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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

Holiday Inn Valdosta
Conference Center
1805 West Hills Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting,
pursuant to notice, at 5:59 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 (Chorus of 'Good evening.')

4 MR. PECONOM: My name is John Peconom. I'm an
5 environmental project manager with the Federal Energy
6 Regulatory Commission.

7 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
8 Commission, I'd like to thank you all for coming tonight.
9 We appreciate you being here. I know there's places you all
10 would rather be. I appreciate everyone taking time out of
11 their busy evening.

12 I have asked Kevin Bowman, who also works for the
13 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to help us keep this
14 meeting running.

15 So again, thank you for coming. I look forward
16 to hearing your comments. And I'll turn it over to Kevin to
17 get us started.

18 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. Thanks, John.

19 So the meeting tonight is going to cover about
20 three parts. The first thing we're going to go over tonight
21 is what the FERC is and what we do and how our environmental
22 review process works. And the review process focus is on
23 the environmental side. And that's going to be kind of the
24 theme of what myself and John and Mitch will be talking
25 about tonight.

1 The second part is going to be Mitch here. He's
2 also going to be going over the info about what the projects
3 are that are in front of us. Just some brief review just so
4 everyone's on the same page about what the project is.

5 Then the third part and the last part of this
6 meeting will be to take your comments. And that's really,
7 to me, that's the most important part about this meeting
8 tonight. It's so that your comments help us know what's
9 important about these projects and what's important to you.
10 It helps us tailor our review process to the important
11 things.

12 Okay. So I'm going to get into the first part
13 now.

14 So the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, we
15 are a Federal Governmental agency. We work out of
16 Washington, D.C.

17 And the Commission part -- and I know we have
18 this 'Commission' in our name. It is actually a Commission.
19 I'm not on the Commission, but there are five members of the
20 Commission and they are appointed by the President and they
21 have to be confirmed by the Senate. And those Commissioners
22 make every decision that comes in front of the agency on a
23 day-to-day basis.

24 So these decisions are on a wide range of things.
25 They're going to be the ones that have to make the ultimate

1 decision on whether to approve or deny this project.

2 In addition to things like this project, they
3 also have to make decisions on whether or not to approve
4 hydropower dams, natural gas storage terminals, storage of
5 natural gas. The Commission also regulates electric
6 transmission line rates. So there's a wide variety of
7 energy-related topics the Commission has to make decisions
8 on.

9 But before they make any of these decisions they
10 have to take into consideration the environmental impacts of
11 those projects. And we have to do that because of the
12 National Environmental Policy Act. We call that NEPA for
13 short.

14 And when we're doing this review process or this
15 NEPA, the culmination of that review is what we call an
16 environmental impact statement. And in just a second John
17 will go over that review process and how we get to the
18 environmental impact statement.

19 But once we're finished with that review the
20 Commissioners have to look at that environmental impact
21 statement, see what all the impacts of the project would be,
22 see if there's any recommended mitigation measures, ways to
23 reduce the impacts. And then they have to make an informed
24 decision about whether or not to approve or deny the
25 projects.

1 I do want to point out that this EIS that I'm
2 talking about, this document that has all this environmental
3 information in it, it's not a decisional document. It's
4 just simply stating what the environmental impacts are. We
5 haven't gotten there yet; don't know exactly what's it's
6 going to be or how much they're going to be. But it's just
7 a statement of what they are.

8 So even though we do these things that our agency
9 regulates or looks at, the things like the dams, the
10 electric transmission stuff, the natural gas stuff, we don't
11 regulate -- we don't have authority to regulate production
12 of natural gas. And that's where the natural gas comes out
13 of the ground, or the gathering lines or the local
14 distribution of maybe where a gas line enters someone's
15 house.

16 So we really look at the larger interstate
17 natural gas lines. And that's kind of a common
18 misconception or distinction where it kind of leads to some
19 confusion. And I just want to point that out, that we have
20 a regulation or authority over a very specific subset of
21 types of pipelines. And that includes the projects that are
22 in front of us that we'll get to in just a moment.

23 The pipeline integrity standards. We don't set
24 those, but we do require any prospective applicant to meet
25 the current pipeline integrity standards. And those are set

1 by the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous
2 Materials Safety Administration. It's a bit of a mouthful.
3 But they do have regulations for material standards,
4 construction standards, operation, maintenance. And we
5 require those applicants to meet those standards. So I just
6 wanted to kind of point that out.

7 So with that, I'm going to turn things over to
8 John here for a second. He's going to go over the
9 environmental review process.

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Kevin.

11 I believe all of you all are here tonight because
12 Sabal Trail Transmission plans to build a natural gas
13 pipeline project from eastern Alabama, from southwest
14 Georgia, into central Florida. Mitch Shields will talk
15 about details of that project in a little bit. But I want
16 to talk about what the Federal Energy Regulatory
17 Commission's role is in this process.

18 As Kevin pointed out on one of his slides, the
19 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is responsible for the
20 siting and construction of interstate natural gas
21 transmission pipelines. The National Environmental Policy
22 Act -- NEPA -- as Kevin pointed out requires that the
23 Commission considers the environmental impacts of the
24 project.

25 My job as the environmental project manager is to

1 conduct that environmental analysis. So we have a pretty
2 lengthy environmental review process that we are just
3 beginning that I'm going to talk about right now.

4 In October of 2013 Sabal Trail Transmission
5 requested that the Commission enter into its pre-filing
6 process with them. The pre-filing process is a process
7 established by the Commission to work with project
8 applicants, such as Sabal, interested citizens, potentially
9 affected land-owners, state and federal agencies, get all
10 these parties involved in the early stages of a project's
11 development.

12 During the pre-filing process a pipeline company
13 will present to the Commission for public review preliminary
14 information about the project. This is something that
15 Sabal's already done. They've provided what we call a draft
16 resource report of one and ten. And that is basically the
17 information of what they plan to do, a little bit about how
18 they plan to do it, and a little bit about the alternatives
19 they've considered.

20 All of us are going to work together over the
21 next several months in this pre-filing process to
22 essentially what I like to call shake the bushes and find
23 out what issues are out there and what would affect the
24 development of this project.

25 My job is, as I said before, to conduct an

1 environmental review. I do this much better and much more
2 efficiently when I'm able to work with people such as
3 yourselves and the local and federal and state agencies to
4 find out how this project could affect the area. How it
5 could potentially affect land-owners, how it could
6 potentially affect the environment.

7 And when I say the environment, you know,
8 everyone automatically thinks birds, bees, and bunnies. But
9 it's also the human environment. It's people where they
10 live, their health, their safety. That's all part of the
11 environment.

12 The pre-filing process for this project is going
13 to last almost about a year. It's a very large project and
14 in parts of it, a very complex project.

15 The focus -- or one of the main focuses of the
16 pre-filing process, and the FERC's general environmental
17 review process, is an alternatives analysis. The first
18 question people generally ask, and the first question I ask,
19 is why here and why this way.

20 People want to know can it go another way. And
21 that's what an alternative is. What is an alternatives
22 project. So the heart, as it's called sometimes, of the
23 NEPA analysis is the alternatives analysis.

24 Alternatives include a lot of things. First of
25 all, it includes a no-action alternative; what happens if

1 you don't do this project. There are system alternatives:
2 Are there other ways to use existing systems to transport
3 that natural gas. Many folks may be aware that there are
4 other natural gas pipeline systems in Florida. These are
5 the questions that we ask and these are the questions that
6 you ask of us.

7 There are major route alternatives, getting
8 between Point A and Point B, there's a couple of different
9 ways to get there. And actually there's more than a couple
10 ways to get there.

11 We all have to work -- we have to work with the
12 companies, and you all are participating in that process --
13 to determine which way is the best way to get there. There
14 are alternative energy alternatives. You know, a lot of
15 people are conferenced about solar and the use of fossil
16 fuels. Those are alternatives that we consider in our
17 analysis.

18 There are intermediate pipeline alternatives,
19 maybe pipeline alternatives that go ten miles, you know,
20 around something or ten miles another way. And there are
21 small pipelines. Maybe it's only 500 feet that makes a
22 difference, or maybe can you move it over my property line.
23 Those are all things that are considered in this process.

24 Another important part of this process is the
25 public comments and scoping. And this is what we're here

1 doing tonight is part of the public comments and scoping.

2 Scoping is what we do to get out there to ask
3 people about their concerns about the projects. We'll say
4 we sent you something in the mail, most likely. The
5 companies have been out there asking you about your thoughts
6 about the project. We're here tonight to have this meeting
7 so you can learn a little bit more about us and give us your
8 concerns and comments about the project.

9 The Commission values your comments. They're
10 very important to us. They help us focus our environmental
11 analysis. We need your help to conduct our review.

12 All of you all live here. I live in Washington,
13 D.C. You know your area better than I do, so I need your
14 help to do my review.

15 Once the pre-filing process is complete we have
16 what -- the company will file a certificate. And I want to
17 say right now that this project has not been approved. This
18 project has not even officially submitted an application.
19 This is a pre-application process.

20 Like all projects, the company is doing its
21 homework and we're doing our homework. And this is that
22 part of the process where we all talk beforehand. If at the
23 end of the pre-filing process they decide that they want to
24 move forward, they would file an application with the
25 Commission.

1 Myself and other members of my staff would look
2 at -- and the staff members I work with would look at the
3 certificate, the application, make sure it's complete and
4 make sure we have an understanding of what the environment
5 here looks like. And we would prepare an environmental
6 impact statement, as Kevin pointed out.

7 In our environmental review we'll look at a
8 number of resources. For instance, soils and geology,
9 groundwater, surface water and wetlands. I think
10 groundwater is probably one of the number one issues we've
11 heard so far in our work here. Vegetation, fisheries and
12 wildlife, land use, residential impacts, cultural resources,
13 air, noise quality, pipe integrity, safety, and cumulative
14 impacts.

15 And cumulative impacts is something I've heard a
16 lot in southwest Georgia. There's already one pipeline
17 going through here and now there wants to be another. And
18 when you add the effects of those two pipelines, those are
19 cumulative effects. In other parts of the country there's
20 three or four pipelines. And there becomes a point where
21 those things start to add up. And that's part of the review
22 we do.

23 Really quick, I just wanted to show you that
24 there is -- this is an environmental impact statement for a
25 project that was done a couple of years ago. It is roughly

1 -- well, several hundred -- a couple hundred pages long.

2 As I said before, federal law requires that we do
3 a thorough environmental analysis. And when we do, we
4 report all that information in an environmental impact
5 statement.

6 The EIS will describe the proposed actions. It
7 will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the
8 project. And it will also describe what the environment is
9 here. It will also analyze alternatives.

10 The EIS will provide conclusions: what the FERC
11 has found; what do we think will happen if this project is
12 built or what do we think will happen if that alternative is
13 used. We will provide those conclusions for the public to
14 review and comment on. And we will, in addition to the
15 measures that the company's proposed to minimize impacts, we
16 will provide additional measures.

17 Impacts. You know, we're looking to avoid,
18 minimize and mitigate impacts. Once we have finished
19 completing a draft environmental impact statement, we will
20 send that out to everyone on the environmental mail list and
21 you'll have a chance to look at that and tell us if we got
22 it right and tell us where things could be different or
23 better. And once we've received your comments on the
24 environmental impact statement, we'll prepare a final
25 environmental impact statement.

1 The final environmental impact statement will be
2 issued again. And the Commission will use that final
3 environmental impact statement in its decision-making
4 process.

5 So that is, in a nutshell, the Federal Energy
6 Regulatory Commission's environmental review process.

7 I'm going to turn it back over to Kevin, who is
8 going to touch on a couple more things. Then I can come
9 back and answer a couple questions about the review process,
10 if you have some.

11 MR. BOWMAN: Okay.

12 So, ways to comment tonight. Obviously it's what
13 we're here for tonight in another couple of minutes is to
14 comment on the project; tell us what you think, what's
15 important. So tonight, in person. If you think of
16 something later when you go home and chew on this a little
17 more, you can send those to us online, electronically.
18 That's our preferred method.

