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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC : Docket No. PF13-7-000
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EAST SIDE EXPANSION PROJECT

West Chester University
Student Center - Sykes Auditorium
110 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19383
Tuesday, June 18, 2013

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

- JOHN PECONOM, Project Manager, FERC
- ELLEN SAINT ONGE, Deputy Project Manager, FERC
- DOUG SIPE, Outreach Manager, FERC

With:

- SYDNE MARSHALL, Tetra Tech, Inc.
- SEAN SPARKY, Tetra Tech, Inc.

for Columbia Gas Transmission, Inc.:

- BRENDAN NEAL, Manager, Community Relations
- D.J. REZA, Engineer, NiSource Transmission &

Storage

- MELISSA DETTLING, Environmental Project Manager

	LIST OF COMMENTERS	
1		
2	MARY SWEENEY, resident	27
3	HAROLD HARPER, resident	28
4	KAREN SEPTON, Wedgewood Estates Community Association	29
5	PETER SANTUCCI, resident	43
6	LEO O'ROURKE, resident	55
7	GREG DeCOSMO, resident	58
8	EILEEN JUICO, resident	59
9	DAVID SPAULDING, resident	62
10	MARY SWEENEY, resident	63
11	JANE RUSSO, resident	66
12	ROBIN CREE, resident	67
13	HAROLD HARPER, resident	72
14	DAVID SWEENEY, resident	75
15		
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. SIPE: Good evening, everybody. You can all
3 hear me, correct? I'm on a mic plus I kind of have a loud
4 voice, anyhow.

5 This is a FERC meeting -- Federal Energy
6 Regulatory Commission -- so if that's what you're here for,
7 you're at the right place. If you're not, you probably want
8 to leave unless you want to hear a lot about a pipeline
9 project.

10 So on behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
11 Commission I would like to welcome you all here tonight.
12 This is a scoping meeting for the East Side Expansion
13 Project proposed by Columbia Gas

14 Let the record show that the public scoping
15 meeting in West Chester, Pennsylvania started at 7:06, on
16 June 18th, 2013. The primary purpose of tonight's meeting
17 is (1) for you guys to hear a presentation from FERC --
18 we're FERC staff. Also to hear a presentation from Columbia
19 Gas. We will try to answer as many questions as we possibly
20 can for you guys tonight; this is in pre-filing, this is
21 early on. But most likely FERC or Columbia Gas, they won't
22 have the answers for everything.

23 My name is Doug Sipe, I'm the Outreach Manager at
24 FERC, for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. We are
25 located in Washington, D.C., just right down south of the
26

1 United States Capitol Building. With me tonight from FERC
2 also is John Peconom, sitting in the middle. He's the
3 Project Manager. Ellen Saint Onge, she's the Deputy. We
4 have Sydne Marshall from Tetra Tech, and it's going to kill
5 me to say his name correctly, but Sean Sparky from Tetra
6 Tech also. That's a consulting firm assisting us in the
7 Environmental Assessment. You probably met some of the
8 people coming in tonight. The materials are all out there,
9 if you guys are missing anything like the NOI, some
10 brochures from FERC -- I know Columbia Gas had a little
11 table set up out there also for some stuff. So if you need
12 some information besides what you are going to get here
13 tonight, you can take some hard material back.

14 The FERC is an independent agency that regulates
15 the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas and
16 oil. FERC reviews proposals and authorizes construction of
17 interstate natural gas pipelines, storage facilities,
18 liquefied natural gas, as well as the licensing and
19 inspection of hydroelectric facilities.

20 As a federal licensing agency, the FERC has the
21 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act
22 to consider the potential environmental impact associated
23 with the project that is under consideration, which is this
24 one here tonight.

25 With regard to the Columbia East Side Expansion
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1 Project, the FERC is the lead federal agency for the review
2 and preparation of the Environmental Assessment. We're
3 working with a lot of state agencies; these guys met with
4 the Department of Protection, the State agency here. The
5 Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to be a cooperating
6 agency. So just because we're the lead federal agency, we
7 work with a lot of other agencies, both local, state and
8 federal agencies, to assist us in the analysis of this
9 project.

10 As I said earlier, the primary purpose of this
11 meeting is definitely to hear from you guys tonight. Now I
12 understand and most of the people here understand that you
13 guys may not have all the information you need to make
14 comments, but we want as many early comments as you possibly
15 can give us. And like I said, we'll try to answer as many
16 questions as we go along.

17 It would help us most if your comments are as
18 specific as possible regarding potential environmental
19 impact, and reasonable alternatives for the planned East
20 Side Expansion Project.

21 The issues generally focus on the potential for
22 environmental effects, but may also address construction
23 issues, mitigation, and the environmental review process.

24 So tonight the agenda is pretty simple: We are
25 out here -- FERC had a table set up, like I said when you
26

1 guys came in to sign up, for some information; Columbia has
2 a table. During the meeting if you have specific questions
3 for Columbia, they're going to be here. A lot of the
4 questions you may have you may not want to come to the mic.
5 You can if you want, but you can go outside and ask
6 Columbia, and they can, maybe have some maps and stuff to
7 show you, anything about the project.

8 I'm basically a moderator for this project. So
9 the project managers are going to go over the environmental
10 review process; Columbia is going to give a presentation
11 which we're going to start off with, because this is their
12 project. We're the agency responsible for reviewing and
13 doing the analysis on any material they give us, but this is
14 their project, so they're going to give you guys a little
15 bit of a presentation.

16 And after all that, like I said, the most
17 important part is you guys get to come up to the mic and
18 give us some comments, or ask some questions or whatever it
19 may be.

20 Now I'll note that this not the only way to
21 comment on this project. There's multiple ways to comment.
22 Again, this is pre-filing, this is early on. Ellen is going
23 to go over the public comment input opportunities, but you
24 don't have to come to the mic. You could go out in the
25 hallway and write a handwritten comment down and hand it to
26

1 us. You could send a comment to FERC electronically. You
2 can handwrite and send a comment however you want to. All
3 comments are treated equal. It doesn't matter if it's said
4 a hundred times or one time.

5 So with that, I'm going to have Columbia go over
6 their project with you guys. And like I said, all questions
7 are going to go through me, so let these guys go ahead and
8 give their presentation and then maybe there will be some
9 time right at the end of their presentation to answer a
10 couple questions. But really the important part is to get
11 you guys up to the mic, because we want to hear from you.

12 So Brendan Neal and Melissa Dettling will give
13 you guys a presentation. (PowerPoint presentation)

14 MR. NEAL: Good evening. My name is Brendan
15 Neal, I am the Manager for Community Relations and
16 Stakeholder Outreach for Columbia Pipeline Group. I want to
17 say thank you to FERC for giving us this opportunity to give
18 you an overview of our project and also all of you for
19 taking the time out of your evening to come and participate
20 in this very important meeting.

21 We usually start our presentations by giving a
22 brief overview of our company. Again, I said it's Columbia
23 Pipeline Group. We own and operate more than 15,000 miles
24 of pipeline throughout the Midwest, Northeast, and
25 MidAtlantic. We also operate a large underground system.

26

1 We are investing in a broad array of
2 infrastructure products that support long term safety and
3 reliability, and the other projects are meant to meet the
4 growing energy demand needs of this country.

5 One of these projects is the East Side Expansion
6 Project, and you're here this evening to hear more about our
7 project and we're here to listen to your questions and
8 comments.

9 The East Side Expansion Project is a demand-
10 driven project. We're responding directly to the demand
11 needs of the marketplace. And I want to get into a little
12 bit of the project specifics. As you can see, this is a
13 slide that references some of the demand needs I was
14 speaking about. I'll get into this project timeline in a
15 moment.

16 What we're doing is we're proposing to expand and
17 utilize our existing facilities in both Pennsylvania and New
18 Jersey. These project investments again are estimated to be
19 around \$2 million and more.

20 As you can see here in this slide, there is --
21 this is the New York - Pennsylvania state border. We're
22 looking at doing some upgrades and modifications to our
23 existing compressor stations in both Milford and Easton.
24 And the next slide, this is the New Jersey - Maryland -
25 Delaware, Chester County is right there where it says Loop
26

1 8.8 miles of 26-inch pipeline. That is from our Eagle
2 compressor station to our Downingtown compressor station.
3 We'll also be making some modification, upgrades to both of
4 those compressor stations.

5 The 8.9 miles of pipeline, 8.8 miles of pipeline
6 loop -- and we'll discuss that terminology in a minute, the
7 pipeline loop -- is a 26-inch diameter pipeline running from
8 Upper Uwchlan Township south to West Bradford, and in New
9 Jersey there's 7.4 miles of pipeline running through
10 Gloucester County along Center Square Road.

11 These are just another sort of, 10,000 foot view
12 of the pipe. There's Chester County there, the 26-inch
13 loop; and there's the 20-inch loop in New Jersey. This is
14 just an enhanced view of Gloucester County in New Jersey; an
15 enhanced view from Upper Uwchlan to West Bradford.

16 Now, we're aware of the concerns in this
17 community and other communities with regard to the issue of
18 safety. And I'd just like to take a moment to discuss some
19 of the practices or measures that we take at our company in
20 order to ensure the integrity and safety of our pipeline
21 system.

22 The first is an in-line inspection tool we use to
23 -- it basically gives an X-ray of the pipeline; that we run
24 this tool through our pipelines quite frequently; and in our
25 existing facilities there have been no incidents that we
26

1 can, that are of great concern to us in any of the
2 facilities that we're thinking about expanding.

3 We also have a corrosion control system, which is
4 -- basically we have a coated steel pipe in a cathodic
5 protection some; it's basically the electric current that
6 runs through the pipe that prevents and minimizes any
7 corrosion to the pipe itself.

8 We also do leakage inspections. One is actually
9 manually walked through the line that our operations guys go
10 out there to test along the pipeline right-of-way to see if
11 there are any leaks. The other thing we do is aerial
12 patrols which is a helicopter fly-over which looks for any
13 type of encroachment into our right-of-way that could create
14 some safety concerns for -- could create some risk to the
15 pipeline.

16 I did mention the looping, and I'd like to just
17 have one of our engineers come up here and just explain that
18 terminology, because you'll be hearing a lot more about
19 that.

20 MR. REZA: Hello, everybody. My name is D.J.
21 Reza. I am the pipeline project engineer for Columbia. And
22 during one of the last meetings that we had, this kind of
23 came up as one of the big questions; what is a loop?

24 And as defined by us, a loop is a parallel pipe
25 that begins and ends along our adjacent, existing pipe. So
26

1 you can kind of see from figure, the red and this depiction
2 is our existing pipeline and the blue would be an example of
3 a loop.

4 Now what this loop does, it enables us to keep
5 the same initial pressure and minimize the pressure drop
6 along the pipeline in order to increase our capacity. So
7 it's an efficient way to get more gas from point A to B
8 without having to increase horsepower at our Easton or
9 Downingtown compressor stations.

10 MR. NEAL: Thanks D.J. Also I wanted to ask
11 Melissa Dettling to come up to give an overview of the
12 environmental review process that she'll be undertaking.

