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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Energy Projects

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NATIONAL FUEL GAS SUPPLY CORPORATION  
EMPIRE PIPELINE, LLC: Project PF14-18-000

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NORTHERN ACCESS 2016 PROJECT

St. Bonaventure University  
Doyle Hall  
3261 West State Street  
St. Bonaventure, New York 14778  
Monday, November 3, 2014

The Public Scoping Meeting, pursuant to notice,  
convened at 7 p.m., before a Staff Panel:

CHRISTINE ALLEN, Environmental Project  
Manager, FERC

With:

MIKE KOESTER, Natural Resource Group, LLC

PUBLIC COMMENTERS

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LEE WEST

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

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3 MS. ALLEN: Good evening. On behalf of the  
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also known as  
5 the FERC or Commission, I would like to welcome all  
6 of you here tonight. This is a public scoping  
7 meeting for the Northern Access 2016 project proposed  
8 by National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation and Empire  
9 Pipeline.

10 Let the record show that the Public Scoping  
11 Meeting in St. Bonaventure, New York began at 7:06  
12 p.m. on November 3rd, 2014. The primary purpose of  
13 this meeting is to provide you an opportunity to  
14 comment on the project or on the scope of the  
15 environmental analysis being prepared for the  
16 Northern Access 2016 project.

17 My name is Christine Allen, and I am the  
18 environmental project manager for this project with  
19 the Commission's Office of Energy Projects. Here at  
20 the front table with me tonight is Mike Koester of  
21 Natural Resource Group or NRG. NRG is an  
22 environmental consulting firm working as a  
23 third-party contractor assisting FERC staff with the  
24 environmental analysis for the project. Jeff Thomas  
25 and Lindsay Jones of NRG are also at the FERC sign-in

1 table.

2           As you can see, this meeting is being  
3 recorded by a court reporter so that we will have an  
4 accurate record of your comments. A transcript of  
5 this meeting will be placed in the public record so  
6 that everyone has access to the information discussed  
7 here tonight.

8           Tonight's agenda is simple. First I will  
9 briefly explain the role of the FERC, and our  
10 application process. Then I will have a  
11 representative of National Fuel present an overview  
12 of the project. Following National Fuel's  
13 presentation, we will then hear from those of you who  
14 have signed up to speak. After that, I will offer  
15 the opportunity for anyone who did not sign up to  
16 speak, but would like to have their comments heard.

17           The FERC is an independent regulatory agency  
18 that regulates the interstate transmission of natural  
19 gas, electricity, and oil. FERC reviews proposals  
20 and authorizes construction of interstate natural gas  
21 pipelines, storage facilities, and liquefied natural  
22 gas terminals, as well as licensing and inspection of  
23 hydroelectric projects. As a federal licensing  
24 agency, the FERC has the responsibility under the  
25 National Environmental Policy Act to consider the

1 potential environmental impacts associated with a  
2 project under its consideration.

3           The Commission is made up of five members  
4 who are appointed by the President and approved by  
5 the Senate. The Commission staff, which includes  
6 myself, prepares technical information to assist the  
7 Commissioners in making their decisions.

8           When a company wants to build pipeline  
9 facilities to transport and sell natural gas in  
10 interstate commerce, the company files an application  
11 with the Commission. National Fuel plans to file  
12 their application in February of 2015 and plans to  
13 request a commission certificate in January of 2016.

14           With regard to National Fuel's Northern  
15 Access 2016 Project, the FERC is the lead federal  
16 agency for the National Environmental Policy Act  
17 review and the preparation for the environmental  
18 document. Currently the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
19 and the New York State Department of Agriculture and  
20 Markets have agreed to participate as cooperating  
21 agencies to meet either their NEPA responsibilities  
22 or other interests in the project.

