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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS	x	DOCKET NO.
PIPE LINE COMPANY, LLC	x	PF13-5-000
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LEIDY SOUTHEAST EXPANSION PROJECT

The Woodlands Inn & Resort
1073 Highway 315
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18702
Wednesday, June 12, 2013

The public scoping meeting, pursuant to notice,
convened at 7:03 p.m., before:

DOUG SIPE, Office of Energy Projects, FERC

ATTENDEES:

- BILL BRAUN, Merjent
- KAREN GENTILE, USDOT
- CHRIS STAFFEL, Transco

1 MR. SIPE: Good evening. On behalf of the
2 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I'd like to
3 welcome you all here tonight. This is a scoping
4 meeting for the Leidy Southeast Expansion Project
5 proposed by Transco. Let the record show that the
6 public scoping meeting in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
7 began at 7:03 p.m. on June 12th, 2013.

8 The primary purpose for this meeting
9 tonight is to provide you the opportunity to comment
10 on the project and on the scope of the environmental
11 analysis being prepared for the Leidy Southeast
12 Expansion Project.

13 My name is Doug Sipe. I'm the outreach
14 manager at FERC within the Commission's Office of
15 Energy Projects. With me tonight is Karen Gentile for
16 the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and
17 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, also known
18 as PHMSA. Also with me is Bill Braun; he's with
19 Merjent. And back at the sign-in table was Kim
20 Jessen, also with Merjent. They're the environmental
21 consulting firm working with FERC to help us prepare
22 the environmental analysis behind this project.

23 We did have a couple other agency folks
24 who were going to show up tonight from the Army Corps
25 of Engineers, but they had to cancel at the last
26

1 minute, so they sent their regards.

2 The FERC is an independent agency that
3 regulates the interstate transmission of electricity,
4 natural gas, and oil. FERC reviews the proposals and
5 authorizes construction of the interstate natural gas
6 pipelines, storage facilities, and liquefied natural
7 gas terminals, referred to as LNG -- you guys may have
8 heard it called that -- as well as the licensing and
9 inspection of hydroelectric projects.

10 As a federal licensing agency, FERC has
11 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy
12 Act to consider the potential environmental impact
13 associated with a project which is under
14 consideration.

15 With regard to Transco's Leidy Southeast
16 Expansion Project, the FERC is the lead federal agency
17 for the NEPA review and the preparation of the EA.
18 The U.S. Department of Transportation, which is here
19 tonight, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have
20 already agreed to participate as cooperating agencies
21 in the preparation of that EA. PHMSA is going to
22 participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation
23 of that due to their special expertise and role in
24 regulating the safety of these interstate facilities.
25 The Corps of Engineers will use the EA to meet its
26

1 NEPA responsibilities associated with the issuing of
2 permits.

3 As I said earlier, the primary purpose of
4 tonight's meeting is to definitely take your comments
5 on this project. Again, we're the lead federal
6 agency, but the people you talked to in the back of
7 the room tonight -- Transco is the company proposing
8 this project. So it would help us most if your
9 comments are as specific as possible when you come up
10 to the microphone tonight in regards to this project.

11 The issues generally focus on the
12 potential for environmental effects but also may
13 address construction issues, mitigation, and the
14 review process. In addition, this meeting is designed
15 to provide you again with the opportunity to meet with
16 the company.

17 Now, the company is here. We put it in
18 the Notice of Intent that you guys received that they
19 were going to be here an hour before the meeting
20 started. They're going to be here for the rest of the
21 meeting, so after the formal part of the meeting is
22 concluded, they're going to still be here to answer
23 your questions. But I ask, for the benefit of the
24 meeting going on tonight, if you guys have questions
25 for the company throughout about the maps or anything,
26

1 take that outside and not disrupt the hundred people
2 we have in here tonight.

3 So tonight it's pretty simple. You guys
4 may have received an agenda out there at the sign-in
5 table. You may have picked that up. You had the
6 opportunity to meet with Transco. You hopefully
7 signed in. I have three speakers here signed up on
8 the list. That doesn't mean that no one else can
9 speak here tonight.

10 The formal part of the meeting, which
11 started right now at 7:00, is going on now. I'm going
12 to give you a little bit of introduction more than
13 what I did into FERC and our review process. PHMSA
14 also is going to speak here tonight. Transco
15 themselves is going to get up here and give a project
16 description. Then at that point after that happens,
17 and after I finish up a couple things, you guys are
18 going to have the opportunity to come up and speak.

