thank you, Eric.

18 Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is
19 John Rinkus and I am a Construction Manager for Columbia Gas
20 Transmission. On behalf of myself and my team members, I
21 would like to thank all of you for coming out tonight to
22 attend this scoping meeting, and for your support of this
23 ongoing effort to educate and inform you about the MB Loop
24 Extension Project.

25 I would also like to thank Medha Kochhar of FERC

1 and her staff for sponsoring this meeting. It demonstrates
2 their dedication and determination to inform the public on
3 this project and others throughout the country.

4 Currently, the project scope is as follows:
5 Columbia is proposing to install a 21.4 mile, high strength
6 steel, 26-diameter underground pipeline beginning at
7 Columbia's Owings Mills meter station on Reisterstown Road
8 and terminating at Columbia's Rutledge Compressor Station
9 near Fallston and Rutledge Roads.

10 In addition to the pipeline, two bidirectional
11 traps will be installed, one at each end at the locations I
12 just mentioned. And two main line valve sets will be
13 installed; one at Columbia's Beaver Dam meter station, and
14 one at Columbia's Manor Road meter station.

15 Finally, line markers and test stations will be
16 placed at various locations along the right-of-way upon
17 completion of the project per Department of Transportation
18 regulations.

19 Columbia representatives will be available during
20 this meeting to help anyone with questions. Feel free to
21 contact them. This Columbia team is committed to working
22 with you to resolve issues associated with this construction
23 to make the project successful to all the stakeholders. We
24 have an office located in Hunt Valley, at the Hunt Valley
25 Business Center. The address is 01946 Beaver Dam Road, Suite

1 F, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030. And the phone number there
2 at the office is 443-330-5538. Please stop by if you would
3 like to look at maps or discuss any other concerns you have
4 at any time.

5 Thank you, and have a good evening.

6 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you, John.

7 Doug has already said that we have a court
8 reporter here, so now we'll open the floor for public
9 speakers to present their concerns or whatever. But I
10 suggest the speaker should come up to the front and also
11 spell out his or her name so that the court reporter can get
12 the name correctly. And try to speak it up so that we can
13 all hear you correctly.

14 Once that is done, we will call up the next
15 speaker, and Doug will do that.

16 Doug, you can go ahead.

17 MR. SIPE: Okay, I'm going to try to get your
18 names pronounced correctly. Like I said, I have 11 people
19 signed up here, and we're going to make it a little bit
20 easier since this is a little tighter setting. Eric will
21 walk around and give you guys the mic; but just stand up and
22 speak your name like Medha said, and we'll go from there.
23 The court reporter will definitely let you know if they
24 can't hear you or understand you.

25 First speaker on the list, Joe Forte.

1 MR. FOR My name is Joseph Fortier [spelling].

2 First of all, I would urge you not to allow
3 Columbia Gas to move forward on this project, for the
4 following safety and environmental reasons. And I also want
5 to thank you for coming here this evening to give us the
6 opportunity to express our concerns about this particular
7 pipeline.

8 The easement will disrupt our septic systems.
9 Most of us have less than one acre, and relocating systems
10 would be difficult to impossible to do. And for that
11 reason, we think you should vote no to this project. We
12 also think our elected Harford County officials should vote
13 no to this project, and they should also attempt to
14 represent their constituents.

15 We're all on wells, with no opportunity for
16 public water and sewer. I'm concerned the construction and
17 tunneling under roads, streams and wetlands will affect our
18 drinking water. For that reason, you should vote no. I am
19 told that there will be plenty of time to do environmental
20 studies; yet Columbia has plans to start the project in the
21 spring of 2013 and finish it five months later. It seems to
22 me Columbia is in a big rush to get permits.

23 How can you do an impact study in such a short
24 time? Especially when it's a new area. I'm going to talk
25 about it later, but we're part of that three mile jog. They

1 don't have an existing right-of-way. I think there are a
2 lot of issues concerned with our woods, streams and animals
3 that are going to be destroyed or hurt by this. For that
4 reason, you should vote no to this proposal.

5 Eighteen miles of this 21-mile project is along
6 an existing right-of-way except for a 3-mile jog through
7 Harford County, which affects all of us in this room. They
8 want to cut a road that amounts to 75 feet off of BGE's
9 already 250-foot right-of-way, which will destroy trees,
10 shrubs, create erosion problems and a great deal of it --
11 there's a hill that goes like this (gesture) -- create
12 erosion problems on hillsides, cause disruptions to streams,
13 water aquifers we use for drinking, disturb wildlife,
14 further endanger the Bog and box turtles and salamanders;
15 and for those reasons you should vote no to this project.
16 And our elected officials should also represent their
17 constituents.

18 Columbia has not adequately convinced us why they
19 can't follow the existing right-of-way and eliminate all
20 these programs. You should vote 'no' for that reason. If
21 FERC and Columbia have the right to threaten us with eminent
22 domain, then certainly they have the right to demand -- BGE
23 allowed Columbia to use their existing right-of-way,
24 eliminating all these problems. For that reason you should
25 vote no.

1 If the real reason for the new pipeline is to
2 improve reliability and make repairs to the existing line so
3 gas service won't be disrupted, which by the way I seriously
4 doubt, and I doubt it due to the fact that I have, gas is
5 serviced at my house and we have never lost our heating
6 system due to a gas disruption. We frequently lost our
7 heating system when the electricity lines went out, but
8 never due to gas. I'm just not buying that reason for the
9 second line to begin with. And I do not believe that this
10 particular pipeline will solve that problem. Again, you
11 should vote no for this application and again our elected
12 officials should be here to represent us.

13 Unless Columbia can explain why the new pipe
14 needs to be 26 inches -- (holding up cardboard cutout) --
15 that's what it's going to look like, imagine what it'll
16 sound like if it blows.

17 Unless Columbia can explain why the new pipe
18 needs to be 26 inches at 1,000 psi, while the existing is 20
19 inches at a lower psi, you should vote 'no' for this
20 project.

21 Columbia says a 26 inch pipe at 1,000 psi buried
22 3 feet deep, 100 feet from my back door, and even closer to
23 other homes, would only result in all the windows in the
24 home being blown out. I guess bleeding to death is better
25 than being blown to bits. You should vote no.

1 Columbia says 3 feet is a customary depth that
2 satisfies existing regulations; but FERC Panel, you know
3 that customary has been determined by pipeline engineers who
4 will come up with customary and existing practices to help
5 protect a billion dollar company's bottom line. FERC panel,
6 unless you get independent engineers to advise you on
7 customary and standard practice, you should vote no, and our
8 elected officials should vote no.

9 FERC Panel: Unless you can guarantee daily,
10 independent inspections during the construction process to
11 prevent the installation of faulty equipment similar to what
12 happened in New York in 2011 during the construction of a
13 similar pipeline when wells that were determined to be
14 faulty were installed anyway. If we can't get independent
15 inspectors, you should vote no for this project.

16 This comment is a one way in, one way out. If an
17 emergency occurred, lots of senior citizens would be forced
18 to hike anywhere from one-quarter to one-half mile through
19 woods, streams, fields to grandmother's house or a through
20 road. For that reason, you should vote no on this project.

21 Columbia should be required to come up with an
22 evacuation plan approved by the county. If not, FERC should
23 vote no.

24 There was an explosion in 2011 in Oakland. It
25 took 16 volunteer fire companies four hours to put out the

1 flames. The flames were estimated to be hundreds of feet in
2 the air. If that happened on this 3-mile jog, BGE's
3 overhead electric lines would be burned, and electric
4 service would be disrupted throughout Maryland. You should
5 vote no for this pipeline.

6 I asked Columbia if they were going to train and
7 equip all our volunteer fire companies to handle an
8 explosion. Their response reminded me of the political
9 debates; lots of talking, no answers. Since we don't have
10 fire hydrants, how many water trucks would be needed to
11 fight fires if the woods on the other side of the right-of-
12 way, on the Derby side, in the Kelso Court side caught fire?
13 About 25 homes would be at risk. Another reason for FERC to
14 say no, and another reason for Harford County politicians to
15 get involved and say 'no.'

16 I thank you for listening.

17 (Applause)

18 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

19 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

20 Next speaker on the list, Mary Ann Fortier.

21 MS. FORTIER: Good evening. My name is Mary Ann
22 Fortier [spelling].

23 I just want to say, why does Columbia find it
24 necessary to take down our trees and our neighbor's trees
25 for two miles if the pipeline isn't going to be installed

1 where the trees are now? Why can't they go to BGE's right-
2 of-way and do the work from there? Thank you.

3 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

4 Teresa Moore.

5 MS. MOORE: Thank you. My name is Teresa Moore
6 [spelling], and I'm the Executive Director of the Valleys
7 Planning Council in Baltimore County, and we're a major
8 planning force in the County and have responsibility for 130
9 square mile territory. And we review every development
10 that's proposed in our territory, whether it's one house,
11 one sewer extension, one small turn lane added to a road; we
12 look at things and have experts review them.

13 We had our annual meeting last night, I guess the
14 upshot of our request is to slow down and let the public
15 catch up. We had some misunderstanding in the beginning; a
16 lot of our members were told that the right-of-way would not
17 need to be expanded and have only just now caught on that it
18 does need to be significantly expanded; and now it looks
19 like there's a week to comment on an environmental
20 assessment process.

21 We don't even know how to make a specific
22 comment; we haven't seen resource reports, we've seen a
23 vague map and the Notice of Intent. But normally when we
24 review a project of this scope, at least, and really even
25 much smaller, we would look at how many trees are being

1 taken out, what the corridor is, what kind of habitat is
2 there, how many stream crossings are there. Just so many
3 things that we don't know how to even give a specific
4 comment on at this time.

5 So if the time frame could be expanded and we
6 could be allowed access to those resource reports, that
7 would give us some comfort level. Also, we don't understand
8 the need for the project, and we generally like to balance
9 the need with the impacts; so being asked to do one side
10 without the other is unusual; and there just doesn't seem to
11 be that much urgency. What I've been told is that it's
12 redundancy; that they're looking to ensure reliability, but
13 -- so if it's not an urgent need, why not take the time and
14 allow us to catch up? Thank you.

15 MR. SIPE: Thank you. Let me -- I know we'll
16 probably get this a lot tonight, and this is confusing; I
17 mean, you guys aren't part of the FERC process or don't
18 understand the pre-filing process; no fault of your own. We
19 do, it's our job to explain it to you guys.

20 Do you guys have this handout? They were over at
21 the table, so if you picked up one of the handouts -- that's
22 fine, you can get it later or whatever. Just let me go down
23 through this a little bit here.

24 If you see on this side, this is a flow chart
25 that we use in a lot of different public meetings and

1 seminars that we hold; this side will be the applicant side,
2 we don't have that much stuff over here for the applicant
3 side of things. They'll assess market need, they requested
4 FERC pre-filing process over here. That's where we are now;
5 we accepted them into the pre-filing process. They have to
6 meet certain regulations even for us to accept them in, so
7 they have to have a certain amount of work done in order for
8 us to start looking at the project and working with the
9 stakeholders in general.

10 So we accepted them into the pre-filing process.
11 The applicant held open houses in this area.

12 DR. KOCHHAR: That was in March.

13 MR. SIPE: Yes, they were in March. The applicant
14 held their own open houses; FERC staff was also present at
15 those, too.

