

1 MS. MUNOZ: We have a small group, but I'm still
2 glad you showed up, nonetheless.

3 So, we've covered a lot of basically what I'm
4 going to say to you tonight, but since this is a formal
5 meeting, we're gong to get it on the record, and then we'll
6 have a brief description from our representative from
7 Transco just to do a project description, and then we'll
8 close and let you come and talk.

9 You asked about timing restrictions, and I don't
10 think we'll have any.

11 Well, good evening everyone. On behalf of the
12 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I'd like to welcome
13 you here tonight. Thank you for coming again.

14 This is an environmental scoping meeting for the
15 Dalton Expansion Project by Williams Transcontinental Gas
16 Pipeline Company. The primary purpose, as I said you
17 tonight, is to provide you an opportunity to comment on the
18 project and the scope of the environmental analysis being
19 prepared for the Dalton Expansion Project.

20 My name is Kelley Munoz, and I'm the project
21 manager. And I work for FERC, and I'm representing them
22 here tonight.

23 The FERC is the lead federal agency responsible
24 for the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, review of
25 the proposed project, and the lead agency for the

1 preparation of the environmental assessment or EA.

2 NEPA requires FERC to analyze the environmental
3 impacts, consider alternatives, and provide appropriate
4 mitigation measures on proposed projects. Additional
5 federal, state, local, and other government agencies with
6 jurisdiction by law or special expertise are welcomed to
7 cooperate as well.

8 Sitting to my left here is Eric Tomosi, and he is
9 also a project manager at FERC. Out in the lobby, where you
10 received your brochures, is Steve Holden and Dave Potter,
11 with Natural Resource Group, and they're a third-party
12 contractor supporting FERC as we do our environmental
13 assessment.

14 It's important for everyone to understand that
15 the proposed project was not conceived by and is not
16 promoted by FERC. The FERC staff reviews applications for
17 the authority to build and operate interstate natural gas
18 pipelines and Transco is in the process of preparing an
19 application to submit to FERC.

20 Once the application is submitted, our obligation
21 is to review that application and prepare an analysis of the
22 environmental impacts. So, tonight's meeting is not a
23 public hearing. We're not here to debate the proposal or
24 make a determination on its fate. We're here to listen to
25 your concerns so that we can consider them in our analysis

1 of the potential environmental impacts of the project and
2 how those impacts might be reduced or avoided.

3 If there are any general objections to the
4 project or other non-environmental issues concerning the
5 proposal, those issues would be considered by the Commission
6 in its determination of the project's public convenience and
7 necessity, but they are generally considered outside the
8 scope of our environmental analysis. In other words, the
9 Commission wants to hear your concerns in that regard;
10 however, those issues will not be addressed in detail in the
11 EA.

12 So, let me briefly explain the FERC's pre-filing
13 process because that is the stage in which we are in with
14 respect to this project. Transco entered into pre-filing
15 process in April of this year, which began the review of our
16 project. The FERC docket number for the project is
17 PF-14-10. The PF means pre-filing. No formal application
18 has been filed with the FERC. We consider the pre-filing
19 process to be, amongst other things, an extension of our
20 scoping process. The scoping process is a learning process.
21 It is where we educate ourselves about the project and the
22 potential issues.

23 During pre-filing, the goal is to get information
24 from the public as well as federal, state, and local
25 agencies, our own fieldwork, and research of different

1 issues, and from the public so that we can incorporate all
2 these issues into our document.

3 The scoping period started when we issued our
4 Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental assessment on
5 October 21, 2014. The Notice of Intent to prepare an
6 environmental assessment was mailed to all affected
7 landowners as defined by FERC regulations, federal, state,
8 and local agencies and representatives and other
9 stakeholders.

10 In the NOI, we describe the environmental review
11 process; some already identified environmental issues, and
12 the steps the FERC and cooperating agencies will take to
13 prepare the EA. We have set an ending date of November 20,
14 2014 for the scoping period. However, the end of the
15 scoping period is not the end of the public involvement, or
16 your opportunity to comment.