19 My handwriting is not so great; so I'm sure you
20 guys have great handwriting. But e-comment online is a
21 great way to do that. We have some materials outside. If
22 you grab them, it walks through how to navigate our website
23 and shows you how to file those online with us.

24 If you want to write things out by hand, that's
25 fine, too. You can mail those into us. The address is up

1 here on the screen. It's also on the materials outside as
2 well. That's a great way to get stuff to us as well.

3 John reads everything that comes in. We all read
4 all the stuff that comes into us. So make sure if you do
5 something, write something down by hand, include the project
6 docket number. That's PF14-1 for Sabal Trail. Again those
7 numbers are written down outside, too, if you forget.

8 So again, that information is on our website at
9 ferc.gov. That's where you can go and submit those
10 comments.

11 Everything that gets submitted to us, everything
12 the applicant files, every letter we send out to the
13 applicant gets catalogued in what we call an eLibrary. So
14 you can go on there and you can search through all that
15 stuff.

16 You can find all the information that we received
17 from the company that they've submitted to us. You can even
18 find your own comment letter if you submitted it to us. If
19 you mail something in, within a couple of days it should
20 show up on there.

21 We have this feature called eSubscription.
22 That's what all of the environmental staff at FERC uses to
23 track projects. Basically, if you sign up for this thing
24 called eSubscription you'll get an email every time someone
25 sends something in. So for large projects there can be a

1 lot of information.

2 So if you're, you know, trying to look for stuff
3 or you're searching on there every day it can kind of cut
4 down on the time you're spending looking for stuff because
5 it will give you an email in your inbox that says, 'Hey,
6 today FERC issued a letter to the company.' And it gives
7 you an alert to say, 'Hey, maybe I want to check out and see
8 what that letter was.'

9 In addition, the environmental mailing list is
10 really important. As John said, we send out that EIS to
11 everyone, the environmental impact statement. So if you
12 didn't, then just a friendly reminder to sign up on our
13 mailing list to make sure that we've got your correct
14 address so we can get that EIS to you some time down the
15 road when it would be done.

16 I guess now we -- if there's any process
17 questions on the environmental FERC review process, I'd love
18 to take some of those questions now to kind of clear up the
19 air on how it is that we review the process -- or the
20 projects.

21 Stick your hand up. If you could, could you come
22 down to the podium just so that we can give you credit for
23 your question? It's not school, but, you know, so we make
24 sure we get your name down.

25 Everything is being recorded by our court

1 reporter, so your name will be placed in the record with
2 your question. And then our answer will be there, too, as
3 well.

4 I think I saw a hand come up. So you can just
5 come on down.

6 MS. SINGLETARY: Golly, it's a long way up there.

7 My name is Carol Singletary. And I guess one of
8 the questions I have is when you're going through the
9 process to just determine the validity of the request
10 altogether, what kind of steps do you all go through to say,
11 'this is good information so therefore it warrants the
12 pipeline being awarded.'

13 MR. BOWMAN: Some of the things that we're
14 looking at is --

15 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Can you repeat the
16 question for everyone?

17 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah. To summarize that question,
18 it's how do we kind of compare the information to see which
19 is sort of in a sense which resources are valued more than
20 others.

21 That is a comparative analysis that we'll have in
22 the EIS. What we'll do is we'll basically have a lot of
23 tables comparing resource A to B. Simply, if there's
24 something that says, okay, maybe a route has 1000 acres of
25 agricultural impacts or a route has maybe 50 acres of

1 agricultural impacts, it seems pretty straightforward that
2 the one route with less acres of agricultural impacts would
3 be less intrusive than the other.

4 The challenge for us becomes when there are, you
5 know, once you start adding more and more resources in
6 there. Maybe there's some residential impacts; maybe
7 there's some forestry impacts. So it becomes a balancing
8 impact of looking at all those together.

9 And I don't have a silver bullet answer for you
10 of which one is prioritized more highly than the other. But
11 certainly, you know, what you guys bring up today in our
12 meetings and comments helps us prioritize which impacts to
13 look at over the others.

14 Did I answer that?

15 MR. PECONOM: I just want to add a little bit
16 about how we do our job and then how we verify this
17 information, and how we make sure that the information given
18 to us is accurate.

19 And earlier in my presentation I talked a little
20 bit about how we work with local, state and federal
21 agencies. We rely on those folks, you know, a lot of them
22 based here in Georgia, to help us with our project and our
23 review. We've met with the Georgia DNR, with the
24 Environmental Protection Agency. We've met with the U.S.
25 Army Corps of Engineers. So we don't do this by ourselves.

1

2 We are the lead federal agency, but we depend on
3 county representatives, municipal representatives to give us
4 input in the process to verify that this information is
5 accurate and that what we're being told is true. So it's a
6 long process. It takes us a while to verify things.

7 And that's what my responsibility is and that's
8 how we do that. So we'll have a number of meetings over the
9 course of the next year or so to confirm that this
10 information is correct. And this is something that we do
11 every day. I've been doing this natural gas pipeline review
12 for over ten years.

13 So it's my job to verify this information. And
14 having done it all across the country, I feel very confident
15 when I look at this information that I know what I'm looking
16 at and I know what I'm looking for.

17 And to point out, there's two of us -- three of
18 us here from FERC. We probably have a team of about 24
19 folks assigned to this project. It's going to take us a
20 while; it's a big project.

21 But that's how we work a little bit. And I'll be
22 happy to answer any other process questions people might
23 have about what the FERC does or how the FERC reviews a
24 project.

25 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: You said that you

1 would be reviewing what's there now, which is important.
2 But what if there's nothing there. But in hundreds of years
3 we may have things there. So why isn't it only considered
4 --

5 MR. BOWMAN: Can you repeat the last part? I
6 wasn't really -- I wasn't hearing you from all the way back
7 there. Can you come up?

8 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I said you mentioned
9 you take into --

10 MR. BOWMAN: Let me come to you.

11 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: -- when you're doing
12 your review process you're taking into consideration what's
13 there now, for instance, residential, agriculture.

14 Does it really matter what's there right now
15 because are we not considering what will be there for years
16 to come, decades, hundreds of years, and how that land and
17 water is going to be impacted?

18 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah. I'll take a crack at that.

19 For every resource that we look at in the EIS, we
20 look at the current -- what's currently there, but we look
21 at what the construction impacts would be. And we would
22 look at the long term operational impacts.

23 So you would be looking at for the lifetime of
24 the operation of the pipeline what those impacts would be.
25 So they would go out for years.

1 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: So the lifetime of the
2 pipeline.

3 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Right.

4 MR. BOWMAN: Correct.

5 MR. PECONOM: Yeah. Let me add to that a little
6 bit, if I can.

7 Typically in an environmental impact statement
8 like that there's three types of impacts. There's the
9 temporary ones, which are pretty short-term; you'll see them
10 and then they'll go away. There are kind of mid-term
11 impacts -- And we'll define all this in the document -- and
12 maybe, you know, two to five years. And then there's
13 long-term impacts.

14 If you cut down a tree it's going to take thirty
15 years to come back. So that's a long term impact. So we do
16 look at that and what the effects of that long term impact
17 would be.

18 Dan.

19 MR. SCHREIDER: I'm Dan Schreider from Brooks
20 County.

21 I got a note from Sabal Trail here. And
22 recently, it says that you're the scope -- that you're going
23 to be collecting information that will only last sixty days.
24 And they say:

25 "Please also note that the NOI" -- which is

1 notice of intent, I guess -- "for scoping period and for
2 comments lasts for sixty days and closes on April the 20th,
3 2014."

4 Is that correct?

5 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir, that is correct. We've
6 opened up a sixty day comment period.

7 The truth is we'll take comments after sixty
8 days, but we try to get them early in the process. We want
9 to know up front what people are concerned about. And
10 typically, I just wanted to point out that the scoping
11 process is generally thirty days. But given the length of
12 this project and the concerns that we've heard already, we
13 extended to sixty to make sure that people have time to
14 think about the project and express their concerns to us.

15 MR. SCHREIDER: Like you said earlier in your
16 comments that it -- something about it lasting a year?

17 MR. PECONOM: Our review process -- the
18 pre-filing process will last approximately a year.

19 MR. SCHREIDER: Okay.

20 MR. PECONOM: And then we would review the
21 project and the certificate application.

22 MR. BOWMAN: Questions?

23 MR. LOVETT: My name is Tom Lovett. I also live
24 in Brooks County. And I'm an affected land-owner.

25 My question is to the process that is utilized

1 for the approval. And that is you have a staff of 24 in the
2 Commission. And then there's five Commissioners, is that
3 correct?

4 MR. PECONOM: Correct.

5 MR. LOVETT: And is the ultimate decision made by
6 the five Commissioners who at some point in time when the
7 review and the process is to the point where they're going
8 to vote on it, and then they vote to approve it and approve
9 the route. Is that what happens?

10 MR. BOWMAN: Yes.

11 MR. PECONOM: Let me add to that, Kevin, really
12 quickly. And that should clarify it.

13 The Commission has a staff of well over 1000.
14 There are 24 of us from the environmental division dedicated
15 to this project. And as you said, when we're done with our
16 job the five-member Commission will vote on the project,
17 whether to approve it or not to approve the project. So
18 we'll provide our recommendations.

19 There's other aspects of the Commission, the
20 legal and the economic folks that will be working on this
21 project as well who also provide input to the Commission
22 before they make their decision.

23 MR. LOVETT: And a follow-up question.

24 Is your Commission the one that is going to
25 either approve or not approve the proposed pipeline, and --

1 or do you have the jurisdiction to approve part of it but
2 not other parts and therefore you could require that Sabal
3 Trail re-route, move, or re-locate part of where they want
4 to put the pipeline?

5 MR. PECONOM: Yes. The Commission will
6 ultimately approve the project, which includes the project
7 route. The Commission has the ability to approve parts of
8 that and not other parts of that.

9 Typically what happens in the review process is
10 if the staff feels that there is a better route or a better
11 alternative or a better portion, we would make a
12 recommendation to the Commission, and the Commission would
13 consider whether or not to approve that recommendation. But
14 the final authority rests with the Commission.

15 MR. LOVETT: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. BOWMAN: I think there was a question back
17 here.

18 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Thank you. It is a
19 general question because I'm curious. I've never had
20 actually federal guys in the same room.

21 When you do evaluate the projects like Sabal
22 Trail pipeline and the larger story of energy, energy
23 consumption and other questions, how do you disconnect a
24 pipeline from a phenomenon called hydraulic fracturing?
25 When you're looking at the environmental impacts in this

1 particular area here and zoom out of this picture and
2 connect it to the fracking, the hydraulic fracturing
3 industry, how does one disconnect these two issues because
4 one creates quite a bit of havoc or environmental problems
5 in other parts of the country, all of them are also U.S.
6 citizens, like we are, if we're focusing on one little tiny
7 aspect of this larger mosaic? How does one do that?

8 That's a large question, and I apologize.

9 MR. PECONOM: No, no. It's a large question,
10 yes. And it's a question that's being asked throughout the
11 country every day. How do we separate some of the impacts
12 of this -- you know, ultimately everything's connected I
13 think is what you're getting to, and how do we do that.

14 The Commission regulates the transmission of the
15 pipeline -- the transmission of natural gas through the
16 pipeline. But there are impacts of that production. So I
17 talked a little bit about cumulative impacts, and I talked
18 about it in the context of multiple pipelines. But there
19 are cumulative impacts in terms of other projects and other
20 activities that, if you add all those effects together, what
21 is that effect going to be.

22 One of those projects -- one of those types of
23 projects that we do consider and do discuss in our document
24 is the production of natural gas, whether it's done
25 conventionally or through unconventional means -- fracking

1 -- you know, that does have impacts. So that is addressed
2 in the document.