16 DR. KOCHHAR: Four open houses.

17 MR. SIPE: Yes, there were four open houses in
18 different areas. So that was here. Now hopefully you
19 received the Notice of Intent, okay. That's the document
20 that has all the material about FERC and about the process,
21 and in general -- that was mailed to your house.

22 Again, the mailing list is pretty big and it's
23 changing all the time. They have a land service company
24 always trying to get different addresses to keep that
25 updated, because that's part of the pre-filing process that

1 they keep us updated on address changes. So if you didn't
2 get it tonight, we have them at the table and we'll make
3 sure that if you didn't receive an NOI and you want to be
4 added to the list, you can put your name on the list.

5 So here we issued a Notice of Intent. Now as a
6 part of the process we are holding public scoping meetings;
7 that's what's here tonight. That's what was last night down
8 in Cockeyville; we're holding scoping meetings for this.
9 That's part of the NEPA process.

10 That timeline that you're looking at -- that May
11 16th is a NEPA time frame. It's required; under NEPA you
12 have certain time frames. Don't worry about that time
13 frame, okay? That's a NEPA time frame that's required for
14 us to put it in here, in the Notice of Intent, but we have
15 to have certain cutoff dates along throughout the process.
16 So you understand that at a certain time frame, if you guys
17 keep submitting comments, you may not see us address it in
18 the E.A.; we may have to address it in the order. So that's
19 where you get the time frames from.

20 So now we're about the three month period. Like
21 I said, when we accept them in the pre-filing process, we
22 accept them in, they're in for a mandatory six months of
23 pre-filing.

24 DR. KOCHHAR: Minimum. Minimum six months.

25 MR. SIPE: Yes, it's mandatory that they're in

1 for six months; it can be longer. They could opt out of
2 pre-filing if they felt like they wanted to do that. Most
3 companies do not, and then file their application. They
4 could do that. Most likely they will not do that. We
5 advise heavily against that.

6 So once the six month clock comes around, they're
7 most likely going to be pretty much ready to file their
8 application. Throughout that time frame, you're going to
9 have resource reports submitted from the company to us. Now
10 they were in draft form. They're submitting them to us, the
11 agencies, and for all stakeholders to look at, because that
12 will be on the eLibrary system.

13 Once they file the application, we will proof
14 that application to make sure that we want to accept the
15 application at FERC; they have to meet certain requirements.
16 If we accept them in, we'll issue a Notice of Application.
17 From that point forward, depending on how good the
18 application is, depending on how the company has addressed
19 the comments, up to that date, and depending how we feel
20 with our analysis, we'll start preparing the E.A. Usually
21 an E.A., there's no real set time frame for an E.A.; could
22 be a couple months, at least two, or three months until we
23 issue an E.A.

24 That E.A. will come out to the general public for
25 your review. Then you'll be able to comment on that E.A..

1 Once we receive comments on the E.A. from all stakeholders,
2 at that point in the process, we're down into here
3 responding to comments. At that point we're just staff at
4 the Commission. Environment is just one part of it.
5 Markets, tariffs, rates, the need -- all that is put to an
6 order that goes upstairs for the Commission to vote on.
7 Either they vote to approve it, or deny the project. But
8 the Commission is who decides to issue the certificate, and
9 the certificate is where the 'public need and necessity' for
10 that project --.

11 So that's just a little bit of a process overlook
12 for you guys, to understand that you have a lot of time to
13 issue comments.

14 DR. KOCHHAR: Let me add something.

15 I want to add something else: If you give us
16 comments early, we know what the issue is, we can start
17 exploring on that what it is, where it is, why it is, how
18 can we resolve that? What needs to be done? And we may ask
19 the company to do more work on that, or more analysis.

20 So it gives us more time to explore. If you
21 don't have more time at the end to get it, then it may be
22 very late and then it may be during construction, it may be
23 afterwards; so that's why we encourage you -- it's not that
24 we deny any comments we get, it's that we welcome them
25 because it helps us. We are here to hear you, to learn from

1 you of the area because you know better than us. We only
2 hear and read, but when we come here, we talk to you, we
3 hear about the comments, we understand them better.

4 So that is for that reason we ask, as soon as
5 possible, and as specific as possible. Thank you.

6 AUDIENCE: Can I ask a question?

7 MR. SIPE: Sir, I have to get down through the
8 list of speakers, and then we'll take as many questions --

9 AUDIENCE: I have a question about what you just
10 presented.

11 MR. SIPE: Okay, you can ask a question about
12 what I just presented.

13 AUDIENCE: As I understand the NEPA process, the
14 scoping phase is where you decide what issues are going to
15 be considered under NEPA. I think we have one week left
16 until the closing date for the scoping; is that correct?

17 MR. SIPE: The official scoping period closes in
18 one week, but as FERC sees scoping, scoping continues on
19 until the company files an application.

20 AUDIENCE: As FERC sees it, that's not
21 necessarily held under NEPA.

22 MR. SIPE: That's how we run NEPA.

23 AUDIENCE: So you're going to hold the record
24 open for longer for scoping?

25 MR. SIPE: The record on this project will not

1 close until the Commission issues an order.

2 AUDIENCE: You will consider scoping input after
3 the 16th, and require the applicant to address those issues?

4 MR. SIPE: Yes.

5 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes.

6 MR. SIPE: But now I will caution you, to the
7 point that if you file a comment two days before the company
8 files an application, we will address that comment, but the
9 company most likely won't be able to address that comment.
10 They can do it after they file the application in
11 supplemental filings, but you may not see it in the filing
12 itself.

13 Next speaker, Theo Legardner.

14 MR. LEGARDER: My name is Theo Legarder, I'm the
15 Gunpowder River Keeper. I have a small retail business
16 called Backwater Angler along the Gunpowder River in
17 Monkton, Maryland.

18 And this caught me off guard. And I am a
19 stakeholder and am very disappointed in having to read about
20 this in the papers before I heard, you know, about how far
21 along this process was. I don't feel that I can form
22 comments as a nonprofit entity and as a business entity that
23 will be a stakeholder in this regulatory process by May 16th
24 to allow for adequate scoping. I really feel that a lot of
25 folks locally, having read the newspaper and seen the TV the

1 past night after last night's meeting are also a little
2 taken aback with how fast this is moving.

3 So with that I have a few questions and comments,
4 and would like to again thank you for holding this meeting;
5 but I trust that there are other folks in the room that
6 would like to have more public participation at the scoping
7 level to make sure that any impacts on this extension are
8 addressed prior to the application being pushed through.

9 So let me give you a few questions. And I thank
10 you for entertaining me.

11 There does not appear to be any coordination
12 between Baltimore City and Columbia Gas Transmission on this
13 extension. To remind you, Baltimore City provides drinking
14 water for 1.7 million people in the Baltimore City metro
15 area. This pipeline does cross Baltimore and Harford
16 Counties, and the tribs that flow down into Loch Raven are
17 of concern, as are any environmental waivers that might be
18 granted to keep this moving forward.

19 So that's a comment. The question is, are any
20 environmental waivers currently being discussed?

21 MR. SIPE: The company themselves, in general,
22 not just in Baltimore -- I'm just telling you in general --
23 the companies, they have to, they're required. We'll see,
24 once a filing proceeds, they'll have a table that's in their
25 filing of all the permits that they have to get in order to

1 build this project. FERC is just one of them. And the Army
2 Corps of Engineers here tonight, that's a 404 permit that
3 the company must receive. There's a 401 permit from the
4 State that they must receive. There's a number of permits
5 that they must receive.

6 We are the lead federal agency, we're the federal
7 coordinator for these types of projects. It's not like a
8 one-stop shop at FERC; there's other agencies that have to
9 approve this project.

10 So the company will work with state, local and
11 federal agencies, all of them in the area in order to
12 proceed.

13 MR. LEGARDER: How do residents and stakeholders
14 get this information during scoping? Is my question.

15 MR. SIPE: Well, the companies have to file
16 applications with those agencies.

17 MR. LEGARDER: Would I have to file a FOIA
18 request with MDE to get this information?

19 MR. SIPE: I can't speak for MDE, I'm not MDE. I
20 used to be a consultant to MDE years back, but you have to
21 ask MDE themselves. But a lot of times the companies will -
22 - you know, as part of -- the MDE, as part of building -- we
23 have a consolidated record at FERC, okay, since we are the
24 lead federal agency. In that consolidated record, because
25 of the Energy Policy Act, the other agencies are required to

1 put certain information in our record. It's basically for
2 the courts; if anything would ever happen it is in a
3 consolidated record, and the courts would use that material
4 in there to argue whatever they're arguing.

5 So the states, the federal agencies involved with
6 us, will -- we don't tell them what to put in the
7 consolidated record because we wouldn't them coming back on
8 us saying "Well, you didn't tell us to put this in there."
9 All agencies have a solicitor's office, and the solicitors
10 will let them know what they need to put in our record.

11 MR. LEGARDER: If I file a Freedom of Information
12 Act request with MDE to obtain information prior to the
13 scoping deadline, it will take 30 to 45 days for me to get
14 any information related to how this process is moving.

15 So I would respectfully request that you open the
16 scoping comment period to 60 days from May 16th to allow for
17 more robust public participation within the environmental
18 community and also to allow residents and other stakeholders
19 to input into this process.

20 MR. SIPE: Sir, like I explained, the May 16th
21 date is a NEPA time frame. And I understand there's a lot
22 of different agencies that handle NEPA differently. I'm
23 explaining to you how FERC handles NEPA. NEPA, when we
24 issue a Notice of Intent on an E.A., we're going to open it
25 until May 16th, that will be the official NEPA time frame.

1 You have up until the company files the
2 application to keep submitting comments, because you're not
3 -- half the room here tonight, usually is upset that they
4 don't have all the information. The other half of the room
5 is happy that we're out here this early in the process to
6 discuss --

7 MR. LEGARDER: I don't know that you want to take
8 a vote on that right now.

9 (Laughter)

10 MR. SIPE: No, I'm saying --

11 MR. LEGARDER: That's risky, isn't it?

12 MR. SIPE: Remember, I'm the outreach guy, so I
13 travel the country. I'm just giving you in generalities.

14 So we're here tonight to give you guys as much
15 information as we can. There is a lot of time yet to
16 comment on -- we don't even have resource reports -- we have
17 resource reports 1 and 10, per se. That's a general
18 description, which is on eLibrary, and a discussion of
19 alternatives that they're looking at, up to this point.

20 They have to file all the other resource reports
21 to us in draft form before they file the application. Then
22 we give comment on them, the general public can give comment
23 on them, the other agencies can give comment on them. The
24 applicant is required, under the pre-filing process, to take
25 all those comments received to that point and address those

1 in their application.

2 MR. LEGARDER: Thank you for the clarification.
3 I'm starting to understand the process, but the drinking
4 water question is still something that concerns me. It is
5 of concern. And residents prior to the start of the meeting
6 asked questions about their wells along the pipeline, given
7 that this is going to be either a varied drilling of that or
8 it's going to be an open trenching of that.

9 So this is not necessarily informative in the
10 context of the actual impacts, and I think that part of the
11 scoping process should be a little more open to allow
12 stakeholders and residents to assess what the impacts may
13 be.

