

1 Thursday Evening Session
2 January 29, 2015
3 beginning at 6:36 p.m.

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5 MR. POLIT: Good evening, everyone. On
6 behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
7 Commission, I would like to welcome you here
8 tonight. This is an environmental scoping
9 meeting for the Leach Xpress Project being
10 planned by Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC.

11 The primary purpose of this meeting is
12 to give you an opportunity to provide
13 environmentally related comments on the Leach
14 Xpress Project being planned by Columbia Gas
15 Transmission.

16 Comments and input received by the
17 public will become part of the environmental
18 record for the planned project. Let the record
19 show that the public scoping meeting in
20 Moundsville, West Virginia began -- I'm sorry --
21 in Oak Hill, Ohio began at 6:36 on January 29,
22 2015.

23 My name is Juan Polit. I'm the
24 environmental manager here at FERC. We're within
25 the Office of Energy Projects. I am responsible

1 for conducting a detailed environment analysis of
2 Columbia Gas' planned project and providing the
3 environmental impact statement, or EIS for short.

4 I've asked Brian Sterner and Ben Pizii
5 and Monica Rudkowski, who are at the first
6 sign-up table in the back, to accompany me on
7 this trip. These three are with the firm ERM.
8 ERM is an environmental consulting firm, and
9 they're assisting us in the production of the EIS
10 that I'm in charge of and as well as conducting
11 some of the scoping meetings that we will be
12 having this week.

13 We also have representatives from
14 Columbia Gas present tonight who you may have
15 already met, and they're at the table, which is
16 to my left up here.

17 As you can see, this meeting is being
18 recorded by a court reporter so we can have an
19 accurate record of tonight's comments. A
20 transcript of this meeting will be placed onto
21 the public record so everyone has access to the
22 information given out tonight.

23 We do have our sign-up table in the
24 back. That has a sign-up sheet, among other
25 things, for speaking tonight. It has a number of

1 other informational handouts, and it also has an
2 attendance sheet that you're welcome to sign as
3 well.

4 One of the handouts back there is a
5 notice. We call it a notice of intent. And if
6 you didn't get your copy of the NOI that was sent
7 to 1,400 people and parties, feel free to pick up
8 an extra copy. So if you want an extra copy, go
9 ahead and pick it up. The NOI looks roughly like
10 this.

11 I will quickly run through the agenda
12 for tonight's meeting. What I'll do is I will
13 start off by briefly explaining FERC and our
14 environmental review process. Then I'll have
15 Columbia Gas representatives give a brief
16 overview of the planned project. Following their
17 presentation, we will get to the part where we
18 can invite those who have signed up to speak to
19 come up to the front and make your comments. And
20 that would be the microphone in the center here.

21 So to go ahead and begin to describe
22 FERC a little bit for you, FERC is an independent
23 agency that, among other things, regulates
24 interstate transmission of natural gas. By
25 interstate, we mean transmission of natural gas

1 across state lines.

2 The five-member commission at FERC
3 reviews proposals for and authorizes construction
4 of interstate natural gas pipelines, natural gas
5 storage facilities, and natural gas terminals.
6 The five-member commission is appointed by the
7 President and approved by Senate.

8 The commission staff, which includes
9 myself, prepares technical information to assist
10 the commissioners in making their ultimate
11 decision.

12 When a company wants to build pipeline
13 facilities to transport and sell natural gas in
14 interstate commerce, the company files an
15 application before the FERC. Companies are
16 seeking a certificate of public convenience and
17 necessity that gives them the authority to
18 construct and operate their pipeline facilities.
19 Columbia Gas plans to file their application
20 around June of this year, and they will be
21 requesting their certificate to be timed for late
22 next year.

23 It is important for everyone to
24 understand that Columbia Gas' planned project is
25 not proposed by and is not conceived by FERC. As

1 a federal agency, the FERC has the responsibility
2 under what's known as the National Environmental
3 Policy Act, or NEPA for short, to consider the
4 potential environmental impacts on the human and
5 natural environment associated with projects
6 under its jurisdiction, such as the current one
7 that is being planned to be filed with FERC.