3 The document focuses on the transmission portion,
4 but attention is paid to the impacts of other projects. And
5 that can include a shopping mall, another interstate, other
6 pipeline projects that have been built. So there's a lot of
7 projects that are out there that if you add all these things
8 together they result in a larger impact.

9 And that is one of the challenges of the job that
10 we have. So it is done and complicated I guess is probably
11 the best way to put it because the effects will vary. You
12 know, air impacts vary across an air shed, whereas crossing
13 of a water body typically only affects the water body in the
14 immediate area -- but not always.

15 You know, so it's a lot of work. That's the best
16 way I can put it for you.

17 MR. BOWMAN: Other questions? Different hands.

18 Come on up. First come, first served.

19 MS. ANDERSON: My name is Janice Anderson. And
20 I'm speaking on behalf of my mother.

21 We have a family farm that's our property. And I
22 realize that this is a federal project. Being federal, I'm
23 wondering, do we really have a voice. If I say -- if she
24 says no, I don't want pipelines, do we really have a voice?
25 Can we really stop you all?

1 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: And take the land?

2 MR. PECONOM: Well, just to clarify, we're not
3 building the project. So the Sabal Trail Transmission
4 Company -- Sabal Trail Transmission is proposing to build a
5 pipeline. Our job is to regulate it.

6 And I like to think that everyone's comments,
7 concerns, do make a difference and are considered. I really
8 do believe that. I've worked on enough projects to know
9 that. You'd be surprised what one person's concerns can do.
10 And it's an important part.

11 And we want to know what people think about. And
12 the Commission that I work for wants to know what people
13 think about. They've got a big job ahead of them trying to
14 address the country's needs.

15 And to answer your question, yes, I think that
16 you can influence the project. That's probably the best
17 thing I can say.

18 MS. ANDERSON: But will a federal project -- can
19 it veto me and just say, 'No, we don't -- I mean we've heard
20 your comments, but, no, we're coming through.' Can they do
21 that?

22 MR. PECONOM: The Federal Energy Regulatory
23 Commission can deny a project. That is possible.

24 MR. BOWMAN: FERC certainly has denied projects
25 in certain cases. And generally when that happens what

1 they're doing is they're weighing what we say in the
2 environmental impact statement to the impacts on the
3 land-owners versus the benefit of the projects.

4 So that's why we do the environmental impact
5 statement first, so the Commission is apprised of its
6 environmental impacts and then they weigh those benefits
7 from the project. So definitely what you bring up to us and
8 we put in the EIS, that's how they make their decisions.

9 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.

10 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Yes. I bought a plot
11 of land in Cottonville, which it done has two gas lines on
12 it, the main one and the branch line going to the paper
13 mill, which it was then measured out before I bought this
14 property. And there is room in there to build a building or
15 whatever you want to. But when this new line comes in here,
16 you can't build an outhouse on it.

17 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Right.

18 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: It's going to get four
19 big oak trees. So who's going to replace all this? Who's
20 going to give me my money back for my land that I bought to
21 build on that I can't build no more? So answer that, old
22 boy.

23 (Laughter.)

24 MR. PECONOM: Let me take a crack.

25 That's a very specific question. I wanted to

1 focus on the process aspect of it real quickly. And to be
2 honest, I don't have all the answers tonight. And part of
3 the reason is we want to know what your concern is.

4 So what I'm hearing you saying is you have
5 concerns about the development of your property. You have
6 concerns about the value of your property. And that's what
7 we want to hear from people so we know that we need to look
8 at that in our review.

9 I'm seeing a lot of heads shaking, so I think a
10 lot of people have that concern. I don't have an answer for
11 you right now. But I do want to know that's what you're
12 concerned about so I can go and get an answer for you.

13 MR. BOWMAN: No, that's a great example of a
14 great comment that we're going to be trying to look at.

15 So if there's any more quick questions, I think
16 we might go ahead and move on. So maybe just one or two
17 more.

18 Who was first.

19 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I don't know.

20 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I'll come over here.

21 I'm also from Brooks County. I have a lot of
22 family-owned land. And it just sounds like we have a lot
23 more influence than a say.

24 So somebody comes knocking on my door and wants
25 to build something on my land, am I going to have a say or

1 an influence? I mean it just doesn't sound like we really
2 have a say. We can say yes or no, yeah, I want you to do
3 this or no, I can't.

4 It's just 'we will think about what you had to
5 say before we're making our decision.' And I guess that's
6 more of an opinion than a question.

7 MR. PECONOM: It's broad. I understand what
8 you're saying.

9 And to be specific about the process, it is if
10 the Commission grants a pipeline company a certificate to
11 permit the approval, with that approval comes the ability to
12 use eminent domain. Congress gave the right of eminent
13 domain to the Commission.

14 The Commission allows companies that do receive
15 certificates to use eminent domain. So if agreements can't
16 be made, it is possible for these companies to use eminent
17 domain for properties.

18 So, you know, now is the time to influence and
19 give comments on it so we can develop a -- or not 'we' --
20 they can develop a project and we can participate in that
21 pre-filing process to help them develop a project that
22 reduces the impacts to the environment, to the community.

23 Yes, sir.

24 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I have some longer
25 comments later, but I have a couple quick questions.

1 I believe we just heard that FERC has denied some
2 pipelines before. I thought I heard someone just say that.
3 Could we see a list of which pipelines and the order that
4 was set by the FERC denying them? And can we see them on
5 FERC's website, and by when will we see them?

6 And I have a related question. There is a single
7 private company that's been contracted with, according to
8 the initial letters of all three of the linked pipeline
9 companies -- I think its name is Mergent -- which is going
10 to be assisting with this environmental review.

11 Could we see the RFP, the request for proposals,
12 that produced that single company? Could we see the
13 individual proposals from all the applications? Could we
14 see them on FERC's website, and by when will we see them?

15 That's my questions.

16 MR. PECONOM: So those are process questions
17 about the FERC's administrative docket is what I heard. And
18 the FERC keeps an administrative record. So every letter
19 that is filed with the Commission, every order or document
20 the Commission issues goes into a record.

21 There is not a project-specific website or
22 project-specific portion where some of these things are put
23 out. There is a record that you have to go and search.

24 So to answer your question about the orders
25 denying projects, those are available on the Commission's

1 administrative record. They're there right now. You're
2 welcome to go get them, and I can talk to you afterwards
3 about where you specifically -- the numbers to try to find
4 those.

5 The request for -- So he asked about Mergent.
6 And we have a third-party contractor that assists us with
7 these projects. We have a consultant who assists the FERC
8 with doing its work. Mitch Shields works with Mergent. He
9 is basically an extension of FERC staff.

10 These folks submit a proposal to work on the
11 project; that proposal is proprietary and is not available
12 for review.

13 Our review and approval of that --

14 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Didn't we pay for that
15 with tax money?

16 MR. PECONOM: I'm sorry?

17 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Didn't we pay for that
18 with tax money, that RFP? Shouldn't it be in the public
19 record?

20 MR. PECONOM: The contractor is funded by the
21 company. It's a third-party applicant -- it's a third-party
22 contractor. So the Commission doesn't pay for the
23 contractor; we use the contractor to help us with our
24 environmental review.

25 MR. BOWMAN: For larger projects having a

1 third-party contractor helps us assist with the review.

2 Ultimately the FERC is responsible for every
3 single piece of paperwork that comes out of the third-party
4 contractor. So in many cases we may ask the third-party
5 contractor to do some research into a specific resource
6 area. Maybe we might ask them to, say, look into finding
7 certain wetland maps for an area or reviewing a wetland
8 delineation report.

9 But then ultimately whatever they give to us per
10 that task work, we go ahead and look at it anyway. It just
11 helps us save some time. But, you know, we're responsible
12 for everything that comes out of them.

13

14 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: The question really
15 is: FERC hired a contractor. You put out a proposal for a
16 contractor. Our tax money paid for you to make that RFP.

17 Why can't we see it?

18 MR. BOWMAN: I think, you know -- I guess this
19 goes back to kind of a policy thing. You know, I've never
20 heard the question before of releasing an RFP. I think
21 that's something that we can go back to -- when we go back
22 to the office go ahead and look at releasing it. Maybe we
23 can; I don't know.

24 MR. PECONOM: Kevin, let me answer that a little
25 bit more.

1 The FERC didn't pay for the contractor.

2 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Who did?

3 MR. PECONOM: The company paid for the
4 contractor.

5 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Which company?

6 MR. PECONOM: Sabal Trail Transmission.

7 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Okay. So that kind of
8 makes them biased?

9 MR. PECONOM: No. They're not --

10 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: That would be my
11 question.

12 MR. PECONOM: I worked on projects for ten years
13 and I've never had a problem with a contractor. They work
14 at our direction. I approve and review everything that's
15 written, so they do our work. I'm a federal employee. We
16 have a contractor that helps us do our work.

17 MR. BOWMAN: I'm going to go here first. I'm
18 going to go, you know, in order of the questioning.

19 I going to spend maybe five or ten more minutes
20 for questions and then we're going to go, you know, get to
21 comments. I don't want to take away from comments. But I
22 do want to answer all your questions.

23 MR. ROBERTS: Well, forgive me for being a little
24 bit ignorant about this. But when I ask for somebody to
25 look at something and they are biased just by nature, what

1 do you have as a checks and balance against their being
2 biased?

3 MR. BOWMAN: You know, the checks and balance is
4 really John and myself. We're the agency that's responsible
5 for it. So whatever comes out of the third-party
6 contractor, you know, we're the ones that have the ultimate,
7 you know, say for it.

8 MR. ROBERTS: You guys might be the salt of the
9 earth and the greatest there is. All right? With as much
10 corruption as there is in government -- right? -- at low
11 stages, how do we know that?

12 MR. PECONOM: Well, as I said before, all of
13 these documents that we produce are available for public
14 review. So you're going to look -- you're going to have an
15 opportunity to look at the environmental impact statement.
16 You're going to have the opportunity to comment on it. And
17 we work with other federal and state agencies and local
18 groups to, you know, develop this information. So it's not
19 all in one person's hands or in one company's hands.
20 There's lots of people that look at this. It's a very open
21 process.

22 The gentleman back there in the ball cap and then
23 I think the gentleman back there.

24 MR. BOWMAN: And can you guys state your names,
25 too? We're getting away from -- it's getting mixed.

1 MR. HASTINGS: Yeah. Rick Hastings.

2 I was just following up with what the gentleman
3 said a minute ago about it's kind of like -- what's the
4 adage about the wolf guarding the hen house kind of deal.
5 It's like -- it's almost as if in a court of law my
6 defendant needs a psychiatrist or whatever to vouch that
7 it's Saturday or isn't Saturday. So I'll go buy a
8 psychiatrist. And he says what I want him to say.

9 So what truly honestly is there to keep a
10 corporation paying a consultant not to say exactly and do
11 exactly what the corporation who is paying their bills wants
12 them to say. Regardless of what you guys or the feds say or
13 don't say, what's to stop that influence based on that
14 corruption and the -- I guess the power of the dollar --

15 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Yeah.

16 MR. HASTINGS: -- if you will.

17 MR. PECONOM: Meet the Federal Energy Regulatory
18 Commission staff. I work for the Federal Energy Regulatory
19 Commission, which is part of the U.S. Government, which,
20 last time I checked, works for the people. So that's my
21 job.

22 MR. HASTINGS: I understand. I understand it --

23 MR. PECONOM: So that's where the stop is and
24 that's where the check is.

25 And I understand your concern.

1 MR. HASTINGS: Yeah.

2 MR. PECONOM: It's something that is very
3 commonly questioned about these kinds of projects. And this
4 is not an uncommon practice in the Federal Government.

5 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Will you tell us what
6 Commissioner LaFleur did before she was Commissioner
7 LaFleur?

8 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: What?

9 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: She -- before and
10 after that, worked for a natural gas pipeline.