14 And I have another question.

15 DR. KOCHHAR: I just wanted to clarify that Doug
16 said that we have received two resource reports. No, we
17 haven't. Doug is not working with me on this project; he's
18 Outreach Manager. I have received a few more resource
19 reports, but they were just filed recently, so we are
20 reviewing that.

21 It's not unusual for a company to file one
22 version, and then revise that and file the second version
23 prior to filing their formal application. So it's very
24 likely that we will do a couple of reviews on the resource
25 reports, which will add all the information that you all are

1 giving us today. That's part of the requirement that they
2 must address all the comments we have received up to the
3 point they are filing. They need to respond to those
4 comments and tell us what they change, how they change in
5 response to those comments that they have received. And if
6 they did not, why not?

7 And I must emphasize this many, many times to all
8 of you: This is not the end of the world. The 16th of May,
9 you can take it out of your system if you want. This simply
10 gives us a NEPA scoping period. Which means in the
11 environmental assessment we can say we got X number of
12 comments in response to our Notice of Intent. And these
13 comments were A, B, C, D. And they are addressed in our
14 document.

15 But comments come to us until the last day that
16 the order is issued, and we try to accommodate them as best
17 we can. Now the drawback is if you send comments too late
18 in the process, we will have very minimal time to work on
19 it. If you want to see the information, look into in our
20 environmental assessment, you must give us as soon as
21 possible. And that's why we are encouraging you, okay?

22 Is that clear now on that May 16th date? Any
23 more questions on the May 16th date?

24 Okay, thank you.

25 MR. LEGARDER: Okay, I have another question

1 related to tree loss. How is Columbia planning on
2 mitigating tree loss along the extension?

3 DR. KOCHHAR: I do not have that complete
4 information yet from Columbia; in fact, that should be one
5 of the resource reports. I understand from DNR that they
6 are working on some mitigation plan for DNR on that, and
7 that's partly state forest agency also involved in it, and a
8 couple of other agencies are involved in the state.

9 MR. LEGARDER: Thank you, that's the first answer
10 to one of my questions.

11 DR. KOCHHAR: We are in contact with DNR. We are
12 in contact with other local and state agencies, just to
13 understand how their system runs, what they need. So we're
14 not sitting by yourselves and making an analysis here. You
15 know, I just can't do that with a few members in my team.
16 You've got to have a little bit more information from you
17 all and from anybody who is involving any shape for this
18 process. And we'll do our very best; there may be some
19 things left, there may not be things left, but time will
20 only tell us that.

21 MR. LEGARDER: Thank you. And I wanted to ask,
22 too, that if forest buffers are mitigated that they are
23 actually replaced with forest in Baltimore County and
24 Harford County.

25 I'm from Louisiana. It's a bad example of

1 mitigation. So I wouldn't want to see these trees that, if
2 they're to be replaced on the Eastern Shore of Maryland,
3 it's not appropriate.

4 DR. KOCHHAR: I appreciate your comment on that,
5 I understand that, where you are coming from, and that is
6 something the state is looking into. In fact, one of the
7 representatives from the state forestry agency was there,
8 and looking into short term, long term impacts, actively
9 planting trees, and also clearing and everything. They are
10 going to work out some system with them; we don't know yet
11 how and what. We just had the first meeting with them.

12 MR. LEGARDER: Okay. Thank you.

13 And the extension, the Rural Legacy and
14 Agricultural Conservation Easements, is that appropriate?

15 DR. KOCHHAR: That is also part of DNR. I just
16 learned about that yesterday. In fact I asked, What is all
17 this? Could you help me understand? It's not on their
18 website, and I was told that I will be given information to
19 learn about it and we'll do further discussions on that.

20 There are several conservation lands that are
21 titled differently, handled differently, and if I understand
22 there are five or six categories. So it's just fresh in my
23 mind, not even 24 hours ago. So we are looking into it.
24 That is the reason we need the other agencies to understand
25 the process, to understand what is there in the state, what

1 is there in the project area that we need to be aware of so
2 that we can incorporate that in our analysis.

3 MR. LEGARDER: Do you have a sense of how many
4 streams, wetlands or ponds are going to be crossed?

5 DR. KOCHHAR: We have some sense of it. I have
6 been in the field with them; I don't know the exact count
7 because the route is still being refined. This is just
8 preliminary status; don't get too worried about it yet.
9 There's much more to come. I'm learning still about the
10 project, so how can I say more to you?

11 So we are just in the very beginning stages of
12 it. Think about it, if you have a new job it takes you some
13 time to learn the new job and the process. It's a new
14 project, we need to learn it, we need to get deep down into
15 it to understand what is there, what needs to be done, and
16 how it will be done.

17 MR. LEGARDER: Thank you. Given the deadline
18 that's proposed by Columbia, this project seems very
19 ambitious.

20 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes, it does, and I don't worry
21 about their deadline; that's theirs, not mine. We have our
22 deadlines once we get the formal application, what quality
23 it is, what we need to do more and what's there. Based on
24 that, we will decide. Nothing moves until we issue a
25 Scheduling Notice.

1 MR. LEGARDER: And can you tell me where all this
2 gas is going to be going?

3 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, we have yet to find out all
4 of those details. We're just working -- like I said, I
5 don't even have the complete resource reports. We're just
6 beginning to work on it.

7 So it will take time, and this question, we will
8 let Columbia answer for you; maybe they have something fresh
9 for you. Okay? Thank you, sir.

10 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

11 Next speaker on the list, Arthur --

12 MR. ROMAIN: Good evening. My name is Arthur
13 Romain (ph) and my past history is, I've worked with gas
14 since 1970, all the way up to '95. And Columbia Gas has --
15 in that time period. And there has never been any problems
16 with Columbia Gas. A 26-inch main is one of the safest
17 mains that you can possibly have in the world, and they
18 watch over these mains. Every six weeks there's somebody
19 goes out and they check it. They go out and check and make
20 sure that main is properly -- not rusting through. And it
21 has plenty of life left into it.

22 That 26-inch main is seamless; there's no seam in
23 it. that's a solid piece of steel. You can't get much
24 better than that. And as far as going through streams and
25 trees --

1 DR. KOCHHAR: Excuse me, sir. Would you please
2 speak into the microphone?

3 MR. ROMAIN: The EPA has rules and regulations
4 for removing trees and going through streams. There's trout
5 streams that are down in Anne Arundel County that they
6 watched over. They made that contractor build a dam on both
7 sides of it so they could go ahead and put in that road.
8 And that trout stream is still good, and it's good today --
9 what it was many, many years ago.

10 I mean, EPA watches over contractors like
11 Columbia, like the contractor who put in the toll gate road
12 on 95. They're always out there watching over to make sure
13 that the job is done correctly. And I feel that Columbia is
14 a safe and reliable contractor. That main is a bypass; that
15 is to help -- if that main has some, if something goes wrong
16 with that main, they can turn on this new 26 and bypass it,
17 and then correct the main and turn it back on. That's what
18 bypass is for; it's safety. It's safety to protect you and
19 the people around you.

20 AUDIENCE: How about earthquakes?

21 MR. ROMAIN: Earthquakes? Since 1970, 95, that
22 26-inch main that comes up from down south, there has never
23 been an incident on that 26 main, even with the earthquake
24 that we had here, there was no damage to that. That main is
25 welded, is X-rayed, and is constantly being tested.

1 AUDIENCE: How about the existing pipeline? How
2 about the existing one, does it get the same treatment?

3 MR. ROMAIN: Yes, it does.

4 AUDIENCE: Then there should be no problem there.

5 MR. ROMAIN: But you need bypass. If something
6 goes wrong with that, then you want to bypass it to where it
7 can give those people continuous gas until the pipe can be
8 repaired.

9 There are gas mains out here in the State of
10 Maryland that are cast iron, and I have seen them crushed
11 and destroyed.

12 AUDIENCE: Are we talking about a cast iron one,
13 or not?

14 MR. ROMAIN: No. We are talking at steel,
15 seamless steel. Not --

16 AUDIENCE: Existing --

17 MR. SIPE: To interrupt you guys. To make sure
18 the record's clear, we can't have question-and-answer
19 between you guys. Because the record won't show who was
20 talking back and forth.

21 AUDIENCE: That's a good point.

22 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

23 MR. ROMAIN: That's it.

24 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

25 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

1 Elayne Trompeter

2 MS. TROMPETER: Elayne Trompeter, [spelling].

3 And I apologize if I repeat any items that have already been
4 discussed.

5 Our community is, seems to be a small curve in
6 the Columbia project. However, we will be impacted as much
7 as the residents of Baltimore County that have an extensive
8 area that's impacted.

9 Of course we can look at the aesthetics, the
10 trees that have been there for 30-plus years, our privacy
11 will be gone once they remove our trees; our property value,
12 of course, will be depreciated; we will have higher utility
13 bills because our trees will be gone that helped to keep our
14 electric down with the air conditioning in the summer; and
15 we're not sure that we could possibly be paying higher
16 homeowners insurance because of the pipeline being on our
17 property; we will be paying taxes on 50 feet of property
18 that we cannot use and we must maintain; and the
19 environmental issues, I'm in full agreement with that, with
20 the streams that we had in back beyond the current utility
21 easement, the BGE easement; there's a stream back there that
22 will be impacted.

23 One of our biggest concerns is our well, and how
24 this project will affect the water tables. We are a
25 community that approximately seven years ago was impacted

1 immensely with the Exxon gas tank leak, and we just question
2 how much does one community have to go through? It's taken
3 seven years for those water levels to start to improve, and
4 there are still, I think, a number of houses in the area
5 that are still considered hot spots.

6 And I agree with Joe, with one way in, one way
7 out. And if there is an explosion, how many people will be
8 able to respond if there's more than one home involved? Joe
9 mentioned I think the California explosion, and someone
10 mentioned the one in New York; there was also one in
11 Kentucky, one in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. I advise
12 everyone to go on line and Google Columbia pipeline
13 explosions. You can hear about all the safety issues you
14 want, but explosions have happened and do exist.

15 We met with Columbia about a week or two ago, and
16 one of the residents mentioned at that time about contacting
17 an attorney. And the response from the Columbia
18 representative that was there stated, "And you'll lose one-
19 third of any money you get." So it was a very condescending
20 remark, and implying almost that the deal has already been
21 done.

22 We question why the existing BGE utility easement
23 cannot be used. It's there, use it; leave our properties
24 alone, please. If this project goes through, the trees and
25 the landscaping that are removed cannot be replaced in my

1 lifetime. It's not only a crime against nature, it's a
2 crime against the homeowner. We take our property very
3 personally.

4 So please do not approve this project as it is
5 currently mapped. Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

8 Next speaker, Morita Bruce.

9 MS. BRUCE: My name is Morita Bruce [spelling].

10 I question what the basic purpose and need for
11 this line is, since we're starting, as a former speaker
12 said, at the beginning. Why do we need this? What is the
13 reliability issue? Is there no better way of doing this?

14 It seems to be conflicting in some ways, the
15 reports that have come out, and I'm not sure which one's
16 correct. Michael Banas, B a n a s from Columbia was quoted
17 in the Baltimore Sun the past week as saying that this
18 project is "not an expansion, and it is not a backup to the
19 existing line, and it's needed only to make service more
20 reliable by allowing the company to shut down one line for
21 maintenance while keeping gas flowing in the other."

