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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -x Docket Number
IN THE MATTER OF: : PF14-1-000
SOUTHEAST MARKET PIPELINE PROJECT : PF14-2-000
- - - - -x PF14-6-000

Hilton Garden Inn Albany
101 South Front Street
Albany, GA 31701

Monday, March 3, 2014

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting,
pursuant to notice, at 6:00 p.m., John Peconom FERC Moderator.

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

2 MR. PECONOM: Good evening, everybody.

3 Can everyone hear me okay?

4 My name is John Peconom. I'm a project manager
5 at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. On behalf of
6 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I'd like to thank
7 you all for coming out tonight. I know there are places
8 that you'd rather be. But again, we appreciate you coming
9 out.

10 We have a short presentation for you this
11 evening. We'll go through a little bit here in just a few
12 minutes. I know people are even anxious to speak and to
13 learn more about the project. So what I've done is ask
14 Kevin Bowman, who is also a staff member of the Federal
15 Energy Regulatory Commission, to be our meeting facilitator
16 tonight. He's going to walk us through this meeting and
17 take any questions you have. And then he'll just go through
18 that in just one second here.

19 So again, thank you very much. We will be here
20 after the meeting if you have any specific questions.

21 I'll turn it over to Kevin and we'll get started.
22 Thank you again.

23 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. Thanks, John.

24 So today the purpose of our meeting. It's going
25 to be broken down into three parts. The first part is I'm

1 going to describe what the FERC is and what it is that we do
2 as part of our environmental review process. And that's
3 going to be a big theme of today's meeting is the
4 environmental review process and how that works.

5 So the second part, after I kind of go through
6 who the FERC is and what we are, is we're going to go
7 through a brief discussion about what the immediate project
8 is that we're all here to talk about today. Some of you may
9 already know a lot about the project in your discussions
10 with the companies through their open houses or talks with
11 us at those open houses throughout the day. So we're just
12 going to kind of reiterate what those projects are and, you
13 know, how we're going to talk about them.

14 Then the third and the final thing that we're
15 going to do tonight is we're going to take your comments.
16 And that's really going to be the meat of today's meeting.
17 It's an integral part of our process is to take public
18 comments. And it helps us to do what's best to look out for
19 your interests.

20 So, you know, the FERC: Who are we?

21 So, you know, I'm Kevin Bowman. I'm an
22 environmental scientist working at FERC. I work on
23 projects, as does John Peconom. Also with us tonight is
24 Mitch Shields; he's also helping us out from FERC tonight.
25 And on the far right side from you guys is Joe Mataich, and

1 he is with the Department of Transportation.

2 Thanks, guys.

3 That's Mike's little profile.

4 You guys -- That's good? A little better? All
5 right.

6 Okay. So the Federal Energy Regulatory
7 Commission; so what is that Commission? The Commission is
8 five members. And those five members are appointed by the
9 President. And they have to be appointed -- or have to be
10 approved by the Senate. So it's a democratic process of how
11 those members get approved.

12 So why do we care? Who are these -- what do they
13 do?

14 So these Commission members, these five members
15 make basically every decision that comes across the FERC on
16 a day to day basis. So those decisions, those decisions
17 encompass siting, siting and construction of natural gas
18 projects. That includes storage projects; that includes LNG
19 terminals -- that's liquefied natural gas terminations.
20 That includes storage and pipelines.

21 And it also includes things like hydropower dams
22 and even some stuff with electric transmission and rates.
23 So it's a bunch of different things that they have to make
24 decisions on a daily basis.

25 Now before the Commission can make any decision

1 we have to -- we are required by the National Environmental
2 Policy Act -- or NEPA -- you know, those acronyms in the
3 government -- you know we have to go through an
4 environmental analysis of the project proposals.

5 Then we have to go ahead and look at -- figure
6 out what those impacts are. We have to research them. We
7 have to look into -- figure out are there ways to minimize
8 those impacts. And we have to apprise the Commission of the
9 impacts of the proposal are before they make any decision.
10 It's part of the informed decision-making process. And once
11 they have that information in front of them they can decide
12 whether or not to approve a project.

13 So as part of our research into a project, which
14 John's going to talk about in just another couple of
15 minutes, you know, we're here to take your comments today.
16 And that definitely helps us decide what to analyze in our
17 research. But the culmination of that research is what we
18 call an environmental impact statement. And that is
19 basically a big thick document -- John, can you hold that
20 up?

21 MR. PECONOM: Sure.

22 MR. BOWMAN: That's a recent environmental impact
23 statement. So he'll get into that in a little bit. And,
24 you know, he'll talk about how we send that out to you guys
25 for review later on. But this is what we're here to do

1 tonight is, you know, figure out what we need to study and
2 to review, and we'll get that in an EIS.

3 So back to the Commission.

4 While we have authority over gas lines,
5 interstate gas lines and things like those LNG terminals and
6 hydropower dams that I mentioned, we don't have authority
7 over production of gas. That means we don't have production
8 of -- or don't have authority to regulate where the gas
9 comes out of the ground or the local distribution. So maybe
10 that line that might go to someone's house from, you know,
11 Florida Power & Light or something like that, we don't have
12 those little -- authority over those little tiny little
13 lines.

14 On top of that, we don't establish the pipeline
15 integrity standards. We do, of course, require any project
16 that involves a natural gas transmission line to meet the
17 regulations for gas lines. But those are set forth by the
18 Department of Transportation. And Joe can answer some
19 questions for you after the meeting if you have some
20 questions on that kind of stuff.

21 So with that, I'm going to go ahead and pass
22 things on to John to talk a little bit about the review
23 process.

24 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Kevin.

25 As Kevin pointed out, the -- Yes, ma'am.

1 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Sir, I have a
2 question, the President and the Vice President, is that
3 State or United States?

4 MR. PECONOM: Yes, ma'am. And I'll answer your
5 question. I just want to make sure, when you yell out
6 questions, please come up to the podium because we have a
7 court reporter here tonight who's making sure that
8 everything is on the record, because your comment's
9 important to us and we want to make sure we get them all
10 accurately.

11 I'll go ahead and repeat your question for you
12 now just so everyone can hear it and we can get it on the
13 record. And people who have questions, in the future please
14 come on up.

15 The question was is the Commission a federal
16 Commission or a state Commission?

17 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Yes. Is it run by the
18 state and it's five people --

19 MR. PECONOM: Yes, ma'am.

20 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: -- or is it federal?

21 MR. PECONOM: It's a federal Commission. So
22 they're appointed by the President of the United States.

23 So as Kevin was saying, the Federal Energy
24 Regulatory Commission does a lot of things. In this context
25 tonight we're all concerned with its role in regulating the

1 siting, construction of interstate natural gas transmission
2 pipeline projects.

3 Kevin pointed out the Natural Environmental
4 Policy Act -- NEPA. That law requires that all federal
5 agencies consider the environmental actions of a project
6 before making a decision.

7 My job as the environmental project manager is to
8 conduct that environmental analysis and report those
9 findings to the Commission. The Commission will then take
10 those findings and ultimately make a decision about whether
11 or not to approve the project.

12 The environmental component is just one of
13 several components considered by the Commission: economic
14 factors, legal factors, a lot of things go into
15 consideration.

16 I am the environmental project manager. I've
17 been doing this for ten years. I am responsible for the --
18 all three pipeline projects associated with this project.

19 Kevin pointed out that when we're preparing an
20 environmental impact statement, that is my end work product
21 is that I will prepare a document, an EIS, that will report
22 on all the potential impacts of the project to the
23 environment. That document will describe the environment;
24 it will report on what we think the impacts will be and ways
25 to minimize, avoid, and mitigate those impacts.

1 This is a long process. I don't expect to finish
2 the EIS for at least a year and a half, and maybe longer.

3 This process begins with what we call the
4 pre-filing process. Sabal Trail has asked the Commission to
5 participate in the pre-filing environmental review. A
6 pre-filing process is an informal process that's conducted
7 before a company files an application for permission or
8 approval for a natural gas pipeline project.

9 Sabal Trail filed a request; sent a letter
10 requesting the use of the pre-filing process in October of
11 2013. We agreed to participate in that pre-filing process
12 with them.

13 The purpose of the pre-filing process is to
14 engage stakeholders, land-owners, affected parties, anybody
15 who's interested about the project early in the project's
16 developmental process. That way folks like yourselves and
17 other interested parties can express your concerns about the
18 project and be involved in the project. The pre-filing
19 process for this project will go just about a year.

20 During the pre-filing process the company
21 provides basic information about the project and preliminary
22 information about the project. They are working on their
23 proposal, their application that they're going to file in
24 October of 2014. We, along with other federal and state
25 agencies, as well as land-owners and other interested

1 parties, work with the company to give them feedback on it
2 to say there's -- 'that's a good idea'; 'that's not a good
3 idea'; you should think about this'; 'you should think about
4 that.'

5 We have engaged actively with the company. For
6 those of you who are familiar with the process and have been
7 following the process through the Commission's online
8 administrative record, you'll see there's some documentation
9 there of the meetings that we've had. We engage with them
10 every couple of weeks where we're asking lots of questions
11 of them, asking them to do things for you.

12 The pre-filing process also requires that they do
13 several things for folks here. Many of you attended some of
14 the open houses that they had in December. That is part of
15 the pre-filing process.

16 And I like to basically call the pre-filing
17 process the shaking the bushes process. We need to find out
18 what's out there. Because this is a federally-regulated
19 project, it falls to me. I live in Washington, D.C. I need
20 help to understand what goes on in southwest Georgia.

21 That's where this meeting comes in and that's
22 where the open houses that the company does comes in. We
23 need to hear from you. And it's a really important part of
24 our process, and that's what Kevin's going to lead us on a
25 little bit later tonight.

1 So other things we do in the pre-filing process.
2 They provide us additional information -- or basic
3 information about the project. We review it. It's all
4 available for public review; you can comment on it. It
5 tells us things. It tells us that maybe the pipeline should
6 go somewhere else; maybe it should be built in a different
7 way. So that's the kind of information we work with the
8 company and folks like yourselves to develop these projects.

9 We are very fortunate to have good relationships
10 with the other federal and state agencies. As Kevin pointed
11 out, the Department of Transportation is here. They're the
12 primary safety regulator. They advise us in the process.

13 We work with other agencies, like the
14 Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
15 Service, the Georgia DNR, and a number of other folks. They
16 include the Army Corps of Engineers. We all get together
17 and they help us prepare or conduct our environmental
18 review.

19 As I said, it's a long process.

20 Part of that process is the public comments and
21 the scoping process. And that's an important -- very
22 important part of the process. We're in the public comment
23 phase. Many of you have already written letters. I read
24 each and every one of your letters. Many of you are just
25 learning about the project for the first time and you'll

1 probably send us letters.

2 My job is to read those letters. Those letters
3 go into our administrative record so if I get hit by a bus
4 tomorrow the person that replaces me knows what your
5 concerns are and makes sure that those are addressed in our
6 review.

7 Once you file a record -- or a letter with us, as
8 I said, I'm obligated to look at that. And we look at a lot
9 of things in our environmental review. And Mitch here is
10 going to talk a little about some of the things we've
11 identified already because many of the folks here have been
12 very vocal about the project. And that's good; that's great
13 and helpful for us.

14 This public comments process is called scoping.
15 Many of you received a notice of intent to prepare an
16 environmental impact statement in the mail from us. I have
17 a copy here. And it tells you a little bit about the FERC
18 and what the FERC does.

19 We have opened up the sixty-day comment period
20 for you all to send us letters and comments about the
21 project to help us do our environmental review. We take
22 comments all the time. We want to hear what your concerns
23 are.