13 MS. DETTLING: I am the environmental project
14 manager for Columbia after the East Side Expansion Project.
15 So I manage the preparation of an environmental report on
16 the project so I'll going over that in a little bit,
17 specifics. But also any federal, state or local permits
18 that we need, field surveys that we take to compile all this
19 information, to identify what possible impacts this project
20 might have on the environment.

21 So I wanted to go over a little bit, just because
22 I know FERC will be talking about this also; but there's
23 always some questions about when FERC sends out an NOI and
24 they have their structure over there for preparing an
25 environmental assessment on a project, I wanted to just
26

1 talk about, from Columbia's perspective, as part of our FERC
2 certificate application, we prepare an environmental report.

3 So it's a different document, it's prepared by
4 Columbia. We do field surveys and investigations. We
5 compile all the information to provide to FERC for them to
6 do an independent review on their own and prepare their
7 assessment of ours.

8 So you might hear the term, resource reports.
9 You may have seen them if you're checking the docket of this
10 project with FERC. They're almost essentially like chapters
11 of this environmental report. We do, like I said, desktop
12 field reviews and research consultations with agencies to
13 compile information in all these different categories, and
14 you'll find them publicly available for you to review, which
15 describes our project description, what the impacts may be
16 on wetlands and water bodies, water sheds, wildlife and
17 vegetation, cultural resources, socioeconomics -- as you
18 see, I won't read to you. But all these other categories.

19 Right now we're in the process of pre-filing; and
20 FERC I know will talk a little bit more about that, so we're
21 compiling drafts of all these reports. We'll continue
22 meetings like this, and outreach, and there may be
23 alternative analysis that needs to be done; the route may
24 have variations or changes in the process. And so as that
25 occurs, we will update this information; impact numbers
26

1 might change, impacts to resources might change, we may be
2 avoiding resources, different things like that that may
3 change in these reports.

4 So then different drafts or updated information
5 will be filed. And then in September, right now we're
6 approximating is when we'll be filing an application with
7 FERC, which will have the final non-draft I would say
8 information of all of this for FERC to review.

9 One of those, like I said Resource Report 10, I
10 wanted to touch on specifically because it is an entire
11 resource report just on alternatives. It not only looks at
12 specific route variations, but it looks at overviews of
13 large alternatives and systems alternatives which may be,
14 'Why can't you just put in one mile of pipeline loop? Why
15 can't you just upgrade a compressor station you already
16 have?

17 It answers questions like this for you so you
18 know exactly how this project was designed to meet a
19 customer need for a specific amount of gas and what we
20 looked at in order to meet those customer's needs, and why
21 we think that our proposed project is the best scenario to
22 do that.

23 Here's just a little example of what you'll see
24 in the current version of the draft resource report. We
25 looked at approximately six alternatives for Pennsylvania.
26

1 I'll show you a little example after this of the map where
2 you can see, we identified our proposed project by mileposts
3 along our route, and so that's where you can tie different
4 resources to it. And then in New Jersey we looked at two
5 large alternatives.

6 Like I said, all those are discussed in Resource
7 Report 10. We'll continue to compile information from all
8 these meetings that we attend and all the data that comes in
9 and questions that either come in to us as a company or
10 FERC; and we'll continue to look in the field and do
11 constructibility reviews and analysis on any alternatives
12 that are suggested to us.

13 Here's an example of what you'll see in these
14 resource reports, where you'll be able to identify, we'll
15 identify a proposed route in mapping, and then we'll also
16 identify where we've looked at alternatives, and then we
17 describe what the resources would be, what the impacts would
18 be, and what our proposal is for what we are proposing as
19 our preferred route.

20 We have a document that we prepare with our
21 resource reports, and it's basically a best management
22 practice document, and I'll go into -- we hold our
23 environmental construction standards. These are going to be
24 filed with our resource reports so you can see best
25 management practices that we'll follow. As far as erosion
26

1 controls, timing, things like that will all be in that
2 document for you to look at. And none of those, because I
3 know this is a very sensitive issue on this project in
4 particular is just some of the measures that will be taken
5 in residential areas.

6 I put a few bullets up here so you can just see
7 what you'll find in that document that will be looking to
8 save mature trees and landscaping that are at the edge of
9 our proposed workspace areas, if we can manage our workspace
10 safely and our equipment safely around them.

11 So we are listening to you if you have concerns,
12 and if there's a way that we can avoid impacting these
13 resources, we'll do so. We'll be working to get any
14 workspace areas that are near residences back-filled and
15 restored as soon as possible following any impacts that you
16 guys might be seeing in the residential areas; we'll be
17 closing the trench as soon as possible. Safety fence will
18 be put up; so these are just the measures that we talk about
19 in this so that you know exactly if you are going to have
20 this project in your area, what measures are going to be
21 taken to keep everybody safe and as least inconvenienced as
22 possible.

23 Here's just a few more items; of distances we'll
24 be keeping, safety measures that will be taken, and
25 monitoring that we will also be taking for access roads and
26

1 restoration for these areas, if they're being used.

2 On that same note, landowner concerns, I just put
3 in here a few things so that you can see. We have an 800
4 number that I'll be getting to in the next slide. We have a
5 project website, an 800 number. If you have concerns, we
6 just want you to know that there is a process in place for
7 you to get your concerns in. We have land agents that are
8 in all the different areas, and we'll be preparing
9 responses, meeting with all the different disciplines in our
10 group to look at if there's an alternative or there's a way
11 that it can be resolved, and then what our response would be
12 to handle that concern.

13 Here is the location of our local field office.
14 The toll-free number where you can call to give us any
15 comments or questions you might have, and the FERC docket
16 number which I think you'll see in all the documents that
17 FERC is going over; and this is the way, and they'll explain
18 how you can look up anything that's being publicly filed for
19 this project.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Columbia.

22 Well, with that, that was the company
23 presentation on their project in general. So at this point
24 I'd like to turn it over to Ellen and John to go over the
25 FERC process; then we will soon get to your comments, okay?

26

1 MS. SAINT ONGE: Thank you. As Doug said, I'm
2 going to talk a little bit about the FERC process. We have
3 a flow chart over to my left and we also have a flow chart
4 and handout available in front, if you want to look at more
5 details about the process.

6 Currently we're near the beginning of our
7 environmental review process. Columbia entered into the
8 FERC pre-filing process on March 8th, 2013, which began our
9 review of the facility that we refer to as the East Side
10 Expansion Project. The purpose of prefiling is to encourage
11 involvement by all interested stakeholders in a manner that
12 allows for early identification and resolution of
13 environmental issues.

14 As of today, no formal application has been filed
15 with FERC; however, the FERC along with other federal, state
16 and local agency staff have begun to review the project. On
17 June 6th, the FERC issued our Notice of Intent to prepare an
18 Environmental Assessment for this project and initiate its
19 scoping. This scoping or comment period will end on July 8.

20 During our review of the project we will assemble
21 information from a variety of sources; the information that
22 Columbia provides us in their resource reports as Melissa
23 described; also information from the public that you provide
24 in your scoping meeting and with your comment letters to us;
25 and from state, local and federal agencies as well as our
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1 independent analysis and field work.

2 Our analysis will include an examination of a
3 proposed facility location as well as alternative sites. We
4 will assess the project's effects on water bodies and
5 wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, endangered species,
6 cultural resources, soils, land use, air quality and safety.
7 And we will also take a look at issues that the public
8 brings up in scoping in addition to the ones that are our
9 standard.

10 Our analysis of the potential impact will be
11 published in our environmental assessment or EA and
12 presented to the public for a 30-day comment period. The EA
13 will be mailed to all interested parties. Please note that
14 because of the size of the mailing list, the mailed version
15 of the EA is generally on CD. That means unless you tell us
16 otherwise, you will get the CD in your mailbox. If you
17 prefer a hard copy to be mailed to you, you should indicate
18 that choice to us on either the mailer that was included
19 with your NOI or on the sign-in sheet up front there's a
20 spot to indicate your preference for a paper copy or CD.

21 As I mentioned earlier, our issuance of the NOI
22 opened a formal comment period that will close on July 8th.
23 The NOI encourages you to submit your comments as soon as
24 possible in order to give us time to analyze and research
25 the issues.

26

1 If you received the NOI in the mail, you are on
2 our mailing list and you will remain on our mailing list to
3 receive the EA and any other notices that we may issue
4 regarding the project unless you return the mailer in the
5 back of the NOI that indicates you want to be removed from
6 the mailing list. If you didn't receive the NOI, you should
7 have; I apologize. The mailing list is large and it changes
8 as time goes on. So you can be added to the mailing list by
9 signing up at the front, the sign-in table or by submitting
10 comments to the project.

11 I'd like to add that the FERC encourages
12 electronic filing of comments and other documents. We have
13 a small brochure out on that front table that explains the
14 FERC's eFiling system. Also, instructions can be located on
15 our website, at: www.FERC.gov under the eFiling link. If
16 you want to submit written comments, the directions for that
17 are also in the NOI.

18 It is very important that any comments you send,
19 either electronically or by traditional mail include our
20 internal docket number for this project. The docket number
21 for the East Side Expansion Project is PF13-7. It's on the
22 cover of the NOI and if you send us either electronically or
23 hard copy, please put the number on it and that will help
24 ensure that the comments get to the FERC staff that will be
25 evaluating the project.

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1 Now I also want to explain the roles of the FERC
2 Commission and FERC environmental staff.

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1 The FERC Commission is composed of five members,
2 and they are responsible for making a determination whether
3 to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
4 to the applicant for the project -- in this case Columbia,
5 Columbia Gas and the EA, which is prepared by the FERC
6 environmental staff will describe the project facilities and
7 associated environmental impacts, the alternatives to the
8 project. It will describe mitigations to avoid or reduce
9 impacts and the Staff's conclusions and recommendations.

10 The EA is not a decisional document. It's
11 prepared to disclose to the public and to the Commission the
12 environmental impact of constructing and operating the
13 planned project. When it is completed, the Commission will
14 consider the environmental information that's in the EA
15 along with other non-environmental issues such as
16 engineering, marketing and rates issues and examine all of
17 those factors in making its decision to approve or deny
18 Columbia's request for a certificate.

19 There is no review of FERC decisions by the
20 president or Congress, because FERC is an independent
21 regulatory agency, and that maintains our independence and
22 helps provide an opportunity for a fair and unbiased
23 decision.

24 Right now, we will take questions about the FERC
25 process and then when we are able to answer those questions
26

1 then we'll turn it back over to Doug and get your comments
2 for the record. Does anybody have any questions about the
3 environmental review or the FERC process we can answer?

4 Yes.

5 AUDIENCE: So the filing --

6 MR. SIPE: I have a couple ground rules. When
7 you get up to speak, if you guys noticed the transcriber
8 over here. So if you have any questions or anything, you
9 have to come to the mic so he can hear you. And everything
10 goes into the record tonight, guys, and there will be a
11 transcript of the meeting. So you don't have to take note
12 or anything like that because everything that is said here
13 tonight will be on the record.