19 I will try to answer as many questions as
20 I can tonight about the review process, about FERC,
21 and about the project. I'm not going to say I know
22 everything, but I'll try to answer your questions.
23 Maybe if I can't answer the questions tonight, what
24 I'll do is, there's another formal meeting tomorrow
25 night in Hillsborough, New Jersey. I'll put it on the
26

1 record there. I won't have the luxury the following
2 night to be able to do that. And then I'll close it
3 out.

4 So to illustrate how the process works,
5 you guys may have received this in your NOI. But this
6 is a flow chart. This flow chart basically -- like I
7 said, it's in the NOI itself, the Notice of Intent
8 that's out there. There's a flow chart that goes with
9 this process because basically everyone always wants
10 to know where we're at in the process.

11 So if you see here by the flow chart,
12 we've already been here, in the same building,
13 actually, for Transco's open houses, okay. Transco
14 started out with the market need about the project
15 where they have their open seasons, they studied
16 potential route alternatives, they identified
17 stakeholders, and they entered into our Pre-Filing
18 Process.

19 After that, we approved them into the
20 Pre-Filing Process, we attended their open houses.
21 And where we're at now basically is down here where
22 we're doing the FERC scoping meetings. So you see the
23 public input opportunities, and there's still a lot of
24 stuff to follow.

25 After the scoping meeting, Transco is
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1 going to start filing more information on the record
2 for people to review. They will be probably coming to
3 your doorsteps to talk to you a little bit more about
4 their proposal if they haven't already been there.
5 We're going to start analyzing their information. At
6 a certain point then they're going to file the actual
7 application with us. We're going to put out an EA on
8 the street for everyone's review. And then basically
9 after that, if there's anything to follow, the
10 Commission will make a decision on the project.

11 So this flow chart really shows what we've
12 done, what the company's done, and what's coming next.
13 And it's in your NOI.

14 So like I said, Transco entered into the
15 FERC Pre-Filing Process on January 29th, 2013. That
16 really began our review. Basically, we granted them
17 into that process; our office director granted FERC
18 staff time to assist in the review of this project,
19 okay.

20 The purpose of pre-filing is to encourage
21 involvement by all interested stakeholders in a manner
22 that allows for early identification and resolution of
23 environmental issues. So since the open houses to
24 now, there has definitely been some small changes on
25 this project. Maybe you heard some different stuff
26

1 tonight than you have the last time you came to a
2 meeting. But as of today, no formal application has
3 been filed -- that's coming down the road maybe; I
4 mean, it's up to the company if they want to file
5 it -- filed with FERC and with other federal, state
6 and local agencies. And they have all begun their
7 review, too.

8 Basically, what we have right now is, we
9 have the Pre-Filing Process as it goes along, we have
10 weekly calls where the company, FERC, and the agencies
11 are all in that call on a weekly basis, not this week
12 because we're all here, but we call and give
13 updates -- Transco gives updates, we relay
14 information, the other agencies relay information.
15 It's a pretty good tool to use throughout this
16 process.

17 So in May we issued the NOI. NOI stands
18 for Notice of Intent. And it's really the first thing
19 that we really issued for this project to the
20 landowners. What that did, it basically told us, the
21 NOI, to prepare an EA for this project. It initiated
22 scoping. The scoping or comment period for this
23 scoping period, and I'll explain, will end July 1st.
24 During our review of the project, we will assemble
25 information from a variety of sources, including
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1 Transco, the applicant, the public, state, local,
2 federal agencies, and our own independent analysis and
3 fieldwork, and then all the stakeholder comments we
4 receive throughout this process.

5 Once scoping is finished, our next step
6 will be to begin to analyze the company's proposals
7 and issues that have been identified during the
8 scoping period, and this will include an examination
9 of the proposed facility locations as well as
10 alternative sites. We will assess the project's
11 effects on water bodies, wetlands, vegetation and
12 wildlife, endangered species, cultural resources,
13 soils, land use, air quality, and safety. That's the
14 environmental analysis that goes on behind the
15 project. Our analysis of the potential impacts will
16 be published in the EA and presented to the public for
17 a 30-day comment period.