24 Once the pre-filing process is complete, there is
25 the certificate application. That means that the company

1 has developed a project; it feels very good about it; it's
2 going to submit it to us. All their work that's done in the
3 pre-filing process then becomes official.

4 So right now the project is not really an
5 official project; it's an idea that this company has. It's
6 a proposal. Once they file the application with us we then
7 review that application. And it's a similar process for
8 what we are doing now.

9 We'll take all the environmental information that
10 they've given us; we'll review it. We'll ask local experts,
11 look at the letters that have been sent to us and make sure
12 that it all makes sense and that it's verified and what
13 they're saying is going to happen will happen. So that's
14 all -- that's a long process.

15 The certificate application process begins in
16 October of 2014.

17 Many people ask me what happens if their letters
18 don't get read. And I don't write letters back to everybody
19 because it would take a really long time to do that. It's a
20 big project and it takes a long time to do. But what I do
21 do is I take your comments and I make sure that we address
22 them. But also I make sure that the company addresses them
23 so we get their response on them.

24 You'll see that a lot of times in the comments
25 that we give to the companies. You'll see that in the

1 pre-filing process and you'll see that in the certificate
2 application process.

3 We also have been doing this -- we're all experts
4 here -- well, I think myself an expert anyways -- we have
5 been doing this for ten years. Our job is to do pipelines.
6 We're work with pipelines every day. Kevin's on the team
7 here; Mitch is on the team here.

8 We have a staff of about 24 or so folks who are
9 dedicated to this project who will be reviewing that
10 project. They range from geologists, biologists, safety
11 engineers, land use specialists, soil specialists,
12 agronomists, just about every environmental resource you can
13 think of we're trying to cover in our review.

14 As I said, that review will culminate in the
15 preparation of an environmental impact statement. As you
16 can see here, it's a pretty weighty document. This is an
17 environmental impact statement I've prepared for another
18 project in Florida in September of 2009.

19 Everything that we do is eventually put in this
20 document. It will touch on the proposed action. It will
21 describe the affected environmental. So what is it like in
22 southwest Georgia: is it hilly, are there lots of trees.
23 All those pieces of information will be put in there.

24 And then it will assess the impacts to those
25 resources. It will assess the impacts to agricultural land.

1 It will assess the impacts to oaks. It will assess the
2 impacts to groundwater, to threatened and endangered
3 species. It's a pretty big document.

4 So as I said, it analyzes the potential
5 environmental impacts and the proposed mitigation measures.
6 So mitigation measures are the things that the company will
7 do, based on your input and their experience, to avoid,
8 minimize and mitigate those impacts.

9 The EIS will also analyze alternatives. Many
10 people have asked can the pipeline just go somewhere else;
11 why doesn't it go to Florida; why doesn't it go to Alabama.
12 And those are good questions, questions that we are going to
13 address during our environmental review. They're called
14 alternatives. Many of you may be familiar with them.

15 There are big alternatives, there are small
16 alternatives. And we're going to look at all of them. It
17 takes us a while to do it. And that's what's going to come
18 out in this environmental impact statement.

19 Some alternatives will be better; some
20 alternatives might not be. It's just going to take us time
21 to figure that out.

22 Also in the environmental impact statement will
23 be conclusions, you know, our opinions or our determinations
24 on those impacts and alternatives, and recommendations that
25 we have to further avoid, minimize and mitigate the

1 environmental impacts of the project.

2 That is the FERC environmental review process in
3 a nutshell. I'm going to turn it back over to Kevin, but
4 I'd be happy to answer any questions that you all have on
5 the FERC environmental review process.

6 Does anybody have any questions on the FERC
7 process? You're welcome to come up, and I'd be happy to
8 answer them.

9 (No response.)

10 MR. PECONOM: Well, Kevin, did I miss anything on
11 the review process?

12 MR. BOWMAN: I don't think so.

13 Let's go ahead and move on to the next part,
14 then.

15 So, you know, that's kind of the first kind of
16 portion of how you kind of like talk to us and stuff. But
17 some other ways that you can comment and tell us what's
18 important to you.

19 In the third part of the meeting, you know, I'll
20 call you guys up as you signed up, and anyone else who wants
21 to speak can come up and talk to us. And that's part of the
22 comment meeting; that's in-person here today. If you think
23 of something else when you go home today or later tonight or
24 tomorrow, there are still ways to let us know.

25 You can either do things online -- we prefer

1 things online -- I mean my hearing's not that great but, you
2 know, online is pretty good because you can just type it in
3 and think about what you want to say, you know, and play
4 around with it a little bit. And you can send it in to us
5 electronically.

6 Of course, you can still send things to us in
7 paper copy by mail. If you have a copy of that Notice of
8 Intent that we held up a second ago, that has that address
9 on there of where to send it. If you don't have a copy of
10 that, we still have a bunch of copies outside. So I'd
11 recommend grabbing one of those before you leave if you
12 think that's the route you want to go.

13 If you do send anything to us, make sure you
14 include these numbers on there, the PF14-1 or -2 or -6.
15 That makes -- that lets us know what project to send it to.
16 So when something comes in for these projects, you know, we
17 can see the number and we can say, 'Okay, this needs to go
18 to John so he can look at it for this project and he can
19 send it to whoever needs to see, whether it's the biologist
20 or the geologist or whoever needs to see it.

21 So definitely there's plenty of ways to still
22 comment on these projects after tonight.

23 So we do have some other resources. Anything
24 that you send to us gets put online on our website. That's
25 at ferc.gov. And we have this system that's -- we call it

1 eLibrary, and everything that -- everything related to these
2 projects goes online there. So that includes the
3 application materials, biological surveys, any comment that
4 you send to us, any letter that we send to the company.
5 Everything that happens with this project goes online on our
6 website.

7 It can be a lot of information. We do have a
8 service that's called eSubscription. And you sign up for
9 that and you get an email any time something gets sent on
10 that website.

11 So, you know, maybe FERC sends a letter out to
12 the company; you get an email in your inbox that says, 'Hey,
13 FERC sent a letter to the company today,' and you say, 'Oh,
14 okay, I've got a couple of minutes; I'll go ahead and look
15 at it.' And you can go see what we said to the company,
16 maybe we, you know, if there's something else we want them
17 to look at or some other alternative that came up or
18 something.

19 So that's kind of what that feature is for.
20 Actually, FERC staff, we use that feature, that
21 eSubscription feature. And it alerts us any time something
22 was submitted on our project. It's a pretty handy feature;
23 we use it all the time.

24 Lastly, the environmental mailing list is really
25 important. So if you are at all concerned about the project

1 or interested in the project, make sure we have your address
2 and your information. That is so that we can send you that
3 EIS. If you don't want a hard copy we're going to send you
4 a CD.

5 Basically everyone gets a CD of that EIS. So if
6 you don't have a computer, you don't want to pop it in, let
7 us know and tell us that you want a hard copy. The hard
8 copies get kind of expensive after a while so we don't
9 really like sending them out. So only if you really want a
10 hard copy are we going to send you one.

11 Okay. So with that, we're going to get to the
12 second part. We'll get to your comments in just a moment.
13 But I'm going to have Mitch here go over the kind of project
14 overview so you kind of refresh your minds of what these
15 projects are.

16 Are there any more process questions about the
17 FERC and how we go through our review?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. If you guys have questions,
20 come grab one of us after.

21 MS. WINGFIELD: Kevin?

22 MR. BOWMAN: Yes. Could you come up so I can
23 have your name, so we don't...

24 MS. WINGFIELD: Selena R. Wingfield.

25 It's just -- when you were saying where -- when

1 you asked where we can get the information, will you send a
2 hard copy to the public libraries for review?

3 MR. BOWMAN: We usually do. But we can make sure
4 -- if there's other public libraries you want us to send
5 that stuff to let us know and we'll make sure a copy gets
6 there.

7 MS. WINGFIELD: Right.

8 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah, generally some stuff gets sent
9 to the public libraries -- usually the company's application
10 materials are always in the libraries. So, yeah, let us
11 know.

12 MS. WINGFIELD: So the hard --

13 MR. BOWMAN: We'll send a hard copy to the public
14 libraries if you want us to. We'll definitely do that.

15 MS. WINGFIELD: And the other libraries, not just
16 this one?

17 MR. BOWMAN: Sure. Yeah.

18 MS. WINGFIELD: Thank you.

19 MR. BOWMAN: Anything else?

20 MR. WINGATE: My name is Mark Wingate.

21 You kept talking about the first process, the
22 comments, and the certificate. So is this a done deal
23 already? I mean is there any stage of the point you'll say
24 it's not going to be done; it's not going to go through?
25 You know, everything sounds like it's already going through.

1 MR. BOWMAN: One of the things that we have to do
2 while we're reviewing a process -- or a project is treat it
3 as what are the impacts of the project. I mean one of the
4 -- in the EIS -- and in that one there -- you'll see an
5 analysis of not building the project. But we need to figure
6 out what are the impacts of this project. Once we figure
7 that out, it'll go in that document and we'll send it to the
8 Commission. And they've got to read through it and they've
9 got to make a decision.

10 So right now this is not a done deal. They have
11 to make an informed decision based on the impacts that we
12 put in that document.

13 MR. PECONOM: Kevin, can I add to that?

14 MR. BOWMAN: Sure.

15 MR. PECONOM: I would just like to add to that
16 that this project has not been approved. So the Commission
17 has not approved the project. It will not even come up for
18 approval for quite some time. So a lot of things can happen
19 between now and then. The company could change its mind.

20 But, yes, this is not a done deal. There have
21 been no approvals from the Commission whatsoever. Because I
22 know people have had that question. They've heard it's
23 already been approved and it's coming. It has not been
24 approved, just to be very clear about that.

25 MR. WINGATE: Do you have a hard copy of the

1 contact list? You all had it on the screen except a generic
2 one where you've got to look through 25,000 pages to find
3 out the information. A little more direct link, do you all
4 have that?

5 MR. PECONOM: A direct link to...?

6 MR. WINGATE: You had your website up there. It
7 had a ton of information.

8 MR. PECONOM: Oh. Yes. Do we have a little bit
9 more of -- some of the more helpful information is directly
10 in that Notice of Intent. That's very specific of how you
11 navigate the website to get to --

12 MR. WINGATE: Not everybody got that.

13 MR. PECONOM: Well, I apologize if we missed
14 that. But if you -- definitely grab a copy before you
15 leave.

16 MR. WINGATE: Okay. It's out there.

17 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

18 MR. BOWMAN: We have extra copies. And for those
19 folks, I'd be happy to stay afterwards and show you on the
20 internet where that information can be found.

21 Yes. Can you come up so we can give you credit.

22 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: That's not going to be
23 easy.

24 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah. I can bring you this.

25 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: That would be better.

1 I'd like -- Is it on?

2 MR. BOWMAN: It's on, but it's not very loud. My
3 voice is already getting a little tired.

4 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: The maps that we see
5 outside, the large maps are very helpful. But this is the
6 only place we get to see them.

7 When will we be able to actually sit down and go
8 through and see the impacts, because you can see the impacts
9 much more clearly on these maps than you can on the scale
10 that you have provided. I'd like to know if you will make
11 those available to us widely here.

12 MR. PECONOM: The question was are the maps
13 available, and the answer is yes. They are on the
14 Commission's website at www.ferc.gov. We have asked the
15 company to put those into the record. So for folks who are
16 interested in seeing those maps at home and spending some
17 time with them, you can see them on your computer.

18 And we're going to ask the company -- Because the
19 pipeline route is changing, you know, they are making
20 changes to it on a fairly regular basis, so we have maps as
21 of January. And we're going to be asking for updates. I
22 don't ask for them every week; but every, you know, couple
23 of months I'll ask for an update so folks can review the
24 project.