14 So when you get up to speak, if you could, please
15 just state your name and spell it.

16 MS. SWEENEY: Mary Sweeney, S w e e n e y.

17 My question is, the final decision, whether this
18 particular project will be permitted, goes to -- FERC makes
19 that final decision?

20 MS. SAINT ONGE: The Commission does.

21 MS. SWEENEY: The Commission does?

22 MS. SAINT ONGE: Yes. The Commission.

23 MS. SWEENEY: Five people make that choice.

24 MS. SAINT ONGE: Five people will take a vote.

25 MS. SWEENEY: Okay, thank you.

26

1 MR. SIPE: To clarify that, the way that works,
2 and we read it into the record here, Ellen -- told you guys
3 how it works, but we're staff at the Commission. We have
4 the environmental staff; I'm the outreach manager, that's
5 who you have here tonight.

6 Now there's many other departments within FERC.
7 You know, you have the markets, you have the tariff, you
8 have the rates side of the application that comes in here in
9 front of us. Those folks aren't going to be out here
10 holding public meetings. So we take all the information
11 back to them, along with your comments coming in; and all
12 that information is analyzed, okay, and then put into an
13 order that goes up to the Commission.

14 Part of that order is the EA, the Environmental
15 Assessment. That's just one part, okay. All the
16 information goes upstairs to the 11th floor -- that's where
17 those guys sit -- we have eleven floors in our building,
18 just FYI -- and it all goes up the stairs to those guys.
19 They can ask us questions, they can bring us up, they can do
20 whatever they really want to do, and then they will make the
21 decision on the project.

22 So when you see the EA coming out on the street,
23 that's not basically FERC staff saying anything to the
24 general public. That's basically us in our analysis, you
25 know, giving our recommendations to the Commission. It may
26

1 look like we're asking the company to do certain things or
2 whatever it may be because of the conditions in the
3 environmental document; but until the Commission votes on
4 the project, that's just recommendations to the Commission.
5 Okay?

6 Any other questions?

7 MR. HARPER: Name is Harold Harper, (sp)

8 I'd like to know the difference between an
9 alternative and a route variation. And at what point does
10 FERC determine whether an alternative route should be used
11 instead of a planned route?

12 MS. SAINT ONGE: An alternative can be a wider
13 variety of things than a route variation. For example, an
14 alternative can be, add compression instead of looping. Or
15 if the point is to get it to a certain market, you know, use
16 a different pipeline. They're much broader in perspective.

17 A route variation is basically -- you know, we're
18 going from this point to that point and we've drawn a line;
19 but we think if we move it a little bit here it may avoid an
20 impact.

21 So one covers a wider category of possibilities,
22 and one is sort of more minor changes to the route.

23 MR. HARPER: How do you weight the aspect of
24 going through a neighborhood versus going around the
25 neighborhood?

26

1 MS. SAINT ONGE: There's a lot of ways to weigh.
2 We look at a lot of different factors. When we do our
3 environmental analysis, the list of things we talked about;
4 wetlands, water bodies, endangered species, cultural
5 resources and impact on landowners are all things we look at
6 and try and weigh in making a decision whether a route
7 variation has more or less impact than the originally-
8 planned route. So we will look at a wide variety of factors
9 in the weighing.

10 MR. SIPE: So remember, this is pre-filing on
11 this type of project. So what you're seeing proposed right
12 now from the company could change. They may go to a
13 different alternative. They may just do a lot of different
14 route variations to avoid impact.

15 So right now they're just out looking at the
16 route; they're looking at the environmental impact, they're
17 looking at -- did it definitely impact the residents and
18 communities and such and so forth. But initially, with a
19 route like this, as part of our regulations, we ask the
20 companies to look at existing utility corridors. You know,
21 they're looking at their existing pipeline, you could look
22 at a road; just in corridor, you could look at another
23 electrical line, you could look at many other utility
24 corridors, but right now they're looking at their own.

25 So there are alternatives, like Ellen mentioned;

26

1 they can range in variety. An alternative could take the
2 route that's proposed right now completely off the property,
3 move it somewhere else. A route variation, they just tweak
4 it.

5 So say you own 20 acres of land or an acre of
6 land. The route may be able to be moved on that land to
7 accommodate the land owner's requests.

8 Believe me, I've done these across the country,
9 and I've seen them at this sage; and a lot of times you come
10 back, if there's another meeting, and this is an
11 environmental analysis, an EA project -- I don't know if
12 we'll have a comment meeting on this; I doubt it; we
13 typically don't. But on different projects when you come
14 back, the route has completely changed and you see different
15 faces in there. So remember this is pre-filing.

16 MR. PECONOM: Doug, if I can add to that really
17 quickly, the gentleman asked about the decision process for
18 whether an alternative is selected or not, and in our
19 Environmental Assessment there is an alternative section
20 where we will describe all the alternatives that have been
21 considered. We will then make a recommendation as to
22 whether or not we believe the alternative is more or less an
23 impact on the environment.

24 That environmental analysis will then be reviewed
25 by the Commission who will ultimately decide whether or not

26

1 that alternative should be incorporated. You'll find out
2 about it through the Environmental Assessment, and then the
3 Commission order, to answer your question.

4 MR. SIPE: Are there any other questions on the
5 process?

6 I do have a speakers list here, so you guys who
7 signed up to speak will get up to speak, also.

8 MS. SEPTON: I'm Karen Septon, I'm here
9 representing Wedgewood Estates Community Association.

10 A big portion of the east side of our community
11 has already been taken over by the pipeline. How do we find
12 out, and excuse me if I'm asking a dumb question; I wasn't
13 here for the first meeting, I was out of the country. How
14 do we find out what is going to be changed from existing to
15 new on our property, so we can make an informed decision on
16 --

17 MR. SIPE: Existing to new -- existing right-of-
18 way, new right-of-way? Is that what you're asking?

19 MS. SEPTON: Yes.

20 MS. SAINT ONGE: I think again you'll have to
21 talk to Columbia about that.

22 MS. SEPTON: Okay. And --

23 MS. SAINT ONGE: They're here, they may be able
24 to help you after the meeting.

25 MS. SEPTON: Okay. And was this the only mailing
26

1 so far that went out?

2 Okay. Thank you.

3 MS. SAINT ONGE: Yes?

4 MR. CREE: I missed a couple of meetings. My
5 name is Robin Cree, C r e e. I don't really understand
6 what looping really is, and it's more because I know you
7 have pipeline in our neighbor's back yard that has venting
8 situations. I didn't know if it was because of the pressure
9 increase and decrease, it sounds like; there's got to be
10 some way to vent the gas. So where does that gas go? Is
11 there a noise problem?

12 Or is there a venting with this looping?

13 MS. SAINT ONGE: That would be a question for
14 Columbia, but I could say --

15 MR. CREE: That should really be part of your --

16 MS. SAINT ONGE: The pipeline itself, the
17 pipeline portion of it underground is not vented. At meter
18 stations and where the gas is going to be transferred -- and
19 compressor stations, there may be venting at those above-
20 ground facilities. But at the underground facilities,
21 there's no vented gas.

22 MR. CREE: Okay. The Williams -- they won't, as
23 far as you know?

24 MS. SAINT ONGE: I don't know what you're
25 referring to, but --

26

1 MR. CREE: Williams gasoline, is that it?
2 Williams?

3 MS. SAINT ONGE: -- the gas is under a certain
4 pressure --

5 MR. CREE: There is always a whistling noise that
6 would happen, right in his back -- he had pipes that had
7 crossed or something in his back yard. And we would also
8 smell gas.

9 MR. SIPE: Yes, that would be a question for
10 Columbia Gas on this one, where they may vent --

11 MR. CREE: But it still is going to be a point
12 for your decision?

13 MR. SIPE: Absolutely.

14 MS. SAINT ONGE: Yes, yes.

15 MR. SIPE: Just because you mention it tonight,
16 we'll talk about that.

17 MR. CREE: Okay.

18 MR. SWEENEY: David Sweeney (sp).

19 Now is this question just on environmental
20 impacts, or is it also on safety? Just the safety issue in
21 there, is that included in this issue?

22 MS. SAINT ONGE: I can't answer questions about
23 safety; we will look at safety as an environmental impact.
24 It's part of the environmental section.

25 MR. SWEENEY: So I can't ask you questions --

26

1 MS. SAINT ONGE: You can ask us about our review;
2 I can't answer -- I'll probably be unlikely to answer any
3 specifics. But you can certainly ask me questions about how
4 we deal with that.

5 MR. SWEENEY: Well, I don't think you're going to
6 be able to help with that.

7 MS. SAINT ONGE: Okay.

8 MR. SWEENEY: Thank you.

9 MR. SIPE: Sometimes, and I'm not sure yet on
10 this project here, the cooperating agency will usually
11 assist us in our environmental analysis; they'll have a
12 safety section; it will be Department of Transportation,
13 PHMSA. And they regulate the safety behind these
14 facilities.

15 So we're not PHMSA, we're not DOT, but if you
16 have questions that you'd want to stick on the record, we
17 may not be able -- and I see you're noted here to speak --
18 by all means, you can ask any safety question you want
19 tonight, when I call you -- (Laughter)
20 -- and then we'll work with DOT to get those questions
21 answered.

22 So any more process-type of questions? And this
23 isn't the last time; I'd like to jump to the speakers list.
24 We have three speakers, so there will be plenty of time to
25 speak after that or ask any questions after that. Just, I
26

1 want to make sure that these guys, they signed up to speak,
2 get to say what they want. Then we're going to be here; I
3 don't know how long we have the facility -- to answer
4 anything you may have. Okay?

5 Note, you guys are doing a pretty good job, this
6 meeting is being transcribed, and just when you get up there
7 basically say your name and spell it, too. And I will try,
8 from this list here, to say your name correctly. And guess
9 what? You're first up. David Sweeney.

10 MR. SWEENEY: Again, David Sweeney. (spelling)

11 I have several concerns. A lot of these
12 questions will be direct to Columbia, so I'm not sure. I'm
13 going to shoot the question off anyway.

14 I would like to know how many feet there are
15 going to be between the existing line and the new line? Can
16 you answer, or not?

17 MR. SIPE: I'll answer that. All questions will
18 come to me and I'll figure out --

19 MR. SWEENEY: Okay.

20 MR. SIPE: You know, there are going to be some
21 questions tonight that I'll have, maybe Columbia will answer
22 or I'll answer it, but every member, everything that's asked
23 tonight will be addressed by Columbia in their application.

24 Part of pre-filing is as soon as that scoping
25 date is over, the first initial scoping period -- and I want
26

1 to make a note on that, too; that's not the last time you
2 can comment. July 8th, that was listed here, that's not the
3 last time you can comment. You can comment basically the
4 whole way through this process, but it depends when it comes
5 in how we're going to address it. If it comes in early,
6 then Columbia Gas will address it in their application. If
7 it comes in a little bit later, Columbia Gas may address it
8 again in a supplemental filing, or we'll address it in the
9 environmental assessment. If it comes in after that, there
10 will be a comment period on the EA, we'll address it in the
11 order. So it all depends when that comes in.