18 So these comment periods, okay. There's
19 official comment periods, and then there's comment
20 periods that really go from the time that the company
21 enters the Pre-Filing Process until the Commission
22 makes a decision. But there's official scoping
23 comments set in there done under NEPA, the National
24 Environmental Policy Act, that are requirements. That
25 doesn't mean that we're going to stop taking comments
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1 after July 1st. But we do need comments to continue
2 to come in so we can get them in the environmental
3 analysis, okay. If they come in after our EA, then
4 we're going to address them in the Commission order.
5 So there's multiple times you guys can get comments in
6 here. It's just there has to be established time
7 frames so we keep comments flowing.

8 If you received the NOI in the mail, you
9 are on the mailing list and will remain on the mailing
10 list to receive EA and other notices that we may issue
11 regarding this project unless you return the mailer
12 attached to the back of the NOI to indicate you wish
13 to be removed, okay. You guys don't have to continue
14 to receive these mailers by any stretch of the
15 imagination. In fact, there are copies of the NOI
16 available out at the sign-in table.

17 If you did not receive an NOI, I
18 apologize. That's probably one of the hardest things
19 to do on a given project is to come up with a
20 stakeholder list. It's a lot easier now with those
21 computers sitting over there in the room that the
22 applicants use and we all use now with the database,
23 we're able to pull these stakeholders from it. But
24 I've been on a lot of projects throughout the country
25 where you may have received the NOI, you're on the
26

1 line, and your neighbor may not have. But eventually
2 the company or FERC will catch all the mailers.
3 Hopefully we do. If you're not on the mailing list,
4 you can sign up to be on the mailing list back at the
5 sign-in table. Kim will assist you with that.

6 I'd like to also add, FERC encourages
7 electronic filing of all comments and other documents.
8 There's a small brochure back in the back that
9 illustrates how you want to file electronic comments
10 if you don't want to file paper comments. It's
11 located also at the back. And also on our website,
12 www.ferc.gov, under the eFiling link, if you want to
13 submit written comments, please follow the directions
14 in the NOI.

15 Like any website, our website is okay at
16 best. There's a lot information on there, and you
17 better have high speed Internet access, especially for
18 eLibrary. We apologize about that. But the companies
19 are required -- and I don't know in this area, I'll
20 have to ask Transco, where we're going to put their
21 applications for people to look at who do not have
22 computers, who do not have access to high-speed
23 Internet.

24 It's very important that any comments you
25 send, either electronically or by traditional mail,
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1 include the internal docket number for this project.
2 The docket number for the Leidy Southeast Expansion
3 Project is PF13-5. The docket number is also on the
4 cover of the NOI, which is also available at the
5 sign-in table. If you decide to send us a comment
6 letter, please put the number on it, and we'll make
7 sure that we get that information.

8 PF stands for pre-filing. As soon as the
9 company files an application, it's going to go to a CP
10 number. If you're signed up for this, it will
11 automatically convert.

12 Now, let me explain the role of the FERC
13 Commission. We are FERC staff. There's a five-member
14 Commission that's responsible for making a
15 determination on whether to issue a Certificate of
16 Public Convenience and Necessity to the Applicant.
17 That's what these companies are going to ask for.
18 They're going to ask for that certificate. That's
19 what they're proposing and that's what they're going
20 to file the application for. In this case, this is
21 Transco.

22 The EA prepared by the environmental staff
23 will describe the project facilities and the
24 associated environmental impacts, alternatives to the
25 project, mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts, and
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1 our conclusions and recommendations. The EA is not a
2 decisional document. So when you see that come out,
3 that's staff's environmental document. That is
4 basically our recommendation to the five members of
5 the Commission, and it's also being prepared to
6 disclose to the public the environmental impact of
7 constructing and operating the planned project.

8 When it is completed, the Commission will
9 consider the environmental information from the EA
10 along with the nonenvironmental issues such as
11 engineering, markets, and rates, in the making of the
12 decision to approve or deny Transco's request for a
13 certificate. There's a lot of other factors that goes
14 into this analysis and this decision just besides the
15 environmental analysis.

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

20 Now that I've gone through the FERC
21 process, I'm going to hand it over to Karen so she can
22 give you an explanation of PHMSA's role. And I'll be
23 back.

24 MS. GENTILE: Hi. As Doug mentioned, I'm
25 Karen Gentile, and I'm one of the Community Assistance
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1 and Technical Services Managers for the Eastern Region
2 Office of Pipeline Safety, commonly referred to as
3 OPS, which is a branch of the United States Department
4 of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
5 Safety Administration, commonly referred to as PHMSA.
6 I'd like to thank FERC for the opportunity to provide
7 an overview of the OPS program.