17 We will accept comments throughout the review of
18 our project, but for us to adequately address your comments,
19 analyze them, and research the issues, we ask that you try
20 to get them in as soon as possible. Extra copies of the NOI
21 are located in the back of the room at the sign-in table. A
22 speakers' list is also located at the back of the table,
23 which I think most of you have already signed up for.

24 In addition to verbal comments provided tonight,
25 we will also accept your written comments. If you have

1 comments, but do not which to speak tonight, you may provide
2 them written on the comment forms provided at the back
3 table. You may drop those off to us, or mail them back to
4 us at a later date, but be sure to include the docket number
5 PF-1410.

6 Your comments tonight, together with any written
7 comments you've already filed or intent to file, would be
8 added to the official record of the proceeding. We then
9 take all the comments that address environmental issues and
10 utilize all available information and expertise and factor
11 them into our independent analysis of the project's
12 potential impacts.

13 We will publish those findings in the EA, which
14 will then be distributed for a 30-day comment period. This
15 EA will be mailed to all interested parties. If you
16 received a copy of the NOI in the mail, you are already on
17 our mailing list. There is a return mailer attached to the
18 back of the NOI by which you can indicate if you want to
19 correct your mailing address or remove your name from the
20 mailing list.

21 Also, please note, because of the size of the
22 mailing list the mail version of the EA will be on a CD ROM.
23 Unless you indicate otherwise, you will receive a CD ROM
24 with the EA on it. If you prefer a hard copy, please
25 indicate that choice on the return mailer or let us know

1 tonight before you leave.

2 So, one final point I want to clarify is the role
3 of the Commission versus the Commission's environmental
4 staff. The five-member Commission, which is appointed by
5 the President and confirmed by the Senate, is responsible
6 for making the determination on whether to issue a
7 certificate of public convenience and necessity to Transco.

8 The EA that is prepared by the FERC environmental
9 staff does not make that decision. The EA is used to advise
10 the Commission and disclose to the public the environmental
11 impact of constructing and operating the proposed project.
12 The Commission will consider the findings, conclusions, and
13 recommendations in the EA as well as public comments on
14 non-environmental issues, including engineering, market
15 needs, rates, finances, tariffs, and costs and make an
16 informed decision on whether or not to approve the project.

17 Only after taking the environmental and
18 non-environmental factors into consideration will the
19 Commission make its final decision on whether or not to
20 approve the project.

21 So, now that I've finished the FERC process, I'd
22 like to allow Maria Palacois to give a brief presentation on
23 the proposed project.

24 MS. PALACOIS: Good evening. I am Maria
25 Palacois, and I am with Williams, and I represent the

1 Community Outreach aspect of our proposed Dalton Expansion
2 Project.

3 Williams owns and operates Transcontinental
4 Pipeline System, short Transco, and we originate in South
5 Texas and we go all the way to New York City. This pipeline
6 system delivers gas from supply areas in the Gulf Coast,
7 Mid-continent and Appalachia, and delivers the market areas
8 in the Southeast, Mid-continent, and the Northeast.

9 Our Transco system transports about 10 percent of
10 the natural gas consumed in the United States. It consists
11 of more than 10,000 miles of pipe and has more than 52
12 compressor stations. Transco has been part of the Georgia
13 community for over 60 years. We actually have been here
14 delivering about 30 percent of the natural gas consumed in
15 Georgia only 2013. We also have over 125 Williams's
16 employees who call Georgia their home.