25 And the best way is -- also another way I should

1 say is to ask for a copy of some maps or ask for a specific
2 map that you're interested in. And I can happily email you
3 a link to where all of that stuff is on our website.

4 Anyone else?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. PECONOM: Okay. If you have more questions
7 you can come grab us.

8 MR. BOWMAN: Mitch is about to give us a
9 presentation of the projects that the company has filed with
10 us.

11 And I wanted to make it very clear that the FERC
12 is not building this project. This is not the FERC's
13 project; this is Sabal Trail's project and FSC's project and
14 Transco's project. We are presenting to you what they've
15 submitted to us so you can better understand what the
16 project is about. But just to be very clear, this is not
17 the FERC's project. We are the reviewing entity.

18 So with that, I'll let you take on, Mitch.

19 MR. SHIELDS: Thank you, John and Kevin.

20 And good evening, everybody. As John mentioned,
21 I'm going to provide an overview of what we know about the
22 projects at a pretty high level so that everybody has a
23 common understanding.

24 As a reminder, the Southeast Market Pipeline
25 Project consists of three separate but related projects,

1 consisting of the Sabal Trail Project, also known as Sabal
2 Trail, which is proposed by Sabal Trail Transmission LLC,
3 the Florida Southeast Connection Project, also known as FSC,
4 which is proposed by Florida Southeast Connection LLC, and
5 the Hillabee Expansion Project, also known as the Hillabee
6 Expansion which is proposed by Transcontinental Pipeline
7 Company LLC.

8 This map shows the general location of the SMP
9 project.

10 The Hillabee Expansion Project is shown in green
11 and is located entirely within Alabama, and would involve
12 the installation of pipeline loop and compression
13 facilities.

14 I apologize. I want to make sure I get this on
15 the record, so I do want to read from my notes.

16 The Sabal Trail Project is shown in red and
17 begins near Alexander City, Alabama, and would involve the
18 construction of new pipeline and compression facilities that
19 would extend through Georgia into central Florida. The
20 Sabal Trail Project would also include two pipeline
21 laterals, the Citrus County line and the Hunters Creek line.
22 That's the Citrus County line and that's the Hunters Creek
23 line.

24 The FSC Project is shown in blue and is located
25 entirely within the State of Florida and would involve the

1 installation of new pipeline.

2 All combined, these three projects would involve
3 approximately 13,670 acres of land for pipeline and
4 above-ground facility construction. Typically between 100
5 and 110 feet of construction right-of-way in uplands and 75
6 feet in wetlands, and 4320 acres of land to be maintained
7 during operation of the pipeline and above-ground
8 facilities.

9 If approved, construction of the SMP Project
10 would begin in 2016, with an initial in-serve date in 2017.
11 The SMP Project would increase natural gas capacity by
12 approximately 1.1 billion cubic feet per day by 2021.

13 This map shows the Hillabee Expansion Project,
14 which includes the installation of eight pipeline loops,
15 totaling 43.6 miles, the installation of one new compressor
16 station and modification of three existing compressor
17 stations. Construction would be phased over several years.
18 That's why you see different colors on this map; they
19 represent different loops that would be built in different
20 time periods. And that would increase natural gas capacity
21 to 1.1 billion cubic feet per day by 2021.

22 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Excuse me.

23 MR. SHIELDS: Yes.

24 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Can you describe
25 what's a pipeline loop?

1 MR. SHIELDS: Yes. A pipeline loop is an
2 additional pipeline built adjacent to another existing
3 pipeline, typically by the same company, that's connected at
4 each end. And it provides additional capacity.

5 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: So you're saying it
6 would just be another pipeline next to the one that's
7 already there?

8 MR. SHIELDS: That's what's called a loop; that's
9 correct.

10 The Florida Southeast Connection Project involves
11 the installation of approximately 126 miles of up to 36 inch
12 diameter pipeline in Osceola, Polk, Okeechobee, St. Lucie
13 and Martin Counties in Florida. The initial capacity of
14 that pipeline would be approximately 600 million cubic feet
15 per day.

16 And then finally, the Sabal Trail Project, which
17 is shown in red in the middle here between the yellow and
18 gray lines. The principal components of the Sabal Trail
19 Project include one mainline pipeline extending from near
20 Alexander City to a new Central Florida hub -- right there
21 -- near Orlando, Florida. It would involve five new
22 compressor stations: One in Alabama, one in Georgia, and
23 three in Florida.

24 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Question.

25 MR. SHIELDS: Yes, ma'am.

1 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I know you say it's
2 not there yet, but right now what typical neighborhood does
3 this compressor, you know, station look like it might be in
4 in all of these? What area are these stations?

5 MR. SHIELDS: It's near the firehouse and the
6 water treatment plant out there.

7 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Right.

8 MR. SHIELDS: Yes, ma'am.

9 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: It is on New Road in
10 front of the fire station just north of Berry Roads. If
11 that's where they have it shown on those maps outside.
12 That's why it's important for us to see those maps.

13 MR. SHIELDS: Okay. And I also mentioned the two
14 laterals, the Citrus County line and the Hunters Creek line
15 as are part of this project. Some more specific details on
16 the Sabal Trail Pipeline Project are provided on this slide.

17 It's planned to be phased in a phased-in
18 construction with the following facilities installed by
19 2017: Approximately 460 miles of 36 inch diameter pipeline
20 in Alabama, Georgia and Florida; the 14 miles of 36 inch
21 diameter pipeline in Osceola and Orange Counties, Florida.
22 That would be the Hunter Creek line. 24 miles of 24 inch
23 diameter pipeline in Marion and Citrus Counties, Florida.
24 And three compressor stations, including the Tallapoosa
25 County, Alabama, Suwanee and Osceola County, Florida

1 compressor stations.

2 By 2020 Sabal Trail would install the two
3 additional compressor stations, one being in Dougherty
4 County, Georgia, and the other in Marion County. And by
5 2021, Sabal Trail would have in service additional
6 compression at two of the new compressor stations in
7 Dougherty County, Georgia and Suwanee County, Florida.

8 When completed, the Sabal Trail Project would
9 increase natural gas capacity to 1.1 billion cubic feet per
10 day by 2021.

11 The following issues have been identified based
12 on our preliminary analysis and through comments the FERC
13 has received to date. Agricultural impacts, alternatives
14 analysis, land use -- specifically including residences and
15 forestry issues -- pipeline integrity and public safety,
16 water quality -- that's including surface and groundwater
17 resources -- fisheries, wildlife and threatened and
18 endangered species impacts, karst features, visual and noise
19 impacts, and cultural resources. These issues and others
20 that may be identified will be evaluated in the EIS.

21 Now I'll turn it back to Kevin.

22 Thank you.

23 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: What's karst features?
24 We didn't learn that in Dougherty High School.

25 (Laughter.)

1 MR. BOWMAN: Karst features are generally areas
2 where it's a limestone area where it's -- typically the
3 water has eroded a lot of the limestone away and has left
4 pockets in the area.

5 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: So it's a limestone.

6 MR. BOWMAN: Well, I'm not a geologist, but I
7 know that --

8 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Question.

9 MR. BOWMAN: Yes, sir.

10 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: How much deviation are
11 you allowing others to have -- it seems like you've already
12 programmed as to how you want it to go. How much deviation
13 would you allow us?

14 MR. BOWMAN: As much deviation as necessary to
15 avoid anything. I mean this is still a conceptual idea from
16 the company, because they haven't even filed an application.
17 We may say, 'Hey, this project, this looks like a terrible
18 idea, guys, there's way too much stuff that's in the way
19 that's sensitive.' But they might have to go so far out of
20 the way that they're like, 'We're not even going to -- we're
21 not even going to touch this; this is too much.'

22 I mean as much deviation -- we can say as much
23 deviation as is necessary to avoid anything.

24 MR. PECONOM: Kevin, can I interrupt really
25 quickly?

1 MR. BOWMAN: Sure.

2 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

3 As many of you all know, this pipeline is
4 proposed to follow an existing pipeline. And the question
5 is -- and it's a very good one -- is Kevin, does it have to.
6 And the answer is no, it doesn't have to.

7 The Commission generally prefers a co-location of
8 utilities. But there are instances -- and I think they're
9 all site-specific -- where it might be better to go around
10 that -- whatever resource might be there -- deviate from the
11 co-location. The Southern Natural Gas Pipeline comes right
12 down through southwest Georgia and they'd like to go
13 alongside it. That's pretty common throughout the country.
14 However, there are opportunities for deviation.

15 So just to answer your question. And there could
16 be any number of deviations. You know, 100 -- it's really
17 what's best and what results in the least environmental
18 impact.

19 Yes, sir.

20 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: What type of impact
21 will this be to a land-owner?

22 MR. BOWMAN: That's something that's come up a
23 lot. I mean the Commission has to look at the -- what they
24 do is they look at the overall benefit of the project for
25 the U.S. Sometimes there are disproportionate impacts on a

1 land-owner. And that is what they have to look at when
2 they're saying, okay, these are the impacts. That's what
3 we're doing; that's what we're looking at. That's what
4 we're figuring out: the impacts to you guys.

5 So that is what they have to do when they're
6 coming to an alternative decision on the project.

7 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: A procedural question
8 here, if you don't mind.

9 MR. BOWMAN: Sure.

10 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: You're asking for
11 questions now. We signed up to do what?

12 MR. BOWMAN: That's another --

13 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: To do statements?

14 MR. BOWMAN: I'm just about to get into that in
15 another second.

16 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I was just wondering
17 procedurally how you were going forward.

18 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah. Yeah, I'll get to that in
19 just a second.

20 If there are any more questions?

21 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: That's a good
22 transition.

23 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. All right, then. If there
24 are more questions, come grab us, come ask us.

25 Okay. So I haven't been asking you guys to state

1 your name. But when you come up, just so that -- since this
2 is technically a little bit more formal, so that we can
3 assign your comments to who you are, and especially if
4 you're talking about something specific to your property, we
5 want to know exactly who you are. I mean I don't -- I may
6 butcher some of your names, and I sincerely apologize in
7 advance. So please state your name, spell it. If
8 applicable, if you're representing some group, let us know.
9 And if someone's talking, please don't interrupt them.

10 Okay. So with that, the first person that I have
11 tonight is Spencer Lee.

12 MR. LEE: Thank you for the opportunity. And I'm
13 glad to see the FERC representatives here. Even though the
14 Commission is not here, it's good to see the staff.

15 I think you've -- I've been County Attorney since
16 -- is this on? It's S-p-e-n-c-e-r. And I've been County
17 Attorney for the Board of Elections for Dougherty County
18 since 1979. And I thought I'd seen one of everything,
19 running through County government. But this is certainly
20 new to me.

21 And as you've heard the comments so far, you can
22 see that it's new to just about everybody in here. And so
23 they have a lot of questions. And I'm not going to take a
24 lot of time here because the people who are going to speak
25 to you tonight are the folks that are affected the most.

1 They are the land-owners through which this pipeline is
2 being proposed.

3 Now of course I heard John say that he's from
4 Washington, D.C. and he doesn't know south Georgia very
5 well. Well, I would submit that Sabal and Spectra don't
6 know south Georgia very well either. Now they have
7 certainly learned a lot since they've been down here on the
8 ground. And we're -- on behalf of myself and the
9 Commission, we're glad to see you because you're going to
10 learn a lot about southwest Georgia as we go through this
11 process.

12 The Dougherty County Commission is made up of
13 seven members. We've got a Commission chairman at large and
14 we've got six single member districts. Four of our County
15 Commissioners are here tonight. There are two elected city
16 Commissioners that I've seen. We've got an elected coroner
17 here. We have the assistant city -- assistant County
18 manager here as well as the County administrator. So we're
19 well represented. And we wanted to express to you a little
20 bit about our concerns as a collective body.