12 I'll also note, if you send a comment to FERC, a
13 lot of landowners think that you're going to get a direct
14 response back from us. That won't happen. We address all
15 of our comments in the EA itself, or in the order it goes to
16 the Commission.

17 So just note that the questions you're asking
18 tonight, like the one you just did, that will vary. In most
19 pipeline projects, the distance between the two pipes will
20 vary. On a looping type of pipeline like this one, what we
21 ask is a maximum usually of 25 feet. Now that could vary;
22 they could squeeze in a little bit tighter or they may have
23 to go out a little bit further based on construction
24 parameters.

25 So what we ask for at FERC if it's their own
26

1 line, if it's Columbia's line and they're going to loop it,
2 it's 25 foot separation. If it's a foreign line, that means
3 if it's another company, it's 50 foot separation from the
4 other pipe. But it will vary, going down through the right-
5 of-way. They can squeeze it in, or they may widen it out.

6 MR. SWEENEY: And no minimum requirement for that
7 --?

8 MR. SIPE: No, the DOT minimum really, to be
9 honest with you, is basically -- if you ask a minimum of a
10 pipeline to any structure, it's hard to find; the DOT folks
11 have always told me it's about a foot. Because you have to
12 realize, to get these pipes -- you remember on DOT specs
13 they get to take pipes through cities. A lot of these
14 transmission lines that you're seeing, these 30 inch, 36
15 inch even 42 inch, are also going through cities. So it's
16 tough to get gas to demand centers. So if they limited how
17 close it could be to a structure, a lot of the pipes
18 couldn't get through the cities and get the gas to the
19 demand centers. So that's where the F-T reg comes from.

20 MR. PECONOM: Doug, if I can jump in here really
21 quickly, and according to the information Columbia has filed
22 with us so far is they are proposing 25 foot offset. And
23 that is something we've spoken to them about, looking at a
24 little bit more to give us additional information about
25 that, whether that can be reduced at all. That's the answer
26

1 to your question.

2 MR. SWEENEY: Thank you for that.

3 My next question is: How many pipelines are
4 there allowed through one narrow corridor? Between my home
5 and the road, there's 85 feet. And we already have two
6 existing lines in there. I would like to know how many
7 pipelines are allowed in an 85 foot corridor, since you're
8 going to have 25 foot between each pipe. That's an
9 estimate.

10 MR. PECONOM: I understand. You're getting to a
11 cumulative impacts issue; is how many is too many? And
12 that's something we've heard before and it's something that
13 we'll be looking at in the Environmental Assessment.

14 The answer is, there's no good answer for that
15 question. As many as can fit in there, really. There's no
16 set parameter or limitation about how many pipelines can be
17 put in there.

18 MR. SWEENEY: My next question is, at what
19 pressure do these transmission lines run, with gas inside
20 them?

21 MR. SIPE: That pressure would vary, depending on
22 the line itself. I don't know what these guys -- if they're
23 going to file it in the application, what they plan to run
24 this pressure at.

25 I've seen it run anywhere from really, really low
26

1 pressure on small lines to 2,000 psi on different lines
2 running across the country. But then it all goes back to
3 DOT regulations on the class of pipe that has to be used; on
4 the area that they're running that high pressure at; they
5 have to conform to DOT regulations on the -- it's called
6 basically a maximum operating allowable pressure, MAOP.

7 MR. SWEENEY: Well, one of my next questions is:
8 How do they determine that the pressure is sustained even
9 throughout the whole pipe?

10 MR. SIPE: Again, that's a Columbia Gas question
11 that they can answer in their application.

12 MR. SWEENEY: Where and how many shutoff valves
13 are there between the Housewood (ph) pumping station and the
14 Eagle pumping station? FERC should know that.

15 MR. SIPE: Again, this is pre-filing. So we have
16 some information, but that information will be in their
17 application.

18 Those types of details, like how many valves, the
19 pressure, the customers, everything right now, could change.
20 So that will be in their application.

21 MR. SWEENEY: I would like to know if Columbia
22 can assure myself and area residents that our well water
23 will not be contaminated, since this is the only water
24 source that we have.

25 MR. SIPE: The assurance question is always
26

1 asked, and I understand that. But what Columbia Gas will be
2 able to tell you is what they're going to do to protect your
3 water. And what procedures they're going to put in place to
4 test your water beforehand, to test your water afterwards,
5 and to make sure that you have the same or better when they
6 leave. And that also will be in their application.

7 MR. SWEENEY: And that assessment is taken by
8 FERC as gospel, correct?

9 MR. SIPE: That assessment -- now, you have to --
10

11 MR. SWEENEY: The assessment by Columbia is taken
12 by FERC to be exactly what they say. Isn't that correct?

13 MR. SIPE: That's what we always say; we want
14 them to do what they said they were going to do. And this
15 is just like, imagine -- we get this question, too:

16 If you're going to put a deck on the back of your
17 house, just like most people do around here when they own a
18 house, okay. You have to give the information to the
19 county, the township or the city, whoever is approving that.
20 And then they give you an answer on okay, is that the way it
21 should be? Or no, you need to add these parameters to that.

22 This is the same way for this type of pipeline.
23 We have regulations that the applicant must follow, and must
24 file that information; and then we as FERC and our
25 consultants analyze that information and provide you an

26

1 environmental assessment, so.

2 MR. SWEENEY: Thank you.

3 Now is there a federal, state or local agency, if
4 any, that is in place that monitors and inspects the gas
5 company records pertaining to the inspections that are being
6 done/completed by Columbia?

7 MR. PECONOM: Safety inspections?

8 MR. SWEENEY: Sure.

9 MR. PECONOM: The Department of Transportation is
10 responsible for monitoring the safety of these pipelines.

11 MR. SWEENEY: So it's not FERC.

12 MR. PECONOM: It's not FERC.

13 MR. SIPE: Now again safety is definitely PHMSA.
14 Pipeline, Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration,
15 under DOT. They handle the inspections of these facilities.

16 AUDIENCE: DOT is Department of Transportation.

17 MR. SIPE: The Department of Transportation, then
18 PHMSA is underneath of that. PHMSA stands for Pipeline --

19 AUDIENCE: But Department of Transportation has
20 to do with roads and vehicles, right? I guess I'm confused
21 about what the Department of Transportation is.

22 MR. SIPE: You can get up and ask that question;
23 I just want to make sure he gets it on the record, okay?

24 AUDIENCE: According to the statement, according
25 to Columbia, there are pink lines, and I would like to know

26

1 how many times a month or year that occurs, to check leaks.

2 MR. SIPE: Again, that is done, that is
3 controlled by PHMSA. I know you have a lot of safety
4 questions tonight, and that's fine. That's perfectly fine,
5 because Columbia will address that in their application.
6 And it's different, I'll tell you that. There's a program
7 set up through PHMSA that when and how often certain
8 pipelines are tested. Okay?

9 AUDIENCE: I guess.

10 Now Columbia also claimed tonight that they
11 inspect all underground pipelines. Now I lived on the
12 pipeline for 22 years, and I have never actually seen a
13 physical inspection of the pipeline; a person come down just
14 to look at the pipeline to see if there's any leaks or not.

15 The only thing I saw was, not a helicopter but a
16 little aircraft that does a fly-by; and as far as I know,
17 that's the only inspection that takes place on the pipeline
18 going through my property and up and down the line that I
19 know.

20 MR. SIPE: That's a good question. Those types
21 of surveys happen frequently on all pipeline projects.
22 Columbia Gas will have an inspection protocol that they can
23 put in their application on this line and their lines near
24 you; they can put that in their application and let you know
25 what that is. But a lot of typical pipeline inspections are
26

1 done with aerial, either by helicopter or fixed wing like
2 you said, and they're looking for certain things to happen
3 on the ground; that's why they usually like to keep their
4 right-of-way trimmed up so they can actually see the
5 pipeline.

6 And this is the planning type of phase for a
7 pipeline company, and you have the construction people here
8 and you have the planning and the engineering and the
9 environmental folks. After the Commission would approve
10 this project, and all the other agencies would approve it,
11 and if it would be built, then this project, after it's
12 built, rolls over to their operations end of the company,
13 and then they have to perform the inspections and
14 maintenance of that project.

15 AUDIENCE: I have another comment, actually to
16 FERC.

17 Now the venue for this meeting is -- it was hard
18 to get to, it was hard to find. So I'm going to make a
19 suggestion that FERC further meetings take place closer to
20 the project area; possibly Downingtown High School or
21 Downingtown Middle School, East Brandywine Fire Company. Or
22 perhaps the Holiday Inn, which you had earlier.

23 Now you've also stated that FERC doesn't make the
24 final decision; and there is five people that makes the
25 final suggestions for this Commission to make the decision,
26

1 isn't that correct?

2 MS. SAINT ONGE: No. The environmental staff
3 prepares the EA with our suggestions; and that goes to the
4 Commission as our recommendation. The Commission is the
5 five people who vote. There are five commissioners.

6 AUDIENCE: And the five people vote and they make
7 the final decision?

8 MS. SAINT ONGE: There are more than five FERC
9 environmental staff that will work on it. There will be a
10 resource specialist for every area; a biologist, an
11 archaeologist, geologist -- we'll have a number of
12 environmental staff that have specialties to do the review,
13 and then our recommendations for the Commission as well as -
14 - as I mentioned, the marketing information, the rates. And
15 so they will use our information as well as other
16 information about the project to make their decision.

17 AUDIENCE: Most of my other questions are
18 directed to Columbia, so I don't think that you want to hear
19 them right now.

20 MR. PECONOM: Well, if your questions are
21 concerns, that's something we want to hear.

22 AUDIENCE: Well --

23 MS. SAINT ONGE: You can put them on the record.

24 AUDIENCE: That would be very good, okay.

25 If a gas leak occurs which is not detected, what
26

1 health effects on the human body are there, and is this gas
2 considered toxic?

3 MR. SIPE: Again, this is all going on the
4 record; Columbia Gas can answer that in their application.

5 AUDIENCE: Is there an indicator scent added to
6 the gas in the transmission line that crosses our
7 properties?

8 MR. SIPE: Again, that varies. That varies state
9 to state, township to township, city to city, depending on
10 what type of project it is. If it's a local distribution
11 company sometimes there is an odor put into the pipeline,
12 They'll answer that if that's going to be used here.

13 AUDIENCE: Isn't it true that minor gas leaks
14 cannot be detected at times?

15 MR. PECONOM: What I'm doing is I'm writing down
16 these questions so I can follow up.

17 AUDIENCE: I understand. That's exactly what I
18 would like somebody to do.

19 MR. PECONOM: Okay.

20 AUDIENCE: Another major concern is, we also have
21 a 14-inch line that is running now, and you're trying to put
22 a loop next to this. My main concern is, if and when this
23 is approved and Columbia starts to install a new 26-inch
24 pipeline, what kind of guarantees can Columbia give to
25 assure myself and my neighbors that the 14-inch pipeline,
26

1 which will still be in use, will not be ruptured, damaged,
2 or otherwise compromised?