17 Our company received requests from customers to
18 increase natural gas deliveries needed to serve Atlantic Gas
19 Light in Bartow and Murray Counties, and the
20 Oglethorpe/Smith Energy Facility in Murray County. To meet
21 this demand, the Dalton Expansion Project proposes the
22 following: A new compressor station in Carol County, three
23 new meter stations in Bartow and Murray counties, and a
24 total of 110 miles of new pipeline, starting in Coweta
25 County going through Carol, Paulding, Bartow, Gordon, and

1 Murray Counties.

2 The Dalton Expansion Project also would have to
3 make modifications on our existing Transco mainline
4 facilities in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The
5 estimated in service date for this project is second quarter
6 of 2017. Transco entered the pre-filing process under
7 docket number PF-14-10. During this pre-filing process we
8 held eight community open houses in June, August, and
9 September in Coweta, Carol, Paulding, Bartow, Gordon, and
10 Murray Counties.

11 Williams's employees met with the public, which
12 included landowners, public officials, and other
13 stakeholders, and shared the information about Williams and
14 about the project. During these open houses, we were able
15 to learn from the public, listen to their concerns, address
16 any issues, and answer any questions that emerged at those
17 times.

18 Based on the public comments, we gather valuable
19 information that as a result we were able to make
20 significant changes to our preliminary route. This week we
21 plan to submit drafts of environmental documents or our
22 resource report 1 through 12, and these drafts will be
23 available for review on the FERC website under the docket
24 PF-14-10.

25 We plan to file with FERC, submit our Natural Gas

1 Act, Section 7(C) certificate application for this project
2 at the end of February 2015, and we will request a schedule
3 that would allow construction to begin in April 2016.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide an
5 overview of our company and our proposed Dalton Expansion
6 project.

7 MS. MUNOZ: Thank you, Maria. After the formal
8 meeting is adjourned, if any of you wanted to speak with
9 Transco, I think they're going to hang around a little bit
10 longer to talk with you if you have any specific questions.

11 Now, we're going to move into the part of the
12 meeting where we hear your comments. Just so you know, the
13 meeting is being recorded by a transcription service right
14 up above, so all of your comments will be transcribed and
15 placed into the public record for the benefit of all of its
16 attendants and for accuracy for the transcript when I call
17 your name please step up to the podium and clearly state
18 your name and affiliation, and you might want to spell your
19 names if misspellings is likely.

20 Also, speak directly into the microphone so that
21 you can be clearly heard by the reporter, the panel, and the
22 audience. Mr. Jeff DeFoor?

23 MR. DEFOOR: Hello. Thank you for having us. My
24 name is Jeff DeFoor, D-e-f-o-o-r. I'm here to air my
25 concerns for the pipeline.

1 I've got three basic concerns. One of them is
2 public safety, the second one is land use, and the third one
3 is economics. They all boil down to value. What do we want
4 to leave our children and our heritage for our community?
5 Our farm's been in our family for over five generations and
6 we want to make sure it stays there another five
7 generations.

8 To begin with, on the public safety, at the first
9 public meeting I asked how many reportable incidents
10 Williams had in their safety record. The representatives
11 said two, maybe three. We have an excellent safety record.

12 Then I asked what kind of training and equipment
13 would Williams supply for our community to monitor, prevent,
14 or react to a natural gas pipeline incident. I was
15 referring to the 2011 incident that devastated over 65 acres
16 in Alabama. I was told Williams had some good online videos
17 that would explain their protocol.

18 As most adults, I believe past performance is the
19 best indicator of future events. Williams had explosions
20 not only Alabama, but Texas and West Virginia. The
21 Department of Transportation, in 2009, proposed a \$952,000
22 fine for failure to install effective corrosion control that
23 resulted in the pipeline failure in Virginia.

24 When I Googled the compliance and safety records
25 of Williams, pages of violations, and millions of dollars

1 worth of fines have been issued. I would like to know if
2 these are true, and what kind of assurances this same
3 behavior wouldn't happen to us.

4 The (B) part of the safety, will Williams pay and
5 provide our community emergency responders and landowners
6 with training and equipment to detect, prevent, or respond
7 to this type of disaster? And (C), how many automatic or
8 remote control shutoff valves are located and how far are
9 they apart so they can minimize these disasters?