8 Upon request from FERC, our office
9 supports the National Environmental Policy Act
10 analysis, NEPA.

11 If Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company,
12 LLP, Transco, receives permission from FERC for this
13 natural gas pipeline project, OPS will maintain
14 regulatory oversight over the safety of the pipeline.
15 This oversight includes inspections to ensure that the
16 pipeline's constructed of suitable materials, that
17 it's welded in accordance with industry standards by
18 qualified welders, installed to proper depths,
19 protected from external corrosion, and properly
20 pressure-tested before its use.

21 Beyond the construction process, we
22 conduct periodic inspections of operations and
23 maintenance requirements in Title 49 Code of Federal
24 Regulations Part 192. These are the regulations that
25 pipeline operators must follow.

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1 The operator must establish comprehensive
2 written procedures describing the types and
3 frequencies of monitoring to ensure the continued safe
4 operation of the pipeline. The monitoring that a
5 pipeline operator must perform includes the adequacy
6 of external corrosion prevention systems, the
7 operability of pipeline valves and pressure control
8 equipment, patrols of the right-of-way, and leak
9 detection surveys.

10 In addition to routine monitoring, PHMSA
11 regulations require transmission pipeline operators to
12 implement integrity management programs. These
13 programs require periodic integrity assessments of
14 transmission pipelines in highly populated areas.
15 These assessments provide a comprehensive
16 understanding of the pipeline condition and associated
17 risks.

18 In-line inspection tools, commonly
19 referred to as smart pigs, provide detailed
20 information about the pipe condition. During an
21 integrity inspection, sensors and computers are sent
22 through the pipeline. These devices can indicate pipe
23 deformations and changes in wall thickness. By
24 analyzing the data collected during these in-line
25 inspections, operators can locate and repair areas of
26

1 the pipeline that may have been damaged or
2 deteriorated. Integrity management programs require
3 operators to detect and correct damages to their
4 pipeline in highly populated areas before the damage
5 results in a leak.

6 A well constructed and maintained pipeline
7 must also be properly operated. Operators must ensure
8 that personnel performing operations, maintenance, or
9 emergency response activities are qualified to perform
10 these functions. The aim of these initiatives is to
11 minimize operator error. The operators must implement
12 training and testing programs for employees and
13 contractors whose performance is critical to
14 maintaining the safety of the pipeline.

15 The operators must also implement public
16 awareness programs to improve the awareness of
17 pipelines within the communities. Operators
18 communicate pipeline safety information to the public
19 along the right-of-way, emergency responders, local
20 public officials, and excavators. Public awareness
21 programs emphasize the importance of calling 811 prior
22 to excavating. These notifications allow all
23 participating utility owners, including pipeline
24 operators, to mark the location of their facilities
25 and monitor the excavation to help assure the
26

1 facilities are not damaged.

2 Another key message for these stakeholder
3 audiences includes how to recognize a pipeline
4 emergency, how to respond appropriately, and how to
5 report the potential emergency to aid in rapid
6 response by both the pipeline operator and community
7 emergency responders.

8 If safety inspections find inadequate
9 procedures or that an operator is not following their
10 procedures, OPS is authorized to require remedial
11 action, assess civil penalties, and initiate criminal
12 action.

13 Safety is the primary mission of OPS, and
14 we understand how important this mission is to your
15 community.

16 Again, thanks for the opportunity to
17 provide an overview of the OPS program.

18 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Karen.

19 And before we start taking comments from
20 you guys, I've asked Transco to provide a brief
21 overview of their project. Chris Staffel from Transco
22 will provide that for you.

23 MS. STAFFEL: Good evening. My name is
24 Chris Staffel, and I manage the public outreach
25 function for expansion projects on the Transco

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1 pipeline system. Transco is a subsidiary of the
2 Williams Companies. Thank you for the opportunity to
3 provide an overview of our company and the proposed
4 Leidy Southeast Expansion Project.

5 The Transco interstate pipeline system
6 originates in South Texas and ends in New York City.
7 The pipeline delivers gas from supply areas in the
8 Gulf Coast, Mid-Continent, and Appalachia, and
9 delivers to market areas in the Southeast,
10 Mid-Continent, and the Northeast. The pipeline system
11 transports about eight percent of the natural gas
12 consumed in the United States. It consists of more
13 than 10,000 miles of pipe and has 52 compressor
14 stations.