8 With regard to this particular project,
9 FERC is the lead federal agency for that NEPA
10 review. So we're preparing the EIS. We are the
11 federal agency.

12 Tonight's meeting is not a public
13 hearing. We cannot debate project-related issues
14 or make any determination on the project's fate.
15 We are here to listen to concerns and comments so
16 that we can consider them in our analysis of the
17 impacts of the planned project.

18 Comments that you may give us tonight,
19 comments given in written form, or speaking to us
20 tonight are not going to be the only source of
21 information that will go into the EIS. During
22 our review of the project, we will assemble
23 information from a variety of sources and
24 stakeholders.

25 Aside from -- well, I want to define

1 for the moment what the stakeholders are.
2 Generally, the stakeholder list and the
3 environmental meeting list is all the people,
4 starting with the landowners who are directly
5 affected and going on over to other agencies,
6 local, state, and federal; local and state
7 governments, elected officials, Indian tribes,
8 and nongovernmental associations. And in
9 addition to that, information that we at FERC
10 gain through our independent analysis and
11 fieldwork.

12 Now, a little bit about our
13 environmental review process. Currently FERC is
14 in the first phase of our review of the planned
15 project, and we call that the scoping phase or
16 the scoping period. The scoping period is when
17 the FERC staff assembles all environmental
18 information from the various sources, and we
19 determine the extent of the overall environmental
20 analysis. Scoping began for this project when
21 Columbia Gas entered into FERC's pre-file process
22 on October 9th, 2014.

23 Taking a step back, let me briefly
24 define what the pre-filing process is.
25 Pre-filing is part of the environmental timeline

1 in which FERC staff began the environmental study
2 even though that planned project has not been
3 officially filed with the FERC. So as I
4 mentioned before, that filing is slated to be
5 done around June of this year, but we've already
6 started our kick-off process.

7 The purpose of the pre-filing is to
8 encourage involvement by all interested
9 stakeholders in a manner that allows for early
10 identification of environmental issues and a
11 resolution of some of them. As of today, no
12 formal application has been filed with the FERC.
13 However, FERC, along with other federal, state,
14 and local agency staffs, have begun their review
15 of the planned project.

16 The pre-filing and the scoping period
17 that I mentioned before will both end when
18 Columbia Gas files their application. At that
19 time, the FERC will issue what is known as the
20 notice of application.

21 Currently also we are in our formal
22 comment period, and that began on January 13,
23 2015, when FERC issued its notice of intent to
24 prepare the environmental impact statement for
25 the Leach Xpress Project. We are calling this

1 NOI for short. The NOI was mailed to over 1,400
2 stakeholders and has a short description of the
3 environmental review process within it, some of
4 the early identified environmental issues and
5 steps that the FERC will take to prepare its EIS.

6 We have set an ending date of
7 February 12, 2015 for this comment period.
8 However, this is not the end of your chance to
9 make your comments known to us. We will still
10 accept comments from any stakeholder involved in
11 the project after that date, and they will all be
12 treated with the same -- the same degree.

13 We have already begun analyzing
14 Columbia's preferred route and some of the issues
15 that we have identified during the scoping
16 period. As we progress toward the end of the
17 scoping period, we will be constantly reviewing
18 and updating what are known as environmental
19 resource reports. And these are required to be
20 developed and filed in draft form by Columbia
21 Gas. So we'll be going through the draft
22 environmental resource reports as they come in.

23 Now, these resource reports are the
24 main body of environmental information that we
25 will use to make our study. The resources that

1 will be studied are wildlife habitat and safety.
2 These have already been filed in draft form. And
3 I'll show you a little bit later on how you can
4 get those if you haven't already had a chance to
5 see them.

6 Now, using all the information
7 collected during the scoping period, FERC staff
8 will factor them into our own independent
9 analysis of the impacts on the human and natural
10 environment. Again, we will be studying the
11 project impacts on a wide variety of resources,
12 such as agriculture, residences, water bodies,
13 wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, endangered
14 species, cultural resources, soils, land use,
15 noise and air quality, and public safety.