10 In land use, I have concerns about how my farm
11 will be impacted by the loss of productivity due to the
12 4-foot deep trenching of the pipeline. I read that Williams
13 expects farmers to lose production for three years and are
14 paying farmers 100 percent of the value of the crop the
15 first year, 50 percent the second year, and 25 the third
16 year. Now, many farmers, 20 years later, are still seeing
17 loss in production.

18 The affects include significant loss of
19 production compared to 10-feet from the pipeline's
20 right-of-way. Causes are shown to be damage to the
21 ecosystem due to the soil contamination or combining topsoil
22 with subsoil, the heating of the gas flowing through the
23 pipeline, which dries out crucial moisture and stresses the
24 soil to the crops. It is so bad it's noticeable as lines in
25 the field even during the summer and winter.

1 (B) I would like someone to address how the
2 pipeline will be removed at the end of its 40-year life
3 expectancy. Will it just be abandoned; leaving whatever is
4 in the pipe to leach out on my farm?

5 (C) I would like a clear definition of what is
6 considered to be temporary equipment crossing. As stated in
7 the Williams landowner information website, Williams states
8 "To protect the pipeline from external loading, Williams
9 will perform an engineering evaluation to determine the
10 effects of any proposed equipment use. Mats, timber
11 bridges, or other protective materials deemed by Williams
12 will be placed over Williams's facilities for the duration
13 of any loading. Protective materials will be purchased,
14 placed, and removed at no cost to Williams."

15 Tractors and trucks are equipment. How can you
16 farm if the pipeline is in the middle of your field?

17 (D) Will the landowner be notified what
18 substances will be transported in the pipeline?

19 (E) Will there be unscented gas transported?

20 (F) When pipeline repairs occur, will my land be
21 restored?

22 (G) The proposed pipeline has moved about 600
23 feet into my field from the previous plan that had it next
24 to the power line. This will have serious negative impact
25 on my farmland. Can the pipeline go next to the power line?

1 If not, why?

2 (H) Has the gas line been moved because of a
3 blast radius that would destroy the power line if an
4 incident occurred like what happened in Alabama in 2011?

5 (I) How many surface structures will be on my
6 cropland and how will they be protected?

7 Now, to the economic portion of it. Everything
8 ties back to economics, the value of what the community is
9 giving up versus Williams's gain. We, the landowners, still
10 have all the burdens of taxes, upkeep, and risk of
11 devastation for what is a multiyear profit machine for
12 Williams.

13 My first question on economics is when the
14 pipeline reaches its end of life will it be abandoned with
15 the contaminates too expensive to be removed left to leach
16 out on my farm for generations?

17 (B) Will Williams put into trust money to remove
18 the pipeline and restore my land to its present condition?

19 (C) Will Williams hold me harmless as the
20 landowner from any liability by them or their
21 subcontractors?

22 (D) Will Williams pay any property tax or
23 penalties related to the pipeline that any of the landowners
24 may occur?

25 (E) Will the lease be automatically terminated

1 if the pipeline's not used for 180 day?

2 (F) Will Williams be required to have prior
3 landowner consent for any assignment of the easement to
4 another party, and

5 (G) Will Williams pay the landowner yearly
6 rental for the land because the landowner still has to pay
7 property taxes. We have diminished value, diminished use,
8 and a potential for a catastrophic loss of usability for our
9 land.

10 I put this in the record, and handed it to you.

11 MS. MUNOZ: Great.

12 MR. DEFOOR: Do you want another copy of it?

13 MS. MUNOZ: We already have that copy, correct?

14 Yes, I've got that. We have that. Thank you, Mr. DeFoor.

15 Kaitlyn DeFoor?

16 MRS. DEFOOR: Hello. My name is Kaitlyn DeFoor,
17 and I'm also representing landowners in Gordon County.

18 I have put this on the document, but I would also
19 like to state it in case there are any additional answers
20 that I may be provided.