22 If that is true, and that accurately describes
23 the intent and purpose and need for this line, it's not to
24 expand capacity in other words, then I ask that this
25 condition be set by FERC as a condition of the permit. In

1 other words, they cannot expand the amount of gas that they
2 are pushing through that line, so that indeed they are
3 alternating between the two if indeed they decide for some
4 reason that's the most efficient way of doing it.

5 I find it rather strange; most pipes generally
6 aren't the failure cause; it's where there's a junction with
7 some sort of a valve or a pump or some other connection.
8 And there may be a cheaper way to do that without running
9 pipelines through people's yards.

10 However, if Columbia has a problem with this
11 requirement, meaning they do intend in the future to
12 increase the amount of gas going through this project by
13 expanding it through perhaps both A and B lines, then that's
14 a whole different ball of wax.

15 If it's not restricted to what the current line
16 can carry -- or at least the design conditions -- then they
17 are expanding. And as a federal agency, FERC must then step
18 back and examine the whole big picture. Included in that
19 big picture are the following points:

20 First of all, how does expanding this section of
21 pipeline fit with what's happening on the rest of this line?
22 It doesn't begin and end at Owings Mills and Fallston.
23 Where is the gas coming from and where is it going? What
24 are the other natural gas or LNG projects in the area? How
25 much is too much? Do we need all of this? This is a

1 federal, FERC-level decision and not any hit against
2 Columbia Gas, but something that I hope you folks will
3 consider in detail.

4 Second, will the additional natural gas be
5 produced by destroying American's land, water, health and
6 environment by generating it from fracking projects? The
7 camel's nose must be kept out of the tent, meaning the
8 infrastructure such as additional pipeline capacity must not
9 be approved on the assumption that such destructive measures
10 as fracking are also going to be approved. Be careful what
11 your assumptions are, please.

12 Third, is the gas for American customers or is it
13 to be exported? I find it curious, if Columbia is expanding
14 pipeline capacity while Dominion Resources is simultaneously
15 planning to switch its Cove Point LNG facility from
16 importing natural gas into the U.S. to exporting it? I
17 believe the energy security of the U.S. is more important
18 than profits to any company from exporting such an
19 irreplaceable and versatile fuel. At present, the U.S. is
20 already a net exporter of energy.

21 So I ask you to please consider these top-level
22 concerns as you go through this. Thank you.

23 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

24 Next speaker, Beth Scheir.

25 MS. SCHEIR: Beth Scheir, [spelling].

1 While we're here to discuss the scope and the
2 impact of the proposed MB Loop Extension, I believe that
3 FERC needs to consider that Fallston is impacted presently
4 by the existing Columbia line, the Colonial Petroleum line,
5 and the BGE right-of-way.

6 In addition to the proposed extension of the
7 Columbia line, there is an additional proposed LNG project
8 in Fallston still pending, the MidAtlantic Express Pipeline
9 Project. When you're considering the scope of the Columbia
10 project, it cannot be considered singularly; it must be
11 considered relative to the several utility rights-of-way
12 that already exist in this small community, and the other
13 lines still pending with FERC under Docket Nos. CP07-62
14 through CP07-65.

15 And I ask those of you to consider that are
16 recommending the pipeline go in the BGE right-of-way that
17 you're impacting other community members with the same
18 pipeline. That right-of-way goes through back yards
19 already. Thank you.

20 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

21 Next speaker, Jim Baker.

22 MR. BAKER: I'm Jim Baker, and I think you know
23 how to spell my last name; B a k e r.

24 I don't oppose this project for altruistic
25 reasons. Quite frankly I oppose this project because of the

1 economic impact on me. There was no way that Columbia can
2 adequately compensate me for what's going to happen to my
3 property if this pipeline goes through.

4 I live on a heavily wooded property on Preakness
5 Road in Fallston. We bought the property 38 years ago for
6 the heavily wooded property that it was. The house was
7 sited by an architect on the lot to face into those woods,
8 and the wildlife that's in those woods.

9 Columbia, my property is 320 feet wide and about
10 250 feet deep. Columbia wants to clear-cut 100 feet of the
11 back part of my 250 feet. Can you imagine what that will do
12 to my view? Combined with the fact that if they do come in
13 100 feet onto my property, they intersect my septic system.

14 My house was built in 1974. I know where my
15 septic system is, and I know what the topography of my land
16 is. There is nowhere else for me to put a septic system on
17 my property. The property consists of two hills that go
18 down to a stream. There's no way Harford County will permit
19 me to run a leach field down to the stream to drain off the
20 leachate. There's noplacement for me to go; the house is
21 uninhabitable. And it will take out my 14 by 16 foot garden
22 shed, which I built with my own hands.

23 That has nothing to do with Columbia Gas, of
24 course. But I'm just telling you, the economic impact on
25 me, as I'm about to retire and move into a retirement

1 community, is going to be devastating. I'm having a real
2 estate agent come out to my property next week to give me an
3 estimate of how much this proposed project will depreciate
4 my property. But I believe it's going to be significant and
5 I really doubt if Columbia pipeline is prepared to
6 compensate me for that depreciation.

7 Thank you very much.

8 (Applause)

9 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

10 John Davids.

11 MR. DAVIDS: Good evening. I'm John Davids,
12 [spelling]. I represent myself as a homeowner in Huntington
13 5,6 that this pipeline will bisect. I represent Huntington
14 5,6 United, the homeowners association of the neighborhood.

15 I am concerned. I am concerned that we are being
16 told by Columbia that FERC prefers them to run their gas
17 pipelines through other utility rights-of-way. This
18 pipeline is not going through the utility right-of-way. It
19 is paralleling it; it is close, but it's going through my
20 neighbors' back yards. Not even the parking for equipment
21 during construction is going to be put on the relatively
22 flat land down by the power line.

23 One of our neighbors was told: 'You get to
24 donate for the construction period a larger portion of your
25 lot, up to 25 feet from your house, as a parking area.'

1 What's wrong with BGE's right-of-way? I am
2 concerned of what this is doing to my neighbors. I am
3 concerned because what this potentially does to my house.
4 We have a neighborhood that has a certain property value.
5 When the Exxon gas station, which was approximately a mile
6 from our homes, decided to leach MTBE into the groundwater,
7 all our property values went down regardless of whether we
8 had MTBE found in our wells or not. And we're still
9 suffering from that decline and that problem.

10 If Preakness Drive becomes a wasteland because of
11 what is done to the back yards of my neighbors, that will
12 drag the rest of the neighborhood down. I am concerned
13 about the potential time bomb we have going under Derby
14 Drive, which is the only ingress-egress route for
15 approximately 60 homes, or approximately half of our
16 neighborhood. You have increased the danger to your people;
17 there's no other way in or out during construction, during
18 the time you run it.

19 The gentleman spoke earlier about how safe these
20 pipelines are. And I agree, they are relatively safe; but
21 as an ex-safety officer in the Air Force, I have learned
22 that there is nothing absolutely safe. There is always some
23 form of risk. And Columbia, by adding a redundant feature,
24 increases their system reliability, but the reliability of
25 in total the gas pipes goes down because you have more gas

1 pipes exposed to the environment.

2 We have a hazard. Maybe there's not going to be
3 gas in the pipeline all the time, we're told. I have found
4 out dealing with aircraft fuel tanks that it's worse, it's a
5 worse hazard to have a half or three-quarter empty fuel tank
6 because the explosive mixture in the ullage is far greater
7 potential of going off than that of a full tank. What is it
8 in a gas pipeline that is not always full of gas? I don't
9 know.

10 I am concerned about the environment. We are
11 cutting down, or the proposal is to cut down numerous trees;
12 and no, I have not counted them, not only through my
13 neighbors' back yards but also along adjacent areas in -- or
14 adjacent areas to our neighborhood through a wooded section
15 there in farm areas. What is going to happen there?

16 The power line goes through a low spot in our
17 neighborhood. And having walked that area -- before it was
18 posted -- with my dog many times and been up to my ankles in
19 muck and wet, I know that is a wetlands, and it extends from
20 the hill on one side all the way across to the hill on the
21 other side, because I couldn't get around it.

22 The company told us at the April 23rd meeting
23 with homeowners, that they would look at another possible
24 route. I don't know if they've had time to, and I certainly
25 wouldn't chastise them for not getting to it yet. But it was

1 pointed out at that point that there's another possible
2 route that goes up further north and west and hooks around
3 to Rutledge that perhaps would -- well, it will disrupt
4 fewer homeowners. And I would certainly hope that that look
5 is thorough and expansive.

6 Yes, our gas is good. I heat with gas and I
7 would certainly repeat the comment earlier: 'I have never
8 had a heating problem because of gas.' I've had lots of
9 heating problems because BG&E couldn't keep the electricity
10 flowing, but none because it couldn't keep gas coming.

11 Now the electricity area has been pretty well
12 taken care of, so I can thank BG&E for that. But we are
13 told that the reason for this pipeline is so when the other
14 pipeline goes down they can keep the gas flowing. If the
15 pipeline is so reliable that it won't present a hazard, why
16 do we need a backup? Which is what this is.

17 I am asking FERC to consider the concerns of me
18 and my neighbors. Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

21 Mike Tomko?

22 MR. TOMKO: Everybody leaves when it's my turn?

23 (Laughter)

24 My name is Michael Tomko, T o m k o. I live on
25 Preakness Drive in Fallston. My wife and I actually moved

1 into our home nine months ago, but it's the house that she
2 grew up in. So for her it was coming home; for my kids, it
3 was moving into grandma and grandpa's house, and for me, I
4 felt like I was sleeping in my in-law's house for two
5 months. So it took a while to get used to, but I really do
6 enjoy it.

7 And one of the reasons why we moved up here is
8 because of the country setting, and the security of being
9 there, and actually when we moved in, knowing those BGE
10 power lines were there was a bit of a -- it was comforting
11 knowing that there wouldn't be anybody built behind us.
12 Well, I didn't realize that there might be something built
13 underneath us.

14 So our concerns -- and speaking to the gentleman
15 that talked about the safety of the gas line -- I agree that
16 Columbia Gas is going to do everything they can to keep the
17 line safe. I mean, that's beyond just being good people,
18 it's an economic move; you have to do that.

19 Not to simplify it, but everything's safe until
20 it isn't. And that's our concern. Right now there's a zero
21 chance of a gas line explosion in my back yard. A 26-inch
22 line goes in, that increases dramatically, from zero to
23 whatever it happens to be; that's a concern.

24 For me, we talk about NIMBY- not in my back yard.
25 Well, quite literally, this is going through my back yard.

1 It will cut directly through my back yard and the line will
2 come within 75 to 100 feet of my house. The way my house is
3 situated is, I have four young boys; ages 10, 8, 5 and 3.
4 All four of my boys -- very loud house -- all four of my
5 boys sleep on the back side of the house, which would be
6 closest to the line. So obviously that's a concern for me
7 right there safety-wise.

8 The 50-foot easement is a concern because right
9 now we have the BGE right-of-way, but Columbia wants 25 feet
10 coming in, another -- the gas line goes in another 25 feet.
11 So 50 feet. That permanent easement goes up against the
12 edge of my leach field, and most everybody that's talked on
13 Preakness Drive, that's a concern. There is no other place
14 for me to put my septic system, and if that leach field is
15 damaged or destroyed, my house is uninhabitable. And at
16 that point what do we do?