11 MR. BOWMAN: The statement was about Commissioner
12 LaFleur and her previous employment before she came to work
13 at FERC.

14 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: You said that you are
15 what stands between that kind of corrupt activity.

16 But you have four of the five Commissioners
17 listed on your FERC website. And when you click on their
18 names it tells what fine things they do right now. But if
19 you look at other websites you find out that people like
20 Commissioner LaFleur had very long careers with high-paying
21 jobs as CEOs for natural gas companies.

22 MR. BOWMAN: So I guess the question is is, you
23 know, how --

24 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: So it's money, money,
25 money.

1 MR. BOWMAN: Well, I think one of the things to
2 think about with the Commissioners is that they're appointed
3 by different presidents. So whatever the affiliation of the
4 president is that appointed those Commissioners may tend to
5 lead toward any bias that the Commissioners may have. I
6 don't remember off the top of my head when LaFleur was
7 appointed or who she was appointed under.

8 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: It was for the shale
9 project.

10 MR. PECONOM: I'm sorry --

11 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Obama. She was
12 appointed by Obama, who is -- he's read what his stance is
13 on hydraulic fracturing and tacking into all these natural
14 gas shales throughout this country. He is for it, 100
15 percent.

16 MR. PECONOM: The Commission, like all federal
17 employees and federal appointees, are subject to ethical
18 standards and reviews. I've seen cases where Commissioners
19 have recused themselves because of previous projects and
20 previous work.

21 MR. BOWMAN: I think I'm going to take one more
22 question because we're kind of starting to get into comments
23 now. I want to answer your questions, but I think we're
24 kind of getting more towards kind of comment stuff.

25 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Yes. I'd like to ask

1 a question. Who's gaining from this pipeline coming through
2 our part of the country? Because I'm sixty years old and
3 there's been a pipeline that's less than a half a mile from
4 my grand-dad's farm. And as far as I know, nobody ever
5 received any money from this pipeline going through that
6 part of the country.

7 MR. BOWMAN: Anyone who has a pipeline that
8 crosses their property has to negotiate an easement with the
9 company. And usually with those easements come some form of
10 financial compensation. Even if you can't, you know, it's
11 -- financial compensation gets worked out somewhere or other
12 with an easement negotiation.

13 And, you know, even though there may be end-users
14 who benefit at the end of the line in Florida, people who do
15 get crossed by their property have some sort of
16 compensation.

17 MR. PECONOM: Kevin, I'll be happy to answer
18 process questions afterwards.

19 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah. Yeah. I mean we'll take more
20 process questions after. I don't want to, you know, cut you
21 guys off on your questions. I want to answer them. But I
22 do want to get to, you know, what everyone came in here to
23 sign up for.

24 So I'm going to turn things over to Mitch to do a
25 very, very brief discussion of the project.

1 MR. SHIELDS: Good evening, everyone. As they
2 said, my name is Mitchell Shields. And the purpose of my
3 talk right now is just to give you a few slides so that
4 everybody is on the same page regarding what the Commission
5 is evaluating in this EIS, what specifically is the project.

6 So what we're focusing on here tonight is
7 primarily the Sabal Trail project, which is being proposed
8 by Sabal Trail Transmission. There are two other projects
9 that are separate but considered related that will be
10 evaluated in the EIS, those being the Florida Southeast
11 Connection project and the Hillabee Expansion project.

12 This map shows the projects in relation to each
13 other. The green dashes there represent the Hillabee
14 Expansion project. The blue is the Florida Southeast
15 Connection project. And the red is the Sabal Trail project.

16 All combined, the three projects will affect
17 approximately 13,670 acres of land for the pipeline and
18 above-ground facility construction. They will utilize
19 approximately 100 to 110 feet of construction right-of-way
20 in uplands, and 75 feet of construction right-of-way in
21 wetlands. After they're done they would require
22 approximately 4,320 acres of land to be maintained in
23 permanent easement for the operation of the pipeline and
24 above-ground facilities.

25 This is a map that shows the Hillabee Expansion

1 project. You can see there are different dashes
2 representing the different segments of pipeline that would
3 be constructed adjacent to an existing pipeline system.

4 In all, in Alabama there would be eight pipeline
5 loops total, ranging in diameter from 42 to 48 inches in
6 diameter for 43.6 miles in total. There would be one new
7 compressor station, three existing compressors that we've
8 modified. And these facilities would be phased over several
9 years and would increase the natural gas capacity of the
10 pipeline system by 1.1 billion cubic feet per day by 2021.

11 The Florida Southeast Expansion project is
12 located in central Florida. It's going to involve -- would
13 involve the installation of approximately 126 miles of up to
14 36 inch diameter pipeline and have an initial capacity of
15 approximately 600 million cubic feet per day.

16 And so those two projects are also going to
17 evaluated in the FEIS. But we're primarily here for the
18 Sabal Trail project today.

19 The Sabal Trail project includes a mainline that
20 extends from near Alexander City in Alabama, through
21 Georgia, all the way down into central Florida to what would
22 be a new central Florida hub that would interconnect with
23 two other pipeline systems. It would include what's called
24 the Citrus County lateral, a small pipeline that extends to
25 the east in -- excuse me, to the west in western Florida,

1 and the Hunters Creek lateral, which is another small
2 pipeline. There would be five new compressor stations
3 associated with the Sabal Trail project.

4 This slide provides some details on the phasing
5 of the Sabal Trail construction. In 2017 they would build
6 approximately 460 miles of 36 inch diameter pipeline, that
7 red line that I just showed you. There would be
8 approximately 14 miles of 36 inch diameter pipeline
9 associated with that Hunters Creek line in Osceola and
10 Orange Counties, Florida, and 24 miles of 24 inch diameter
11 pipeline in Marion and Citrus Counties, Florida, that would
12 be associated with the Citrus County line.

13 They would also build three new compressor
14 stations in 2017, those being one in Calahaosa County,
15 Alabama, one in Suwanee, and Osceola County's in Florida.
16 In 2020 they would build two additional compressor stations.
17 That would be one in Dougherty County, Georgia, and Marion
18 County, Florida. And in 2021 they would construct
19 additional compression at two of the stations, those being
20 in Dougherty County and Suwanee County, Florida.

21 The Sabal Trail project would increase natural
22 gas capacity to 1.1 billion cubic feet per day by 2021.

23 Based on comments received to date and the
24 analysis we've done to date, we've identified some
25 particular issues associated with this project that would be

1 evaluated in the EIS. These include agricultural impacts,
2 alternative routes are being evaluated, land use impacts to
3 residences, forestry as examples; pipeline integrity and
4 public safety are issues that have been raised.

5 Certainly there's been issues of groundwater,
6 surface water and water quality; fisheries, wildlife, and
7 threatened and endangered species; karst features, and
8 cultural resources. These and other issues that are
9 identified will be evaluated in the EIS.

10 And now I believe I'll turn it back to Kevin for
11 your public comments. Thank you.

12 MR. BOWMAN: Okay.

13 So we've got a bunch of people signed up to speak
14 tonight. And after I get through the list of people who
15 have signed up to speak I will just kind of open it up to
16 someone who has thought of something while they're sitting
17 down and wants to come up. I just do want to honor the list
18 of people who got here early and signed up.

19 So I kind of let you guys just kind of talk
20 without stating your name when I was walking about. So
21 please do state your name, since this is going into the
22 public record -- the court reporter is getting everything
23 down to give you guys credit. So state and spell your name
24 -- unless it's John Smith, please go ahead and spell that
25 for us. If you're representing a group, an affiliation, a

1 local group, let us know who that is.

2 Since we do have a bunch of people signed up, you
3 know, please keep it to five minutes; certainly please don't
4 go longer than ten just so we can get everyone in. I'd hate
5 to be the last person on the list and, you know, have to be
6 here super-late.

7 And then please just be respectful of the other
8 people while they're speaking.

9 So the first person I have signed up to speak is
10 Mr. Doyle Wethzberker.

11 MR. WETHZBERKER: My questions were answered by
12 you.

13 MR. BOWMAN: I'm sorry?

14 MR. WETHZBERKER: No comments.

15 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. All right.

16 The next person is Mr. Larry Rodgers.

17 Yes, sir, please come up.

18 MR. RODGERS: If you don't mind, I got -- let me
19 use it. I got flat feet.

20 MR. BOWMAN: Sure.

21 MR. RODGERS: Thank you for the opportunity to
22 speak. My name is Larry Rodgers, R-o-d-g-e-r-s. I'm here
23 tonight -- I'm a member of the Specter Busters Incorporated.
24 We're obviously very much in disfavor of this project.
25 Otherwise, I'm here to represent myself.

1 I have a small tract of land, of which you will
2 be going through about a mile and a half of my property.
3 And I've got several questions.

4 The first one: Who would be liable -- I just
5 lost a contract on the sale of part of my property because
6 of this gas line. Who do I look to for that liability? Is
7 it Sabal Trail or John Doe or Santa Clause, or who is it? I
8 mean who do I go to to recover my loss for this sale.

9 Do you have an answer or can anyone answer that?

10 And is there any way to get these answers in
11 writing?

12 MR. BOWMAN: For something that's like a -- the
13 company is carrying liability insurance for operating their
14 pipelines. So if there were to be some sort of incident
15 that would require any sort of insurance, the companies have
16 their own insurance for operating their pipelines. So
17 there's no Santa Clause.

18 MR. RODGERS: What's the name of the company?
19 There are four or five different --

20 MR. PECONOM: Kevin, that's not really addressing
21 his question. He's talking about he lost a sale on
22 property. So it's before the pipeline is even built.

23 MR. BOWMAN: Oh. Okay.

24 MR. PECONOM: And I guess I want to say in terms
25 of, when you give us your comments, we're going to do the

1 best shot we can to answer your questions.

2 MR. RODGERS: Okay.

3 MR. PECONOM: I'm not going to have all the
4 answers tonight.

5 MR. RODGERS: Okay.

6 MR. PECONOM: So that's something I don't have
7 the answer to.

8 MR. RODGERS: Who could answer that for me?

9 MR. PECONOM: Well, I can try to find the answer
10 for you.

11 MR. RODGERS: Okay.

12 MR. PECONOM: I just don't have it for you right
13 now.

14 MR. RODGERS: That's good. I accept that.

15 MR. PECONOM: And I appreciate that.

16 And so again, when everybody comes up and gives
17 comments, if you do have questions, I will try to answer
18 them to the best of my ability. But I might not have them
19 all.

20 MR. RODGERS: I understand.

21 MR. PECONOM: All right. Thank you, sir.

22 MR. RODGERS: Along with that, I'd like to know
23 who is ultimately responsible for value damage to my
24 property -- value damage -- because there definitely will be
25 value damage. So I guess it would be the same answer.

1 That's another question.

2 Next question. Who determines how people are
3 paid for their property. Why -- why is it set in stone that
4 you pay one price forever for the value of the property they
5 use when they're going to be making profits on that forever?
6 Why don't they share the profits with the land-owner?

7 The land-owner has to continue to pay property
8 taxes, so I don't understand why they can't, you know, can't
9 share the profits.

10 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Why can't they rent?

11 MR. RODGERS: The next -- and I think the last
12 question I've got -- I've got good news for you all tonight,
13 for you people making this decision. Number one, I want to
14 make it clear that I'm not for this pipeline, period. The
15 good news is is in Lowndes County, the largest land-owner in
16 this county I understand is in favor of this project. I
17 consider it forestry property would be a much better use for
18 this pipeline rather than somebody's backyard or next to a
19 school --

20 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Absolutely.

21 MR. RODGERS: -- or through somebody's cattle
22 pastures. The Langdale Company, you can take their route
23 through this county and leave everybody else alone, and you
24 won't hurt anything but a pine tree.

25 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Absolutely.

1 MR. RODGERS: If you don't consider that then you
2 all are not really concerned about the environment. And
3 that's --

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah. Those are very great
6 comments. Thanks.