3 I would like to know what type of gas is being
4 pumped through this transmission line.

5 MR. SIPE: I can answer that; that would be
6 natural gas. If you look at the organic compound natural
7 gas, there's a lot of chains of carbon, right. The natural
8 gas -- if you're going through this line, it would be
9 methane.

10 AUDIENCE: Thank you.

11 What measures are in place if or when a gas
12 pipeline catastrophe occurs including training and
13 coordinated efforts between police departments, fire
14 departments, EMTs, hazmats, EPA, hospitals and Columbia Gas
15 Company?

16 MR. SIPE: Again, all companies in this industry
17 have an emergency response plan. And that's something that
18 they can share with you. Or reference where you can find
19 that.

20 AUDIENCE: My next question is: Has Columbia
21 ever gone to the effort to prepare with the previously-
22 mentioned agencies a coordinated response team if or when a
23 catastrophic event does occur in my immediate area?

24 I am concerned, this relates to the 2002, the
25 year 2002 line that they came through with. What remedy
26

1 does Columbia have for my area for the thistle they
2 introduced into my and my neighbor's property in 2002 that
3 will not interfere with my own and native plantings?

4 MR. SIPE: That would be a noxious weed, and that
5 would be covered in the Environmental Assessment.

6 AUDIENCE: And is there an alternate route for
7 the loop of Route 1270A, whatever it is.

8 MR. SIPE: The company showed you in the
9 beginning there are many alternatives they're looking at,
10 and they're going to continue to look at alternatives and
11 variations of this route.

12 AUDIENCE: Thank you. That concludes my
13 questions.

14 MR. SIPE: Well, you have a lot of paperwork
15 there; so like I say, when we have three speakers, if you
16 want to get up again.

17 AUDIENCE: Oh, I've got comments on that
18 question.

19 MR. SIPE: There you go.

20 Next speaker I have here is Peter --

21 MR. SANTUCCI: My name is Peter Santucci, S a n t
22 u c c i. I live at 113 Arrowwood Drive, which is a new
23 street that's along Milepost 73 to 74 and 75.

24 First question is, the current aerial satellite
25 maps that are shown in all the documents don't have my house
26

1 in that picture itself. So I'm concerned that any planning
2 that goes forward will make sure they get up-to-date
3 satellite photos, because it does not have my house and
4 another person's house along the cul-de-sac of that street.

5 Also, looking at Appendix 8B on the source
6 documents on line, it only shows one residence. The
7 residence is in buildings within 50 feet of the construction
8 work area; it only shows one residential home, when if it
9 goes through with the proposed line, there's at least three
10 if not four if someone moves into one of the other houses.
11 So I think there need to be updates on that particular
12 document.

13 One of the questions I have, when I was reviewing
14 the monthly stash report issued on June 13 was that there
15 was a conversation that Jeff McClintock, who is the Caln
16 Township engineer, describing what was going to go on in the
17 project. I'm curious to know whether or not that
18 conversation, and what was discussed would be revealed or
19 detailed.

20 That relates to one of the concerns I have;
21 because my house is less than two years old, we had certain
22 covenants that had to be met in building of the house
23 related to storm water management, so forth, at a
24 considerable expense. One of the things we had to do was
25 build an underground storm water management pit, affect all
26

1 houses on the west side of the culver of that street; we're
2 required to do that by covenant, and all owners of the
3 properties will henceforth have to maintain that storm water
4 pit system.

5 Also there are basins, storm water basins that
6 were part of the plan and the covenant of Caln Township; so
7 I want to make sure that that's noted that there are certain
8 things put in place in our property lines in order to
9 mitigate storm water runoff and soil parmentation of
10 driveway and so forth.

11 I stated in the last meeting when I spoke, my
12 concern is that we're talking about 75,000 square feet of
13 wooded area that's going to be removed which is south of our
14 property line. If that wooded area is removed, as if you
15 ever go down that area of Lloyd Park and Beaver Creek, and
16 whenever it rains it becomes Beaver River.

17 So the concern is if you remove that amount of
18 trees back there, what kind of mitigation is going to be
19 done similar to what we had to do as property owners to
20 prevent runoff and help those people who are on the south
21 side of us, because I'm uphill, so.

22 Another concern I have is if there is a cut-
23 through put there -- either way put through that east or
24 west behind the area, we already have issues with ATV
25 vehicles running up the easement that goes north-south and
26

1 what kind of things can be done to help fencing or swales or
2 whatever to prevent people from using that as another
3 highway across the back area.

4 I think that's all the issues or concerns I have
5 at this time. Thank you.

6 PANEL: Thank you.

7 MR. SIPE: Next speaker, Harold Harper.

8 And that is the last speaker that I have in front
9 of me on a list; but after Harold is done, if you guys want
10 to get up and ask questions or anything, just raise your
11 hand, I'll try to pick who's first.

12 @ MR. HARPER: In the presentation it was said that
13 the safety fence will be 100 feet on either side of the
14 pipeline. That would run right through people's houses in
15 our development. I don't know; does that mean that that
16 could be up to 100 feet? But it could be less?

17 MR. PECONOM: Safety fencing?

18 MR. HARPER: Safety fencing.

19 MR. PECONOM: It should be up to 100 feet. It
20 can be worked out to be less if that's an issue. You're
21 getting into residential impact and how your house is
22 impacted, so it's something that we've heard many times, and
23 something to look at. So specifically, fencing is --.

24 MR. HARPER: The concern in our development is
25 twofold. First of all, the new pipe will either be next to
26

1 the foundation or under one of the houses, at least one of
2 the houses in a development because of the way the other two
3 pipes have run. And the fact that there are already two
4 pipes going through the development, one of which is better
5 than 55 years old, the question was asked in the last
6 meeting with Columbia Gas: What would be the effect on the
7 other two pipes if one pipe exploded and you've got two
8 other pipes in a relatively close proximity?

9 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Harper, I'm sorry, where do you
10 live? What subdivision are you referring to?

11 MR. HARPER: That map that you showed of Upper
12 Uwchlan was just about our development; it's called Windsor
13 Place. And it's about one mile from the pumping station.

14 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

15 MR. HARPER: One of our neighbors has said that
16 they've had problems with vibration caused by one of the
17 pipes that's already there. The new pipe is evidently a
18 larger pipe and could very well be a higher pressure,
19 possibly higher vibration. For them at least -- not for me
20 -- but for them that will be a real problem.

21 The question that we've never been able to get an
22 answer to is, between FERC or DOT and perhaps Columbia Gas,
23 is there any kind of a rule about distance from a home, a
24 pipeline between, the distance between a pipeline and a
25 residence? That seems to be an unanswered question; it
26

1 seems to be variable according to the situation.

2 MR. SIPE: In general, I touched on that a little
3 bit earlier. Again, all pipelines under PHMSA are looked
4 at about the same. So you can't necessarily put a setback
5 against the pipeline from a structure due to the fact that
6 pipelines need to go into demand centers where they're going
7 to be right up on top of homes, businesses, whatever it may
8 be.

9 I have seen developments encroach right up on top
10 of pipelines where when a pipeline project comes in people
11 have to remove their decks, okay, it's developers rule the
12 world. They will encroach on any easement they can, to put
13 a house, a business, whatever it may be. They don't make
14 land anymore, so they're trying to buy it all.

15 We can go look at that, and I don't know exactly
16 where it's stated, but DOT folks have always told me the
17 setback from a pipeline to a structure is one foot
18 separation. Now that structure could be a house, another
19 pipeline, a business, whatever that structure may be. But
20 typically in this industry, they're not -- unless they
21 actually have to, they're not going to come that close to a
22 residence. So that is all the work that's put into routing
23 these pipeline projects and moving them -- there are
24 variations and alternatives to avoid that situation.

25 MR. HARPER: My last question has to do with that
26

1 final decision. There are committees that give
2 recommendations to commissioners. But how do you define
3 final decision? Are we talking about a yea or a nay? Does
4 it go through or to go through? Does it utilize these
5 alternatives versus those alternatives? What would you call
6 the final decision?

7 MR. PECONOM: The Commission issues an order, and
8 that order is the final decision. So --

9 MR. HARPER: And the order is to put the pipeline
10 there or not put the pipeline there.

11 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

12 MS. SAINT ONGE: With the conditions that are
13 recommended by the environmental staff or the rate staff.
14 We'll get the application, we'll review it, assess it, we
15 may decide something, you know, a rate variation is
16 preferable to their preferred route, and we may make that
17 recommendation. Or we may say 'well, that's okay, but you
18 need to do this mitigation.' Or 'you need to' -- we can
19 make some additional recommendations and then the
20 Commission, as John mentioned, they may come back and ask us
21 questions about our recommendations. So they will do
22 analysis of our recommendation. And then it will be, each
23 of the five Commissioners will vote yes or no for the
24 project. And if it's a majority, then they will get their
25 certificate.

26

1 MR. HARPER: My apologies. I said that was my
2 last question.

3 MS. SAINT ONGE: It's okay.

4 MR. HARPER: The fact that they're running a loop
5 parallel to the other pipe, how parallel does it have to be?
6 Because we're talking about an existing pipe, we're talking
7 about the loop going in and we're suggesting alternate
8 paths; but that alternate could be three, five, six hundred
9 feet away from the pipe, and I don't know how that affects
10 the decision for changing the alternate, changing a
11 variation.

12 MS. SAINT ONGE: That's a complicated question
13 because there may be engineering issues that we can't
14 answer, and there may be environmental answers that we could
15 answer. In other words, you can deviate from the pipeline,
16 but I don't know how much you can deviate. So loops can and
17 do -- leave, you know that they don't follow the exact path
18 throughout the whole thing. We prefer them to follow it
19 because there's generally less environmental impacts, but
20 then there's always the case where there is an environmental
21 impact and they need to go around it.

22 But I would actually have to defer to their
23 engineers to tell us whether it's feasible from an
24 engineering point of view whether to keep the gas and the
25 pressure.

26

1 MR. SIPE: Basically, in layman's terms, a loop
2 of a pipe, a lot of times everyone thinks it would be a
3 storage, an extra storage facility -- we've heard that.
4 It's not.

5 The pipeline company is going to go out in the
6 beginning, they're going to have an open season, they're
7 going to go to their customers, their existing customers and
8 say 'Hey, do you guys need any more capacity?' Or 'Do you
9 guys want to turn back some capacity?' Or they may have new
10 shippers. If the shipper term is used, that's the end user
11 of the product.

12 So they determine how much extra gas they need to
13 flow. So then it goes back to the engineers of the
14 company, and they determine how much pipe needs to be built
15 and where that pipe needs to be built in proximity to the
16 compressor station. It's all engineered the way that the
17 pipe has to flow gas.

18 The loop, depending on how much capacity is
19 needed, is shorter or longer. Now they can, a loop of a
20 pipe can do a variation; it can go completely off the
21 existing right-of-way, go around whatever they need to do,
22 and come back in, and hook in. But a loop has to hook in at
23 both ends.