21 Back in September our land-owners got notice that
22 there was a proposed pipeline coming through this area that
23 affects nine counties in the State of Georgia. And during
24 that time there was not much information going around.
25 There was sort of a quandary about what was going on. So we

1 asked Sabal -- and I'm going to use Sabal because that's
2 what I've been calling it the whole time even though it
3 might be Sabal.

4 (Laughter.)

5 MR. LEE: And we asked Sabal to come in and talk
6 to us about it and they sent Brian Fahrenthal, who's their
7 government representative, up. And we had a good meeting at
8 our County Commission meeting. And we were appreciative of
9 the fact that they came up.

10 But certainly at that meeting while they were
11 informative, enough questions arose to where we back in
12 September drafted a letter on behalf of each member of our
13 Commission to Sabal and to Spectra asking them for
14 additional information, and, quite frankly, asking them to
15 make certain we memorialize what they said they were going
16 to do and asked them to please follow through.

17 That letter went out in September of -- maybe
18 September the 30th of 2013 and we got a response back from
19 Sabal. And while the response was a nice one, it wasn't
20 detailed. And, of course, there were not many details back
21 then.

22 Since that time the Commission has been very
23 pro-active in helping the members of this community obtain
24 through our resources the information they need to
25 understand what this project is about. And we've used --

1 they've used their GIS office; they're used their County
2 Commission office; they've used me as the County Attorney;
3 they've spoken to our County Commissioners and certainly
4 spoken to some of the City Commissioners. They've used our
5 public works and they've used our engineering department.

6 And at this point in time the County continues to
7 open up its resources to anybody that wants to use them to
8 gain information that the County has available toward
9 understanding as much as they can about the project.

10 Now I'm going to end because there are people
11 here that know more about this than I do, and know more
12 about this than you do. And you're going to hear from them
13 in just a second.

14 So I just want to simply say that I've got a
15 letter here dated February the 24th, 2014, to the Federal
16 Energy Regulatory Commission. And we're asking the
17 Commission members -- and it's signed by every single
18 Commissioner that we have -- and we're asking the Regulatory
19 Commission to -- Well, let me read it.

20 The second part of it here:

21 "Thus, the reason for enclosing a copy of the
22 September 30, 2013 letter to both Spectra and Sabal Trail is
23 to ask you to assure that Sabal Trail adequately addresses
24 all of our landowners' concerns contained therein and any
25 others that may arise."

1 And I'm attaching that letter for the Commission
2 because it was quite exhaustive in the requests that we
3 made. And we're stating that we will continue to use
4 Dougherty County resources in order to provide any and all
5 information needed by our citizens in order to obtain a
6 safe, equitable, and least invasive solution to the proposed
7 project.

8 And one of the concerns we have, a major concern,
9 is when we talk about the least invasive is that some of our
10 landowners feel like they're not getting the information
11 from Sabal that they requested when they made requests for
12 alternative routes. And, of course, that becomes a very big
13 concern.

14 And I'd like to end that maybe one of the
15 alternative routes that we ought to look at -- and if it's
16 been proposed and requested -- since this project initiates
17 in Alabama and ends deep in Florida, that perhaps it
18 motivate its way around the Panhandle and not even come
19 through the State of Georgia.

20 (Appause.)

21 MR. LEE: And I'm going to turn the letter over
22 now to the Commission. It's a February 24, 2014 letter
23 that's been executed by each one of our Commissioners and
24 the Chairman.

25 And I would like to say on behalf of the

1 Chairman, our Chairman would be here tonight but he's in
2 Washington, D.C. -- right where you came from, John, and you
3 all probably crossed each other on the way down -- but he's
4 in D.C. now meeting with our two U.S. Senators and with our
5 military brass dealing with our Marine Corps logistics base
6 here. Otherwise he would be here.

7 He, quite frankly, asked me if I could call FERC
8 and convene this meeting at a different time. And I told
9 him that wouldn't be possible.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. BOWMAN: The next person on here is Carol
13 Singletary.

14 MS. SINGLETARY: Hi, my name is Carol Singletary.
15 It's C-a-r-o-l S-i-n-g-l-e-t-a-r-y. And I just have a
16 couple questions.

17 In the draft report ten that Sabal Trail
18 submitted they had a statement about the major route
19 alternatives are associated with an increase in utility
20 corridor and co-location. Then they talked about Route 85,
21 saying that it caused a decrease of co-location. So I'm
22 just kind of confused about that and would like to have
23 maybe some expansion on those statements.

24 (Pause.)

25 MS. SINGLETARY: You don't have to answer it

1 right now, just...

2 Using the Table 10.5-1 on the report ten, a lot
3 of those seems like there's some clerical errors in there
4 that, you know, makes it confusing on how to try to
5 understand that report. Just looks like numbers transposed
6 throughout the report that are incorrect. Railroad
7 crossings that had none. So maybe there aren't any, but
8 that makes me concerned.

9 Also the fact that the alternate route that used
10 to be the primary route, that doesn't look like it's a route
11 at all anymore. It's a route that I'm really interested in
12 because it looked like it came directly south, across the
13 Panhandle, and avoided Georgia all together. So it would
14 certainly be nice to have -- you know, is that route even
15 being still considered. When I asked about it, it just said
16 it wasn't as good. And I'd like to have maybe some more
17 specifics around that.

18 And when the project first began Florida papers,
19 such as the one in Martin County, Gainesville, and others
20 there, were talking about that route that I was just talking
21 about that bypassed Georgia completely. It's just kind of
22 faded away and there's just no statistical information.

23 And the -- I guess you call it your Hillabee
24 Route that goes from Transco 85 North, it looks like that's
25 not even being considered in the overall volume of the total

1 numbers when you're comparing apples to apples. So it kind
2 of looks like we have apples and oranges.

3 And somehow I just find it hard to go north and
4 then turn around and come back south and say that's a
5 shorter route. So is that going to be considered in the
6 overall scope, because it looks like with that looping
7 you're going to have double pipelines. That looks like
8 that's almost like a double impact there.

9 So I'd like to get some more information about
10 that. And I'd like the answers to be specific as opposed to
11 so highly generic that you don't have any way to respond to
12 it or challenge those concerns.

13 And just throwing it out there, since this is an
14 interstate pipeline, maybe we could just follow the
15 interstate and just go straight west on I-10 and then south
16 on 75, and you avoid everybody. And it might be a lot
17 easier, too.

18 So that's all I have for tonight's meeting. And
19 I'll see you tomorrow.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BOWMAN: One of the things I wanted to point
23 out is that when we issued an EIS is that we issue it as a
24 draft. So we'll send it out to everyone, whether it's a CD
25 or a hard copy. So some of the things that you pointed out,

1 where there's clerical errors between some of the resource
2 reports and some of the tables and some of the alternative
3 challenges, once we kind of think we have some of those
4 answers we'll send out the EIS as a draft and you'll have a
5 chance to comment on that draft.

6 And then we'll send it out again to you with the
7 inclusion of those comments as a final. So you'll have a
8 chance to see what we do the first time and then we'll go
9 ahead and issue it as a final.

10 The next person is Matthew Layer.

11 MR. LAYER: My name is Matthew Layer,
12 M-a-t-t-h-e-w L-a-y-e-r. I am representing Nanart
13 Properties in western -- northwestern Dougherty County. I'm
14 also a member of the Keokee Flint group, which is a
15 coalition of our surrounding neighbors and landowners.

16 Our number one concern, especially with all of
17 these explosions in the news, are our families' safety and
18 our neighbors' safety, utmost, utmost concern. Our second
19 is an environmental impact. We have a lot of wetlands -- a
20 lot of wetlands. And there's been several housing
21 development projects in the area stopped because of these
22 wetlands.

23 We have -- red cockaded woodpeckers have been
24 sighted, the indigo snake, some few wood storks. And the
25 environmental impact, the water, the groundwater, those

1 wetlands. We're very concerned about the destruction of the
2 wetlands, the filtration of the groundwater back into our
3 aquifers. We don't want any leaks; we don't want any of
4 that stuff going into our groundwater and harming our
5 drinking water and so on and so forth.

6 That's about it. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. KAUFMAN: The next person signed up is Robbie
9 Barkley.

10 MR. BARKLEY: My name is Robbie Barkley,
11 R-o-b-b-i-e B-a-r-k-l-e-y. I'll be representing the Hidden
12 Lakes Homeowners' Association Group and the Keokee Flint.

13 My two biggest issues are we've got a wood stork
14 nesting ground on our property. They attempted to put a
15 public road through us and that was stopped around about 21
16 years ago. They had to reverse their eminent domain and
17 deed the property back to us.

18 I'd like to know what I need to do or who I can
19 contact to prove this stuff again now.

20 The other one is the Hidden Lakes Homeowners'
21 Association, we have got several bodies of water out there.
22 The drain system from that with all the rainwater we're
23 getting, especially now, it drains off of that onto our
24 farm, which is part of the wood stork nesting ground. The
25 pipeline is proposed to go right through this nesting

1 ground, which is also a series of canals and ditches which
2 takes the water off the pond so it doesn't flood the homes
3 and then carries it across Gainesville onto the larger swamp
4 system.

5 I'd like to know if we could provide an engineer
6 or somebody can -- I mean who will come out and look at this
7 system? When it's covered in water you can't even tell it's
8 there. And right now it's covered in water. During the
9 drought years you can see the individual canals that lead to
10 it.

11 MR. BOWMAN: I'll go ahead and respond to that
12 question now.

13 The applicant usually goes out and does surveys.
14 And those will be civil surveys, they'll be environmental
15 surveys, which includes wetlands surveys, and they'll do
16 cultural surveys as well. So some of those features that
17 you identified may be identified again through there.

18 The nesting may be identified and it will be
19 brought to our attention when they file those surveys with
20 us. As John mentioned, they'll file those as draft resource
21 reports. So we'll get a chance to take a look at them then.
22 Otherwise, go ahead and let us know the address or specific
23 location and we'll put that in there. That's fine, too,
24 yeah.

25 MR. BARKLEY: 5375 Gillianville Road.

1 MR. BOWMAN: Okay.

2 MR. BARKLEY: The people that kind of do the
3 surveys, are they employees of the Federal Government or
4 employees of Sabal?

5 MR. BOWMAN: They're Sabal employees. But then
6 they have to give us their resumes and everything in their
7 reports. All the people that go out and do their reports,
8 we go and see them and see their education and stuff.

9 MR. BARKLEY: So there is somebody checking up on
10 the people there.

11 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah.

12 MR. BARKLEY: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BOWMAN: Dinorah Hall.

15 MS. HALL: Yes. D-i-n-o-r-a-h H-a-l-l.

16 Good evening. Welcome to Albany. My name is
17 Dinorah Hall, and I'm one of the members of the Keokee Flint
18 group, the coalition that my previous -- my neighbors were
19 referring to. We have great confidence in the integrity of
20 the process and trust that the Commission will weigh all the
21 important public concerns in making its determination.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you
23 today.

24 Our personal views are as follows. Today I'm
25 going to concentrate on our personal property. And then we

1 have some other members, Terrell County and Dougherty
2 County, that are also very concerned about this project.

3 Our property, which is on Sabal's preferred
4 route, is a former Georgia State plantation, currently under
5 a conservation easement as a wildlife sanctuary. One of the
6 reasons we purchased these properties was for the enjoyment
7 of the beauty, privacy, and serenity of the karst terrain,
8 substantial preservations, forested wetlands, which filter
9 pollutants and perform critical functions and environmental
10 values.