16 The EIS will also include at the end
17 the set of environmental conditions that we will
18 impose upon Columbia Gas to be carried out if
19 they should actually get their certificate.

20 FERC will publish a draft EIS which we
21 will distribute to all of the identified
22 stakeholders, and that will be out for a 45-day
23 comment period. So that will be another
24 opportunity for people to study the document, how
25 our analysis has gone to that point, and provide

1 additional comments.

2 At the end of the draft EIS period,
3 FERC staff will prepare a final EIS that
4 specifically addresses each comment that has been
5 received and as well as all necessary changes,
6 additions, and modifications to the conclusions
7 that will appear in the draft EIS. So those will
8 be conclusions.

9 The FERC commission will use the final
10 EIS in its determination whether or not to grant
11 Columbia Gas the certificate request, authorizing
12 them to construct and operate the project. Now,
13 I want to back up and say that the final EIS will
14 also be distributed either in DVD form or paper
15 form to the stakeholder list.

16 Let me step aside and talk about -- a
17 little bit about the last page of the NOI, and
18 you'll notice there's a box asking if you would
19 like a paper copy of the EIS and the draft EIS.
20 That means that, by default, you will be getting
21 the DVD. So make sure that if you want the paper
22 copy, tell us tonight. Go back to the NOI and
23 make sure that you check that box that is on the
24 back page.

25 In addition to the EIS, the five-member

1 commission that I mentioned before will also be
2 weighing the economic factors involved in making
3 their decision to -- whether or not to grant the
4 certificate.

5 Now, aside from speaking into the
6 record tonight, there are a few other ways that
7 you can give your comments to FERC. These
8 include handing written comments to myself or the
9 staff in the back. We'd be happy to take your
10 written comments tonight. You can also take that
11 home with you, write them up, or just use your
12 own letterhead, and send in letters addressed to
13 the secretary of the commission, using the
14 address that's on the back of the NOI.

15 You could also use our electronic
16 filing system. That is described in the NOI, and
17 we also have a brochure dedicated to how to file
18 FERC material that you can feel free to pick up.
19 It's very important that whenever you make your
20 comments, including tonight's, try to make
21 them -- I'm sorry. It's important to include the
22 docket number for the project. So the docket
23 number has been designated specifically for this
24 project. That docket number is on the cover and
25 also on the back of the NOI. It's the only way

1 we have to make sure that your comments get to
2 the right project being studied at FERC.

3 The docket number, if you want to go
4 ahead and write it down, for this project is
5 PF14-23-000.

6 As I mentioned before, we wanted to
7 invite Columbia Gas to come up here and give a
8 short presentation, along with a slide
9 presentation, so I'll let that be done.

10 - - -

11 (A discussion was held off the record.)

12 - - -

13 MR. DANIEL: Good evening. My name is
14 Zane Daniels, and I am manager of community
15 relations and stakeholder outreach for Columbia
16 Pipeline Group. Regardless if you're here
17 tonight in support of the project or here to
18 voice specific concerns, on behalf of our entire
19 team, I'd just like to say thank you for your
20 interest in the Leach Xpress Project and for
21 taking the time to come out tonight.

22 Public input is critical in helping us
23 build the safest, most reliable, environmentally
24 sound project as possible. This following
25 presentation, although brief, is an opportunity

1 for us to give you a better understanding of the
2 Leach Xpress Project, why it's needed, and who we
3 are as a company.

4 Before we begin, I'd like to introduce
5 you to some of the members of our project team
6 that are here tonight. So when I call your name,
7 please raise your hand to be recognized.