7 I would emphasize, going to continue along the
8 line of the environmental comments, that helps us. You
9 know, as specific as possible helps us the most. Thank you.

10 The next person signed up is Mr. Tom Lovett.

11 MR. LOVETT: My name is Tom Lovett. It's
12 L-o-v-e-t-t. I'm representing my family. We own a family
13 farm, and we have an existing gas pipeline that goes through
14 it. And the proposed route, of course, is to go right
15 beside it. And our position is that one pipeline is enough
16 for one family and one property.

17 The proposed pipeline would actually be on the
18 south side of the existing pipeline, which would put it very
19 close to our residence. And my only comment really is to
20 just ask for the Commission to please consider the re-route
21 request that I've made. And I won't reiterate what I've put
22 in that as far as the reasons for the re-route. But I
23 submitted that via email and I copied John with that email,
24 so it should be a matter of record.

25 If you like, I'll be happy to submit a written

1 print copy of that email. But it just sets forth the
2 re-route around the property that we own, but it also
3 re-routes other properties where there are residences, there
4 are multiple houses that would be directly impacted by this
5 proposed pipeline.

6 On the other hand, the re-route avoids not only
7 my house, but other houses as well. And the re-route
8 doesn't involve any of the -- either my house or the other
9 houses that I refer to in my email.

10 The re-route also avoids what would be crossing
11 over construction over a number of wetland areas that I also
12 identified in the email because I provided a wetland map
13 that I obtained from the South Georgia RDC office. And on
14 the wetland map you can clearly see the wetlands depicted
15 there that would be crossed over or intruded upon if the
16 proposed route is not re-routed.

17 That's my comment. And if you want, I'll be glad
18 to hand up my re-route request in support of what I'm asking
19 you all to consider.

20 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. LOVETT: Would you like it?

22 MR. PECONOM: You can hand it to us, yes.

23 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker signed up is Ms.
24 Gretchen Quarterman.

25 MS. QUARTERMAN: My name is Gretchen Quarterman,

1 G-r-e-t-c-h-e-n Q-u-a-r-t-e-r-m-a-n. I'm here on behalf of
2 the Lowndes County Democratic Party.

3 The Lowndes County Democratic Party voted on
4 Saturday to oppose the Sabal Trail methane pipeline slated
5 to run through Lowndes County. Georgia Democrats believe
6 that we have a moral obligation to leave our children and
7 grandchildren an earth safe and beautiful and as majestic as
8 the one bequeathed to us by our parents and grandparents.

9 The Sabal Trail pipeline proposed to move liquid
10 natural gas from fracking sites to Florida. Fracking is a
11 known polluting technique, leaving behind undrinkable water
12 and unusable earth.

13 Florida is the Sunshine State and could generate
14 any needed electricity from less expensive and more
15 environmentally-friendly renewable sources of solar and
16 wind.

17 Tonight I heard that there's going to be 13,000
18 acres on the pipeline. 13,000 acres of solar could make a
19 lot of electricity.

20 Georgia Democrats believe in and uphold every
21 citizen's rights to equal and impartial justice under the
22 law. The taking of private property by a private company is
23 a property rights issue.

24 Putting corporations above citizens is not equal,
25 nor is it impartial. Lowndes County property owners have a

1 right to say who can and cannot use their property and the
2 liquid natural gas pipeline that benefits no Georgians is a
3 property rights violation.

4 There are safety concerns and maintenance issues
5 which have resulted in explosions, fires and death. The
6 safety of Lowndes County citizens should be a top priority
7 of our local, state and federal governments. The Lowndes
8 County Democratic Party rejects the necessity and
9 appropriateness of this application.

10 The particulars that when the County Party made
11 the statement that they considered were the Floridian
12 aquifer. The aquifer is where people from middle Georgia
13 all through Florida drink our water.

14 If we drill underneath the Withlacoochee River
15 there's the possibility that the river will flow directly
16 into the aquifer. That happens north of Valdosta where the
17 river flows into the aquifer. That could happen if you
18 drill under the river. It's an environmentally-sensitive
19 area.

20 The pipeline is proposed to go across aquifer
21 recharge zones. That's where we get our drinking water. We
22 really must protect the drinking water of Georgians and
23 Floridians.

24 I don't know if you've noticed lately, but there
25 are a lot of sink holes. You know, like Snake Nation Road

1 fell into a sinkhole, and a fire truck in Atlanta got sucked
2 up by a sink hole yesterday. So those sink holes are a real
3 problem. You can't just say, 'Well, we're going to make
4 this and it's going to be stable and it will never fall into
5 a sink hole.' It's going to fall into a sink hole. It's a
6 problem.

7 And a gentleman just in the back said, you know,
8 if you cut down a tree and it's 300 years old, it's not
9 going to come back for 300 years. And that's not right to
10 leave our earth with trees that aren't 300 years old for our
11 children and grandchildren.

12 Thank you.

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

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. BOWMAN: The next person that's signed up is
16 John S. Quarterman. Mr. John S. Quarterman.

17 I'm going to just trade you mics, then, I guess.

18 MR. QUARTERMAN: This one?

19 MR. BOWMAN: Yes.

20 MR. QUARTERMAN: Sure.

21 MR. BOWMAN: I think the other one's broken.

22 MR. QUARTERMAN: That's Quarterman --

23 MR. BOWMAN: If you could please still stand up.

24 MR. QUARTERMAN: Q-u-a-r-t-e-r-m-a-n.

25 It is, for example, the same as is spelled on the

1 email from John Peconom in which he refused to provide a
2 copy of the RFP for the environmental contractor and
3 referred me to Sabal Trail for this RFP, which is, if I'm
4 not mistaken, was actually issued by FERC, a federal agency.
5 It seems very odd. Why can't we get a copy of the
6 tax-funded RFP.

7 Also, FERC of course does have places to put
8 stuff about this project, the e-comment system. There are
9 numerous e-comments labeled PF14-1, and FERC itself often
10 files documents there for everyone to see. So there is a
11 place to put such things.

12 But what I'd really like to talk about here is
13 the big picture. To quote Mr. Peconom, the Commission will
14 ultimately approve the pipeline. He said that a few minutes
15 ago. He said, 'Our job is to regulate it.'

16 He said the first question -- I don't even
17 remember. But it wasn't what I think should be the first
18 question. The first question should be is there even any
19 need for this project. And according to FERC's own
20 guidelines -- is that one?

21 These are always too short.

22 According to FERC's own guidelines for
23 environmental assessments, that's the very first question
24 that the pipeline company is supposed to answer: Is there
25 any need for this project. And the only assertions we've

1 seen for the need for this project do come from the pipeline
2 company and Florida Power & Light, two companies which stand
3 to profit from this pipeline.

4 Okay. So that's one part of the big picture.
5 One of the second parts of the big picture, which you heard
6 alluded to earlier, is are there any alternatives. That's
7 the second thing that that guideline document requires a
8 pipeline company to address.

9 Now it's kind of interesting that in Minnesota
10 about a month ago a judge ruled that solar power is a better
11 deal for ratepayers than natural gas, and ordered Excel to
12 go solar instead of natural gas. That's in Minnesota, a
13 thousand miles north of the Sunshine State.

14 I can provide the citation, although as we've
15 heard recommended before, you can google for it, I suppose.

16 And the pipeline company did file the document
17 with the requested name, which I have here. Lots of these
18 are comments on it, which I won't even read all of them.
19 You can find it online. It's a Draft Resource Report 10,
20 Alternatives, otherwise known as RR-10.

21 You can find it either on FERC's filing system
22 under PF14-1, where also the pipeline company files
23 documents related to this project. So FERC does indeed have
24 a place on its website for this project. Or you can find it
25 on the Specter Buster site.

1 I forgot to say I am also a board member of
2 Specter Busters, which is opposed to this project.

3 All right. So this RR-10 has things like -- it
4 says in 2010 renewable energy sources contributed only an
5 eight percent share of U.S. power. Okay? That's very
6 interesting. But 2010?

7 According to FERC's own numbers on solar power,
8 solar power production in the U.S. is growing about 65
9 percent per year, according to FERC's own numbers on FERC's
10 own website. And that means it doubles in about 2.5 years,
11 which means -- this is more than 2.5 years later, so that's
12 at least twice as much.

13 And according to FERC's own numbers, indeed there
14 is. And it's been continuing this rate of increasing
15 deployments of solar power by sixty-plus percent for years,
16 and looks likely to continue that for some time.

17 To the extent that Jon Wellinghoff, the former
18 Chair of FERC -- until recently he was the chair -- he
19 predicted only a few months ago that solar is going to be
20 producing more power in the U.S. than any other source
21 within ten years.

22 So we have a document here that cites renewable
23 energy in 2010 with nothing about growth rates. And I
24 promise not to read all of it. But it just goes on about
25 that.

1 It talks about wind. It says nothing about
2 offshore wind, which anybody who's looked into it knows the
3 best source of wind power near Georgia or north Florida is
4 off the coast. It claims that solar would require more land
5 than a natural gas pipeline.

6 Now I did a very conservative number here for 50
7 feet side by 500 miles is about 3000 acres. But then we
8 heard here -- I think the number was 13,000 acres for the
9 pipeline? I mean even if you took the -- I mean you could
10 produce a lot of solar power on that.

11 In particular, the estimate in this document here
12 says it would take -- I'm not finding the number right here,
13 but it's less than 13,000 acres to produce just as much from
14 solar power. And remember, those acres don't have to be
15 cleared; most of them are on rooftops or on already cleared
16 land.

17 It just goes on and on like that.

18 Oh, yes. The majority of the area on the natural
19 gas pipeline will revert to original conditions. So those
20 300 year old trees are going to magically re-grow.

21 People who do forestry who can't do forestry any
22 more, well, that's just going to magically get fixed.

23 And they say that solar is not as reliable. What
24 about the explosions, like on Transco's pipeline in 2011?
25 That's the same pipeline that Sabal Trail wants to connect

1 to, one of the three you just heard talked about. It blew
2 up, flames 100 feet up; heard more than thirty miles away;
3 left a crater 50 feet wide and destroyed 65 acres of trees;
4 fired five acres of soil into pottery, and launched a 43
5 foot pipe section 190 feet away. And that's far from the
6 only one.

7 And it also claims, this RR-10 document claims
8 solar would take longer. Well, consider for example the
9 solar hill -- the Sandy Hill Solar Farm in Elm City in North
10 Carolina, which you can see from I-95. That took nine
11 months from changing local ordinances to turning on the
12 power. And that's about the longest I've ever heard of for
13 solar projects.

14 And solar could be -- the conclusion of this
15 RR-10 is the land requirements needed by the solar power to
16 generate the amount of energy equivalent to that to satisfy
17 the purpose and ground impacts required for solar power
18 compared to natural gas, solar power is not a viable option.

19 That's what their whole argument is based on.
20 Solar would take more land. Someone actually sent this as a
21 serious document.

22 If this kind of disinformation about wind and
23 solar -- I'm using a polite word -- is what FERC is going on
24 to justify eminent domain for this pipeline, this is a very
25 flimsy justification, very flimsy.

1 So then there's the whole environmental issue for
2 which -- let me read from a statement by the Sierra Club.
3 The Sierra Club Chapters of Florida, Georgia and Alabama
4 just put out this statement today. And in part it reads:

5 "The proposed pipeline will cut a wide swath
6 through pristine lands with resulting negative critical
7 wildlife habitat, invaluable wetlands, long-leaf pine
8 forests, the fragile and irreplaceable Floridian aquifer,
9 streams, rivers and springs, and private property rights.
10 Furthermore, expanding reliance on front to natural gas only
11 serves to feed the increasingly destructive effects of
12 drilling for and tracking of shale deposits that have
13 destroyed drinking water resources in entire communities
14 across the country. And the Sunshine State would do much
15 better with energy efficiency measures and solar capacity
16 than increasing its dependence on natural gas."