17 I understand what we hear from Columbia is we
18 want to work with you on this. The concern that I have, it
19 reminds me a little bit of a famous lawmaker who said 'we
20 had to pass the health care bill so we can know what's in
21 it.' What we get from Columbia is 'we want to get everybody
22 on board and then we can figure out how we're going to do
23 it.' And I know that we get some answers, but we don't
24 really get all the answers; and so when we talk about the
25 leach fields what we get is, 'We want to work with you on

1 it.' I understand that, but we need answers before we can
2 move forward with decisions. And we're getting some
3 answers, but we're not getting all the answers that I feel
4 like we should be.

5 I think some of that has to do with the federal
6 process. I have to be honest with you, I go to the FERC
7 website, and your website is like going to the MVA, it's
8 very frustrating, and you just -- yes, it paces to get
9 through it, but as I went I was looking through the filings,
10 and I see that Columbia has to file a list of all impacted
11 homeowners, but it's not part of the website because of
12 privacy concerns.

13 Now we all know that we can all go and pull
14 public records and get every owner's name there, but it's
15 made difficult for us that if we want to contact other
16 homeowners, it's made difficult through the process, because
17 some information that you'd think was public is not made
18 public.

19 In 2004 everybody spoke -- a couple of people
20 spoke about Exxon. In 2004 there was an MTBE leak at the
21 Exxon gas station. 127 wells were affected with levels of
22 MTBE. So our area has already suffered an environmental
23 contamination. I think that -- my in-laws were living at
24 the house at the time, and I've gotten to know a lot of
25 people through this process. I think everybody was very

1 patient, everybody has stuck together, and everybody has
2 tried to come through that problem, but to expose the
3 community to another possible contamination or another
4 possible environmental disaster is unreasonable.

5 Along Preakness Drive, we talked about the hills.
6 The power lines go behind Preakness Drive. So there are
7 eight homes directly on that line that the power line goes
8 behind. If you remove those trees, some of those hills that
9 were discussed are severe grades. And beyond the leach
10 field issue, you have the erosion issue.

11 We had been told that that 50-foot easement, we
12 will not be able to plant anything but decorative trees; but
13 right now if you go and look at that, you're talking 50-60
14 foot tall trees that have really kept back the erosion; and
15 we don't have answers yet as to how that would be mitigated
16 and how we would keep that from happening. So that is a
17 concern as well.

18 And as I'm speaking about this, I'm speaking
19 about that specific three mile loop along mile 18 to 21.
20 Because as of right now, we're not on the line MA; this
21 would be the line MB, the loop.

22 We talked about the right-of-way. There are some
23 concerns about the right-of-way. It's falling along the BGE
24 right-of-way, but this is a brand new right-of-way. When we
25 asked Columbia about why don't you use BGE's existing right-

1 of-way, one of the answers I got was 'Well, it's BGE's land,
2 they don't want us to use it,' which I found somewhat
3 amusing, because it's our land, we don't want you to use it,
4 either.

5 (Laughter)

6 So that was concern. But then we're also told,
7 for safety reasons you can't work underneath the power lines
8 because you've got to shut the power off while the work is
9 being done. However, as I look at the new plan, the
10 temporary right-of-way on my property is actually on the
11 opposite side of everyone else, because of my leach field
12 concerns.

13 So the temporary right-of-way on my property is
14 actually underneath the BGE lines. Columbia is also along
15 Club Road, wanting to put the line underneath the BGE power
16 lines, because if they didn't do that, they'd actually have
17 to go through somebody's house.

18 So we know it can be done. We also know that it
19 hasn't been approved by BGE. So there's a lot of questions
20 about this that haven't been answered as to if BGE, which I
21 doubt BGE is going to allow that easement to be used, what
22 do you do then? So this line has a lot of question marks on
23 it.

24 Derby Drive, we discussed that. There's five
25 dozen homes on the other side of Derby Drive. As you come

1 through the power lines, and they talk about, they would
2 probably bore underneath Derby Drive to put the line in, but
3 if there was a disaster, there truly is only one road in,
4 and it's Derby Drive. And if the break happens along Derby
5 Drive, there is no way to get the 60 families -- and that is
6 a major concern.

7 The expansion issue. When we talk about
8 expansion, the reason why Columbia is in the situation as it
9 is is because the old easements, everybody built up to the
10 old easements; that's not Columbia's fault. I would say
11 that maybe as time went on and maybe there was -- I'm sure
12 there's been some talk for a long time about expansion, that
13 maybe you buy more easement rights as you go along -- but
14 the reason why they're in the situation now is because they
15 don't have the room to expand.

16 There is no room to expand along Preakness Drive,
17 along this three miles. So what you've done is you've
18 painted yourself in the exact same corner. So in the
19 future, if there needs to be a third line, where do you
20 expand then? Because now you've got two lines that are laid
21 with no room for expansion. The only way you can expand
22 along Preakness Drive is to condemn all those houses and to
23 put another line in. Because on the other side there's a
24 small petroleum line, and that's why we're told they can't
25 go on the other side of BGE.

1 And to Columbia's credit, when we were at that
2 meeting, we did identify a route that goes north of
3 Rutledge, and it goes north and west and it goes along Hess
4 Road. I went to the meeting yesterday in Baltimore County,
5 and one of the maps -- I didn't see it tonight -- but one of
6 the maps has the alternate route; and it's in green and it
7 goes along Hess Road. There is a lot of farmland right
8 there, but as of now there is some development, not as much.
9 The homes along Hess Drive, if you've ever been there, are
10 tucked farther back.

11 If you just look at the map, and of course we're
12 told to come up with alternatives; obviously we don't do
13 this for a living -- but on the surface it looks like it
14 could be more agreeable to the people that live in the
15 county, because there aren't the developments right there.
16 And at that point you could secure larger easements in case
17 there's a need for an expansion as well.

18 I think we're all reasonable people and we know
19 that there is a need for - we all talk about power costs and
20 energy, and I'm not opposed to it, so to speak, but I do
21 think that more alternatives need to be looked at. It might
22 not be easy and it might not be cheap for Columbia, but I
23 think it would benefit everybody in the long run.

24 I think that's all I have.

25 (Applause)

1 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

2 Verna White.

3 MS. WHITE: My name is Verna White. It's a newer
4 version, an older version of Vanna White.

5 MR. SIPE: Just one second, we're going to give
6 you a microphone.

7 MS. WHITE: Hello. My name is Verna White, I'm a
8 bigger version and an older version of Vanna White. I've
9 lived here my whole life. I will tell you it's more than
10 50 years, maybe 60.

11 I feel like I'm in deja vu. I feel like I came a
12 long time ago, that MTBE, because just like today -- two
13 hours ago, I read an article in a little paper. I'm
14 thinking "Oh, no, please. Not again."

15 I have some questions for the people up front,
16 and I experienced this in the past. I have a couple of
17 master's degrees, I think I have a doctorate in B.S. When
18 someone asks you a question, you don't always tell them "I
19 don't know, I'll look it up." When did this pre-filing
20 review begin? I just found out about it a couple hours ago.
21 When did this start? And why do you always send a letter to
22 the landowner, but maybe 100 people around them have no
23 idea?

24 DR. KOCHHAR: January 24th, 2012.

25 MS. WHITE: You sent notices to a land--

1 DR. KOCHHAR: No, we approved their pre-filing
2 request. We did not send it to anybody. We don't do that;
3 that's not the way we work.

4 MS. WHITE: All right. So, when did the people
5 right here right now find out about this meeting?

6 DR. KOCHHAR: Columbia should have, or must have
7 sent notices before, and also they told me --

8 AUDIENCE: ["No." "They didn't."]

9 MS. WHITE: Anyone here who raised a notice,
10 raise your hand.

11 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, Columbia should have sent
12 notice for the open houses they had in March.

13 AUDIENCE: "No."

14 DR. KOCHHAR: That's something I've already asked
15 them about, because I learned yesterday, because they're
16 supposed to give me that information when they file, who
17 they sent it to. I don't have that information.

18 MS. WHITE: Okay. Excuse me. Anyone here who
19 received a notice of any type about this meeting or about
20 Colonial pipeline, would you please raise your hand? And I
21 have a vision problem, so raise them high.

22 [Show of hands]

23 Anyone that's with Columbia pipeline, would you
24 please raise your hand. Because I went to Annapolis, I'd
25 say maybe 80 percent of the people belonged to a certain

1 company.

2 All right. I'm trying to organize my thoughts,
3 and with Lyme disease, it's kind of hard, but I'll try.

4 I really am upset that I spend my whole life
5 here, and I receive a notice in the newspaper -- which thank
6 God I pay attention for a change -- and I only have this
7 period of time, and you're saying 'don't worry about May
8 16th' -- or what is it? May 14th, I'm sorry.

9 DR. KOCHHAR: 16th.

10 MS. WHITE: I want to get it right. If you had
11 January, February, March, April, May -- and after May 14th
12 you say that you will still take comments, I really feel
13 that this process should be extended at least a couple
14 months, and the little tiny communities and groups in
15 Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Harford County -- anyone
16 that is affected by this pipeline, we should have a right to
17 get together and talk.

18 I really do feel like a mushroom, just like with
19 MTBE. We were told, you know, we'll start late, we won't
20 let you talk, you get two minutes -- which is killing for
21 me; I can't talk in two minutes -- and we asked them
22 questions, and again "We'll look it up. We'll get back to
23 you."

24 So people, you're being -- what's that little
25 word, being covered up a little bit? You have the right to

1 extend it.

2 Now I was saying to myself, 'What is the benefits
3 of the present Colonial pipeline?' I was trying to remember
4 the history, as I remember it. First, your map is so tiny
5 and small, that's kind of against older folks that need a
6 bigger print. I mean, MTBE did that; they made them so small
7 -- I wasn't even a dot on the map.

8 In the past, are there any existing pipeline
9 problems? Were there any explosions? My parents told me
10 about several. I don't know if that's true or not. There
11 were deaths along this pipeline in Harford County and
12 Baltimore County. Did the stream from Rutledge compression
13 center to Route 165 have some toxic, cancer-causing
14 chemicals in the stream waters, along the way from the
15 Rutledge compression?

16 Now these are just hearsay. I don't know if it's
17 true or not. This has already the existing pipeline. When
18 we got the MTBE, we found out, they said 'Well, it could
19 have been from Colonial pipeline," but we never got answers
20 on that. Have there ever been -- I'm repeating myself --
21 any explosions in the pipeline anytime since the existence
22 of the present pipeline? I would like to know that.

23 Is there any good for the citizens of pre-filing,
24 Harford County, Baltimore County, living along this pipeline
25 now? Is there any good for us or in the future?

1 Has anything in the past -- not concerning the
2 enlargement of the pipeline, affected the land, water and
3 air of Harford and Baltimore County?

4 Between the MTBE and our land, water and air,
5 it's still there. Exxon promised us that they would help
6 us. They promised us that they would, and it's still there.