8 Jim Barrett, who is a right-of-way
9 manager.

10 Melissa Dettling, who is our natural
11 resource permitting project manager.

12 Dave Beckmeyer, who is our
13 environmental permitting consultant from
14 Perennial Environmental Services.

15 Leslie Yoo, who is our principal
16 biologist. Again, with Perennial Environmental
17 Services.

18 Ted McDavitt, who is our facility
19 project manager.

20 Elaine Coppedge, who is our pipeline
21 project manager.

22 D.J. Reza, who is our associate
23 pipeline manager.

24 And finally, Ben Lun, project engineer,
25 lead project engineer.

1 Columbia Pipeline Group owns and
2 operates over 15,000 miles of interstate natural
3 gas pipeline, one of the largest and -- and one
4 of the largest underground natural gas storage
5 systems in the United States. Our system
6 connects premium natural gas supplies with some
7 of the nation's strongest energy markets and
8 service customers in 16 states.

9 We transport more than one trillion
10 cubic feet of natural gas through our pipeline
11 and storage systems each year. Columbia Gas
12 Transmission is currently owned by NiSource, but
13 was announced late last year that we will be
14 spinning off and forming our own stand-alone
15 publicly traded company in mid-2015.

16 Over the past year and a half, Columbia
17 Gas Transmission has been evaluating the energy
18 infrastructure needs in eastern and southeastern
19 Ohio, and we've determined that there is a
20 serious need of new transmission pipeline to move
21 locally produced gas from the constrained
22 Appalachian basin to regional markets throughout
23 the United States.

24 As a result, we are proposing the Leach
25 Xpress Project. The Leach Xpress is designed to

1 safely transport 1.5 billion cubic feet of
2 natural gas per day from the Marcellus and Utica
3 production areas in Ohio and West Virginia. This
4 project will link local energy supplies with
5 regional markets and provide natural gas users
6 with a reliable and affordable new source of
7 natural gas.

8 The pipeline as proposed will originate
9 in Marshall County, West Virginia, and travel
10 through southeastern Ohio and Wayne County, West
11 Virginia -- before ending in Wayne County, West
12 Virginia. Project construction is scheduled to
13 begin in the fall of 2016 to meet an in-service
14 date of November 2017.

15 MR. McDAVITT: Good evening once again.
16 Thank you for coming out. I know it's a cold
17 evening and it's the middle of the week. We
18 appreciate it.

19 As Zane said, I'm Ted McDavitt, I'm the
20 facility project manager of this project, which
21 means that I will be the one who will be
22 responsible for the facility that's going in here
23 at Oak Hill. We don't have any pipeline work in
24 Oak Hill here, but we do have a new compressor
25 station.

1 So I will give you a quick rundown of
2 what the project looks like. So we have five
3 separate legs. All right? Which we have
4 designated as -- we can read up here -- LEX,
5 LEX-1, the R-801 loop, BM-111 loop, and the R-501
6 line.

7 I'll briefly describe those. So the
8 main line is going to be a 36-inch line. It's
9 about 130 miles of 36-inch line, primarily
10 running from, as you can see kind of on the
11 map -- I don't have a laser pointer. Melissa?
12 The origination right over there in Mingo, West
13 Virginia, as it comes over here to Crawford and
14 then turns south. Really, the line -- the bulk
15 of the line is going to be that main runs through
16 there. That's going to be all the construction
17 of the line. A couple other pieces here and
18 there.

19 We do have a half a mile of 30-inch,
20 which we have designated as LEX-1. That's going
21 to be a little bit level. Is that the correct
22 term? So the R-801 loop -- so a loop for us in
23 the pipeline industry is we're going to run a
24 line right next to an existing line that we have
25 if we're to be able to maintain the capacity that

1 we need to put through it. The BM-111 loop is
2 the same one as it goes down there toward Ceredo,
3 across the Ohio River.

4 And we have some old line that was
5 built in 1940. We think that it would probably
6 be in our best interests to take that out of
7 service at this time. While we take that out of
8 service, we'll have the R-801 loop. Mind you,
9 this is all proposed and subject for review and
10 approval. But that's our plan to present to the
11 FERC.