17 Okay. Now we're led to believe by the FERC that
18 this environmental review will determine whether there are
19 adverse environmental effects. Yet we can't see the RFP by
20 which the contractor was selected. We can't see the
21 proposal that the contractor produced. We don't know
22 anything about the contractor's background except -- well,
23 what we just heard. Well, why should we believe this
24 environmental review?

25 So I'm opposed to this pipeline for all these

1 reasons, starting with the three biggest questions of:

2 Do we need it? No.

3 Is there a better alternative? Yes: solar
4 energy.

5 Will it adversely affect the environment? Yes.

6 None of these questions have been adequately even
7 addressed by FERC much less answered. FERC should reject
8 this pipeline. And it should never even have gotten this
9 far.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Mr. James Ryder.

14 MR. RYDER: I'm James Ryder. And I represent our
15 family that owns a piece of property -- and my family's
16 owned that piece of property for many generations -- in
17 Brooks County out on Spain Lane.

18 My name is James, J-a-m-e-s R-y-d-e-r, like the
19 truck line.

20 Back in December I sent out a survey to my fellow
21 Brooks Countians about the pipeline asking just a couple of
22 simple questions. One of the questions was: Do you know
23 about this pipeline that's coming through. All right? And
24 most of the answers were yes, they had heard rumors about
25 it.

1 The next question was: Do you want this pipeline
2 to come through Brooks County. And overwhelmingly, almost
3 100 percent, said no. So the overwhelming opinion of Brooks
4 County, of those who have responded, is absolutely no, we do
5 not want this to come through our county.

6 Many reasons for that. Number one, back 55 years
7 ago my father-in-law and many other people from Brooks
8 County sat in on meetings probably just like this in which
9 Sonat forced through a pipeline through Brooks County. All
10 right? Fortunately, we haven't had very many incidents.
11 We're lucky.

12 But at the same time that pipeline has had a
13 major impact on many of the properties within Brooks County.
14 You cannot plant a pine tree on top of the gas easement.
15 That means that revenue has been taken out for people who
16 are foresters. You cannot plant pecan trees or peach trees
17 or any tree that has a root on it in that acreage.

18 That may seem very minimal, but it is a source of
19 an income to people, which is majorly a farming community.
20 It has a deep impact.

21 The second thing is on that impact is this
22 pipeline is going down a corridor right by the Sonat
23 pipeline. Many of the people who are involved here in this
24 pipeline going down there have already had their property
25 impacted by a third -- by selling, because they cannot sell

1 that off, as well as the next person who has no encumbrance
2 -- or, you know, they have been deeply impacted by it.

3 Well, the question is: Why can't this pipeline
4 -- why can't the wealth be shared by some of the other
5 people around us and route this pipeline further to the west
6 or further to the east and follow other people whose lines
7 have not been impacted by this, to be able to share the
8 wealth here rather than just continue to take away from the
9 few, because you can.

10 I've heard the argument that says that, 'Well,
11 we're doing this, we're putting this down through this
12 corridor because there's already an existing pipeline
13 there.' Well, 55 years ago our forefathers said, 'We don't
14 want this pipeline here.' But the eminent domain, because
15 of the threat of it, forced them to take a pipeline through.

16 I don't know what the answer is. But I wish
17 that, like many Brooks Countians, I wish this was somewhere
18 other than there on that part.

19 I've got a couple of questions on here.

20 Is it true -- all right? -- that the pipeline
21 cannot be laid in the same corridor within a -- and what is
22 the distance that is necessary for the pipeline to be away
23 from the Sonat gas line? I mean you can plant the pipeline
24 46 inches or five feet underground, under a road, under a
25 crop field or anything else like that. But you can't put it

1 within five feet of an existing pipeline. Why not? Right?

2 That would be a minimum impact. But Sabal Trails
3 is not looking at minimum impact.

4 We have proposed a couple of proposals to Sabal
5 Trails about going around certain places. And I've also
6 made on record to the FERC about those suggestions. I won't
7 go over them at this moment. I will -- I do have a printout
8 and I will give that to you a little bit later.

9 The thing is, when you commit to this pipeline --
10 if you do -- then it should be minimum impact, both
11 environmental and economical to those people that are around
12 rather than running through fields. It's directly -- it
13 should run somewhere along property lines wherever possible,
14 especially if they are major property owners, where it is
15 economical, feasible.

16 Another question for you: In your brochure that
17 you sent out to us you had a statement of an intervenor, I
18 guess it was, the definition. At the end of the meeting I'd
19 like you to address that a little bit and tell what that is
20 and how to become one and why it is important on that.

21 As I asked and have been told, that Sabal Trails
22 says that some of the routing that they cannot do is because
23 they have to stay within a quarter of a mile of the current
24 corridor. Is that true, or is that just something that
25 we're being told?

1 Another question I have for you guys to address
2 on here is on your slide presentation on your map you show a
3 link, a line out into Citrus County link going from the
4 pipeline out to what appears to be a gulf port terminus.
5 Now I'm also a Floridian and I own property in Florida.
6 Fortunately, I'm not impacted by the gas pipeline in
7 Florida. But that terminus, what is the actual purpose of
8 that particular terminus and why is it there?

9 I would be a guess -- just an opinion of mine --
10 that this is for future sale of oil and gas overseas. And
11 if that being the case, then I would absolutely reject this
12 entire pipeline, because America right now is fighting for
13 its resources and they need to stay at home in the political
14 statement.

15 The next thing. In your slide summary you had a
16 -- your presentation, I noticed that you specifically left
17 out on your slide that you're considering the impact on
18 property equal -- property values, tourism and recreational
19 resources. But you left that out of your slide. Are you
20 still considering that when you take your consideration of
21 the pipeline?

22 Also, the impacts on land use. As I have said,
23 when they put a pipeline through our area -- and we have
24 significant wetlands that we have to deal with, and natural
25 springs. We have natural ponds. We even have a sink hole

1 -- what would appear to be a sink hole that is open to the
2 aquifer in our area. It is along Coon Creek. Going through
3 there will absolutely disturb all of that wetland. Even if
4 it's just minor it will disturb it.

5 So I ask you to take into consideration the
6 impact that it has on our particular piece of real estate,
7 but also on the other real estates within Brooks County
8 there. Everybody there is impacted by it, you know, from
9 what they can do with the future value of their property
10 where they'll no longer, if a -- as one gentleman has back
11 here, if a gas pipe goes -- another gas pipe goes through
12 his property, his property is going to be devalued greatly.

13 There is nobody here in this room that would
14 dispute that fact, unless you're the one who wants to put
15 that gas line through.

16 Going back to my political statement agenda,
17 eminent domain here. 1955 -- or about 55 years ago, I'm
18 sorry, 55 years ago when Sonat put their pipeline through
19 Brooks County eminent domain was a prominent aspect.
20 Eminent domain comes from the Fifth Amendment, as you are
21 well aware, which says that yes, the government does have
22 the right for, you know, the public -- for public good to
23 eminent domain. They also say that they will justly
24 compensate the people for that eminent domain right.

25 That is a noble cause in many cases. But here we

1 have a company that is saying that, 'We're going to supply
2 gas to a major company down in Florida -- Florida Gas &
3 Power -- for future references.' That's good. Why do we
4 have the Citrus County linked in? Is that the Florida Gas &
5 Power link? I don't think so.

6 I think there's a motive here that goes beyond
7 just the putting in of the gas line for Florida Power, and
8 which, being a capitalist myself, you know, I believe in
9 making a good profit for companies and all. But here we
10 are, through the use of eminent domain, the potential of
11 eminent domain, you have the possibility of taking and
12 rough-riding over people in a rural area and turning around
13 and taking their land, because you can eminent domain it.
14 They don't have any choice. They can only, you know, go so
15 far as to saying how much are we willing to stop and wait
16 to, you know, put that value up, what is the value of our
17 property. And it changes daily.

18 But here they are going to make profit for one
19 year, maybe two at the most, but a very small portion of it.
20 And they can only consider today's value, not future values.
21 Whereas Sabal Trails and the other companies that are
22 involved here will be making profits for many years to come.
23 And this should be addressed or be thought of in your
24 consideration on it.

25 Now I have created a website, and anyone who

1 wants to get with me after the program can do so and we'll
2 talk about that.

3 But the problem is that this particular project
4 should be moved away from where it is, out of where it is,
5 because it is still impacting those few people that are, you
6 know, have already been impacted by a pipeline 55 years ago
7 through eminent domain. And they are now again saying,
8 'Here we go ahead. Here comes this pipeline. And we can do
9 what? Go to the court system, which is very costly. We can
10 go to our government officials. Well, they've already
11 basically approved this thing.'

12 You know, and you still have to say whether or
13 not you're going to approve it. Hey, let's be realistic,
14 you know? It's going to be approved, unfortunately.

15 But like I say, it should be moved because it's
16 going to impact the same people who have already paid in the
17 past. Let's move it or at least make another corridor for
18 it to come down somewhere else; get away from it.

19 Now personally, from my family, we personal
20 oppose --

21 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. Ryder, it's been almost fifteen
22 minutes. If you can conclude. Have you anything else you
23 --

24 MR. RYDER: Well, I'll ask these questions. I'll
25 ask these questions and answers, if you wish.

1 MR. BOWMAN: Yeah. We'll get to your questions
2 once I've gone through everyone.

3 MR. RYDER: Does anyone object to me going on for
4 a few more minutes?

5 MR. BOWMAN: I have one more person signed up
6 after you.

7 MR. RYDER: Okay.

8 MR. BOWMAN: It's a Mr. Hastings --

9 MR. RYDER: I'll make it brief.

10 MR. BOWMAN: Okay.

11 MR. RYDER: I'll make it brief.

12 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. Well, then, we'll go on.

13 MR. RYDER: Our biggest complaint in our area is
14 that it doesn't take consideration of the property values
15 itself currently, and it doesn't take consideration of
16 wetlands or anything else that are impacted.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you, sir.

19 (Appause.)

20 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. Hastings, did you want to come
21 up still?

22 Okay. I've gone through everyone who's signed
23 up. Is there anyone else who would like to come up and
24 orally comment?

25 I see a hand raised. Come on up.

1 MS. CLARK: Thank you for allowing this forum,
2 first of all.

3 My name is Kelley Clark, K-e-l-l-e-y C-l-a-r-k.

4 I'm a property owner here and a Floridian by
5 birth. So I'm heart-broken by this. I've watched the
6 Gasland documentaries. I'm heart-broken by what's happening
7 everywhere, not just here. I didn't think it would be
8 knocking at our doors this quickly.

9 Sabal Trail is a limited liability company and
10 it's formed by Spectra and Next Era, who have been
11 substantially fined. Their infrastructure has failed on
12 many occasions. The Florida Turnpike is a great example of
13 a segment of pipeline shooting into the air. Luckily it did
14 not land on the high school nearby, or someone's home.
15 That's so frightening to me.

16 And so I would just ask that you consider the
17 report card of the companies that are forming this limited
18 liability company. And we all know what a limited liability
19 company is. Good luck when the pipelines in your living
20 room or your child's classroom; who are you going to sue, if
21 you can even find out who they are.

22 There are states where fracturing is being done
23 and people are not being able to obtain homeowners'
24 insurance any longer. So it will be a matter of time now
25 before homeowners and property owners will not be able to

1 obtain insurance near pipelines.

2 And based on their prior report cards and their
3 failures and their infrastructure and the possibility of
4 this community not being able to see their day in court with
5 an LLC or be able to recoup their losses through an
6 insurance company. Not to mention all of the things that --
7 I mean we've all watched Gasland, I hope. I hope you've
8 watched at least the first one if not the second one.

9 If there are other options, please consider them.

10 That's all.

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

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. BOWMAN: Does anyone else want to speak?

14 MS. ANDERSON: I just want to say one thing.

15 I'll be real brief.

16 My name is Janice Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I'm
17 representing my mother, Mary Anderson. We're from the
18 Macovalang area.