7 We used to live in the most beautiful place on
8 earth. All we had was honeysuckle and neighborly people; we
9 helped each other. We can't take anymore. The enlarged
10 pipeline -- you know if you enlarge it, you're going to put
11 more gas in it; and I didn't understand whether it was
12 natural gas, methane; but I know as a farmer's daughter that
13 when you had methane in a cow, it could cause an explosion
14 like it did a long time go. I just know that.

15 I'm really concerned about our political people
16 around us. If we're like mushrooms and we're not told, and
17 you have to be a landowner, and just like with MTBE you have
18 to know the number and you have to know which agency to go
19 to, and that agency goes to another agency; I feel like we
20 have our two or three minutes to have an input, and I feel
21 from the way you're looking up there that if you're just
22 listening, listening, writing down, that's really nice; but
23 we're living it. We're living it every day.

24 Why do we only find out about such things in a
25 little newspaper article? Elected officials, community

1 groups, you need to get together on this. If you push back,
2 it will stop. If you don't push back, you're just a little
3 fly in the ointment. Please, as citizens, tell everyone you
4 know, e-mail, whatever you can do. We need to have
5 adequate notice each step in the process, and we also need
6 to know the good that it's going to do for us. Right now, I
7 don't think there is any good. We're just an underlying
8 pipe that goes around affects us.

9 I'm telling you, we just can't take anymore. For
10 the last, say 1970s I found out -- I was here with the MTBE;
11 I was here when the land companies sold their property
12 rights and moved on. Just like you said -- go ahead -- if I
13 were you, sir, I would sell tomorrow. I would take a loss.
14 Because when you lose your peace and your fresh air and
15 clean water and air like it used to be, you can't get it
16 back.

17 I also found out from talking to relatives and
18 friends in Pennsylvania, I don't know if this is true -- but
19 they were saying something about the fracturing, and they
20 were having skin lesions and they were using chemicals in
21 the well and the water, and it really definitely affecting
22 them.

23 Look, this was the most beautiful place on earth,
24 and I in the last year or two have decided that maybe it's
25 not so nice anymore. I've been checking with different

1 people in different states and different elected officials,
2 and they told me maybe the best place to stay is right here.
3 I understand that you work for companies, but some day you
4 won't be on that side of the table, and some day you're
5 going to be in a place where they've ruined your land, water
6 and air.

7 Why do you think Harford County, Maryland is
8 number one and number two for cancer? I used to blame
9 Aberdeen-Edgewood. I blamed MTBE. I don't want to blame my
10 death of relatives or friends or explosions on Columbia
11 pipeline. If you're making good money and there hasn't been
12 explosions, and the people's property is okay, let us live
13 in peace. We've had more than enough.

14 I'm sorry about this confusing talk of mine, but
15 there's many people here tonight that didn't even get the
16 notice. They're on their second job to provide for food,
17 clothing and shelter, and a third job for taxes; and then
18 they have children and then they have illnesses like Lyme's
19 and things.

20 I guess I'm saying please, as a human basis,
21 please, please just leave it like it is, and if you're a
22 citizen or a living being at this time and you have good
23 health, try to push back against them, try to organize.
24 Because if you don't, it will be deja vu. I'll be back here
25 -- I used to teach here. I'll be back here in 10, 15, 20

1 years, and if I'm not blown up by something exciting, at
2 least I can kiss it good-bye fast.

3 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

4 Just for the notification, so everyone knows how
5 we set up, who's notified and who's not notified -- we hear
6 this a lot -- how it's set up is, all companies don't have
7 to go through the pre-filing process. This one is going
8 through the pre-filing process.

9 I'm spitting some regulations out at you, but I'm
10 just letting you know how we come up with our mailing list.
11 From the date, that January date where they come in and we
12 accepted them in the pre-filing process, within 30 days of
13 that they have to give us an affected landowner list. As a
14 matter of fact, the landowner list is defined by FERC as in
15 anybody that's affected by the actual pipeline itself, the
16 construction width of that pipeline, and 50 feet away from
17 that.

18 So if you are an abutter to that pipeline, you're
19 50 away from construction, then you would be notified. It
20 also goes to the newspapers.

21 Now companies can, and sometimes we asks them to,
22 in certain situations we ask them for a wider width for
23 notification. And maybe that's what needs to be done on
24 this one. Again, this is early on in the process, the
25 landowner list will continue to change. But that's who

1 received the Notice of Intent tonight, is based off of that
2 criteria I just gave you.

3 If you're not on the list, again make sure you
4 sign up over there, and send a list -- you guys can come
5 together and send in as many addresses as you want, and we
6 will include you on the environmental mailing list. Okay?

7 MS. JONES: My name is Barbara Jones. I'm here
8 from --- and I lived in Fallston for 20 years.

9 [Microphone.]

10 My name is Barbara Jones. I lived in Fallston
11 for 20 years, moved to Phoenix. We're impacted by this in
12 Phoenix. We lived in Fallston on Floribunda Court, and
13 three of my neighbors got cancer after the Exxon thing,
14 which we fought -- we fought that hard, and it still came
15 in, and of course they wrecked our wells just like we said
16 they would, and we moved to Phoenix. And of course now the
17 pipeline is in my back yard.

18 So I feel sorry for all you people on Derby
19 Drive, because we've just kind of heard about this, and that
20 they're going to take some of our trees. I'm scared to
21 death after what you're telling me, because my yard sticks
22 right back into that pipeline.

23 But my question is: If this is not a forgone
24 conclusion, why was I called today and asked where I want my
25 wood stacked?

1 I mean, they called me today and said: Do you
2 want your firewood?

3 There were other questions that I was asked, but
4 that was one of them. If it's not a forgone conclusion, why
5 are they worried about my wood? And when I said, the trees
6 they're interested in cutting have a fox's den in -- and I
7 know one fox is not the end of the world; that has produced
8 kits for us every year, we get to look at. He said "Well,
9 I've taken people out of their homes" so I guess he can take
10 the fox.

11 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

12 The company, when they're moving on, along with a
13 project, they have a proposal in front of us right now with
14 an alignment. So they are going to start talking to
15 landowners about that alignment. They have other parts of
16 their company is going to be looking at alternatives, along
17 with us and along with other agencies.

18 But right now, as those land agents are working
19 this project, they're starting to prepare for that project
20 if approved, to be in that area. So that's why you may be
21 getting some of those questions.

22 The companies -- a lot of times companies are
23 spending a lot of money on plans for a project, and a lot of
24 preparations, when they may be not approved, they may be
25 changed, they may go to a different alternative; but to keep

1 the process moving on their end to meet their company
2 schedule and their shipper schedule they have to move along.
3 So that's why you're going to probably get some of those
4 questions.

5 I have one speaker left on the list, and that
6 doesn't mean that no one else can speak just because you're
7 not signed up; but if you do want to speak, it's easier for
8 me if you sign up instead of me trying to figure out who
9 stuck their hand up last, okay?

10 The speaker I have here, last speaker is Jim
11 Gracey.

12 MR. GRACEY: Thank you. I have a couple
13 questions first. Somebody said that there's a
14 representative of the Corps of Engineers here?

15 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes.

16 MR. GRACEY: I'd like to know the name of that
17 person, who it is.

18 AUDIENCE: Right here.

19 DR. KOCHHAR: Joe Deviante.

20 @ MR. DEVIA: I'll give you a card. My name is
21 Joseph Devia.

22 MR. GRACEY: Is somebody from EPA here?

23 (No response.)

24 My understanding of the NEPA process is that the
25 first step is to establish purpose and need. If this

1 pipeline really is to allow for maintenance on the existing
2 pipeline, under purpose and need I certainly would hope you
3 would consider how many of Columbia Gas pipelines have
4 redundant lines and why it's necessary here if they have
5 them elsewhere. Because they don't, in many cases.

6 My main concern is the impact on the environment.
7 I'm acting in Trout Unlimited, have been for 40 years. And
8 this alignment, although it already has crossed, is going to
9 cross a number of natural trout streams in the State of
10 Maryland. Some of them are brook trout streams. Brook
11 Trout are classified as a species in need of conservation in
12 Maryland.

13 If you remove trees, then you increase summer
14 water temperatures, because you remove shade. I'm not sure
15 how you're going to mitigate that. If you add 50 feet to a
16 right-of-way at a stream crossing, and it's a small stream,
17 that may be enough to kick it over a lethal limit. Brook
18 trout can't live in water that goes above 72 degrees
19 Fahrenheit.

20 Brown trout, which are also self-sustaining here
21 in Maryland, can't stand water temperatures above 82. 500
22 feet of open shade on a small stream will kick the
23 temperature from 68 to 84. We know that because we've done
24 those studies.

25 So that's an important issue on all of the stream

1 crossings. I haven't been able to figure out where they are
2 based on the scale of the map you gave me; I'm going to have
3 to go back to Google and do some other things to make that
4 connection.

5 So that's our major concern for environmental
6 issues. The loss of trees, the loss of varying shade on
7 trout streams. So we certainly hope there's going to be a
8 more than adequate mitigation plan for that.

9 For example, if you get a wetland permit and you
10 impact forested wetlands, the required compensatory
11 mitigation is two acres for one. The main reason for that
12 is it takes a long time for trees to mature. So we're going
13 to have an issue with mitigation not being available right
14 away as shade for streams; so we hope there will be a
15 substantial and healthy ratio for mitigation of tree losses,
16 stream-side. Thank you.

17 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

18 Two more speakers added here.

19 Esther Treziak (ph)?

20 MS. TREZIAK: Thank you. I have a number of
21 comments, and I had basically planned on just submitting
22 those into the FERC website.

23 MR. SIPE: That's fine.

24 MS. TREZIAK: So I'm going to apologize ahead of
25 time, because I hadn't planned on speaking.

1 MR. SIPE: Just so you know, all of the comments
2 are treated equally, whether they're tonight here oral or
3 written.

4 MS. TREZIAK: That's what I thought, and I could
5 probably -- I have a lot to say, as Columbia can verify. So
6 I would rather put it in there.

7 But just a couple of things to try and help,
8 especially since the Corps of Engineers is here, try and get
9 him to understand. I actually went up today, and I want to
10 address the topography of the land. Just to let you know,
11 it's a very rolling country, and that pipeline is basically
12 in a little mini valley. And the reason that I went to get
13 the topography is because the hills -- there is a hill on
14 the right side of my house that people are alluding to --
15 that hill is 70 feet high. And when the winds come down
16 from Pennsylvania, it actually has always, since the time I
17 bought it, will come down and create a natural vortex. I
18 mean, you will see -- (off mic) -- lift off the ground and
19 go --.

20 So we planted additional trees and put in wind
21 breaks and tried to mitigate that. Still, when there is a
22 strong wind, you will see that the trees in a pathway are
23 just fractured off at about five feet up. Just like a
24 tornado went through.

25 So basically -- that basically sets that up. Now

1 what they're telling me, especially since I'm one of the
2 people that is going to donate additional workspace for
3 them, they are going to be taking 75 feet, some of it
4 temporary, but it has been defined as whether or not it's
5 temporary. They are basically going to take every tree that
6 I own off the back of my property, which means they are
7 going to leave me totally and completely exposed to all of
8 that wind.

9 And it's not only going to be ne now, it's going
10 to be my neighbors that are going to be incorporated into
11 that. I lost a number of trees up on the side; my neighbors
12 basically said you don't have any more to lose, because
13 there's a path that goes through. And I'm sure that it's
14 going to be extended now that the trees are out.