24 When you start looking at alternatives, and you
25 start looking at variations, there's a lot of factors that
26

1 go into it. Landowner concerns is one of the biggest.
2 Environmental concerns is right there. There's a lot of
3 concerns that go into the analysis behind those pipeline
4 projects. You guys are looking at the Commissioners and
5 such that we have, it's just -- there's 1400 people at FERC,
6 and we're all in Washington, D.C., except for the hydro
7 staff; we have a couple other offices spread out across the
8 country for dam inspections.

9 Within Staff, you have the environmental staff,
10 we're the ones you're going to see out there, including
11 outreach. You have different offices spread out. When an
12 application comes in, a specialist is assigned from the
13 environmental side, a specialist is assigned from the tariff
14 side, the rate side, all these analysts that are assigned to
15 that application.

16 The first thing you're going to see will be the
17 environmental analysis. That's the first thing the general
18 public is going to see. After the comment period, we get
19 all the comments back in the environmental analysis; then
20 all those teams of people bring their analysis together and
21 put it into an order. That goes upstairs to the Commission
22 to vote on.

23 We have one chairman, we have four commissioners.
24 They're spread across the country, they all have different
25 disciplines. Our chairman is from the Nevada area. We have
26

1 four different commissioners spread across, from the Midwest
2 to the Northeast to the Northwest and the North Dakota area.
3 They run five year terms; they're elected by -- they're
4 basically put in there by the President of the United
5 States.

6 Now those guys have people working in their
7 offices also, as commissioner aides, or whatever you want to
8 say; chairman's aides, commissioner staff. They're the ones
9 that look at all the information. We have meetings before
10 the commissioners vote on the project; and questions are
11 asked, information is exchange.

12 And then the Commission meeting is every third
13 Thursday of the month except for August. Or you could have
14 delegated orders go out in each month, throughout the month,
15 okay? It doesn't have to be in front of the Commission
16 meeting. Those are the guys that make the decisions, but
17 the staff is the one who gives them the recommendations.
18 The staff gets a lot of the recommendations from other
19 agencies, the general stakeholders, everyone involved in one
20 of these projects. That's why we're out there tonight,
21 that's why we have comment periods, that's why we work
22 closely with the companies and the other agencies involved
23 to gather all input, so we can give the commissioners the
24 best analysis that we possibly can.

25 MR. HARPER: Thank you.

26

1 MS. SAINT ONGE: Can I just say one more thing,
2 sir. If you're concerned about proposing route variations
3 and you're wondering how far you can go, you can propose
4 them and we will look at them. So you can lead the pipeline
5 for a reconfiguration.

6 MR. HARPER: MidAtlantic Express had an alternate
7 route going -- it was originally going to go through our
8 development; the alternate route went down a side street and
9 crossed onto Route 100. That was the route that we would
10 have loved to have Columbia take.

11 MS. SAINT ONGE: Well, you could put that comment
12 on the record -- it will be on the record, and we will take
13 a look at it.

14 MR. HARPER: Thank you.

15 MS. SAINT ONGE: Thank you.

16 MR. SIPE: Yes, it will be on the record. If you
17 have detailed routes that you want Columbia to work with you
18 on. I'm assuming most people in here have a land agent
19 assigned to them. Talk to the land agent --

20 AUDIENCE: Who can you ask?

21 MR. SIPE: Well, Columbia Gas is here and you can
22 ask some of these guys. But most companies will assign a
23 land agent to you and you can pass all that information
24 through the land agent. The materials you've gotten from
25 Columbia Gas, they have toll free numbers so that you can

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1 call in, you can ask questions; but the best advice I can
2 give you, with this proposal in front of you and you want a
3 different alternative, whatever; work it out with the
4 company.

5 MR. PECONOM: Doug, Columbia was set up outside
6 of the table there before the meeting. Perhaps it would be
7 a good idea if they would -- I'm sure they're willing to sit
8 outside at that table again, the purple one in the very
9 front after the meeting so that people can go to them and
10 ask questions.

11 MR. SIPE: Okay, gentleman in the pink second,
12 gentleman in the white shirt is first. You can come on up.
13 And I see you third, and fourth. I'm going to try to keep
14 that order.

15 MR. O'ROURKE: My name is Leo O'Rourke, O ' R o
16 u r k e. I have a number of questions.

17 One is about, I'm imagining there are aspects of
18 the environmental impact assessment that can't complete
19 completely, in the absence of a complete engineering design.
20 So I'm wondering, does the EA cover acoustics at all? And
21 if so, what are the limitations on that, on how much you can
22 say about the acoustic impacts of this?

23 MS. SAINT ONGE: We do analyze noise impacts in
24 the EA. Columbia will provide us with their preexisting
25 conditions and estimated noise output for the --

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1 MR. O'ROURKE: So you'd expect the pumping
2 stations, for them to estimate the decibel change, is that
3 correct?

4 MS. SAINT ONGE: Yes. And we have noise
5 engineers that will take a look at that information.

6 MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. I presume, however, that
7 your acoustic analysis doesn't consider resonance in the
8 pipe system, like frequency resonance, frequency resonance
9 or anything like that; you're just looking at, to save
10 noise, is that correct?

11 MS. SAINT ONGE: It has not in passing -- but at
12 the low frequency resonance --

13 MR. O'ROURKE: Perhaps it's a question for
14 Columbia, then. I hadn't thought about people hearing
15 noises from pipes, but I'd like to know whether we should
16 expect a pipe system to create low frequency noise or high
17 frequency noise, and what frequencies one could come across.

18 The particular concern I've got is understanding
19 which -- this loop will create a pipe system in conjunction
20 with one of the existing pipes; is it a loop on the 55-year-
21 old pipe or on the 10-year-old pipe?

22 MS. SAINT ONGE: Sixty --

23 MR. O'ROURKE: 64, the old pipe or the new. Is
24 it looping with the new pipe or the other?

25 AUDIENCE: It's about 60 years old; running
26

1 parallel to.

2 MR. PECONOM: Well, they're still -- the system.

3 MR. O'ROURKE: There's two pipes in the existing
4 easement in my property, and I don't know which it's paired
5 with.

6 MR. PECONOM: And I don't know exactly where your
7 property is, but it will be on both sides. It's going to go
8 back and forth, depending on some --

9 MR. O'ROURKE: It will be a pipe system with
10 three pipes participating in that system; is that correct?

11 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

12 MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. By the way, I live at 317
13 Rock Raymond Road, Caln Township.

14 So I do want to know what Columbia's intention is
15 for the older pipe, and having extra years for this system
16 to be in place, what I need to adjust for replacement of
17 those pipes.

18 I'd like to comment that the 2003 pipe, when it
19 was put in, I live on the last property before a stretch of
20 perhaps half a mile through a forested area in Caln Township
21 where the aeration sedimentation control is terrible. We've
22 got ditches running across the pipe, transverse across the
23 pipe now that are four to five feet deep which didn't exist
24 ten years ago. I'm surprised in fact that the pipe laid ten
25 years is not already exposed. And I expect better this time

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1 around. I expect better management of the easement going
2 forward.

3 I'd echo my neighbor's comments about, I've never
4 seen anybody from Columbia doing an inspection of anything.

5 Those are my main concerns at this point in time.
6 And I understand that I can make comments about the specific
7 addition to the easement through my property directly to
8 Columbia; is that correct?

9 MS. SAINT ONGE: Yes.

10 MR. O'ROURKE: Thank you very much.

11 MR. DeCOSMO: Hi, my name is Greg DeCosmo
12 (spelling). Just a couple questions. I also live on
13 Arrowwood Drive so I just want to reiterate what my neighbor
14 had mentioned with regard to the potential of cutting down
15 some 75,000 square feet, roughly, of trees.

16 Flooding has been a major issue in my area. I
17 know that the corner of my lot lies in a 100-year flood
18 plain which, just is a surprise in general that a proposed
19 pipeline would go through a piece of property that's on a
20 100-year flood plain. So I just wanted to get on record
21 what Columbia plans to do, just as many have already
22 mentioned, with regard to storm water management in an area
23 like that. Beaver Creek is known to flood fairly quickly,
24 and the 100-year flood plain has reached my lot many times
25 so far with the way the rain has been. So that's definitely
26

1 a major concern of ours in our neighborhood.

2 Also with the restoration that is mentioned
3 multiple times in other meetings, I'd like to know what that
4 really means. If you're cutting down 50, 60 foot trees, and
5 besides the right-of-way that we know can't have trees
6 planted on it, would you talk about restoring that forest;
7 what does that really mean? Are you planning to take a 12-
8 inch tree that in 60 years will come back to normal?

9 So I'd like to know a little bit about that, and
10 I'd also like to reiterate the safety concerns for myself,
11 my family, my neighbors, having that easement now be a new
12 highway for individuals to cut through where they like to
13 get to, which is the center of Downingtown.

14 Again mostly reiterating, but I wanted to bring
15 up the 100-year flood plain and make sure that that's out
16 there, to ensure everybody is aware of in doing your
17 assessment.

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

19 MS. JUICO: My name is Eileen Juico, and it's
20 spelled, J u i c o. I have a pipeline on my property but it
21 is not going to be the Columbia project.

22 I've gone to several meetings, though, about
23 pipeline projects; and what concerns me, concerns me here,
24 is that these questions from landowners are coming up now,
25 and I don't understand why the pipeline companies don't have
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1 a community meeting at the very beginning when they decide
2 that they want to have this project go through. I know
3 their focus is customer needs, but it's the land of the
4 property owners that they're using; and it's not until a
5 time such as this that property owners get to address or at
6 least ask you to address some of the questions that they
7 have, very important questions. Environmental questions and
8 safety questions can't really be addressed here because
9 there's nobody from PHMSA here.

10 So as much as I appreciate this meeting, and it's
11 certainly much more than we had, my sense is that it's
12 definitely not early enough and that the companies should be
13 required to have community meetings at the very beginning;
14 not talking to one township at one time and another at
15 another time. It should be a meeting, one room, where
16 everybody gets to hear the questions and they get to hear
17 all the answers. And that would help everybody. It would
18 help the company make sure they have accurate and complete
19 information; it would help the landowners and it would help
20 FERC and it would also help PHMSA. So that's my comment,
21 and thank you for listening to me.

22 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

23 MS. SAINT ONGE: Thank you.

24 MR. SIPE: As it goes for meetings for a lot of
25 pipeline companies, you know the companies have their open
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1 houses which they've had on this project, on different
2 locations across this project; and then you remember, this
3 is early on in the project. So these comments -- we love to
4 hear these comments, the company does, all the agencies
5 involved, they love to hear the comments because we want all
6 the comments addressed. That's what the pre-filing process
7 is all about. But that does not mean that Columbia Gas
8 can't have another meeting. There's informational meetings
9 held on projects throughout, and there's ways that that can
10 be done.

11 So if you guys have any recommendations in
12 communities or townships or whatever, Columbia Gas --
13 Brendan is their outreach person, he's sitting here tonight
14 and he spoke here tonight, he'd welcome hearing that.

15 MR. PECONOM: Doug, if I can add to that, this is
16 the third time in the past two months that we've been to
17 Chester County. We were here just recently on June 4th, and
18 some of the speakers who were at that meeting spoke tonight
19 and mentioned that.