23           As I said earlier, the primary purpose of  
24 this meeting is to give you an opportunity to comment  
25 on the project or the environmental issues that you

1 would like to see covered in our environmental  
2 document. It will also help us if your comments are  
3 as specific as possible regarding the potential  
4 impacts and reasonable alternatives of the project.  
5 These issues generally focus on the environmental  
6 effects, but may also address construction issues,  
7 mitigation, and the environmental review process. In  
8 addition, this meeting is designed to provide you  
9 with an opportunity to meet with National Fuel  
10 representatives, to ask them questions, and to get  
11 more detailed information about their proposed  
12 facility locations and construction plans.

13           The EA that will be prepared by FERC's  
14 environmental staff will describe the project  
15 facilities and associated environmental impacts;  
16 alternatives to the project; mitigation to avoid or  
17 reduce impacts; and our conclusions and  
18 recommendations. The EA is not a decision document.  
19 It is being prepared in order to disclose to the  
20 public, and to the Commission, the environmental  
21 impact of constructing and operating the planned  
22 project.

23           Once completed, the Commission will consider  
24 the information from the EA along with  
25 non-environmental issues, such as engineering,

1 markets, and rates, in making its decision to approve  
2 or deny the requests for a Certificate. There is no  
3 review of FERC decisions by the President or  
4 Congress, maintaining FERC's independence as a  
5 regulatory agency, and providing for fair and  
6 unbiased decisions.

7           Now, I want to briefly describe our  
8 environmental review process. To illustrate how this  
9 works, we prepared a flow chart. If you stop by our  
10 sign-in table -- on the back of this handout  
11 (indicating) -- there are extra copies back there if  
12 you didn't get one. We are currently near the  
13 beginning of the environmental review process --  
14 during one of the public input opportunities that are  
15 highlighted on the back.

16           National Fuel entered into the FERC  
17 pre-filing process in July of this year, which began  
18 our review of the project. The purpose of the  
19 pre-filing process is to encourage involvement by all  
20 interested stakeholders in a manner that allows for  
21 the early identification and resolution of  
22 environmental issues. As of today, no formal  
23 application has been filed with the FERC; however,  
24 the FERC along with other federal, state, and local  
25 agency staffs have begun review of the project.

1           On October 22nd, 2014, FERC issued a Notice  
2 of Intent or NOI to prepare an EA for the Northern  
3 Access 2016 Project and initiated a 30-day scoping  
4 period. This "scoping" period or comment period will  
5 end on November 21, 2014; however, we will continue  
6 to address any timely comments that are submitted on  
7 the project even after the scoping period has ended,  
8 but the earlier you get your comments to us, the more  
9 useful they are to us.

10 During our review of the project, we will assemble  
11 information from a variety of sources, including the  
12 applicant; the public; other state, local, and  
13 federal agencies; and our own independent analysis  
14 and field work.

15           Once scoping is finished, our next step will  
16 be to begin analyzing the proposal and the issues  
17 that have been identified during the scoping period.  
18 This will include an examination of the proposed  
19 facility locations as well as alternative sites. We  
20 will assess the project's effects on water bodies and  
21 wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, endangered  
22 species, cultural resources, soils, land use, air  
23 quality, and safety.

24           When pre-filing is complete, National Fuel  
25 will submit a Certificate application to the FERC.

1 FERC will review the application to ensure it meets  
2 the minimum filing requirements, and may issue  
3 information requests to National Fuel to seek  
4 additional information or clarification on a  
5 particular issue or piece of information provided in  
6 the Certificate application. Everything that the  
7 Commission issues, including our information requests  
8 and National Fuel's responses, all public and agency  
9 comments on the project, as well as the transcripts  
10 of this meeting, will be posted in the project  
11 docket, which is PF14-18.

12           When complete, our analysis of the potential  
13 impacts will be published as an environmental  
14 assessment or EA. Due to the size of the mailing  
15 list, the EA will be mailed on a CD. If you prefer  
16 to have a hard copy mailed to you, you must indicate  
17 that choice either on the return mailer that is  
18 attached to the back of the NOI, or you can just stop  
19 by the table tonight and let one of us know.