15 Basically what they're going to leave me with was
16 the inability -- I won't be able to put flowers out, much
17 less a patio set, because the first wind is going to go
18 crashing through my back patio window. That's one issue.

19 The second is that because of the way this is,
20 this little mini-valley, (of mic) whole development --
21 basically my house is at the bottom -- whoops, sorry.

22 [Microphone issues.]

23 My house is sort of at the base of the hill, and
24 I'm the next door neighbor to Jim. We're losing all of
25 trees; that's basically what they've told us. So as the

1 development goes up, the houses go up. And again, I have --
2 that I'd like to submit to you, but I probably could do
3 through the website.

4 If, God forbid, there is an accident and an
5 explosion, fire goes up. Fire will travel so rapidly up
6 both sides of those hills, the other of which is heavily
7 foliated, that irrespective of the egress, we will have an
8 opportunity to escape. You can't run the hills that quick;
9 we won't be able to get out.

10 It's just an opportunity for a flash fire. I
11 mean, it's just amazing. And that's basically the
12 topography issue.

13 The second thing that I just want to make sure,
14 since I've been very, very, very strong on this is that
15 since the minute I saw that digression, that hard right
16 angle turn south, my concern is, what else did you look at?
17 We had a meeting a couple of weeks ago, it was a three hour
18 meeting in Hunt Valley -- one of the first questions was:
19 Did you look at alternative sites? The answer was, from the
20 very beginning: 'Oh, yes we did, and we've submitted them
21 all to FERC.'

22 Two hours and 50 minutes into the meeting I
23 finally worded it correctly: Did you submit alternative --
24 I said "Oh, since you submitted the alternative sites, you
25 keep -- and I used the word 'tap dancing.' I said 'You keep

1 tap dancing around, we have been asking you what did you
2 submit?' 'We had suggested the northern tier, we had
3 suggested a couple of other things.

4 I would have expected them to have done that.
5 They basically said they had done it and submitted it to
6 FERC. I said 'If you submitted it to FERC, show it to us.'
7 Like I said, two hours and 50 minutes later they finally
8 admitted they couldn't do that because they really hadn't
9 looked at anything else. That FERC had preferred, they had
10 taken the preferred FERC site through the utility corridor.
11 And at that point is when we really strongly requested,
12 'Please' you know 'you have to look at other sites. There
13 should be an indication.'

14 I don't understand how a project manager --
15 there's a site manager here and a project manager. How a
16 project manager could look at a deviation like that and even
17 ask a site manager, 'What else did you look at?' I mean,
18 this is just a basic management decision here. And on top
19 of that, I'm not going to say they were eluding the truth,
20 but they were committing, as some of us would say, a sin of
21 omission.

22 What they were responding to when we said 'did
23 you look at alternate sites' was that they looked at
24 alternate sites in the first 18 miles. They had not looked
25 at alternate sites in our three. At that meeting we

1 requested, when this particular group asks a question,
2 please respond to it for this particular group.

3 Now, I'm very, very pleased that they have looked
4 at alternate sites, but I want to stress and make sure that
5 they look at that seriously and continue to do that. That's
6 all. Thank you.

7 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

8 You know, we're asking you guys for comments,
9 we're asking you guys for looking into alternatives. We
10 know that you're not pipeline professionals; maybe some of
11 you are, I'm assuming most of you are not. And you won't
12 know what to look into for alternatives.

13 It's not only Columbia's job to look into
14 alternatives, it's also our job to look into alternatives.
15 I stress to the companies in the pre-filing, because part of
16 my outreach role is I also go out and talk to the industry a
17 good bit. And at this phase of the process, they need to
18 provide us draft resource reports.

19 A lot of companies will think that they have to
20 do all this work in advance of pre-filing and have
21 everything completed before they come in for the pre-filing
22 process. They don't. Okay, they have to have a summary of
23 alternatives.

24 So we don't want them to have the design complete
25 when they come in for pre-filing. We want them to have a

1 pretty good idea of a really good engineered route that they
2 think could be built, but we don't want them to have a
3 complete route, because we want to take stakeholder input in
4 developing that route.

5 So at that meeting several weeks ago -- I'm not
6 protecting the company; I'm speaking general of how I speak
7 to the industry, they would not have a whole list of
8 alternatives to that point. Some would, but some companies
9 would not.

10 AUDIENCE: (off mic) My objection to it was --
11 the lack of integrity in response to the question. So that
12 is --

13 MR. SIPE: Fair enough. I can't say; I was not
14 at that meeting. Fair enough. But I'm just, in general I'm
15 speaking how companies look into alternatives.

16 So from this point forward, there's going to be
17 alternatives looked at. The staff was looking at
18 alternatives today. So alternatives are going to be
19 considered.

20 Now it's easy for the company to say, and it is
21 part of our regulations that when you initially propose a
22 pipeline route, it's part of our regs under 3.15 that they
23 do look for existing utility corridors; power lines,
24 pipelines, roads, whatever it may be.

25 So since they will look at existing utility

1 corridors. But it's a battle at FERC, to be honest with
2 you. You guys have a couple pipelines in this right-of-way
3 already. Certain parts of the country we go to you may have
4 ten pipelines in a utility corridor. So it's kind of, us
5 and the other agencies have to come together and figure out
6 'Okay, in certain situations, when should a pipeline company
7 look for a green route alternative?' So that's all going to
8 be weighed out through this process.

9 The last speaker I have here, Patricia Shank.

10 MS. SHANK: I want to thank you for having the
11 meeting and enlightening us and permitting us to find out
12 some information. However, I will be frank, brutally so,
13 and brief.

14 Number one, there are some discrepancies here.
15 Some of my neighbors were visited by someone who said they
16 represented Columbia; and said that if they did not agree to
17 what they were going to do, they would be forced to have
18 eminent domain and lose a lot.

19 One neighbor was told they would lose their side
20 porch, their well and part of their swimming pool. Now I
21 find it hard to believe that Columbia is going to be
22 responsible for pulling -- all of these things, that all of
23 these neighbors are going to suffer.

24 Secondly, I have had other neighbors tell me that
25 they attended a couple meetings held by you all, FERC, and

1 they were told there's no point in doing anything because
2 it's already a done deal.

3 So what we're hearing -- let me finish. What
4 we're hearing here is discrepancies. For that reason, we
5 are now very mistrustful of what's going on here. We feel
6 we have had the wool pulled over our eyes, and we don't know
7 who to trust. That's it.

8 MR. SIPE: Okay. For one, thank you for your
9 comment.

10 Eminent domain is a very scary word for
11 everybody. Eminent domain is conveyed from the Natural Gas
12 Act. So this company, Columbia, does not have federal
13 eminent domain at this point. If FERC approves, that the
14 Commission approves a project, conveyed with that from the
15 Natural Gas Act is eminent domain.

16 We require all companies, in the beginning of a
17 process, in the beginning when they come out and talk to you
18 -- and they don't like it -- we require them to disclose
19 that they do have -- if the Commission would vote yes for
20 this project -- eminent domain conveys with that.

21 Part of my duties is working with the RWA, and
22 that's all right-of-way; it stands for International Right-
23 of-Way Association. That's all utilities. And those people
24 in that organization will tell us, like FERC: 'Why do you
25 require us to disclose eminent domain right off the bat?

1 Because we could be doing everything exactly how we're
2 supposed to be doing it, and I grant you there are some
3 agents out there that are not doing it correctly, and that's
4 part of our task, too, is to make sure that that happens;
5 and we develop training programs and everything for that.

6 They may have a stepped process of how they're
7 working an easement agreement with a landowner; as soon as
8 they mention eminent domain, everyone loses trust. And
9 that's very well understood.

10 Look, I can't walk into this room tonight -- just
11 because I'm from the federal government, and you guys are
12 going to trust me. Right? But we're here tonight just to
13 give you as much information as we can. And we have to earn
14 the trust just like the company has to.

15 But eminent domain is a scary term, and I'm just
16 letting you know how it applies here to this project. And
17 we will talk to Columbia. As soon as we hear there's right-
18 of-way agent concerns, believe me, we talk to the company
19 immediately. We don't hear from those, and it's good that
20 you came tonight and told us that, and if anybody else has
21 any right-of-way agent concerns, just please let us know.

22 Remember, to the general public, anybody that
23 shows up on our doorstep to talk to you is a right-of-way
24 agent. That's not necessarily always true. There's a whole
25 project team, so you could be talking to the project

1 manager, you could be talking to a right-of-way agent, you
2 could be talking to the engineer, the vice-president,
3 whoever. Please have them explain to you who they are.

4 MS. SHANK: (off mic) Well, because of all this
5 -- there are an awful lot of us that are now mistrustful. I
6 will say there was a very nice gentleman when I came in this
7 evening from Columbia who did say that did not sound as
8 though it was one of their agents and they would look into
9 it, but it was done.

10 Unfortunately with the one couple, there's a lot
11 of sickness there, and they are really upset and very, very
12 distressed over this.

13 Secondly, you did say that you sent out
14 information to everyone, but the only people in our
15 neighborhood of 60 homes who got information were those who
16 were living exactly on each side of the power line; the rest
17 of us did not. There are 60 homes in that development; one
18 entrance in, that's it. So if there's any problems, if there
19 is danger, we are in a great deal of trouble, and we are
20 extremely concerned. I hope you can understand that.

21 So we do not understand why this line cannot stay
22 within the power line instead of encroaching on people's
23 property. Thank you.

24 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

25 That's the last speaker. Does anybody else want

1 to speak? You can -- sir, can I give it to this gentleman
2 over here?

3 AUDIENCE: Sure.

4 MR. SIPE: This will be difficult. I'm trying to
5 figure out who has their hand up.

6 MR. LOOKINGLAND: My name is Michael Lookingland.
7 M I c h a e l, just like it sounds, Lookingland - l o o k i
8 n g l a n d.

9 I'm just wondering who the BGE representative
10 here is tonight. Would you raise your hand and introduce
11 yourself?

12 All right. Now, what's the life expectancy of
13 the existing line that's there now? Is this appropriate to
14 ask questions of this nature at this forum?

15 MR. SIPE: The answer there -- I will try to
16 answer most of the questions instead of getting Columbia to
17 answer them. But I can have Columbia answer some of them.

18 The life expectancy of a line is all dependent
19 upon the integrity management of that line.

20 MR. LOOKINGLAND: I guess the existing line
21 that's there now, that they're going to make the redundant
22 line. So you're not familiar with that?

23 MR. SIPE: We're familiar, but I'm just saying in
24 general -- Columbia, do you want to answer that question?
25 Do you have a -- if they don't have an integrity management

1 person here tonight, then they may not want to answer that
2 question.