11 Further, they provide a region of habitat for
12 wildlife, especially wading birds.

13 In particular, because the Corps of Engineers and
14 the EPA have determined that this land wasn't suitable for a
15 new five and a half mile county right-of-way because of the
16 wood stork, a threatened and endangered species. The other
17 reasons for not allowing the road was the substantial
18 wetlands and aquifer issues.

19 Our wetlands are part of the swamp and is
20 integrally connected to the Georgia and the aquifer.

21 The wood stork is still indigenous to the area
22 and therefore the same determination should be made now that
23 was made several years ago. The disturbance and
24 construction of this massive 36 inch industrial pipeline
25 will fragment valuable habitat and deforest the entire

1 right-of-way easement in question, which is all Greenfield
2 unspoiled.

3 In fact, this morning when I was headed to town I
4 saw the most extraordinary bald eagle, right on our
5 property.

6 So, like Robbie Barkley said, we would really
7 encourage for you to do a very serious survey of our
8 property because there is too much at stake. You know,
9 there are certain things, you know, we talk about
10 mitigation, minimizing; but the truth of the matter is that
11 once you disturb such perfect harmony of natural balance you
12 cannot restore it. So please look at the other issues, Mr.
13 Poconom.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. The next person is Gerry
18 Hall.

19 MR. HALL: I call it Gerry. It's G-e-r-r-y,
20 though, and it's H-a-l-l. Dinorah is my wife, and she did a
21 good job. But I wish she had read the whole thing instead
22 of only doing half of it here.

23 But the perspective that we came in with is that,
24 you know, we're lay-people. We don't know anything about
25 engineering pipelines. So we sort of accepted that Sabal

1 says these are the two best routes that they have now.

2 But we think that the alternative route is the
3 preferable because it avoids all Albany Georgia, all the
4 Albany County, Georgia. And because we're the most
5 populated part of south Georgia, we're -- and Valdosta is
6 next. And the alternative route as opposed to their
7 preferred route would touch -- they've got some of the
8 numbers in here, but it would touch substantially fewer
9 people and wouldn't snake through our neighborhoods, this
10 section that Robbie and Matt and Dinorah were talking about,
11 where we are. It's strictly a suburban, you know, rural
12 area.

13 So since we have the preferred route and we have
14 an alternative, I just chose to try to convey here as I read
15 this that we would like more serious consideration of the
16 Sabal alternative, as they call it. And I suppose that's
17 the proper name for it, the Sabal alternative that, you
18 know, parallels what we now call all the Dougherty Route
19 from Columbus down through here, west of that.

20 But we've had a lot of comments today, so I may
21 not read everything. I may just kind of cherry-pick this,
22 and then we'll send a copy of this to you all at the
23 website. I guess that's sort of like blogging; is that what
24 we're doing? Is that what we call blogging?

25 (Laughter.)

1 MR. PECONOM: I call it the administrative
2 record.

3 MR. HALL: Okay.

4 MR. PECONOM: I don't think it's a blog.

5 MR. HALL: Yeah.

6 MR. PECONOM: It's just a -- everyone's comments
7 are catalogued and available for everyone else to see.

8 MR. HALL: Yeah. I'm not sure what blogging or
9 tweeting is. So that's why I said that. We'll send it to
10 you.

11 But anyway, as the Commission is aware and stated
12 here, the alternative is a harder environmental analysis
13 required by the NEPA. And for that reason we assume the
14 Commission will study the Sabal alternative that the --
15 that's on the record now. But we've not heard anything
16 about it from Sabal, apparently because it's a little bit
17 longer and because I think that -- because they wanted to
18 follow the Sonat line that came through Albany.

19 But we think it better to follow the high voltage
20 transmission line that they proposed in the alternative. We
21 think that would be a better route overall because by coming
22 into the County they have to build a pumping station. And
23 that's probably one of our most serious concerns is the
24 neighborhood and the environment around the pumping station
25 because it's going to be running 24 hours a day spewing

1 pollutants, carbon dioxide and so forth.

2 And if we went the alternative route the pumping
3 station would be somewhere else, in a less urban environment
4 that touched fewer people. And it would probably be in a
5 forested area where you would have the opportunity for
6 carbon dioxide remediation, you know, because we'd have so
7 many trees and so forth.

8 Georgia Power recently did, a few years back, a
9 carbon dioxide remediation project here where they helped
10 land-owners plant trees to try to -- from the coal-fired
11 plant outside the town. And that's about seven miles south.

12

13 But this would be in the city limits -- the
14 current location; they've changed the location a few times.
15 And that they've chosen right now is practically flooded; I
16 think it's in the 500 year flood plain and was flooded back
17 during the '94 flood. If it wasn't, it was just a miracle
18 that it didn't.

19 So we have a lot of water issues here because
20 we've got two creeks and the river that converge here in
21 Albany. And so when we get rain north of town it really
22 poses a huge problem.

23 I'm sure they would at least have the build the
24 elevation of the slab for the compressor station at least
25 two or three feet to try to, you know, try to get within the

1 code requirements. But those are the neighborhoods that
2 Matt was saying they shut them down because of the flooding.

3 So anyway, it's a marginal construction area
4 where they -- the area. It's very close to the airport and
5 it's very close to our water source, which is a well field.
6 I think it's about a half a mile away as the crow flies,
7 which we pump 14 million gallons of water out of that well
8 field every day. And it would be close to that. And we
9 wouldn't want anything this volatile or this potentially
10 dangerous near the fire station that's out there by the well
11 field and the well field itself.

12 And it seems, just from the -- what we did, we
13 just looked at the alternative, the summary, and then the
14 map -- what was it? -- 10.5.1, and sort of just made some
15 conclusions about that. And it seems that Sabal's main
16 objection to the alternative route is the 180 miles of
17 alternating current mitigation along the existing electric
18 transmission line right-of-way. And we don't think the
19 current, you know, engineering level of these cathodic
20 protection lines, that that should be a big issue. That
21 adds some cost, but we think it's a minor cost in the way
22 it's -- the whole project.

23 And they say that the alternative route is 39
24 fewer wetland crossings. But these wetlands really probably
25 have already been crossed by the electric transmission line.

1 So you're paralleling that; it's not a greenfield area.

2 It's just -- our objection to the preferred route
3 is that it does -- coming through Dougherty County, it's
4 mostly greenfields. Unfortunately, to save the -- well, not
5 unfortunately because we don't want it to file the Sonat
6 line through Albany. But it's so congested that they had to
7 go around.

8 And I guess the third objection -- and I'm kind
9 of putting words in their own mouth. But just from claiming
10 this is what it looked like their problems were. And their
11 preferred route is shorter, but it was just a desktop study.
12 And there's a lot of latitude for us to shorten up some of
13 that distance if they re-engineer it. But it would be most
14 cost effective for Sabal.

15 But if you go the alternative route it would only
16 be a small increase percentage-wise as a percent of the
17 total. It's a lot of money, I'm sure. And I'm sure that
18 they see mitigation as not inexpensive. I don't know what
19 that runs estimated per-mile.

20 But we realize those would be costs. But these
21 costs, these capital costs that they're making now would be
22 for 50 -- they're going to be using this pipeline for 50
23 years. So we think that amortizing it over 50 years, it's
24 really not a significant cost.

25 We know that Part 385 -- 380.15 of the

1 Commission's regulations require an applicant to take the
2 land-owners' preferences into account to use existing
3 right-of-ways, which we think this Georgia Power
4 right-of-way is the key one rather than greenfield areas to
5 construct a pipeline and to avoid permanent damage.

6 The alternative route is more consistent with the
7 regulation -- with that regulation because they're nearing
8 fewer occupied structures. They say -- their number is
9 eleven -- and fewer property owners by 182. The alternative
10 route is, though, is 47.8 miles less greenfield
11 construction. And we think that's sort of the critical
12 issue about maybe coming up with a harder look at the
13 alternative. But Sabal seemed to abandon it because of
14 these cost issues.

15 And their wetland numbers, the number of acres
16 and the number of feet through the -- on the alternative
17 route seemed to be high to us, as farmers and all know.
18 Albany is very low, you know. And that area up where the
19 alternative route goes is not known to be as low. But I
20 mean I haven't done the engineering and they did. So we'll
21 give them the benefit of the doubt.

22 But the compressor station, if it goes -- if it
23 went an alternative route would not be in the Albany,
24 Georgia city limits, but could be located in a more rural
25 setting, as I said. And we wouldn't have the noise

1 pollution and the hazard pollution from any explosion; and
2 we wouldn't have that 24 hour a day pollution, as well as
3 even the noise pollution near the neighborhoods.

4 So in summary, our group, the Keokee Flint group,
5 the main areas of concern are route considerations. It
6 needs to be further evaluated whether their preferred route
7 is the route or the alternative. We think the alternative
8 is a much better way to go.

9 And really, we haven't seen -- we've heard a lot
10 of talk about alternative routes. And we've proposed a
11 couple. But they all seem to be informally dismissed and
12 just say they're too long or too much wetlands and we don't
13 really have access to all that data.

14 So -- And we note that the Applicant, Sabal, has
15 not indicated methods of wetland mitigation. But we may get
16 into all that later in the process, it looks like is what
17 you're saying. So because the Section 380-12 of your regs
18 says -- specifically requires the applicant to include
19 information on the restoration of wetlands, and in fact all
20 of the areas.

21 But there's no way to restore, if you cross the
22 areas that Matt and Robbie and I, we're all contiguous,
23 there's no way to restore it. It will be in the -- violated
24 forever, so to speak.

25 So therefore we do respectfully request that FERC

1 consider holding a second scoping meeting to more adequately
2 compare the alternative route and get Sabal to introduce
3 other alternatives that do not have the environmental
4 disadvantages, the greenfield disadvantages that we see on
5 the current plan.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. PECONOM: Before Kevin calls the next
10 speaker, I just want to take a brief minute to talk a little
11 bit about alternatives.

12 Mr. Hall, when he said the alternatives analysis
13 is part of the NEPA review, he's very much correct. The
14 first question that comes to people's minds: Can this be
15 built somewhere else. And that's an alternative. That's
16 something we are obligated to look at. That is my job to
17 do. And you giving us alternatives helps me do my job more
18 efficiently and more effectively.

19 I already asked the company to look at
20 alternatives. I then asked the company to look at more
21 alternatives. All the alternatives right now are on the
22 table. And your comments about being very specific and
23 having numbers and apples to apples in comparison, those are
24 the same questions that I have.

25 Now we need to be very sure that if it has to be

1 built this way that there's not somewhere else for it to go.

2 I'm very glad everyone's had a chance to speak.

3 And I'm going to make myself available all night long.

4 I'm a little concerned that we're not going to
5 get through everyone and give everyone a chance to talk. So
6 for those of you that are coming next, please, you know,
7 give us your comments. And if you can keep them as concise
8 as possible, I'd really appreciate it.

9 And after everyone's had a chance to speak we'll
10 open it back up for those who haven't had a chance to speak
11 and for any people that would like to add a little bit more.
12 There's a lot of great information in here and I want to
13 make sure that we get it all and we're not here until
14 midnight because I know you all have already taken enough
15 time out of your evening.

16 So again, thank you. And alternatives is a very
17 important part. So anybody who has alternatives here please
18 let us know. It's great to put it in writing as well. And
19 that's why we have a court reporter here, too.

20 So thank you very much.

21 Kevin, do you want to...

22 MR. BOWMAN: Thanks.

23 Yeah. The next person is Dr. Corleen Thompson.

24 DR. THOMPSON: Corleen Thompson, C-o-r-l-e-e-n
25 Thompson, T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.

1 I suspect that I represent a large number of
2 home- and land-owners in Dougherty County who already have
3 pipelines crossing our property. My property is a few miles
4 away from the proposed line site. And it was built -- that
5 pipeline was established before the house was built in 1975.
6 And I've lived in the house since 1995.