19 And my concern is with this pipeline coming
20 through our farm. She rents the land out, and usually it's
21 done on a year by year basis. But what if I tell the farmer
22 we rent it out -- now what if the farmer that I'm renting to
23 says, 'I know I've been renting from you year by year, but
24 now will you just contract me for ten years,' and I say yes.

25 I'm giving him that land for ten years. How do I

1 protect myself from a law suit when those pipelines come
2 through there and he can't farm the land? He is not making
3 any profit; we're not making any profits. He can turn
4 around and sue us.

5 And I know the land will eventually revert. But
6 what is he supposed to do with his crops in the time being?
7 That's something that I really would like you all to
8 consider because it's really going to affect our farm land.

9 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: And we already have
10 one pipeline near my house.

11 MS. ANDERSON: Yeah, we're one of those 55 year
12 people.

13 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: And this one's going
14 to come right through the south of us, right down south of
15 my house. And no matter where that -- where I stay here
16 it's classified as wetlands. And it's just... I haven't
17 gave permission for them to come on my land. And I really
18 hadn't planned to give permission for them to come on my
19 land. I don't know what's going to happen. I don't want no
20 money.

21 MS. ANDERSON: That's our basic concern, with us
22 renting land out for farm -- for farmers, how do we protect
23 ourself when he needs the land.

24 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: That land's been in
25 the family anywhere from 75 to 100 years, and it's our whole

1 family's land.

2 MS. ANDERSON: Our property.

3 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Our property. Our
4 property.

5 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. That's all I --

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

7 MS. ANDERSON: Are you done, Mama?

8 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Uh-huh.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. BOWMAN: Anyone else?

11 Yes, sir.

12 MR. KICKLIGHTER: I'm doing a little arithmetic
13 there, John.

14 In the year 2012 Florida used 1,318,000,000,000
15 cubic feet of gas, the State of Florida. Okay? The FTT
16 pipeline provided 1,095,000,000,000; Gulfstream Pipeline
17 provided 474 billion, for a total of 1,569,000,000,000.
18 They had 251 billion cubic foot excess.

19 In the last year of 2011, which was the last year
20 for statistics, Florida had a six billion cubic foot
21 reserve. And they had a 19 billion production.

22 Now bear in mind, Sabal is not sending cubic
23 feet. They're sending dekatherms. A dekatherm is a whole
24 lot more than a cubic foot.

25 Now they want to send 800,000 dekatherms the

1 first two or three years, which amounts to 7,788,000,000
2 cubic feet per day. It comes out to 1,000,842,620,000 cubic
3 foot per year.

4 Now when you jack it up to 1,000,100 dekatherms,
5 they're going to be sending 10,736,000 cubic feet per day.
6 In a year they will be sending 5,000,918,640,000. So what
7 are they going to do with that four trillion cubic foot
8 excess in 2021? I guess we'll find out.

9 MR. BOWMAN: Could you restate your name, sir? I
10 didn't get it.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. BOWMAN: Sir, what was your name? What was
13 your name? I didn't catch it.

14 MR. KICKLIGHTER: Lonald Kicklighter.

15 MR. ACEVEDO: Are you ready?

16 MR. BOWMAN: Yes.

17 MR. ACEVEDO: My name is Dante, D-a-n-t-e, last
18 name Acevedo, A-c-e-v-e-d-o.

19 And I think I can speak for most people that are
20 sane in this room. This pipeline -- this metal gas hose is
21 a nightmare project -- proposed project. But as the
22 gentleman here was saying, the government's probably going
23 to okay the project.

24 You know, this thing is not just an environmental
25 issue. This is a habitability issue.

1 Anybody -- unless you've got a lifetime supply of
2 Valium or something that can keep you in place, you know,
3 anywhere near half a mile to this thing, then you're good.
4 But unless they plan on doing that for everybody, you know,
5 they're going to have to make some sort of provisions for
6 relocating people that are anywhere in the vicinity of this
7 pipeline.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. BOWMAN: Additional speakers?

10 MS. HANER: I have a bad case of laryngitis.

11 Sheila Haner, S-h-e-i-l-a H-a-n-e-r.

12 I hear everybody talking and asking the questions
13 are we going to be compensated and things like that. My
14 husband and I think we do have a voice -- it might be small
15 in some places; it might be large in other places. The
16 places we think it might be small, we can make it louder in
17 other places.

18 Sabal Trail is a company. Companies negotiate
19 deals every day.

20 When we were a little kid we negotiated five more
21 minutes to watch TV; five more minutes, Mom, please. Well,
22 sometimes it worked; sometimes it didn't.

23 We can negotiate anything in this deal for our
24 land that we want to. Insurance, because we're going to
25 have something possibly blow up because it's not going to

1 insurance -- home insurance is going to drop us. We can
2 negotiate a continuously paid payment instead of just paying
3 for our land one time and that's it. We can negotiate for,
4 if it does blow up, a rental car, a place to stay for
5 months, clothes.

6 We can negotiate lots of things if we all can
7 concentrate on this and figure it out. Anything is
8 negotiable. If we want a glass of water, that's negotiable.

9 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: If all you care about
10 is money.

11 MS. HAMER: Which is what Sabal Trail does. We
12 know they're a business. We also need to know if we make a
13 bunch of noise, maybe Sabal Trail will not go through the
14 area we're going through. True, the squeaky wheel does
15 sometimes get replaced; but sometimes it's oiled and we're
16 taken care of.

17 If your property value is decreasing, start
18 making a record of how it decreases; of sales that did not
19 go through. Start recording things that happen and things
20 that you see.

21 MR. RYDER: I have a rhetorical question for the
22 young lady here.

23 MR. PECONOM: Well, sir, the purpose was for her
24 to give us comments, and you can get with her afterwards, if
25 you like.

1 MR. RYDER: Well, I would like this to the rest
2 of the people also.

3 MR. PECONOM: When it's your turn you can come up
4 and give comments.

5 MR. RYDER: It's a rhetorical question.

6 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Ryder.

7 MR. RYDER: It's what happens when --

8 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Ryder, you had fifteen minutes
9 earlier.

10 MR. RYDER: That's right.

11 MR. PECONOM: I want to go through the whole list
12 of people. I saw two hands in the back.

13 So unless you're done...

14 MS. HANER: Nothing's perfect. But you have a
15 voice. That's what I wanted to say, even though I don't
16 have one.

17 MR. RYDER: Ma'am.

18 MR. PECONOM: She came to give comments. So
19 thank you, sir.

20 Thank you, ma'am. I appreciate your comments.

21 I saw a hand.

22 MS. JORDAN: My name is Ann Jordan. I just
23 wanted to relay a message that was released today on behalf
24 of the Georgia, Florida and Alabama Chapters of the Sierra
25 Club. This is out of Atlanta, Georgia today.

1 The Georgia, Florida and Alabama Chapters of the
2 Sierra Club imposed a 650 mile Sabal Trail Transmission
3 natural gas pipeline that would carry fracked natural gas
4 extracted from Pennsylvania and Texas through Alabama,
5 Georgia, and Florida.

6 Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC, is a joint venture
7 between Specter Energy and Next Era Energy. Specter Energy
8 and its related companies have been fined repeatedly for
9 safety and environmental violations throughout the United
10 States, including one fine of \$15 million.

11 The proposed pipeline would cut a swath through
12 pristine lands with resulting negative critical wildlife
13 habitat, invaluable wetlands, long-leaf pine forests, the
14 fragile and irreplaceable Floridian aquifer, streams, rivers
15 and springs, and private property rights. Furthermore,
16 expanded reliance on fracked natural gas only serves to feed
17 the increasingly destructive effects of drilling for and
18 fracking of shale deposits that have destroyed drinking
19 water resources in entire communities across the country.

20 The Sunshine State, which will be the sole
21 recipient of the fracked natural gas transported through
22 this pipeline, should expand energy efficiency measures and
23 solar power capacity rather than increase its dependence on
24 natural gas, which already accounts for more than 60 percent
25 of Florida's electricity generation.

1 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. BOWMAN: I think I saw a hand on the right
4 side of the room. Yes, sir.

5 MR. FAY: Hi. My name is Stan Fay. That's
6 spelled F-a-y. And I have a question, probably for the
7 consultant. You would probably know this.

8 As I look at the map and they're talking about
9 the Citrus line. And the gentleman that was up a couple
10 people before was stating of all the gas that's going down
11 there, the increase. Is that an export facility? Is that
12 tying Transco into an export facility down there? Is that
13 what it's about?

14 MR. PECONOM: I'll answer that question. It's my
15 understanding that there is a proposal to build an
16 additional gas generation plant at that location at the
17 terminus of the Citrus line.

18 MR. FAY: All right.

19 MR. PECONOM: It's my understanding that there
20 are no plans -- well, there's no plans that I'm aware of for
21 the export of natural gas from that area.

22 MR. FAY: Okay.

23 Well, I don't think Transco has an export
24 facility, so I was just -- it kind of looks like that that's
25 a good way to get one on the Gulf of Mexico. Because this

1 gentleman was stating the drastic increase of gas going down
2 there, and what are they going to do with all of it. And
3 they can only burn so much at a power plant.

4 And all the drillers and all the people in North
5 Dakota and west Texas, everybody's clamoring now to try to
6 get export licenses and permits from you guys to start
7 exporting. Everybody's trying to do that. So this could be
8 a big huge pipeline trying to tie into the Gulf of Mexico
9 for exporting. I mean it's on the map.

10 So I don't know if that's the plan. I think
11 these guys should probably know the answer to that.

12 So, anyway, that's my comment.

13 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. BOWMAN: Additional speakers?

16 Yes, the sole hand to the right.

17 You're next, with the glasses. I saw your hand.

18 MR. AKINS: My name is John, John Akins,
19 A-k-i-n-s.

20 And I just wanted to ask any people up here if
21 you all have ever had or will have pipelines running through
22 your land or land that your family owns or has owned for
23 generations, or you've got a knock on your door? It's a
24 question, I guess.

25 MR. BOWMAN: My brother has a pipeline across his

1 land. And I current live on the Reef Bay Electric
2 transmission line.

3 MR. AKINS: Okay. Well, that's not an electric
4 line but a pipeline. Neither of you all do either?

5 MR. PECONOM: I live in Washington, D.C., so I
6 don't have a natural gas transmission pipeline. My parents
7 have a water transmission pipeline going across their
8 property.

9 MR. AKINS: Okay.

10 I was just wondering -- I mean if it was running
11 right through your front door step, you know, would you be
12 for it? Would you be working for this company? Because I
13 don't think you would. That's just my opinion, you know;
14 I'm giving comments and opinions.

15 But I think your opinion might be a little bit
16 different and you'd probably be working for a different
17 company if it was coming through your land and your family's
18 land.

19 MR. BOWMAN: I think if someone came knocking on
20 my door step I think I would be very concerned.

21 MR. AKINS: Right.

22 MR. BOWMAN: I would be very -- I would want to
23 be very engaged and active in the process and I would be at
24 these scoping meetings asking the same question as yourself.

25 MR. AKINS: Right.

1 Well, I just wanted to know -- I just wanted to
2 you all's opinion on it, you know, what you would think. I
3 still don't know what you all think about it. I guess you
4 all would be for it and you'd say, 'Come right on,' you
5 know, 'Ruin the river I fish in and have my whole life,' or
6 --

7 MR. PECONOM: Yeah, the FERC is not for or
8 against the project. It's for the environmental review
9 process. So if I could ask --

10 MR. AKINS: I just wanted to know your opinion on
11 if it was you.

12 MR. PECONOM: Well, my opinion is for the
13 environmental review process; and what that process, you
14 know, results in we'll find out. But that's what --

15 MR. AKINS: Right.

16 MR. PECONOM: -- my opinion is. I'd be for a
17 process.

18 MR. AKINS: Well, you just heard our opinions.
19 So I just thought, you know, some --

20 MR. PECONOM: I appreciate it. Thank you, sir.

21 MR. AKINS: -- people would like to know what you
22 all's opinions were.

23 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you, Mr. Akins.