21 I am concerned in three main categories. The
22 first is profit margins. Many studies show a large loss of
23 productivity on farmlands with natural gas pipelines. I
24 would like Williams to provide some study results on the
25 impact of their previous pipelines and what those have had

1 on crop yields and agricultural productivity. The land
2 cannot be productive if more money has to be spent by the
3 farmers to solve soil problems that are often found when
4 topsoil is created into the bottom and also crucial moisture
5 is lost.

6 My big environmental problems break down into
7 several categories. First, wetlands and waterways, many
8 studies indicate that Bentonite clay is used to create a
9 pathway for the pipeline under wetlands and near water. I
10 know that Bentonite clay is made from silica, which is a
11 carcinogen and I would like to know if that will be used on
12 our property and the safety steps that will be taken to
13 ensure residents along the pipeline are not affected
14 negatively.

15 I want to know more about the reclamation
16 procedures on the land. I know that pipelines often or gas
17 companies often do not follow the state conservation laws in
18 regards to reclamation and many times try to plant species
19 of plants that are native.

20 If the pipeline goes forward, will FERC or the
21 EPA mandate that Williams follows the state conservation
22 guidelines? Will this agreement be put into each person's
23 contract? What chemicals will be transferred through the
24 pipeline with the natural gas, including those to solve
25 corrosion? I was told no chemicals to solve corrosion would

1 be put in the pipeline, but I know from reading scientific
2 studies that is not true, so I would like Williams to
3 clarify that.

4 What chemicals will be used in creating the
5 pathway for the pipeline, and what are their corresponding
6 toxicity levels. I'm concerned with the noise and
7 environmental pollution that will occur during pipeline
8 construction. What measures will Williams take to minimize
9 that and also what kind of observations will FERC make and
10 what will they enforce on that?

11 I know that Gordon County released a
12 comprehensive plan from 2007 to 2027 that included land
13 areas that they would like to protect and like to provide
14 some support for. These include historical areas and
15 agricultural areas. And in the Gordon County improvement
16 plan, they said that they did not want any additional
17 development. So, I would like to know what kind of remarks
18 have been made to the County Commissioners, what kind of
19 steps have been made politically to ensure that the
20 improvement plan that was set from 2007 to 2027 is
21 effectively carried out.

22 I'm also concerned about the right-of-way. I've
23 read firsthand accounts of landowners being asked for
24 30-feet of right-of-way and still having 100 feet of their
25 property cleared, even though it wasn't in the contract; and

1 so that's something that's very, very concerning to me.

2 I have a couple legal safety issues that are sort
3 of addressed pretty well by FERC prior to us coming into
4 this meeting, but I have one big question.

5 I noticed that in Section 5(E)(b) of the Pipeline
6 Safety Regulatory Certainty and Job Creation Act of 2011 it
7 mandated only one safety check on a pipeline every seven
8 years. I'm curious to know if Williams perform safety
9 checks more often. And if that is true, why they've had so
10 many incidences of safety concerns in the past couple years.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. MUNOZ: Thank you. Mr. Dan DeFoor?

13 MR. D. DEFOOR: I have a list of concerns related
14 to the proposed Dalton Expansion Project. I communicated a
15 number of these concerns to Williams's representatives and
16 also submitted them in writing to the FERC website on August
17 12, 2014. To this date, I have not received definitive,
18 written answers to any of these questions from Williams.

19 My most immediate concern is the lack of written
20 response from Williams to these questions, despite the
21 passage of two and a half months since I submitted them.
22 This leads me to worry that the company is delaying its
23 response until the deadline for further public input has
24 expired.