7 The responsibility for the homeowners is not
8 minimal. And even though that sounds like that might be a
9 stupid comment, I'd like to tell you about an experience I
10 had roughly two years ago.

11 I got up in the morning, and just having an
12 ordinary day. And I happened to look out the bedroom window
13 and I saw a Georgia Power truck up at the corner of the lot.
14 And it had digging equipment. And I took off and ran out.
15 And I got across to where they were and I said, 'What are
16 you doing?' And he said, 'We're digging to fix this line.'
17 And I said, 'You can't dig there.' He said, 'We have
18 permission.'

19 Well, I knew they couldn't have permission to dig
20 where they were digging. And I ran back inside and I called
21 the company that owned the line at that time. And he said,
22 'We have somebody in Albany today and he'll be there as soon
23 as he can get there.' He arrived very soon and he shut them
24 down because they did not have permission. And they were
25 six inches from the pipeline at the minute they stopped

1 them.

2 If they had gone a few more inches I would not be
3 here today. And I want you to look at something that is
4 much further away from where I live. I'm only a few miles
5 from where this proposed line is going in. And we shouldn't
6 have to have two that are that close together.

7 I would just ask you to consider that, that with
8 another line just a few miles away the western part of
9 Dougherty County is overpopulated with pipelines.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. BOWMAN: The next person is Selena Wingfield.

14 MS. WINGFIELD: Thank you.

15 Selena R. Wingfield, S-e-l-e-n-a Wingfield,
16 W-i-n-g-f-i-e-l-d.

17 I'd like to talk about things that affect
18 children and hospitals and homes, and to ball it together.
19 I'd like for you to talk about at some point our emergency
20 preparedness with FEMA and how it will help us for emergency
21 management concerning this.

22 I live where the schools -- near a pipeline. And
23 schools -- two schools, that is Lamar Reese and MLK are
24 right together. And they were built after the flood.

25 FEMA emergency preparedness has a big impact on

1 how --we need to know how our hospitals, what's going to
2 happen if trucks that are coming with the natural gas to be
3 put in, what route they will be taking, and looking at
4 statistics of what has happened to those trucks, including
5 this year's.

6 I looked that up and I saw 71 incidents with
7 those natural gas being transported by trucks.

8 The other thing is have you all had information
9 for emergency preparedness for our city and county and based
10 on this pump station? And when can someone talk to us or
11 get information to us with that information?

12 The other is how the pipelines can affect fiber
13 optics. Fiber optics run through the city and it can affect
14 our hospitals, our schools, all of that. And if you're not
15 looking at that grid, we are in some big trouble.

16 I'm concerned about irrigation of our farms, and
17 especially in south Dougherty County. Okay? We have farms
18 with irrigation; how it will affect -- and let's add climate
19 change at certain times, when our pecan trees -- that's our
20 money-maker in certain areas -- how is that going to affect
21 that growing and that product with a pump spewing.

22 And of course I'm worried about my kids and how
23 FEMA -- what have they done to look at if a pump station is
24 nearby, how far away from schools and hospitals must this
25 pump station be if it's going to spew.

1 The other is what companies are going to be
2 represented, and what are the routes of these trucks that
3 are going to be coming through the interstate? And is there
4 going to be -- as demand increases, will electric generators
5 be incorporated with this.

6 I did some research on that and that's a whole
7 'nother ballgame when you look at that, both for supplies
8 and pipeline transportation to get that natural gas to the
9 power plant. And it says interstate pipelines will not sell
10 the natural gas; they just simply transport it. And as gas
11 demand for electric generation grows and the pipeline
12 capacity will become tighter. And this means that there's a
13 high demand on certain days.

14 The other is how will climate change affected
15 this -- regulations; and what about security? Is there a --
16 I don't know if there's a major part of the pipeline that
17 should be secure more so than the other.

18 And with FEMA and... Let's see. I looked up
19 which companies could be handling this. And then I looked
20 at what their problems were at other places. And I don't
21 know if you all have decided on certain companies and looked
22 at their track records, but that's something that the public
23 needs to know. And incidentally, of course, we need to know
24 what those are.

25 I would like to know the frequency of trucks

1 hauling this gas and when that would happen. And let's see.
2 Those are my main ones that I wanted to know about.

3 And also at some point would you tell us how you
4 are involved with the INGAA -- I-N-G-A-A -- community?

5 MR. PECONOM: We didn't. And we're typically
6 not. I mean the INGAA is an industry trade group.

7 MS. WINGFIELD: Right.

8 MR. PECONOM: So as the regulator, we don't
9 consider ourselves part of the industry.

10 MS. WINGFIELD: Not part; but how -- do you work
11 with them at any point?

12 MR. PECONOM: They ask us our --

13 MR. BOWMAN: INGAA is the Interstate Natural Gas
14 Association of America.

15 MR. PECONOM: We do attend meetings that they ask
16 for, you know, our thoughts on and concerns. That's, as I
17 said, it's an industry group; it's not affiliated with the
18 Federal Government.

19 MS. WINGFIELD: Well, it says here that INGAA's
20 primary mission is to create a regulatory and legislative
21 climate in Washington, D.C. that allows interstate natural
22 gas pipeline companies to optimize efficient and profitable
23 operations. And the public needs to know that and how we're
24 going to get involved with it.

25 Thank you very much.

1 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you, ma'am.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. BOWMAN: The next person is Gloria Gaines.

4 MS. GAINES: Good afternoon.

5 (Chorus of 'Good afternoon.')

6 MS. GAINES: My name is Gloria Gaines,

7 G-l-o-r-i-a G-a-i-n-e-s.

8 I'd like to make comments in two categories. The
9 first one is -- the first category is NEPA process. I have
10 a couple of comments there. And the second category is just
11 general impact comments.

12 Regarding process, I think we need a definitive
13 and concise statement of purpose and needs. I have not seen
14 that. Why do we have to have this pipeline? Why are we
15 building it? I have not seen it yet. We need an
16 exhaustive, clear, concise statement.

17 Number two, in the development of your
18 alternatives I believe you need to, number one, develop a
19 do-nothing alternative. If you don't do anything at all,
20 what impact will that have? That is pretty typical in the
21 NEPA process.

22 In the development of alternatives also, I think
23 you need to develop an alternative that is sort of a
24 baseline alternative where you use perhaps existing
25 infrastructure with some minor improvements; perhaps shared

1 infrastructure. I'd like to see that alternative as well.

2 In other words, I'd like to see an exhaustive --
3 and I think you've heard that sentiment from everybody here
4 -- an exhaustive examination of alternatives, and a global
5 examination of alternatives. Not just tweaking of your
6 preferred alternative.

7 The third comment is I'd like to see you create a
8 weighted grading system for the evaluation factors. And I'd
9 like to see those evaluation factors weight those factors
10 that are germane to Dougherty County and to this region.
11 For instance, I certainly would like to see you weight more
12 heavily the impact on our aquifers, on our quality of water
13 higher than impact on traffic.

14 Now a few general comments. You've located --
15 these are impact comments -- you've located the -- or at
16 least Sabal -- or Sabal or -- what do you call it?

17 MR. PECONOM: Sabal.

18 MS. GAINES: Sabal. I called it Sabal at first
19 but I was corrected.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MS. GAINES: You located the compressor station
22 at Newton Road, just in front of the fire station there.
23 And Highway 91 is a gateway corridor. And by gateway I mean
24 that is where you start to get the first impression of this
25 community.

1 When you cross I figure about five miles into
2 Dougherty County, when you hit this compressor station --
3 and it's right there on the highway. There is no cover;
4 there's nothing there. You just locate it right in the
5 middle of a field. That makes no sense whatsoever to put
6 that, as visible as that thing is going to be, to put it
7 along one of our gateways. No sense.

8 I'd like a clear understanding of the
9 characteristics of the environment in which you are willing
10 to put a compressor station. You certainly don't want to
11 put it in an urban environment. But I'd like to know the
12 characteristics of an environment that is conducive to
13 placing a compressor station. I would submit that where you
14 have it certainly is not.

15 We are -- this community seems to be now, we
16 hope, poised to emerge from some dark years economically.
17 It is harder than a lot of communities. We've lost a lot of
18 jobs here. And we don't want to see this project come in
19 and further depress our economy.

20 So a good, good analysis of the impact -- even if
21 it's just image -- because we are now trying to improve the
22 image of this community as a community where people want to
23 come to live, to work, to play, and to educate. And we
24 don't want a big compressor station sitting up there sort of
25 taking away from the desirability of this community as a

1 place to come.

2 And the final one, this is an environmental
3 justice issue. We're the tenth -- we're part -- our
4 congressional district, the Second Congressional District is
5 the tenth poorest in the nation. And if you are a
6 well-heeled community, if you have money, if you have
7 connections, you can fight for what is fair and what is
8 right.

9 We're not going to have that. We're not going to
10 have the resources to do it. We won't have the connections.
11 Nobody's going to pay us that much attention. We're the
12 tenth poorest.

13 So I need to understand whether or not there are
14 resources available that will help us to tell our story here
15 as this process goes forward.

16 That's it. Thank you.

17 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you, ma'am.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. The next person is Laurie Ivy
20 Jenkins.

21 MS. JENKINS: I'm Laurie Ivy Jenkins, L-a-u-r-i-e
22 Ivy Jenkins, J-e-n-k-i-n-s.

23 I do own property in Dougherty County, about six
24 acres of my own right at the county line on -- where Worth
25 County joins Dougherty County. And I have an interest in

1 family property where Worth County joins Mitchell County
2 down Highway 120.

3 Anyway, but I'm not so concerned about my
4 personal property as I am just in general the property of
5 the -- the idea of the pipeline. We have been hearing
6 recently of problems where there have been instances --
7 accidents at the pipelines.

8 I'm an environmentalist; especially interested in
9 animals. I haven't seen much wildlife out in the six acres
10 that I bought about six years ago because they used to come
11 and eat the pears, but I think they've been over-hunted. I
12 haven't seen a deer or a bunny rabbit in some time now.
13 Something's eating my dog and cat food, so I'm going to
14 check and see if that might be an endangered something out
15 there that I might get to know.

16 But I'm more concerned with the environmental
17 threat of pipeline for everyone concerned. And I wondered
18 -- I believe the previous speaker mentioned is this really a
19 need? Is this a need or convenience for a lot of people?

20 In recent years we're getting to the point that,
21 you know, we're not so concerned about needs as we are
22 conveniences. Won't this be a convenience; won't this bring
23 money; won't this bring jobs or something, you know, to an
24 area. So let's put that first. Just forget about quality
25 of life. The rights of individuals.

1 I personally believe that the use of eminent
2 domain is being abused -- not just by this. I'm not just
3 picking on you right now either, but in general. The use of
4 eminent domain is being abused in order to promote certain
5 conveniences -- not necessarily needs but conveniences that
6 might be available for some.

7 I can remember when eminent domain was used only
8 for absolutely those things that were absolutely necessary
9 for an area, like a fire station. You could even argue that
10 a school might not be considered; you know, you could say,
11 well, you could just put it over there, you know. But fire
12 stations, hospitals, schools, where they must be near a
13 population to be the best use.

14 So I think a lot of people are concerned they're
15 just being picked on, just being abused by saying, 'We can
16 take your land; we can take your farm and we can take your
17 land for the convenience of others or for the benefit of
18 others.'

19 So I would really like to see something presented
20 that says, you know, is this a real need. I would like to
21 see alternatives, energy alternatives anyway, like solar,
22 wind. You know, I'm all into that. So I would really like
23 to see some of that.