24 (Appause.)

25 MR. BOWMAN: I think I saw a hand there -- Yeah.

1 MS. SINGLETARY: It's odd being up here.

2 My name is Carol Singletary, C-a-r-o-l
3 S-i-n-g-l-e-t-a-r-y.

4 One thing I want to say is thank you all for
5 coming and giving us this opportunity to share our concerns.
6 And we also do appreciate the extension of time that we've
7 been given to get our concerns addressed.

8 One thing that you all have done that I really
9 appreciate is I think the concerns about staying within that
10 300 feet, realizing that is not a requirement when we offer
11 our re-routes. So we have offered several that really go
12 outside of that range. And so we appreciate that
13 clarification.

14 My husband always says it takes twice for making
15 myself understood. That first question I had was about the
16 actual project. When you're going through the site, is this
17 a feasible project? Like Mr. Kicklighter, with all that
18 excess of natural gas already going to Florida, how is that
19 considered?

20 And also, Florida is needing this. So what due
21 diligence are you all considering with what have they done
22 in the State of Florida to ensure that they have reduced
23 their demand against the grid as much as they can. Have
24 they used, you know, the most energy efficient lighting in
25 the streets, stop signs, buildings?

1 Have they elected to try to implement, you know,
2 solar energy in their own federal and state and local
3 buildings? You know, how much could that pull off the grid.
4 You know, has the actual pipelines that already are coming
5 into Florida, are they maximized?

6 And that looping thing you all were talking
7 about, is that something that could be used with the
8 existing pipeline coming into Florida that could increase
9 capacity to help FP&L.

10 So those were some of the questions I have about
11 how those things are looked at when you're making the
12 decision on whether the actual project is necessary; if
13 there are other alternatives that could be used to meet the
14 demands for Florida.

15 Let's see... I think I've got most of that.

16 And also, has tax incentives been offered to help
17 Floridians and Georgians on how much we may impose on the
18 Florida grid to give us access to alternative renewable
19 resources, so that can also help us come off the grid?

20 Even down to buildings like this, where they're
21 -- you know, it's not in use, but the lights turn off on
22 their own. I know the company I work for, we've implemented
23 that in every building we have; also with the heat and air.
24 So, you know, have we truly maximized every conservation
25 opportunity before we say these additional resources are

1 needed.

2 And, you know, again back to the re-routes that,
3 you know, having that understanding that we can go outside
4 of that; also knowing that if we do have concerns or
5 questions -- I know you've been very open to our phone calls
6 and our comments when we needed to get clarification. And
7 we just, you know, appreciate that due diligence to make
8 sure that we're getting the information that we need.

9 I guess it goes back to also we have these third
10 parties that are submitting information. And if I submit a
11 re-route and it's declined, how does that process work? Do
12 I have a way for it to be arbitrated in the event that --
13 you know, can Sabal Trail say, 'I don't like this so I'm not
14 submitting it to FERC.' Or does all of them, good or bad,
15 be submitted and then you review them before there's a final
16 decision made?

17 And also, just to get down to specific answers, a
18 lot of the questions when we asked them previously they were
19 kind of generic as to why they weren't acceptable. And we'd
20 like to get maybe a little more specific information about
21 if a re-route is not acceptable.

22 And the only thing, just from a personal opinion,
23 is I'd like to know at the point in time that this process
24 first began we were told that, you know, they were going to
25 be using in that domain to get the surveys. And was that an

1 appropriate point at which to say that they could use
2 eminent domain?

3 I thought a Certificate of Public Convenience had
4 to be awarded. I might really misunderstand this process.
5 But, you know, can we get more information about that? And
6 was that a point in time that that particular tactic should
7 have been used? You know, was it something viable at that
8 time?

9 And I think that's it.

10 And just, I really like the I-75 corridors
11 presented in Albany. I meant that as a real re-route. And
12 we'd like to, you know -- and if we have problems, you know,
13 can we get some help? I'm not an engineer. So if we need
14 some help in kind of tweaking this to make sure that it is a
15 viable route, that we get those kinds of considerations
16 provided to us so we can make, you know, feasible offers?

17 That's it.

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

19 MS. SINGLETARY: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. BOWMAN: I want to point out two things.

22 The Commission does have a dispute resolution
23 service that kind of acts as a mediation between parties.
24 The dispute --

25 (Microphone feedback.)

1 MR. BOWMAN: I'm going to not use this anymore.

2 The dispute resolution service is a party of FERC
3 that -- they're not environmental staff; they're mediation.
4 They have arbitrators who go between who can work between a
5 land-owner and the company to help come to an agreement
6 between the two parties. Their number and some of that
7 information is outside. So that is available.

8 Some states do have provisions for granting
9 eminent domain for surveys only. So that would be for a
10 civil survey or an environmental survey. I can't remember
11 off the top of my head if Georgia has that.

12 It does?

13 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Yes.

14 MR. BOWMAN: So Georgia does -- Georgia State can
15 offer power of eminent domain. So I just do want to point
16 that out, that that does exist. But they would have to go
17 through the state. So I just throw that out there.

18 Addition speakers --

19 MR. KICKLIGHTER: As far as that, where do we
20 find that at?

21 MR. BOWMAN: Say that again? Sorry.

22 MR. KICKLIGHTER: Where do we find that, eminent
23 domain for surveys, certain surveys? Where can we find that
24 at?

25 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I got it from an

1 attorney right here. You can read it, if you want to.

2 MR. KICKLIGHTER: I already know what he says.

3 MR. BOWMAN: I don't have that information in
4 front of me. We can look that up, you know, after the
5 meeting and try and get it to you.

6 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Sabal Trail doesn't
7 have a user in Georgia. So eminent domain has no effect in
8 Georgia right now. You got no Georgia user. No eminent
9 domain.

10 MR. BOWMAN: I'll trust the lawyers.

11 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I'll give you a copy
12 of it.

13 MR. PECONOM: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. BOWMAN: Additional speakers?

15 Yes, sir.

16 MR. NOLL: Hi, I'm Michael Noll, M-i-c-h-a-e-l.
17 Last name is N-o-l-l, just like the little hill without a
18 'k.'

19 I have a question really for the federal folks in
20 here. I'm a little bit appalled, to be honest, in terms of
21 a lack of a larger perspective in this story that's called
22 the Sabal Trail pipeline. For all practical purposes, it's
23 just one tentacle of a growing fracking industry.

24 As we've heard before, gas line one, gas line
25 two; there is also a splinter state. There are a number of

1 organizations and a number of states throughout the United
2 States of America who clearly are addressing the negative
3 impacts of a fracking industry.

4 A fracking industry that has been able to incur
5 such damage because there was once a former CEO of a firm
6 called Halliburton who becomes the chair of the Energy
7 Security Task Force in the White House of George Bush,
8 Senior, Mr. Dick Cheney. Because of that we have, for
9 example, such things as the Halliburton Loophole, which
10 leads to such things as basically the destruction of water
11 resources in places anywhere from Texas all the way up to
12 New York State, potentially.

13 What I'm really curious about is when you are
14 looking just at the small picture you may just see a gas
15 pipeline. You may want to go about making sure it's nice
16 and safe and tidy, although these promises do not always
17 come true, as there is a well-established record in terms of
18 some issues with safety along various pipelines throughout
19 the country.

20 Just since 2010 we have had all together I
21 believe 127, perhaps 128 by now, pipeline accidents all
22 together. When you see this in a larger context, and you
23 also know that there are alternatives.

24 We heard several speakers talk about the fact
25 that when you are for example in southern Georgia or you are

1 in the so-called Sunshine State, you have 70 percent more
2 solar radiation input than you have in countries such as
3 Germany, which happens to be a place where I hail from.
4 That's why I talk a little funny.

5 If we have that enormous amount of solar energy
6 potentials, and you add onto that wind energy; and then you
7 add onto that -- which is also one of the things that the
8 Sierra Club talks about -- the simple fact that we could
9 easily basically conserve up to one-third of the energy
10 we're consuming daily. We are consumers. We are
11 over-consumers in this country, too; you have to acknowledge
12 this.

13 And you have to ask yourself the question: What
14 are we really doing? What are we doing to ourselves? This
15 is not America -- and I'm not an American, guys; I'm
16 watching from outside -- where you have basic property
17 rights violated for the profits of a company.

18 This is not American when we're being told that
19 it's safe and it turns out not to be safe, and they have a
20 limited liability corporations who may not be able to
21 fulfill some kind of responsibility. And then they do the
22 kind of thing that happened just recently when it came to
23 the coal ash spill somewhere -- I believe it was in West
24 Virginia there was another incident like that. They just
25 simply declare bankruptcy and run away.

1 I am really concerned about it because I know
2 about the beauty of the American environment. I know about
3 the beauty of the American political system. But the land
4 of the brave and the free has become the land of the greedy
5 and the corrupt.

6 And I know we can do better. And we're
7 encouraged to see the larger picture and to see that this is
8 just one part of a larger problem. We have to do a better
9 job to become independent of our habits. Fossil fuel is an
10 ultimate finite resource. You can squeeze that sponge for
11 another 20 or 30 years longer than you anticipated;
12 eventually you run out. What are you going to do then.

13 We've wasted our time not going about our
14 business in terms of finding alternative resources of
15 energy. We have the availability to develop these
16 technologies and actually be safer and sounder and in a
17 better place than we are today.

18 We don't need to have these kinds of fights. We
19 are basically all -- I think at the end of the day when we
20 all sit down and leave all these little influences that
21 bring us to go one way or the other outside of the picture,
22 we realize there's one thing that's most important in
23 humanity, and that's the respect for your neighbors, the
24 respect for the environment, leaving the environment in such
25 a condition that future generations can enjoy it just the

1 same.

2 We're doing a pretty poor job of that, all of us,
3 not just you guys. You play a role; we play our role.

4 We are consumers. We are part of the larger
5 picture. But why we're not looking at the larger picture
6 and always just focused on the little tiny aspects in here.
7 I'm really concerned about this. We can do better than
8 that.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. BOWMAN: Additional speakers?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. BOWMAN: Any hands? Going once, twice?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. BOWMAN: Okay.

17 With that I'll kind of wrap up and start to kind
18 of conclude.

19 I think there was a question that was on
20 intervenors, and I just wanted to bring that to light for a
21 little bit.

22 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Can you use the
23 microphone, please?

24 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Turn this mike off.

25 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: You can use this one

1 here.

2 MR. BOWMAN: That's a good idea.

3 The intervenor status was the question that I
4 heard earlier. A party can request to become an intervenor
5 in a proceeding. But the instructions in more detail that I
6 can give are again outside in some of the materials that we
7 have out there.

8 But the basic function of an intervenor is that
9 it gives a party a -- it gives you the right to re-hear --
10 or request rehearing on a Commission decision. So after all
11 the environmental review is done and completed and the
12 Commission comes to some decision, it gives you the official
13 right to request that they go back and rethink their
14 decision.

15 And that's what an intervenor -- the status that
16 comes with that. And specific instructions on how to do
17 that and how to request to become an intervenor is outside
18 in some of that paperwork and material. So if you didn't
19 grab any of that stuff out there and you're interested in
20 that, that is out there.

21 So with that, I want to thank you for your
22 comments, John's going to close us out.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. PECONOM: A lot of concerns here tonight.
25 Thank you very much. It's very helpful for us. Obviously,

1 we have our work cut out for us. I appreciate your time and
2 I thank you for coming.

3 I'm going to stay after the end of the meeting
4 here to answer people's questions about the project and get
5 to some of the things that specifically people brought up.

6 So again, thank you very much, and have a good
7 night.

8 (Whereupon, at 7:58 p.m., the scoping was
9 adjourned.)

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