3 MR. LOOKINGLAND: Sure. That's fine.

4 AUDIENCE: (Off mic) I would have to defer to --

5

6 MR. LOOKINGLAND: When was that line put in?

7 What year. Do we know that?

8 AUDIENCE: (Off mic.) (inaudible)

9 MR. LOOKINGLAND: Less than 20 years?

10 AUDIENCE: 1960s and 1970s.

11 MR. LOOKINGLAND: Okay, good.

12 AUDIENCE: 1960s, early 1970s.

13 MR. LOOKINGLAND: I guess what I'm trying to get
14 at is, I live on Preakness Drive, and we're well affected.
15 They're coming up in our yards. And my concern is, you know,
16 the talks with BGE and Columbia Gas, is that public
17 information, can we see the dialogue that went on between
18 Columbia and BGE? You know, why. We don't want this thing
19 in the right-of-way. We don't want it in the right-of-way,
20 but if it does happen, my concern is at first, we need to
21 know what went on with BGE and Columbia Gas. Why can't that
22 go in the right-of-way? That's a big concern. We don't
23 want it there, but if it has to go there, we want it in the
24 existing right-of-way.

25 Now the existing BGE circuits in that area are on

1 individual old lattice steel-type structures. Their
2 life-span is about -- I'm not certain. So I think if
3 Columbia Gas and BGE work together, they're going to come up
4 with a solution of putting one pole line down the center
5 holding both circuits, okay; 110, 512 and 11, I believe.

6 But time is the essence, where that's going to
7 have to be done sometime in the future. Columbia Gas wants
8 that main put in there now; doesn't really need to go there
9 right now; or can Columbia Gas and BGE maybe work together
10 and come up with a solution to keep everybody kind of happy.
11 I'm not happy; I don't want to it there, but if it's going
12 to go there, I understand. But we don't want it there.

13 So I'm just wondering if that information, those
14 talks are available, and will FERC have BGE and Columbia in
15 the same room talking to them, or have that dialogue with
16 both companies? Because I really believe very strongly that
17 a solution can come about where BGE can rework their
18 existing infrastructures, put the line in -- we don't want
19 it, I don't want it there; nobody wants it. But it could go
20 back on the existing right-of-way line, minimal tree loss,
21 et cetera. So it needs to be looked at, and I would love to
22 see public records, if we can have that information in the
23 meetings that went on, right; because I'm almost certain
24 that these guys have talked with BGE already, because at the
25 meeting at Columbia Gas's office, it was stated that it was

1 kind of negative where BGE, no, they didn't want to budge or
2 this or that or whatever. But I'd like to hear their story,
3 both sides. Thank you.

4 MR. SIPE: Thank you. Just for the record, BG&E
5 is another stakeholder. We don't regulate BG&E, they're a -
6 - it's a state-regulated entity, not a federal-regulated
7 entity because they're a local distribution company.

8 You could ask BG&E if they would discuss it with
9 you, the reasoning why -- and I'm not sure yet why, if they
10 even said no yet, okay, to a routing in that area. But
11 they're another stakeholder. We do not handle landowner
12 negotiations between the company and any entity, okay?

13 So if the landowner wants to tell us why they
14 don't want it on their land, that's fine. Any stakeholder
15 can do that; but that would be up to BG&E for you to go
16 discuss that with them. We're going to look at routing
17 through the BG&E corridor, and around it, and all other
18 alternatives. We will discuss that in our alternative
19 analysis. We can't necessarily require BG&E to tell us
20 exactly the negotiations between them and Columbia.

21 MR. GRACEY: Jim Gracey again. I just want to
22 set the record straight on something you said earlier. I'm
23 not sure where the gentleman is; he said he worked for
24 Columbia Gas Pipeline. He made the statement that EPA is
25 going to be out there inspecting every day. You need to

1 know that EPA does not inspect this job at all; the
2 enforcement authority on this will be under State of
3 Maryland, erosion control laws; it will be done by the
4 Maryland Department of the Environment.

5 I was on the O'Malley transition team when they
6 came into office, regarding water quality and environmental
7 issues; and we asked the State MDE what their inspection
8 force was, how large it was, and how frequently with that
9 staff they were able to inspect every construction site.
10 And they said they had a big enough staff to get to every
11 construction site once every two years. So that's the kind
12 of inspection we're going to get, just so you know.

13 MR. SIPE: I won't correct everyone that speaks
14 tonight when they say something a little bit off. EPA
15 delegates their authority to a state agency, a lot of times
16 in these pipeline projects, depending on what state they're
17 in. But just to let you know, FERC -- any pipeline we
18 regulate, we're with it from the very beginning. If the
19 Commission approves that project, we follow it the whole way
20 through construction, with inspections. We do the
21 environmental inspections, DOT PHMSA is required for the
22 safety inspections the entire way through.

23 So FERC handles the inspections; other state
24 agencies can inspect it, too. The Corps can inspect it, the
25 state can inspect it, local agencies can inspect it, county,

1 wherever it may be. But FERC does handle the construction-
2 restoration end of it.

3 Any other speakers or any other questions?

4 We will be here after the meeting if you guys
5 want to come up and talk to us one-on-one, but while the
6 transcriber is here. There you go.

7 MS. LINK: Nina Link, N i n a L i n k.

8 I just have one comment about the wetlands. When
9 they talk about how, on Preakness, the big hill where the
10 power line is and when it crosses over Derby Drive, when we
11 have really bad storms, hurricanes, it floods that stream
12 and it looks like a river. And it comes up -- sometimes it
13 comes up onto our neighbor's property; and luckily where we
14 live it doesn't come up through our property. Like, we're
15 afraid with all of the moving around it might affect -- we
16 live on the hill -- and it might loosen our house. So we're
17 concerned about that.

18 AUDIENCE: (Off mic.)

19 MR. SIPE: Just so you guys note --

20 MS. LINK: If you take those trees like everybody
21 is saying, trees hold back the ground. So if you're going
22 to have something bad, you're going to send a mountain down,
23 and you might have a landslide.

24 I have seen rains where it has come over Derby
25 Drive, the street. You know, it comes actually on the road,

1 and then falls together because the stream gets so --

2 MR. SIPE: Medha will make sure that that's
3 covered in the environmental analysis.

4 AUDIENCE: We're really concerned (off mic).

5 MR. SIPE: We hear it loud and clear.

6 Just so, in reference you guys do know the
7 difference, and I heard some comments tonight. This is a
8 natural gas line; this is not a natural gas liquids line.
9 If you look at the organic chemistry behind these types of
10 fuels, this is a natural gas in a gaseous form; it's
11 methane.

12 You know, the MTBE issue I'm familiar because I
13 live in the Annapolis, Maryland area. That came from a
14 product, a liquid product, as in gasoline. So just -- there
15 are a lot of lines, you do have a petroleum line that runs
16 up through here; with the Colonial line you do have a
17 natural gas line. So there's all kinds of different forms
18 of gas.

19 MR. FORTIER: Joe Fortier again.

20 I forgot to mention this is in my initial
21 comments. But I would also like to see Columbia Gas put
22 mercaptan into this line. They really haven't given us a
23 good reason why they won't do that. And I know that they've
24 said that you know, if there is a leak in the line we're
25 going to hear it because it will sound like a jet engine;

1 but maybe if there's just a little leak or if there's
2 something going on, I think that mercaptan, just as it does
3 on the gas lines that enter our homes, would give us an
4 indication that something's wrong, and we can call whoever
5 we have to call, hopefully a problem occurs.

6 So I would like you to consider that in their
7 application also. Thank you.

8 MR. SIPE: Thank you. Of the record, mercaptan
9 is like a smelly egg smell that is putting most local
10 distribution lines so you can smell the gas. So interstate
11 companies do have mercaptan in their lines, some don't use
12 it; but it's common here.

13 Any other questions?

14 And again, I know you don't understand the pre-
15 filing process, but this is early on in the process; there's
16 still a lot of time left for you guys to gather information,
17 for you guys to look at the record, for you guys to send us
18 comments. And not just us; you can send to the states, any
19 other federal agencies involved in this process comments.

20 AUDIENCE: (Off mic) But you keep saying that,
21 and we're told that they want this project completed by next
22 July. And I know -- it's what you're saying. And they told
23 us this at their meeting.

24 MR. SIPE: Do you want me to explain to you how -

25 -

1 AUDIENCE: I understand --

2 MR. SIPE: The business development guys within
3 any company, when they go out and negotiate any deal with a
4 shipper, whoever is receiving the gas, they'll have a date
5 in mind. They'll back-date everything off of that date.

6 Now they can let us know what their dates are up
7 front, and if they're in a pre-filing process like this one,
8 there's also timelines associated with the pre-filing
9 process. It's on them. It's our requirements; it's up to
10 them to meet it. It's up to them to meet dates and give us
11 the information so we can have the time to analyze it and
12 produce whatever environmental document we are going to
13 produce. It's their timeline, it's not ours. It's their
14 proposal.

15 A lot of times they propose dates and times to us
16 that we and the other agencies and stakeholders will never
17 meet. But it's their proposal; they can have a date. But
18 we can just tell them -- what happens with this project is
19 once they file an application, within 90 days of us noticing
20 that application, and it's on there, issue Notice of
21 Application, we have to either issue the environmental
22 document or issue a scheduling notice. That will tell the
23 general public when we are going to come out with our
24 environmental document.

25 From that environmental document, all the other

1 agencies that we're working with, unless they have a
2 statutory time frame, they have 90 days from the issuance of
3 our final environmental document to issue their decision.

4 There's all kinds of dates here, guys. But it's
5 all based off of the company's proposal. It's up to them
6 and how this project goes through the process, if that date
7 will be met or that date will not be met. We can give you
8 all the dates in the world of where we're at in the process;
9 the only date we can't give you is we can't let anybody know
10 when the Commission is going to vote on this project. We
11 don't even know, as Staff. We have a good idea, but it
12 could sit up in the Commission for months and they just
13 don't vote on it.

14 So that's the only date we can't give you. So if
15 you guys are looking for dates or any of that, any of those
16 timelines or anything, let us know. Ask the company. The
17 companies will have their own timelines; FERC will have
18 theirs, too.

19 AUDIENCE: So you're saying those timelines that
20 they're providing us in fact may not be reality.

21 MR. SIPE: There you go.

22 You know, a company is a company. They're going
23 to -- you know, we're FERC, we're an agency that regulates
24 those guys. So yeah, they're going to have a timeline
25 associated -- those guys that work over there for Columbia,

1 yes, they want to meet that timeline, because their job
2 depends on it. But they also know that depending on the
3 issues with a given project, they may not be able to meet
4 that timeline.

5 AUDIENCE: You really pull that trigger.

6 MR. SIPE: Yes, FERC pulls the trigger.

7 Now I will tell you, under the Energy Policy Act
8 of 2005, all agencies are required, and we did already
9 develop regulations, to expedite energy infrastructure
10 projects. The review time and everything associated with
11 those.

12 But it's still up to the company to provide us
13 the data we need in order for us to analyze it, and turn
14 around an environmental document to give out to the general
15 public so they can look at it. Okay?

16 So there's a lot of timelines associated with
17 this, and I understand, and believe me the MTBE scare that
18 you guys had up here, it's different. They're not regulated
19 by a federal entity, they're regulated by the state; Exxon
20 is.

21 So there's all kinds of different timelines
22 depending on the project you have.

23 Any questions? Because I'll let Medha close this
24 meeting. Again, we'll be here. So we're going to close it,
25 let the court reporter quit typing, and if you guys have any

1 other questions, just let us know.

2 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you very much for coming. The
3 meeting is adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Thank you for coming
4 again. I appreciate all the comments you made.

5 (Whereupon, the scoping meeting adjourned at 9:30
6 p.m.)

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