20 We're doing our best to get up here. It's two
21 and a half hours from Washington and we're willing to come
22 up here as necessary to hear your comments. I'm hearing a
23 lot of the same comments that we heard on the June 4th
24 meeting, safety and residential impacts, so this is good for
25 us. That meeting was a community meeting where really it
26

1 was a question and answer and a comment meeting. This is
2 the official FERC comment meeting; but we're happy to
3 participate in informal meetings now, and it's as requested.

4 MR. SIPE: Sir?

5 MR. SPAULDING: David Spaulding (spelling).

6 The issue of Beaver Creek is a pretty significant
7 one. I've spent most of my life playing in Beaver Creek, so
8 I know it really, really well. The area that all the houses
9 were built along the creek now is in the flood plain to
10 begin with.

11 When the flood plain maps were reassessed five
12 years ago, all of our houses very nearly were required to
13 get flood insurance; that's how close we were to it. So my
14 question to you would be this: I realize that we get fair
15 market value and things put back the way it was and all that
16 stuff, but if our houses are now tossed into the flood plain
17 because the trees are gone, and we are required to get flood
18 insurance, my guess is that Columbia is not going to be
19 putting forth that money even though it would be clearly
20 their fault that we're in that space.

21 So it was just reassessed five years ago; we were
22 very, very close to paying flood insurance. Take away those
23 trees, the odds are pretty good we're going to have to pay
24 flood insurance, and that's going to have a dramatic impact
25 on our homes.

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1 So I want to know what mechanism Columbia is
2 going to put in place to cover that cost, because they
3 surely can't replace what they're going to destroy. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

6 MS. SWEENEY: Mary Sweeney, (spelling).

7 At the beginning of the meeting tonight,
8 Columbia, Brendan Neal spoke, and he mentioned that this new
9 pipeline is being considered because of the demand driven by
10 the marketplace; and of course I think that FERC, one of
11 their things is the necessity and convenience.

12 My question is, does anybody really check to see
13 what the necessity is? I mean, do they have to produce any
14 type of figures and show proof, and is there any type of
15 limit? I mean, do they have to meet a certain amount of
16 homes or moneys or companies; is there a limit to that?

17 MR. PECONOM: Well, the answer is yes. That
18 information is verified, and they have to supply information
19 about that. Doug spoke a little bit about markets and
20 tariffs, and that gets into the economic information.

21 So I don't work in that office I couldn't tell
22 you; but that is something that -- you can't just build a
23 pipeline just because. There needs to be a need for it and
24 that need needs to be proven.

25 MS. SWEENEY: Well, since we have a 64-year-old
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1 pipeline now on our property, and because of all the dangers
2 associated, we didn't go into the dangers because of the
3 meeting tonight -- I was just wondering, if you could just
4 put this on the record -- what are Columbia's intentions?
5 We're talking 64 years of a pipeline. How long do these
6 things last?

7 I mean, all you've got to do is go to the
8 Internet and read about all the explosions that gas -- you
9 know, Columbia had an incident not three months ago where
10 some of their own employees were killed due to a pipeline --
11 whatever. Was it a building? I don't know what they were
12 doing with the pipeline, but three months ago there were I
13 think five employees that were killed.

14 Anyway, that's my big concern, and you know that
15 I mentioned this last time around. I am scared to death
16 now, living on my property. I didn't know -- we've been
17 there 23 years. I had not one clue, nobody, never once did
18 Columbia ever, or anybody ever come out and say how
19 dangerous pipelines really, really are.

20 So that 64-year-old pipeline has me quite
21 concerned. Now if they were to come in and replace that
22 pipeline, okay, why don't they do it while they're adding
23 this new one, if you approve of it? That's my suggestion to
24 Columbia. But I really would like to suggest an alternate
25 route. I don't know where they can go, but I wish they
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1 could find somewhere else. Thank you.

2 MR. SIPE: Go back to the need portion; the
3 Commission's policy right now to the industry is that market
4 determines the need for these projects. In terms that most
5 people can understand, these companies are not going to
6 build a pipeline project out of their pocket, out of the
7 goodness of their heart. They have to have shippers that
8 need that gas in order for them to build that project.

9 All these project costs are turning -- they're
10 all turned back into the tariff that goes into FERC; that's
11 part of another office at FERC. But all construction costs,
12 all the costs here tonight, everything in the planning,
13 construction and this type of phase is turned into the rate
14 base behind these projects. And the end users pay for that,
15 which will be the shippers; and then whatever gas that's
16 being used for a power plant or an industrial facility,
17 whatever that may be, then we end up paying that through
18 flipping your lights on or whatever product you're buying.

19 So the market determines the need for these
20 projects. I've been in areas where there's three and four
21 different projects proposed at one time, in the same area.
22 We at FERC have to analyze all those projects. The market
23 determines the need for the projects; that's Commission
24 policy.

25 I've heard a lot about the age of these pipelines
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1 tonight. The industry will tell you, PHMSA will tell you,
2 it's not necessarily the age of the pipeline, it's how that
3 pipeline is maintained. It's how it's cathodically
4 protected, it's how it's tested. You could have a very old
5 pipeline project, or a pipeline itself, that's just as safe
6 as a new one, it's just how it's maintained.

7 A lot of companies nowadays, you know, as part of
8 PHMSA requirements on their testing procedures as part of
9 the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act, when they have to go
10 through certain testing mechanisms; well, some of the
11 pipelines can't be tested the way PHMSA says, then they need
12 to take that pipeline out of service or build a new one,
13 okay. There's a lot of different mechanisms that PHMSA has
14 in the safety behind these projects.

15 I know the age of a pipeline would definitely
16 lure anybody, but it's not necessarily the age, it's how
17 it's maintained. So that was -- I didn't see any other
18 hands going up.

19 MS. RUSSO: I'm Russo, Jane YCF. {ph}

20 There was mention of this being bidirectional.
21 Could you explain what that means?

22 MR. SIPE: The bidirectional would be how the
23 pipelines flow gas. Certain pipeline facilities that are
24 built, they can only flow gas one way. Other pipelines, the
25 way they're constructed, can flow gas both ways.

26

1 MS. RUSSO: So this means it may be going south
2 of us?

3 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

4 MS. RUSSO: So it might possibly go out of the
5 U.S.? Is that a possibility?

6 MR. SIPE: Well that would have to be -- you
7 know, this is a Section 7 authorization under the Natural
8 Gas Act. To go out of the U.S., that would be a different
9 proposal and different application; that would be under
10 Section 3 of the Import-Export terms, okay?

11 The beauty that we have in the United States, we
12 do have infrastructure. Unlike a lot of other countries, we
13 have the pipeline interface that can flow gas -- you never
14 know where the gas is going to be coming from sometimes; it
15 could be coming from the Gulf Coast, it could be coming from
16 the Midwest, it could be coming from an LNG tanker that
17 comes into one of the LNG terminals. It could be coming
18 from Marcellus gas.

19 The beauty of the interstate grid that's been set
20 up is gas can come from all different places to provide the
21 people the gas needed.

22 MS. RUSSO: Thank you.

23 MR. CREE: Robin Cree (sp) from Blakely Road.

24 I just wanted to understand, you said DOT,
25 Department of Transportation is the one who is responsible
26

1 for inspecting this line as it's being built.

2 MR. SIPE: DOT is an agency. Now they have
3 certain agencies underneath of it. PHMSA is one agency
4 that's underneath of the Department of Transportation.

5 MR. CREE: What is PHMSA?

6 MR. SIPE: PHMSA stand for Pipeline and Hazardous
7 Materials Safety Administration, and they handle; you can go
8 on their website, you can look at all the pipes they have,
9 you can look at their testing procedures, you can look at
10 all that stuff on their website. And we work hand-in-hand
11 with PHMSA on almost every single project we have.

12 MR. CREE: It didn't seem to make sense, but.

13 I had another question, though, because we were
14 talking about trees and stuff being removed also. When they
15 come through and do a -- they put a new easement into our
16 area because they widen easements and put another pipe down
17 there.

18 Now what are the regulations that I'm ever
19 allowed to plant again on that easement? They told me I
20 can't plant anything with a tap root. So that means now
21 they're going to take all my big shade trees I have on my
22 property, are going to be gone, every one of them. I'll
23 have no more shade. I don't have central air, that means
24 now I have to get central air. This is going to be another
25 cost. I'll never be able to put another tree on that side
26

1 of my house ever again, because I can't put it in the
2 easement. So I just need to know what -- if they have a
3 work easement on my property as well as an easement; I guess
4 with the work easement, they're just going to level all the
5 trees; I can put back on there again. And the other
6 easement, they need it just for pipeline, that I won't be
7 able to plant on again; is that true?

8 MR. PECONOM: That's correct.

9 MR. CREE: It's not that I can't plant over the
10 pipe, I can't plant in the easement ever again?

11 MR. PECONOM: That's correct.

12 MR. CREE: And I think this is something
13 everybody needs to know. Because you don't think you can't
14 do that; they are going to take it out and you will be able
15 to plant right again on the property; but you can't do that
16 anymore.

17 The whole side of my property is going to be
18 gone.

19 MR. PECONOM: Doug, do you want to clarify?

20 MR. SIPE: Yes. Let me clarify. Again, I'll
21 say, this is pre-filing, so we're early on. Nothing against
22 engineers -- I am an engineering admirer, too -- but these
23 pipelines are engineered in the beginning on a computer.
24 The specs of how it's laid out, how typical construction is
25 laid out, okay?

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1 Then throughout the process the land people start
2 coming out and the environmental folks start coming out and
3 construction folks start coming out, looking at the actual -
4 -

5 MR. CREE: I can understand that you may make
6 changes. The thing is, I just want to make sure everybody
7 here knew that this is what would happen if they do come
8 through with the pipeline, with the easement I can't plant
9 on that easement anymore.

10 MR. SIPE: And that's not saying you can't plant
11 on an easement, it's what you can't plant.

12 MR. CREE: So nothing with a tap root, I heard.

13 MR. SIPE: In your easement negotiations, if you
14 have them, if this project goes forward.

15 MR. CREE: Well, I think that's already -- isn't
16 that what you would decide? The easement, what can be done
17 on the easement, not Columbia?

18 MR. SIPE: No. No, the easement -- we do not
19 handle --

20 MR. CREE: So that can change? I have the right
21 to go to Columbia Gas and negotiate what I can put back on
22 that easement?

23 MR. SIPE: You do. Remember, this is your land.

24 MR. CREE: No, it's not. Eminent domain, it's
25 not my land anymore.

26

1 (Laughter)

2 MR. SIPE: No, okay, this is your land. These
3 are the types of things that can be negotiated out with any
4 easement. An easement is an easement. This company does
5 not have eminent domain authority right now.

6 MR. CREE: Yet.

7 AUDIENCE: Yet.

8 MR. SIPE: Once the Commission votes for the
9 project, eminent domain conveys with that certificate.

10 MR. CREE: And then they have --

11 MR. SIPE: Historically, if you look at all these
12 pipeline projects, and this is out there, how often the
13 companies have to use eminent domain is very, very low.