20           As I mentioned earlier, our issuances of the  
21 NOI opened a formal comment period that will close on  
22 November 21, 2014. The NOI encourages you to submit  
23 your comments as soon as possible in order to give us  
24 time to analyze and research the issues.

25           If you received the NOI in the mail, you are

1 already on our mailing list, and you will remain on  
2 our mailing list to receive the EA and any other  
3 supplemental notices we may issue about this project  
4 unless you return the mailer and tell us that you  
5 want us to take you off the mailing list. If you did  
6 not receive the NOI in the mail recently, we have  
7 extra copies at the sign-in table, and you can feel  
8 free to take one if you'd like.

9 I would like to add that the FERC encourages  
10 electronic filing of all comments and other  
11 documents. There is a small brochure that explains  
12 the FERC's e-filing system at our sign-in table.  
13 Instructions are also located on our website, which  
14 is [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov), under the e-filing link. If you  
15 would like to submit written comments, please follow  
16 the directions in the NOI. We also have comment  
17 forms that are available at the sign-in table that  
18 you can write your comments down. You can give it to  
19 us tonight or you can mail it in.

20 It is important that any comments that you  
21 send us, either electronically or by traditional  
22 mail, that they include the correct docket number for  
23 the project so that they get to the appropriate staff  
24 as soon as possible.

25 Additional information about our

1 environmental review process and the project can be  
2 found on the FERC website. We encourage you to  
3 utilize FERC's eLibrary or eSubscription service to  
4 obtain information that has been submitted on the  
5 project. Instructions on how to use these services  
6 are provided in the brochures at the sign-in table as  
7 well.

8           Before we start taking comments, I'd ask Ron  
9 Kraemer with National Fuel to provide a brief  
10 overview of the project.

11           MR. KRAEMER: Good evening. For those of  
12 you who have sat through some of this already -- this  
13 will be much briefer. Really, just to kind of -- for  
14 those who haven't sat through one of our  
15 presentations -- just to kind of fill you in on the  
16 facilities that are at the scope of this filing -- I  
17 would like to thank you for joining us, and thank you  
18 Christine and FERC staff for being here.

19           As Christine said, this is still very early  
20 in the process, and the whole purpose of this -- and  
21 me being short and brief tonight -- is this is really  
22 about getting your comments on the record. We've had  
23 a number of meetings with folks in the area already.  
24 This is just a continuation of that, but this is your  
25 opportunity to make sure it gets on the record, and

1 if you have a specific issue, make sure that gets  
2 addressed.

3 Just a little bit of history. The purpose  
4 of the project is really to transport Marcellus --  
5 Marcellus-produced gas from the counties really just  
6 to the south of here, McKean, Elk, and Cameron  
7 Counties principally into the interstate pipeline  
8 grid. The interstate pipeline grid is just what it  
9 sounds like. It's an interstate grid.

10 It interconnects -- it's interconnecting  
11 pipelines, operated by a number of different pipeline  
12 operators, that interconnect in this -- in this  
13 region, interconnect New York. It interconnects with  
14 Pennsylvania, the Northeast U.S. It interconnects  
15 with Canada and through Canada back into the U.S.,  
16 midwest. It's clearly an integrated system. The  
17 goal is to get the gas out of the Marcellus into this  
18 integrated grid to allow it to be consumed where it's  
19 most needed.

20 Specifically what our intention to build --  
21 and this is -- as Christine mentioned, this is a  
22 joint project. National Fuel Gas Company is a  
23 holding company. Two of its companies are National  
24 Fuel Gas Supply Corporation and Empire Pipeline  
25 Incorporated. Both of these companies are taking

1 pieces of their systems -- or are proposing to take  
2 pieces of their systems and expand them so that we  
3 can move approximately 350,000 dekatherms per day out  
4 of the Marcellus into this pipeline grid.