25 I have repeatedly declined to give access to my

1 land for the pipeline surveying until I've received written
2 responses to my comments. Below is a summary of those
3 previous comments and concerns. The proposed pipeline route
4 has been moved 600 feet further into my field from the
5 previous plan. This relocation will have a serious negative
6 impact on my ability to produce an income from my land as
7 the field is used to farm crops.

8 This farming operation requires the use of heavy
9 vehicles and equipment. I have received contradictory
10 information from Williams regarding the securing of the
11 pipeline from damage by heavy equipment. According to
12 written documents, the landowner will be responsible for
13 placing matting to protect the pipeline during farming
14 operations. However, a field representative of Williams
15 told me that the company will bury the pipeline deeper so
16 that farming operations are not impeded, thus, eliminating
17 the requirement that a landowner bear the expense of
18 protecting the pipeline from farm equipment. I would like
19 to see this discrepancy rectified in writing.

20 I also have serious concerns about the safety of
21 the pipeline and facilities. According to a May 27, 2014,
22 article in the County Times, at least three incidents of
23 fires and explosions at Williams storage facilities and
24 plants have resulted in two fatalities, eight injuries and
25 the evacuation of the residents of one town.

1 Additionally, Williams has been cited for six
2 violations and fined \$99,000 by the Occupational Safety and
3 Health Administration. These actions and violations do not
4 instill confidence that the pipeline will be operated and
5 maintained in a responsible manner to insure the safety of
6 my family and my neighbors.

7 I would also like to know what responsibility the
8 company will bear for training and equipping local emergency
9 responders to such incidents. What assurance does the
10 company offer that adequate safety measures and disaster
11 plans are in place?

12 My farmland adjoins that of my brother, Edward
13 Jeffrey DeFoor. He has also submitted comments and
14 questions regarding the proposed pipeline, and I share each
15 of these concerns he expresses; therefore, I have attached a
16 copy of his submissions because I, too, wish to have this
17 issue addressed to my satisfaction. Thank you.

18 MS. MUNOZ: Thank you. So, one thing I want to
19 make sure that we clear up for you because I know we talked
20 a little bit about it, but you've all submitted comments,
21 really well thought out comments and we appreciate that, and
22 we want you to continue filing those as well.

23 I'm glad you have figured out our website, but
24 it's important to note that the company will respond to your
25 comments. And again, not in an attempt to reply on their

1 behalf, but just to clarify that they will have their -- at
2 the end of the scoping period, November 20, they will have
3 their response to scoping comments. And then within my
4 environmental assessment, I will also address your comments.

5 So, I don't want you to think that they're going
6 into a black hole. We're collecting them. It's a big part
7 of pre-filing to gather the comments and learn about it.
8 And you've taught us a lot about the project that we're
9 still learning and we're still work, the agencies and with
10 Transco to refine the project so that when they do make that
11 filing in February it's the best that it can be.

12 So, this is the ending of the -- I'm sorry?

13 MR. D. DEFOOR: (Off mike.)

14 MS. MUNOZ: Well, I tell you what, they will not
15 respond here. They will be available to talk afterwards.

16 MR. D. DEFOOR: Okay, so after the meeting so
17 they wouldn't do it on the record.

18 MS. MUNOZ: Well, they're going to formally
19 respond to your very specific comments you've already filed
20 and the ones that you've given me tonight. They will have a
21 formal response to that, and that will go on the record.
22 You will see that. I will see it. It's a pretty
23 transparent process.

24 If we want to talk some more with them after the
25 meeting, I think they're available to look at maps and do

1 that, but really for the formal part of this process it's
2 meant to gather your information, your comments, take them
3 back with us. And then afterwards, we're all going to stick
4 around and we can still talk some more. So, it's not a
5 matter getting them on the record or not because they will
6 be on the record eventually because I will ask those
7 questions and data requests.

8 You've already submitted them to the record, so
9 there will be a formal response to your questions. Okay?

10 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
11 Commission, thank you for coming tonight.

12 (Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.)

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