24 But if you lived -- I think this County Attorney
25 alluded to that you'd be hearing from people. I've lived

1 here all my life. I was raised down there right where
2 Dougherty County, those counties joined. And we've always
3 had drainage problems, groundwater problems, drainage
4 problems here.

5 At one time Albany was known as the artesian
6 capital of the world. And many people moved here in order
7 to use that water that we value. And a lot of it's been --
8 in recent years we've wondered if that has been such a good
9 idea. After all, there was a trade-off of jobs and economic
10 development.

11 But I know in the area that I live it's very
12 swampy. It's probably a lot of that is wetlands. In fact
13 live almost right on top of some wetlands. And there are
14 inconveniences in living there in those wetlands. But it's
15 also a beautiful area. And many people have moved out into
16 the area that I live to -- and built inexpensive homes --
17 inexpensive homes -- in exchange for more acreage, you know,
18 just for the peace and quiet and solitude. They have horses
19 or they have other interests, you know, that make them want
20 to live in a rural area.

21 So I was asked to come down by some people who
22 were more familiar with the issue. And I don't know much
23 about what's going on under the ground.

24 By the way, I'm not a politician; I'm not running
25 for anything.

1 So I'm interested in just what's best for
2 everybody concerned. Not just for myself and for my family
3 in this area, but for everyone in this area.

4 And I can't help but believe that given the
5 geography of Albany and Dougherty County that scooting
6 through here may not be the best idea. We've even seen more
7 sinkholes than ever before. There have been some sinkholes,
8 and I guess you find those everywhere in Florida and here.

9 But the alternative -- I'm interested in the
10 alternative. In fact, the person who asked me if I would
11 come down here was concerned about the alternative. At one
12 point I believe -- or she said she understood that the
13 pipeline -- I don't know if that would -- if the station was
14 to be built. But anyway, there was discussion about that
15 little trucks I'm telling you about right now, right at
16 Highway 133 where Dougherty County joins Worth County and
17 Worth County joins Mitchell County. I can't figure out --
18 I'm a fairly decent map-reader, but I can't understand -- I
19 don't believe you can come from Alabama and go to Florida
20 without hitting that area with the pipeline.

21 And, of course, you know, President Obama got a
22 lot of flak for having -- for opposing standing by the
23 people in the Midwest, the farming communities in the
24 Midwest, opposed the pipeline from Alaska for environmental
25 purposes.

1 So I just really think we need to just stop and
2 look and say is this an absolute need. Is this natural gas
3 pipeline an absolute need or is it just a convenience, going
4 to be a convenience for probably a lot of people.

5 But I know this past year, this is the first time
6 I've ever lived without a fireplace when it got real cold.
7 And I thought, 'My goodness, why would I be out here without
8 a fireplace.' All this wood and no fireplace.

9 So gas wouldn't have done me good if I had gas.
10 I don't have gas; I have electric heat, which I've enjoyed,
11 too. Gas is very expensive.

12 But I really think we need to look at what we're
13 doing to the home-owners, land-owners. Oftentimes people
14 that are trying to make -- to purchase land, they like to go
15 for residential areas because it's sometimes cheaper than a
16 commercial area. And, of course, any area out there in my
17 area, if you start trying to get that farm land, you're
18 going to be up against probably some severe opposition. Not
19 that it seems to make any difference. It seems like we're
20 going forward. We've been hearing, you know, these folks
21 over here in the residential area making a big fuss about
22 it.

23 But let's decide: is it -- I want to know if
24 it's a real need. If it's a need, something you just can't
25 live without, then eminent domain is acceptable. But if

1 not, it's certainly not just because it would be a
2 convenience or mean something to some other people.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you, ma'am.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BOWMAN: The next person up is Steve Wilder.

7 DR. WILDER: Hello, gentlemen. I'm Steve --
8 S-t-e-v-e -- Wilder -- W-i-l-d-e-r. And my wife Debra --
9 D-e-b-r-a -- is also here.

10 I am a physician. And I live -- we live in
11 Dougherty County on Old Dawson Road. And I am part of the
12 Keokee Flint group, but also I'm representing my family and
13 probably many others who are in a similar situation to us.

14 And we are what's known as abutters. The
15 pipeline does not go literally through our land -- that is,
16 if they build it where they say they're going to build it at
17 this moment. The pipeline, however, is supposed to be 50
18 feet from our property line, and that is 70 feet from our
19 well.

20 We've been told by many who have visited us over
21 the years -- we've lived there 15 years; raised our boys
22 there. It's beautiful. We have herons and egrets; we've
23 seen ospreys there. It's a lovely place.

24 We've been told that our drinking water is the
25 best they've ever had anywhere they've ever been. We have

1 awesome water in our area. But it's threatened.

2 Our well is 20 feet -- or, excuse me, 30 feet
3 from our property line; therefore 80 feet from the pipeline.
4 Our home is only 150 feet from the pipeline. The pipeline
5 has, I understand, an 800 foot blast radius.

6 What does that do to our property values? I've
7 worked hard; at some point I may, you know, retire or I may
8 stay there. But in either case I'm dependent on my property
9 value being relatively maintained.

10 How is this going to affect our property values?
11 How is this going to affect our drinking water if this thing
12 is, you know, a very short distance away.

13 We've talked a little bit with the Sabal Trails
14 people. It is my impression that they're pretty much bound
15 and determined that this is going to be the route. There
16 are words you hear about other possible alternative routes.
17

18 We found out about this -- because we're abutters
19 I guess they didn't feel obligated to tell us that something
20 that was going to greatly affect us as much as or more than
21 people who actually have the pipeline property, they didn't
22 apparently feel it was important to tell us. So we found
23 out in the newspaper that this was going to happen in
24 October when it was in the Albany Herald. And since then
25 we've tried to catch up.

1 And we've discovered I believe that they're
2 pretty much determined that this is going to be the route.
3 And it's more or less, as other speakers have said tonight,
4 economically-driven. It has to do with more or less being
5 as the crow flies, doing it as cheaply as possible.

6 My understanding is that the FERC regulations are
7 that they should seek as much as possible to use existing
8 right-of-ways. And there are others. And they should also
9 seek to disrupt people's privacy and safety, and also the
10 aesthetic value of their property as little as possible.

11 I think that there are alternatives that could
12 accomplish that. And I ask that you gentlemen take these
13 thoughts back to Washington with you and help us preserve
14 our way of life here.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

17 (Appause.)

18 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Melvin George.

19 MR. GEORGE: Good evening.

20 Is it convenient to bring back the southeast
21 market pipeline project, the map that's similar to the one
22 that was in the Albany Herald? Okay. The one before --
23 That's the one right there. That's the one.

24 I have just three issues, very short issues.

25 Well, issues or concerns, whichever one.

1 The first one is from my observation on this map
2 the shortest distance from the point of origin -- from the
3 point of origination in Alabama to the Florida state line is
4 coming directly down from Alabama to Florida. That's the
5 first concern.

6 Now the second is why are we coming through
7 Georgia? What value is the pipeline to Georgians? That's
8 my second concern.

9 And the third and final concern is this: From
10 this map I have observed that there are five compression
11 stations in Alabama; there are three in Florida. And from
12 my vantage point the longest distance of pipeline coming
13 through Georgia there is only one compression station. And
14 that compression station, gentlemen and ladies and
15 gentlemen, is in the heart of subdivisions in South Georgia.
16 One compression station in the heart of subdivisions.
17 Subdivisions are being developed.

18 And what fries me is the fact, as someone has
19 asked the question or made the statement, property values
20 are going down. Yes, they are.

21 The second thing: No company in its right mind
22 is going to come and build a business in an area that has a
23 36 inch -- shall we say three feet -- in dimension pipeline.
24 No residential builders are going to build homes in an area
25 close to that pipeline.

1 And the final thing I want to say is this. And I
2 presume you gentlemen have already checked this out.

3 As someone has stated, Dougherty County is on a
4 lot of lime. It has a lot of lime in the ground. There are
5 some places in Dougherty County you can dig down two feet
6 and hit water. No building can be built as of yet over
7 eight stories because of the elements in the soil.

8 I presume you've already taken this into
9 consideration.

10 And I finally say this. Dougherty kind of
11 doesn't really need that pipeline. It's of no value. Let
12 it come straight down from Alabama into Florida. That's the
13 shortest distance.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

16 (Appause.)

17 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Diane Perry.

18 (No response.)

19 MR. BOWMAN: Diane Perry?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. Well, if Diane shows back up
22 we'll call her at the end.

23 Roger Marietta.

24 MR. MARIETTA: Good afternoon. Good evening. My
25 name is Roger Marietta, R-o-g-e-r M-a-r-i-e-t-t-a. I'm a

1 City Commissioner for the City of Albany, District 4.

2 As a City Commissioner, I'm concerned about gas
3 leaks and infiltration into our aquifer. The City of Albany
4 draws all of its water from the aquifer. Any gas leaks or
5 infiltration to the aquifer would hurt the citizens of
6 Albany. And that's my major complaint environmentally in a
7 nut-shell.

8 I agree with Mr. George; the water table is very
9 near the surface and I think any pipeline in this soil would
10 erode rapidly and we could see infiltration into the
11 aquifer, which would affect the whole Florida-Georgia
12 aquifer, not just this area.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Patrick Garner.

17 MR. GEORGE: While Mr. Garner is on his way up, I
18 forgot to tell my name. My name is Melvin George,
19 M-e-l-v-i-n G-e-o-r-g-e.

20 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. GARNER: Hi. My name is Patrick Garner.
22 That's P-a-t-r-i-c-k G-a-r-n-e-r. And my comments aren't
23 necessarily directed to this panel, per se, but more or less
24 to the people in the room.

25 I oppose as of right now the construction of the

1 natural gas line. I think that the County should oppose the
2 construction of the natural gas pipeline. The environmental
3 damage aside, which is a grave concern I think to just about
4 everyone in this room, I haven't heard anything yet about
5 any promised jobs to Dougherty County.

6 I haven't heard anything about any economic
7 benefits, not only to land-owners or to non-land-owners
8 alike. And unless we get some sort of something or other --
9 and frankly, I haven't really heard much; even the proposed
10 maps are changing on a near-monthly value -- unless we get
11 some sort of promises that this county is somehow going to
12 benefit, then I think that we as a county need to oppose the
13 construction of this pipeline.

14 Now regardless of how determined Sabal Energy is
15 to build this pipeline, one thing we should never
16 underestimate is the multitudes of the people working to
17 effect change. And I think that if we have 80 or 90 percent
18 of the county on board opposing the pipeline that we can
19 prevent the pipeline.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Wesley Craft.

23 MR. CRAFT: I'm Wesley Craft, W-e-s-l-e-y
24 C-r-a-f-t.

25 My concern is the depth of the pipeline. You

1 stated in your material that it will be buried 36 inches in
2 most places with up to 60 inches in agricultural areas. I'm
3 here to tell you that what you may consider now to be
4 woodland or wetland can be and will be agricultural property
5 within the next ten, twenty years.

6 I am currently employed in a business that
7 installs irrigation pipeline and wire. One of the things
8 that we have encountered is the people at 'call before you
9 dig' don't know their butt from a base fiddle. And where
10 they say a utility line runs is nowhere near where we
11 encounter it with a ditch witch.

12 We dug up a couple of years ago a 100 pair fiber
13 optic cable that was supposed to have been about 300 yards
14 out in the middle of the field. And it was only 20 feet
15 from the right-of-way of the road. Not only do we find
16 that, we found two other phone cables that nobody even knew
17 existed.