5           Specifically -- and what I'm going to talk  
6 most about here tonight -- just because regionally  
7 we're down in the southern end of the project -- is  
8 facilities National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation would  
9 be building. And it's three pipeline segments, but  
10 in total it's 97 miles of pipeline all contiguous  
11 from Sergeant Township down to McKean County, through  
12 Pennsylvania up into New York, and ending just north  
13 of our Porterville Compressor Station, which is in  
14 Elma, Erie County, New York, and all of that would be  
15 24-inch pipe. I'll talk about the three segments in  
16 a minute, but it is contiguous pipe.

17           In addition to that, we would add a booster  
18 station at our Porterville Compressor Station.  
19 Porterville Compressor Station is a -- an underground  
20 storage compressor station. We'd be adding to it  
21 with some transmission compression -- about 500  
22 horsepower. And then the intersection with Tennessee  
23 Gas -- very close to that Porterville Compressor  
24 Station -- Tennessee Gas is another interstate  
25 pipeline that serves the U.S., northeast on this

1 area.

2           At the very northern end of these facilities  
3 is some facilities that Empire Pipeline would be  
4 constructing. It's four miles of replacement  
5 pipeline between Supply Company and National Fuel  
6 Supply Corporation and Empire Pipeline. They jointly  
7 operate different segments of a pipeline called XM10.  
8 It's about four miles long. It's 16-inch pipe, and  
9 it would be replaced with 24-inch. That's in the  
10 towns of Wheatfield, Pendleton, up in Niagara County,  
11 New York, north of Buffalo.

12           And then a new 22,000 horsepower compressor  
13 station in the town of Pendleton that would pump the  
14 gas from the National Fuel Supply system into the  
15 higher pressure Empire Pipeline system. Just a  
16 little further downstream on the Empire Pipeline  
17 system, a natural gas dehydration facility to drive  
18 the gas. It's just removing moisture from the gas  
19 stream.

20           Looking specifically at the pipeline  
21 facilities, this is a route map. I know that it's  
22 tough to see. We have all of the maps outside, so if  
23 you didn't get a chance to look at the mapping in  
24 advance of the meeting, feel free to stop out after.  
25 The route starting up at the north end starts, again,

1 just north of our Porterville Compressor Station. It  
2 would parallel largely New York State Electric and  
3 Gas and the National Grid -- 345 kV electric power  
4 line and -- actually point -- generally from the  
5 north here down to about this point here.

6           At that point we would parallel -- we have  
7 an existing pipeline system that runs in this  
8 direction (indicating). It would pick up that  
9 pipeline for about 17.9 miles. We call that our Line  
10 X-South -- parallel to that for a while, and then  
11 jump back on the electric corridor, and eventually  
12 end up at the southern end of this project at a place  
13 we call Claremont. At that point we would  
14 interconnect with the local production from producers  
15 gathering system from -- from producers that would  
16 bring the gas to that point.

17           Oh. I want to make sure I mention -- and  
18 this is very hard to see, I'm sure, at this scale,  
19 but along the route -- we -- I'm going to show you a  
20 schedule in just a minute here. We have been working  
21 on this for a while, working with landowners,  
22 agencies, and so on, and have identified a number of  
23 reroutes. You can see them -- I believe they are in  
24 red scattered throughout -- there is one up in here.  
25 There is one up in here as well. Again, you can see

1 this in better detail in the maps outside here, but  
2 the point is we've been working on this project,  
3 working with agencies and landowners, and have  
4 identified a number of reroutes. So if you sat  
5 through one of these presentations in the last number  
6 of months, the route has changed somewhat to  
7 accommodate that.

8           Quickly onto the schedule. We began the  
9 project back in March of this year, doing what we  
10 call windshield review and tabletop review -- trying  
11 to develop the pipeline route that basically  
12 satisfies the needs of the project to get from  
13 Claremont to the Porterville Compressor Station or  
14 thereabouts. And then in May we held informational  
15 meetings, our first round of informational meetings,  
16 and the goal there was to start to establish contact  
17 with landowners so that we could get on their  
18 property, start to review the route.