15 Transco has served Pennsylvania for more
16 than 60 years and currently transports about 30
17 percent of the natural gas used within the
18 Commonwealth. Transco operates more than 1,000 miles
19 of transmission pipeline in Pennsylvania, more than
20 any other state in which we operate.

21 The company received requests from seven
22 customers, which include both local distribution and
23 gas marketing companies, to increase natural gas
24 deliveries to the Mid-Atlantic region by December of
25 2015. To meet this demand, Transco developed the
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1 Leidy Southeast Expansion Project to expand systems
2 from its Leidy Storage Facility in Pennsylvania to its
3 mainline system in Princeton. The company has fully
4 executed contracts for 525,000 dekatherms per day of
5 additional natural gas transportation capacity.

6 If the project is approved, it would
7 provide access to new sources of domestic natural gas
8 supplies and would support the reliability of energy
9 infrastructure and continued growth in the
10 Mid-Atlantic region. We understand that some members
11 of the public have concerns about the project, and we
12 are committed to address those issues the best that we
13 can.

14 Transco's proposed Leidy Southeast
15 Expansion Project involves a combination of additional
16 pipeline facilities, compression facilities, and
17 modifications to existing infrastructure in
18 Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Additional facility
19 modifications will be made along the Transco system in
20 Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.

21 The major components in Pennsylvania
22 include the Dorrance Loop, which consists of 5.29
23 miles of 42-inch pipeline in Luzerne County, and the
24 Franklin Loop, which consists of 11.45 miles of
25 42-inch pipeline in Monroe and Luzerne counties.

26

1 Additionally, the company plans to increase horsepower
2 at Stations 515 in Luzerne County, 517 in Columbia
3 County, and 520 in Lycoming County.

4 The company meets or exceeds all federal
5 regulations established by the Pipeline Hazardous
6 Materials and Safety Administration for constructing
7 and operating its interstate natural gas pipeline
8 systems. We utilize design and operating practices
9 that exceed many industry and regulatory safety
10 standards. Transco has maintained the integrity of
11 all lines since their installation in accordance with
12 federal regulations. Our integrity plan focuses on
13 prevention first and foremost, followed by detection
14 and mitigation. We have invested more than \$1 billion
15 in pipeline maintenance and integrity-related
16 enhancements since 2002.

17 Transco entered the pre-filing process on
18 January 14th of 2013 under the docket number PF13-5.
19 The company held open houses in this area on April
20 16th and 17th of 2013. We plan to submit drafts of
21 environmental documents, or Resource Reports 1 through
22 12, around the first part of August. We plan to
23 submit our Natural Gas Act Section 7(c) certificate
24 application for the project at the end of September
25 and will be requesting a schedule that would allow for
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1 construction to begin in the fourth quarter of 2014
2 with an in-service date of December 2015.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Chris.

5 Well, now we're going to begin the
6 important part and we're going to start taking
7 comments from you guys, the stakeholders, the main
8 reason we're here tonight. So basically I have a
9 speakers list here with three people signed up, so I'm
10 going to run through those three people. And then
11 after that and during that, if you guys have
12 questions, you guys can ask those. Or if you want to
13 go back to Kim and sign up to speak again, or you can
14 raise your hand. Doesn't really matter.

15 There's multiple ways you can get comments
16 on the record. You can speak here tonight. You can
17 go back there, we have forms where you can write some
18 comments in, we'll take the written comments. You can
19 send written comments in to FERC. It doesn't matter
20 how we receive your comments; they're all treated
21 equally.

22 So like I said, people always ask that,
23 like, hey, should we come and speak? I was like, if
24 you want to, you can. But you can send written
25 comments in, too. Doesn't really matter to us. But
26

1 you have noticed this meeting is being reported; she's
2 sitting right over there, and she will definitely yell
3 at me if we start getting cross-talk and questions
4 going back and forth. So let the speakers speak. If
5 they have any questions when they're speaking, they
6 can ask, and I'll try to answer them. And after that
7 speaker, I can take a couple -- after the speakers go,
8 I can take some questions. But during that, you're
9 going to have to come up to the mic and you're going
10 to have to state your name and please spell it into
11 the record. That's the easiest way so that we can
12 keep basic control of the meeting plus she can keep
13 everything in the record.