14 MR. CREE: Oh, no, not that they can come take my
15 property; but once that's approved, it's coming through. I
16 don't have a say in the matter that they can't now bring the
17 pipeline through my property if you've already decided it
18 can; so now there's an easement on my property, a larger
19 easement that I have to abide by somebody's rules; whether
20 it's your rules, Columbia's rules or something I can
21 negotiate in between; I don't think any of us really know
22 that that's what we're allowed to do. And that's what I'm -
23 -

24 MR. SIPE: Now is the time to get your comments
25 in.

26

1 MR. CREE: I did. It's on the record. Thank you.

2 MR. SIPE: Now's the time when you can -- right
3 now is the time when they are looking at the pipeline where
4 they can squeeze that easement a little bit, possibly
5 protect some of your trees, don't listen to the first land
6 agent that comes down to our property and tells you they're
7 going to take all your trees down, because sometimes that
8 doesn't happen. There's a lot of things that can happen if
9 this project goes forward, in those negotiations, and let us
10 know the comments so we can work with the company on it.

11 MR. CREE: Okay, Thank you.

12 MR. SIPE: Eminent domain is a scary, scary word.

13 MR. CREE: I know.

14 @ MR. HARPER: Harold Harper. We were the next to
15 the last litigant with Columbia Gas in the last pipeline.
16 You do not have to do what their land manager says you have
17 to do. You can take them to court. It is federal court,
18 and you'd get a real estate attorney, not just a run-of-the-
19 mill attorney, a real estate attorney.

20 But you can take them to court and you can decide
21 in the court what you're allowed to do and what you're not
22 allowed to do.

23 MR. SIPE: He's absolutely correct. Just because
24 FERC certificate this project, that doesn't mean that's the
25 end-all, be-all. Other agencies also have to approve this

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1 project. All federal authorizations have to be completed
2 before this project moves forward.

3 Then when it comes down, if you as a landowner or
4 a stakeholder are negotiating an easement with a pipeline
5 company and you cannot come to agreement on that easement,
6 on those easement negotiations, you have every right to hire
7 an attorney, you have every right to do whatever you need to
8 do to protect your property.

9 What we at FERC liked to have happen now is if
10 you do hire an attorney, keep us a little bit in the loop on
11 what's going on; because I've had a situation before where
12 attorneys go closed-in negotiations with the company. The
13 company doesn't let us know what's going on, the attorneys
14 don't let us know what's going on. And guess what? Who
15 decides where that route goes at the end: We do.

16 I've had attorneys call me and say 'Who do you
17 think you are?' I'm like, 'Whoa, wait, you must not
18 understand who FERC is.' But if we understood those
19 concerns early on, we could have worked out that situation.
20 Now the company, it does -- you know, 7H, that's eminent
21 domain, does convey with the Natural Gas Act; that doesn't
22 mean FERC is going to use it, the company has to use it.
23 They have a choice; they can go to state court or they can
24 go to federal court. But that judge does have the final say
25 on what happens.

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1 If that judge does say this pipeline project --
2 you know, I've had situations where they say no, they can't
3 beat this -- this easement cannot be negotiated, and that
4 judge holds up the pipeline project; it's all up to the
5 judge.

6 AUDIENCE: Did it work out for you?

7 AUDIENCE: Yes, it did; we won.

8 AUDIENCE: You don't have to -- I just wanted to
9 know if --

10 AUDIENCE: You have to understand, to say we won.
11 We came away thinking we got what we wanted and they came
12 away thinking they got what they wanted. (Off mic) --
13 right away, all the way to the front step, was going to
14 remove every single tree in the front yard.

15 AUDIENCE: Plus our light.

16 AUDIENCE: Plus our light. We still have our
17 light, we still have our trees, 40-year old Blue Spruces,
18 where they were going to take them down. And we got them
19 off our property. We have a drain field in front of our
20 house. They were going to run their equipment over the
21 drain field, I said 'You can't do that.'

22 Now, the court did not settle it. The judge
23 said, 'You lawyers, you go into the conference room, you
24 figure it out and come back.' He said, 'I don't want to
25 fight this case.' So you may go to court and the judge says

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1 'I'm not going to hear your case' and the attorneys have to
2 figure it out.

3 MR. SIPE: Any other questions, concerns.

4 Question?

5 AUDIENCE: I have a comment.

6 MR. SIPE: Good. And I'll note again, just
7 because you don't get your comment, concern on the record
8 tonight, there's multiple other ways to do that. So if you
9 forgot something tonight, you can put it in the record.

10 @ MR. SWEENEY: Yes, we'll be on tonight, plus it
11 will be issued to the FERC.

12 Again, David Sweeney (sp), 315 Rock Raymond Road,
13 Caln Township.

14 We, the residents here, have a higher stake in
15 this pipeline project than either FERC or Columbia Gas. We
16 are not being compensated to attend these discussions as you
17 are. We are here to protect our own interests, including
18 water quality, property values, and use of our own
19 properties and aesthetics on our own properties. As she
20 said about a tree -- you cannot replace a tree that is 70
21 years old once they take it down, not in my lifetime.

22 In the event of this project being approved, how
23 much do we, the residents that live adjacent to these
24 pipelines have to endure whenever this faceless utility
25 feels it necessary to expand their operations for their own
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1 benefit. We, the residents, obtain little benefit from such
2 expansions. We on the contrary receive nothing but grief in
3 the form of aggravation, loss of use of our own property
4 normally in the summer months, the structure of our lives,
5 fear that there could be a catastrophic event from which we
6 can never recover; and simply the taking of our valuable
7 time to attend these meetings to fight for our own rights
8 which most Americans never have to endure.

9 This, in my opinion, is not my American dreams,
10 it is rather my American nightmare. In the event that this
11 project is approved, I would simply ask every resident who
12 is approached for additional right-of-way to hold out for
13 substantial compensation because, unlike us the residents,
14 this utility, Columbia Gas, will reap the benefits of such
15 expansion for decades to come, as we can only benefit
16 monetarily once.

17 A good rule of thumb for a pipeline easement is
18 one dollar per inch of pipe diameter per foot of property,
19 which in our case would be \$26 per foot.

20 My wife and I have done extensive investigation
21 on pipeline catastrophes including incidents with Columbia
22 Gas pipelines. One of the most recent with Columbia was in
23 Sissonville, West Virginia, on December 11, 2012.

24 Another incident was in Allentown, Pennsylvania,
25 February 9th, 2011 in which five people lost their lives.

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1 An aged cast iron pipe was found to be the cause of that
2 blast. I also have an aged pipeline on my property, 64-year
3 old, to be exact. Please do not let myself, my family or my
4 neighbors, fall victim to a possible catastrophic event from
5 which there will be no recovery.

6 If this pipeline expansion is approved, we will
7 lose our only privacy screen we have from the road in front
8 of our homes, which includes the following: 7 white
9 flowering Dogwood trees which are 20 years old; 7 purple and
10 pink lilac bushes, which are 25 years old; 2 butterfly
11 bushes which are 15 years old; one red crepe myrtle, 10
12 years old; 3 peach trees, six years old. All of which I
13 planted myself. Also, our magnificent 35 foot Blue Spruce
14 tree. Not forgetting our high bush cranberry bush, 12 years
15 old, and 3 large (garbled) which are also 12 years old. And
16 possibly a couple of our pink Dogwood trees on the side of
17 our house.

18 All of these plantings will not be replaced with
19 identical plantings because with the taking of additional
20 right-of-way, we will be restricted to any plantings we are
21 allowed to place on our own property. We would like
22 Columbia Gas and FERC to consider and formulate an alternate
23 route for this project.

24 As I said, my wife and I have done extensive
25 investigations on the Internet. And there are quite a few
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1 things out there which are very dangerous for everybody. If
2 the pipeline goes up, it's not just going to affect one
3 person; it's going to affect quite a few.

4 If you need any information, see me after the
5 meeting and I'll give you all I have. Thank you very much.

6 (Applause)

7 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

8 Anybody else have any questions?

9 MR. CREE: I have one.

10 MR. SIPE: Okay.

11 @ MR. CREE: It's about the EA and environmental
12 justice. Is there any section that discusses environmental
13 justice in the context of this kind of project?

14 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

15 MR. CREE: What I'm getting at by that is, I feel
16 as if one pipe in my back yard means they can put in a
17 second, means they can put in a third. The last time a pipe
18 came through it was explained to me -- I don't wish to be
19 rude to anybody, but in effect, well, beyond middle class
20 and environmental justice doesn't apply to me, it only
21 applies to really cool people, and I'm a bit fed up with
22 that kind of response.

23 But can you tell me, is there anything you can
24 put in your report? I'm some people in the room might know
25 what I mean by environmental justice. Perhaps you can
26

1 explain it.

2 MR. PECONOM: No, I understand the thoughts. I
3 understand what you're asking. And the issue is addressed
4 when people bring it up. So you just asked, can we bring up
5 that issue and deal with it? The answer is yes.

6 Environmental justice is, some communities seem
7 to get infrastructure projects that may be adverse or may be
8 undesirable more than other communities. So there's
9 analysis of, is a community being treated unfairly, even why
10 some communities have more and some have less and is it
11 being really spread around?

12 So that's a concept and a topic that we will
13 address in the Environmental Assessment.

14 AUDIENCE: I feel as if, as Dave said, we get no
15 benefit from this pipe. The irony is I can't get natural
16 gas to my house because there are too many gas pipes in my
17 area. That's absurd, and I feel as if one pipe has gone in,
18 so a second can go and so a third and I'm wondering when it
19 stops. Thanks.

20 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

21 MR. SIPE: Now you guys have the option, we can
22 close the formal part of this meeting; we're all still going
23 to be here, you can come up and ask us questions. Or we can
24 keep it going, on the record, and you guys want to ask
25 anything else.

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1 Columbia Gas, they'll be at their table, and they
2 can maybe answer any questions you have for them tonight, or
3 get your question answered in the future. But if you guys
4 have anything else before I close it?

5 MR. PECONOM: Doug, I'd just like to say -- I'm
6 sorry.

7 AUDIENCE: I just wanted to thank you for coming.
8 We really appreciate it.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. PECONOM: I just wanted to say before you
11 close up that I want to thank everyone for coming. As the
12 environmental project manager, this meeting and the meeting
13 before; when we came for scoping you were all very helpful,
14 and these issues will help us do a better job with our
15 environmental assessment.

16 Hopefully, I'd like to get a chance to talk with
17 all of you before you leave. I understand you've been here
18 for quite some time; but again, thank you for your time.

19 MR. SIPE: Going once, going twice.

20 Well, without any more speakers, the formal part
21 of this meeting will conclude. On behalf of the Federal
22 Energy Regulatory Commission, I'd like to thank you all for
23 coming tonight.

24 Let the record show that the East Side Expansion
25 Project scoping meeting in West Chester, Chester County,

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1 Pennsylvania concluded at 8:58 p.m. Thank you.

2 (Whereupon, at 8:58 p.m., the evening scoping
3 meeting concluded.)

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