19           We are well into this next step, which is  
20 our engineering and environmental review of the  
21 project -- developing the record -- what we call the  
22 environmental resource reports, were well underway.  
23 As a matter of fact -- just a couple of little facts  
24 and figures there, our routing and centerline crew  
25 has gone through about 84 miles of the -- of the 97

1 miles that Supply Company is proposing here, and the  
2 detailed surveys have been done about 77 miles, so we  
3 are moving along through that. We appreciate all the  
4 cooperation we have from landowners to accomplish  
5 that.

6           The need for pre-filing process began in  
7 July. A public meeting in August. That was the  
8 first public meeting that -- the Federal Energy  
9 Regulatory Commission attended the meetings along  
10 with us, and then the scoping meetings here, and then  
11 we carry on.

12           I know Christine mentioned some of the  
13 dates. We hope to make a filing in February, and  
14 hope to receive the certificate about a year later.  
15 Construction will begin winter of 2015/ 2016, the  
16 bulk of the construction during the summer of 2016,  
17 planned in service being November of 2016.

18           I won't go through all of this. Some of you  
19 have seen this slide before. We do certainly think  
20 there are economic benefits to the general public, to  
21 those in the area. It is a major investment in  
22 Western New York and North Central Pennsylvania. A  
23 lot of property taxes, particularly in New York State  
24 associated with that. Lots of local employment  
25 during construction -- and some consulting services

1 and just other services as we operate the pipeline  
2 for years to come.

3 I will leave this slide up. These are our  
4 contacts. Oh, Jeff, you made the list. Okay. This  
5 was one of our -- one of our -- Jeff Grice is right  
6 here -- is point of contact, his phone number. The  
7 docket number is there. We have an online website as  
8 well. You can go on the FERC website and get all the  
9 information, but we have an address as well. I know  
10 it's a pretty lengthy one, but I will leave that up  
11 if you want to write that down. We'll post  
12 information.

13 MS. MERKEL: Ron has that sheet.

14 MR. KOESTER: Okay. On our table?

15 MS. MERKEL: Correct, on our table.

16 MR. KOESTER: In the back over here we have  
17 some fact sheets that reiterate some of -- some of  
18 the facts and dates and so on.

19 MS. ALLEN: Thank you. After the formal  
20 meeting, representatives from National Fuel will  
21 still be around. I will still be around. If anyone  
22 has questions, feel free to come and ask me any  
23 questions that you'd like. I also have stuff sitting  
24 at the table if you want to pick out -- pick up any  
25 more of the brochures that we have.

1 I don't have anyone signed up to speak. I  
2 know some people may have come in the back entrance  
3 and didn't see the sign-in table. Maybe they didn't  
4 have a chance to stop by there. So if no one has  
5 signed up to speak, if any -- anyone would like to  
6 come up and represent comments, just let me know.  
7 Otherwise, I'm not going to go through the -- you  
8 know, the comment procedure, if no one has signed up  
9 to speak. So --

10 MR. WEST: The only comment that I can think  
11 of is --

12 MS. ALLEN: Could you come up to the  
13 microphone up here so that --

14 MR. WEST: Yeah.

15 MS. ALLEN: -- our court reporter can hear  
16 you? Just -- just up at the podium.

17 MR. WEST: Over here?

18 MS. ALLEN: And just state your name so that  
19 she (indicating) can record your --

20 MR. WEST: Lee West. And it's about time  
21 that this gas got being used. Thank God for America.

22 MS. ALLEN: Thank you. Would anyone else  
23 like to speak tonight? Without any more speakers,  
24 I'm going to close the formal part of the meeting. I  
25 will still be around. Feel free to come and ask

1 questions if you'd like.

2           Okay. So on behalf of the Federal Energy  
3 Regulatory Commission, I would like to thank you all  
4 for coming tonight. Let the record show that the  
5 Northern Access 2016 Project Scoping Meeting in  
6 St. Bonaventure, New York concluded at 7:28 p.m.  
7 Thank you.

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9           (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded  
10                           at approximately 7:28 p.m.)

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