18 What we are running into today is with runoff
19 erosion that pipeline for irrigation systems that were
20 buried thirty and forty years ago are now within range of
21 the deep tillage tools that a lot of farmers are using. And
22 it's right expensive to go in and repair.

23 We also located a small gas pipeline that was not
24 where 'call before you dig' said it was. And we're still
25 fighting that battle as to who is responsible for repairing

1 the gas pipeline.

2 So in any rural area it may be an immaculate
3 woodlands now, planted pines, the chances are with the
4 technology that we have now we can take satellite technology
5 and place irrigation systems where no one ever thought one
6 would be before. That is part of what I do is finding those
7 possibilities. And a lot of the areas that we have gone
8 into were considered non-irrigable twenty years ago.

9 Another concern that I have is with the CRP
10 program for pine trees. We have people whose contracts with
11 the Department of Agriculture will be terminated within the
12 next -- well, they will come to their first conclusion in
13 the next five years or so. And most of these people are
14 planning to re-up with the program. And they have not been
15 assured that they will be able to continue in the CRP
16 program before those trees mature.

17 We also are finding that what has been in timber
18 for a good number of years is now being put into
19 agricultural production and in a lot of cases nobody really
20 knows what is below the surface of that soil up to 30 to 36
21 inches deep.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

24 (Appause.)

25 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. So we've gone through

1 everyone's who's signed up. I know -- Diane Perry, did you
2 show back up?

3 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: She's not here.

4 MR. BOWMAN: Okay.

5 I'm going to open up for anyone else who's
6 decided they'd like to offer comments. Go ahead and stick
7 your hand up and come on down.

8 Come on down. Just please make sure you state
9 your name since I don't have you written down already.

10 MS. PAGE: Wynn Page, W-y-n-n P-a-g-e. And I'm
11 representing Graham Angus Farm, G-r-a-h-a-m, Angus,
12 A-n-g-u-s, Farm. And also with the Keokee Flint Group.
13 Hopefully I'll make this brief.

14 We have significant acreage that will be impacted
15 by the current proposed pipeline, certainly environmentally,
16 economically. There is a plot of land that they are
17 proposing to go through where family members' remains are
18 placed that we're extremely concerned about.

19 We would certainly hope that FERC would give
20 equitable time to some of the routes that Sabal actually has
21 maps of, the route that goes further east of Albany and
22 misses Dougherty County. We will be impacted not only by
23 the pipeline, but also the compressor station will certainly
24 be within, you know, auditory distance of us. It will be on
25 the back side of the property and the farm.

1 And also my one question, as Steve Wilder said,
2 that there was an 800 foot blast radius. Is that -- I was
3 going to ask if you all knew what the blast radius was for a
4 36 inch natural gas line.

5 MR. BOWMAN: I don't have that specifically
6 calculated. But that's something that we'll go ahead and
7 definitely look at.

8 MS. PAGE: Okay. Good.

9 MR. BOWMAN: And that will be that -- Yeah.

10 MS. PAGE: Because 800 feet will take me out.

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. BOWMAN: Anyone else?

14 Come on down.

15 MS. CALLIS: My name is Lauren Callis,
16 L-a-u-r-e-n C-a-l-l-i-s. And I'm here on behalf of my
17 husband as well, who could not be here tonight. But we are
18 land-owners in Terrell County who will be directly impacted
19 by the current route of construction.

20 We just want to go on the record strongly
21 opposing this pipeline. My husband's a physician whose
22 specialty also includes environmental medicine. And we're
23 extremely concerned about PCBs, things like that.

24 I think our biggest concern is the safety of this
25 type of pipeline. Long-term is unproven. And there is no

1 government entity that -- or Sabal -- who can guarantee us
2 that this will be safe long-term.

3 And you're asking the people of Georgia to put
4 this project on our backs, on the backs of our property and
5 our children that is of no benefit to us. So we just ask
6 you that you consider that.

7 And, you know, I don't think me or anybody else
8 in this room cares that the lights go out in Florida. We
9 don't care. So, you know, there is obviously other routes
10 that they could take.

11 So we just ask that people consider what everyone
12 has said here today. And I think you'll find that the
13 consensus is pretty general.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. IVEY: Hi. My name is Patsy Ivey, P-a-t-s-y
17 I-v-e-y. I'm also Terrell County, so I was glad to hear her
18 state here because everything was Dougherty. I'm actually
19 Lee County and I'm Terrell County.

20 So our property is going to be affected. As
21 well, we do have an existing pipeline that is on our
22 property now. So of course we were just really thrilled to
23 hear that there may be another one joined there.

24 My concern is our environment, the farmland, our
25 livestock, the pond, the wetlands, the gopher turtles that

1 we have. I am so -- I'm really excited to hear that there
2 may be an alternative and an alternate route because when
3 Sabal approached us it was a done deal. You had no choice:
4 Do it; sign it; we'll get it anyway. So I was very glad to
5 hear that there may be an alternative route.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. HAYES: I have a comment. But I'd really
8 like to stand right here. My name is Sabrina Hayes,
9 S-a-b-r-i-n-a H-a-y-e-s.

10 And I have to revisit Commissioner Caine's
11 comment on is it really necessary, because I do care about
12 whether it's in Florida or whether it's in Mississippi
13 because there are people like ourselves that will be
14 affected. And if there is no major gain, then why do we
15 have to do it.

16 Another thing is that I'd like to know how would
17 Albany, Dougherty County really benefit from this pipeline
18 coming through. And in your final -- after the compilation
19 of everybody's comments and concerns, who will give you the
20 final report, because I've seen a lot of things happen.

21 It doesn't really matter about the majority of
22 the people and what they want. Normally it's what a small
23 number wants who are the least affected among the groups.

24 So in the end I guess the main concern I have is
25 that if you don't need it, let's just really not do it. And

1 if that pipeline comes through Albany, how would it help the
2 citizens in Albany get from under these monopolies that
3 exist in Albany.

4 And I guess I've said enough. Thank you.

5 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BOWMAN: Anyone else?

8 MS. HOLLEY: My name is Kathy Holley, Kathy,
9 K-a-t-h-y, Holley, H-o-l-l-e-y.

10 I live in Dougherty County but I own property in
11 Mitchell and Colquitt that is mainly going to be affected
12 because you're going to cut -- they're going to cut pine
13 trees down that I'm growing. And I've talked to someone
14 from you all's agency and they said that a second pipeline
15 -- you like to -- you like, you prefer to put it by another
16 pipeline. And I just don't think that's fair.

17 We already have the one coming through. Doesn't
18 that actually multiply our danger? This is a very old
19 pipeline. Do you all know how old that pipeline is? Fifty
20 years? Is that...

21 MR. BOWMAN: That sounds about right, yes.

22 MS. HOLLEY: And then you're going to put a new
23 one down right by it that just multiplies the danger of
24 that.

25 I think you should consider, instead of it being

1 an advantage to put it by the old pipeline, that it's a
2 disadvantage.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. PECONOM: Would anyone else like to speak?

7 Yes. Please come on down, sir.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have to come all the way
9 up. My name is Roy Williams.

10 I feel most of the problem --

11 MR. BOWMAN: Sir, could you -- I didn't get your
12 name.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Roy Williams.

14 Most of the people are talking about one gas
15 line. And that young lady was talking about one gas line.
16 But I'm talking about three if you all bring the other --
17 the one that you all are talking about bringing through now
18 because it's two come behind the fire department and ran
19 through where the water treatment plant is at. But when you
20 bring the other one, that's going to be three.

21 And you all talking about thirty feet extra. So
22 I know that leaving room for another to come beside that.
23 So we'll have four gas lines coming right through my
24 neighborhood, right on across the river.

25 I'm right down at the end where you're going to

1 cross over that river. So it's going to be four gas lines.

2 And I think that's just too many.

3 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BOWMAN: More speakers?

6 MS. GRIMSLEY: Hi. My name is Deena, D-e-e-n-a,
7 Grimsley, G-r-i-m-s-l-e-y.

8 And my husband and my family and I are farmers in
9 Webster County. And we just happen to be in that little
10 bitty corner where we have farm land and fields that this
11 proposed pipeline would come through. And I would just like
12 to go on record as saying, because I know you're probably
13 going to come across more as you have meetings further south
14 from here of farmers.

15 We have to be concerned that if they do this how
16 would we be compensated. If they were to start coming
17 through our fields during our planting time, just after our
18 planting time, our gathering time, I don't think they would
19 work around us to do their scheduling. But I'm sure that
20 there will be many more farmers.

21 I realize that this meeting here mostly touches
22 on Dougherty County and the City of Albany. But we do just
23 want to be remembered as being a part -- an important part.
24 And that we would like to be considered and know how we
25 would be compensated. But that we are very much against as

1 well this coming through the State of Georgia. We feel like
2 it is not necessary; it's not beneficial.

3 And I appreciate you listening. Thank you.

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BOWMAN: Anyone else?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. BOWMAN: Going once, twice?

9 MR. CRAFT: Well, maybe one final comment.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. BOWMAN: Come up.

12 MR. CRAFT: I think everyone is --

13 MR. BOWMAN: I'm sorry, could you repeat your
14 name again? Could you restate your name?

15 MR. CRAFT: What's that?

16 MR. BOWMAN: Could you restate your name?

17 MR. CRAFT: This is Wesley Craft.

18 MR. BOWMAN: Thanks.

19 MR. CRAFT: You've already got me one time.

20 MR. BOWMAN: Yes.

21 MR. CRAFT: But I think everyone here tonight is
22 pretty much resigned to the fact that the pipeline is going
23 somewhere. It's going to be a concern no matter where it
24 goes. We just want to make sure that wherever it goes, that
25 it has the least impact on the environment, safety, and the

1 enjoyment of property.

2 One of the properties that I discovered tonight
3 is under a conservation easement. The reason the lady put
4 that into easement was to assure that her trees that were
5 there when George Washington was chopping down cherry trees
6 will be there for generations to come.

7 It's not so much sometimes 'not in my backyard';
8 it's 'don't mess up my backyard on your way through.'

9 Thank you.

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. BOWMAN: Okay.

13 Well, with that, without anyone else, I'm going
14 to go ahead and kind of wrap things up. I mean that was the
15 last thing that we were going to cover today was getting
16 everyone's comments.

17 If you make an arrangement with the court
18 reporter, come up and talk to him later, you can get a copy
19 of the transcript if you want to go back over and read
20 through things you can get a copy of that transcript from
21 him. But other than that, unless John has anything else to
22 add.

23 Again, that's the address if you want to send
24 some stuff to us, additional comments if you think of
25 anything else. And we'll still be milling around and have

1 materials outside.

2 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Do you still have the
3 list to put our addresses on?

4 MR. BOWMAN: Yes, ma'am, yes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Is that outside?

6 MR. PECONOM: Again, I'd like to thank on behalf
7 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission all of you all
8 for coming out tonight. Your time tonight and the comments
9 you've given are invaluable. They will help us do our job
10 better.

11 Myself and my team, it is our job to do a
12 thorough environmental analysis. I take my job very
13 seriously. I expect you to hold me to that and to hold me
14 to account and make sure that I do do an alternative
15 analysis and review all the environmental impacts, because,
16 as the gentleman said, my job is to assess the impacts and
17 to hopefully find the way that has the least environmental
18 impacts if the pipeline needs to go forward.

19 So again, thank you very much.

20 I'm going to be here for as long as folks would
21 like to talk. I know the Sabal Trail folks will be outside
22 as well to answer questions.

23 Joe, from Department of Transportation here, can
24 also speak to your questions.

25 And thank you all for coming in. Have a good

1 night.

2 (Whereupon at 8:08p.m. the scoping meeting

3 adjourned.)

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