14 Aaron Stemplewicz first.

15 MR. STEMPLEWICZ: It looks like I have a
16 lot of stuff here, but I'll be brief. My name is
17 Aaron Stemplewicz. I'm staff attorney with the
18 Delaware Riverkeeper Network. My name is spelled
19 A-A-R-O-N, S-T-E-M-P-L-E-W-I-C-Z.

20 So as we heard, Transco's Leidy line
21 originates at Compressor Station 505 in Hunterdon
22 County, New Jersey and terminates near Wharton,
23 Pennsylvania in Potter County, stretching for a
24 distance of roughly 200 miles. The existing Leidy
25 pipelines are named "A," which was constructed in
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1 1958; "B," which was constructed in 1971, and "C" and
2 "D," which are both still under construction.

3 Transco is building out lines C and D in a
4 segmented and piecemeal fashion, and its projects are
5 thus avoiding a more comprehensive environmental
6 review. Currently Transco lines A, B and C span the
7 entire length of Monroe County here in Pennsylvania.
8 Transco is now in the process of adding a D line
9 across the entire county.

10 The first step in completing this
11 additional looped line D was the Northeast Supply
12 Link, which was previously certificated by FERC and is
13 currently under construction. The portion of the
14 Northeast Supply Link within Monroe County is called
15 the Palmerton Loop, which is a 3.17-mile stretch of
16 pipeline that is planned to be installed along the
17 southeastern tier of the county. In other words, as a
18 result of the Northeast Supply Link, Transco's D line
19 will now begin to creep its way northwest across the
20 county towards Compressor Station 515 in Luzerne
21 County.

22 As we heard also, now Transco is
23 initiating another project called the Leidy Southeast
24 Expansion Project. Essentially, this project, at
25 least in the context of Monroe County, there will be
26

1 an 11-mile stretch of pipeline extending south
2 essentially from Compressor Station 515 in a
3 southeasterly direction. What we will have left after
4 this if this project is completed is essentially there
5 will be a gap in Monroe County of roughly 10 to 20
6 miles where line D does not -- is not completed.

7 What we can expect to see from Transco
8 shortly is an application for a third project to
9 complete this line D in another looping project. If
10 this occurs, Transco will essentially have
11 successfully requested that FERC certificate three
12 separate projects within a very short amount of time
13 without a more comprehensive environmental review of
14 that entire stretch of construction activity on that
15 right-of-way, on that corridor.

16 So we have concerns that Transco is
17 consciously piecemealing these projects, and we would
18 request that FERC conduct an environmental review that
19 would include a corridor-wide study that would include
20 a review of what construction activity would look like
21 if the construction included pipeline looping in that
22 current existing gap.

23 Furthermore, I just have a few other
24 questions that would be great if we could have on the
25 record, either answered by the project applicant,
26

1 Transco, or FERC. First is what the maximum velocity
2 that Transco generally allows on their loops in feet
3 per second. This is different from the maximum
4 operating pressure. I'm not as interested in MAOP;
5 I'm more interested in the velocity, in other words,
6 the feet per second that the gas will be flowing
7 through the pipeline.

8 Nowhere in the project applicant's
9 documents have I seen a number that indicates what
10 Transco considers safe. I know that Tennessee Gas
11 Pipeline Company states that what they believe safe is
12 about 40 feet per second for their looping projects.
13 Obviously there are different design parameters, so I
14 would like Transco to answer that question to what is
15 their maximum velocity in feet per second that their
16 gas is going to be flowing through the pipeline.

17 Also, we would like Transco and we would
18 like FERC to require that Transco evaluate system
19 alternatives on other pipelines in the region. If
20 there is another pipeline that can serve the same
21 customers or shippers and can satisfy the contracts as
22 signed, we would like FERC to evaluate whether or not
23 using that alternative -- whether or not upgrading
24 that alternative pipeline would be environmentally
25 preferable to upgrading FERC's -- sorry -- upgrading
26

1 Transco's line. We did not see any sort of analysis
2 in that context in the Resource Report 10, which
3 evaluates project alternatives.

4 Additionally, upon information and belief,
5 Transco experienced a frack-out or inadvertent return
6 during construction on their Northeast Supply Link
7 very recently during a crossing of a water body while
8 they were doing horizontal directional drilling
9 underneath the water body. We would like to know what
10 assurances that Transco or FERC can provide that
11 lessons were learned from that and what are they doing
12 that this will not happen again. We did not see that
13 anywhere acknowledged in any of the project documents
14 or otherwise.

15 Furthermore, we would like the question
16 answered, does any of the construction activity impact
17 any areas that are incorporated into the comprehensive
18 plan of the Delaware River Basin Commission? For
19 example, if any construction activity impacts a state
20 forest or game land, that would be important to know,
21 and that is not something that we were able to glean
22 from the project documents.

23 Also, and I may have missed this, we would
24 also like to know when the open season began and when
25 the open season ended and have that on the record.

26

1 And lastly, I'd like to just follow up and
2 say that we would request that the transcript that is
3 being recorded now and all future transcripts from
4 other public meetings be put on and uploaded on the
5 project docket so that it appears on the project
6 docket so it can be reviewed by those who are not able
7 to come to this meeting.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. SIPE: Thank you. I'll note that
10 those are detailed questions which won't be answered
11 here tonight. But Transco at this point -- they have
12 given us Resource Reports 1 and 10, and at this point
13 it's basically a summary of 1 and 10. They're soon
14 going to file draft resource reports when they're
15 ready, and when we tell them they're ready basically
16 also. And after the official scoping period ends,
17 which is July 1st, which was extended, they have 14
18 days to address scoping issues. So those questions
19 will be answered at that time.

20 And to clarify that on the record, at
21 FERC, the reason we extended the comment period is
22 because we issued the NOI on a Friday, which is not
23 anything out of the ordinary. A lot people were
24 trying to say we were hiding things by issuing on a
25 Friday. It's basically when staff gets it done and it
26

1 goes through management review, it's the next day we
2 issue it. But what happened is, downstairs in the
3 printing plant, one of the main printers broke, so
4 they had to use the little printer, and we weren't
5 able to get all the NOIs out to everybody at the same
6 time. So what we did then is just extend the comment
7 period.

8 Thank you Aaron.

9 Next speaker, Maya van Rossum.

10 MS. VAN ROSSUM: I'm passing.

11 MR. SIPE: Thanks, Maya.

12 Next and last speaker at this point is
13 Charles Sprague.

14 MR. SPRAGUE: My name is Charles Sprague,
15 landowner. Spelling of the last name is
16 S-P-R-A-G-U-E. And my comments pertain to public
17 safety, impact on residents and businesses on our
18 access road.

19 Currently we would like to make a request
20 that a new access point is added to our property and
21 which would have less impact on the residents and
22 businesses. The current access road now travels
23 through a business and restaurant/bar parking lot, and
24 the access does pass by seven residences within ten
25 feet on a private dirt road. What we're requesting is
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1 that Transco reviews a new access point on our further
2 south end of our property off of Route 115, improves
3 that. At that point it will only affect two
4 residences at the entry point, and no businesses and
5 no residences the mile back to the gas line.

6 We have no other comments. We just wanted
7 to put that on the record and have that for review.

8 MR. SIPE: Great.

9 MR. SPRAGUE: Thank you.

10 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

11 Now is the time when I start selling. Now
12 is your time to ask any questions about the FERC
13 process. You can ask project questions. The other
14 option is, I close the meeting, Transco is all going
15 to be here just like they were in the beginning of the
16 meeting, and you guys can ask them questions then.
17 You can still ask me questions or any of my staff
18 questions or Karen from DOT. It's up to you guys.

19 MS. VAN ROSSUM: Hi. I'm Maya van Rossum,
20 the Delaware Riverkeepers. It's spelled M-A-Y-A,
21 V-A-N, R-O-S-S-U-M. And the organization is the
22 Delaware Riverkeeper Network. I actually had passed,
23 but I then realized I had a few questions that I would
24 like Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and
25 Williams/Transco or Transco to consider as they move
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1 forward with the analysis of the project.

2 There are many different ways to construct
3 a pipeline project. Some are very invasive and very
4 damaging, and frankly, that's the current construction
5 practices that are used on the ground today, including
6 by Transco. And we've experienced that with other
7 pipeline projects that have passed through portions of
8 the Delaware River Basin. And there are ways to
9 engage in construction of a pipeline that are much
10 less damaging.

11 It's not just -- for example, when you're
12 talking about streams and waterways, it's not just
13 about whether you open-cut them and/or use horizontal
14 directional drilling but what is the size of the
15 right-of-way, for example. Current practice is to be
16 doing 100-foot minimum right-of-ways plus. In the
17 past, right-of-ways traditionally were 50 to 75 feet,
18 and that was very adequate for pipeline projects of
19 this size and avoided a lot of the environmental harm.
20 Not all of it, but you certainly reduced the number
21 of -- the amount of vegetation that has to be removed,
22 the amount of soil compaction that happens that
23 results in increased stormwater runoff and pollution,
24 causing downstream erosion, flooding, flood damages,
25 and all of the associated harms.

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1 It has to do with the compaction of the
2 soils. You can take special steps to try to reduce
3 the level of soil compaction that results from the
4 project, or you can do a shoddy job and just compact
5 all the soils as hard as possible.

6 What we have experienced on other pipeline
7 projects, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network has taken
8 soil samples and has found that these pipeline
9 projects, including temporary work areas, where
10 vegetation is supposed to be restored when the
11 pipeline is done, that the soil compaction has reached
12 levels as high as 98 percent. By way of comparison,
13 an earthen dam is compacted to 95 percent. So
14 pipeline companies are compacting these soils harder
15 than an earthen dam, which is certainly not necessary
16 and absolutely ensures there can be no regrowth of
17 vegetation or restoration of ecological systems along
18 these areas of pipeline projects.

19 There are different construction practices
20 that can be used. You can use smaller booms that
21 result in smaller work areas that are required. There
22 are strategies that have been used on other pipeline
23 projects where the chipped-up wood from the trees and
24 soils have been laid on one side of the pipeline, and
25 the construction equipment operates on top of this

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1 what is now a created cushion, which reduces soil
2 compaction, avoids a lot of soil compaction below, it
3 reduces the size of the work area. So the level of
4 harm that results is significantly decreased and the
5 success of the restoration that takes place after the
6 fact is far more successful.

7 These are just a few ideas, shall we say,
8 a few approaches to be considered. There are many
9 more, and certainly the Delaware Riverkeeper Network
10 is very happy to sit down with Transco representatives
11 and talk some of these through. But what I would like
12 to ask from the company and what I would like to ask
13 from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as you
14 go through this scoping process is make the company
15 look at these different construction practices, make
16 them do an analysis of these strategies, and not
17 simply say, it's going to be a little bit more
18 irritating to do it the right way versus the wrong
19 way, it's going to be a little bit more difficult to
20 reduce the right-of-way and avoid all of this
21 environmental harm. Therefore, it's not an option for
22 them. But to really genuinely look at alternative
23 construction practices that have been used on the
24 ground that could be developed that could avoid
25 environmental harms to the greatest extent possible
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1 and to the extent that we will have unavoidable harm,
2 practices that can enhance any follow-up restoration.

3 I will say that what we have been seeing
4 on the ground by pipeline companies, including
5 Williams/Transco, the oversight that we have seen from
6 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in terms of
7 the reviews that are done for construction practices,
8 leave a lot to be desired. So I would ask that with
9 this project, could we please take another approach
10 and could we please require pipeline companies to
11 genuinely make every effort possible to avoid harm, to
12 rehabilitate where harm has been done, and to really
13 encourage these pipeline companies to genuinely and
14 earnestly look at these alternative strategies.

15 Not only does it benefit the environment
16 and present and future communities, but frankly, for
17 the pipeline company, it will really help you out. It
18 will make the context in some ways perhaps more
19 concrete, in other ways less concrete. Where these
20 alternative construction practices have been compared,
21 in fact, the cost is comparable. Doing it the right
22 way costs just about the same as doing it the wrong
23 way, but it buys you a lot of goodwill in the
24 community if you work as hard as possible to avoid
25 harm to our environment and to avoid harm to the

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1 communities of which you are now a pretty much
2 permanent part.

3 So thank you very much.

4 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Maya.

5 Any other questions, comments?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. SIPE: Like I said, we're going to be
8 here. I'm going to close the formal part. The
9 transcriber can go home. But we're going to be here
10 for a little bit. The maps will be back there if you
11 have any questions for Transco or any questions for
12 FERC.

13 I basically was here tonight to provide
14 you the opportunity to comment and to ask any
15 questions about process or about FERC or the company.
16 So that's the end of our list. Without anybody else
17 to speak, the formal part of the meeting will
18 conclude.

19 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
20 Commission, I'd like to thank you all for coming
21 tonight. Let the record show that the Leidy Southeast
22 Expansion Project scoping meeting in Wilkes-Barre,
23 Pennsylvania concluded at 7:47 p.m.

24 Thank you.

25 (Meeting concluded at 7:47 p.m.)