12 One thing of note. We actually went
13 through the effort of -- thank you. 48 percent
14 of the new pipeline, although it doesn't
15 necessarily impact the local area here, 48
16 percent will be co-located with existing
17 right-of-ways. Which means we won't have to go
18 through and clear additional right-of-way. That
19 may be, Juan, not quite 99 percent accurate, but
20 I believe that's 48 percent.

21 So the compressor stations, which is
22 the only activity that's going to happen here, we
23 have three Greenfield compressor stations, one in
24 Majorsville, West Virginia, one in Summerfield,
25 and one here. We also have two existing

1 facilities that will be able to be upgraded. One
2 in Crawford, and then in Ceredo. Let's see.

3 So all are going to be natural gas
4 turbines, with the exception of Ceredo, which is
5 going to be electric-driven compressors. The one
6 that's here will be 47,000 -- wow, that's a typo
7 there. 47,100 horsepower, I believe. Ben, is
8 that right?

9 MR. LUN: Yeah.

10 MR. McDAVITT: Okay. We've got an
11 extra zero in that slide. So it's not 477,000
12 horsepower with that comma. It's actually 47,100
13 horsepower. We'll accomplish that with three
14 similar margins. We also will have four
15 regulator stations. And what they do is they
16 adjust the pressure up and down as it goes in and
17 out of other levels.

18 We will also have -- I might be getting
19 ahead of myself. I don't see anything about --

20 - - -

21 (A discussion was held off the record.)

22 - - -

23 MR. McDAVITT: So all the stations, as
24 we've mentioned here, will have remote start and
25 stop bypass, will have security fencing, and will

1 have vent silencers. We'll talk a little bit
2 more about the monitoring of these facilities as
3 we get a little bit further in the slides.

4 This is the general location that we
5 have proposed to FERC. You can see here that
6 you've got your town right over there. And then,
7 of course, as we go up a little bit to the
8 northeast, that is our proposed location. It
9 is -- goodness. How many acres is it proposed?

10 MS. DETTLING: 400 by 400.

11 MR. McDAVITT: 400 by 400. Thank you,
12 Melissa.

13 MS. DETTLING: Feet, not acres.

14 MR. McDAVITT: Yes. Next slide,
15 please.

16 So, pipeline safety. We take pipeline
17 safety exceptionally dear to our heart.
18 Obviously, it will be our best to avoid any and
19 all instances of trouble, and some of the things
20 that we would like to mention is that, A, we
21 build and maintain and operate these lines in
22 strict accordance with DOT safety requirements.

23 And as we have up here on the slide,
24 safety measures include the use of corrosion
25 prevention systems, cathodic protection, to

1 minimize the erosion of the pipe itself,
2 around-the-clock monitoring of pipeline system
3 facilities. We actually have a control room. We
4 have a slide with the picture of the control room
5 coming up.

6 (Brief interruption.)

7 MR. McDAVITT: Sorry. I will turn this
8 way a little bit.

9 We also have periodic aerial patrols,
10 and that's actually the picture up top. Of
11 course, it's a little washed out. We actually
12 will fly a helicopter over the route. What we'll
13 look for is any encumbrances, anything that seems
14 out of place or if somebody's trying to build on
15 top of our line. Those are the things that we'll
16 actually go looking for.

17 And we also do inspection of the
18 pipeline interior, which is actually this picture
19 down here at the bottom, with in-line inspection
20 tools, also called smart pigs. Of course, this
21 is something that we'll launch from one location,
22 run the entire length of the pipeline, and we'll
23 look for defects, anomalies, anything out of the
24 ordinary. It will produce millions of points of
25 data, which we actually employ engineers that

1 will look over that data for anything that sticks
2 out. There's also programs that will look for it
3 as well.

4 Next slide. Here's our control room.
5 This is the 24/seven safety monitoring. These
6 folks actually are assigned a specific area, and
7 they have on their screens all the operations.
8 So it's flow conditions, pressures, things of
9 that nature. Anytime an alarm comes up in
10 somebody's jurisdiction, that will pop up and
11 flash a light, and they have the ability at their
12 station to start, stop, bypass any issues.

13 Let's see. Highly trained employees.
14 These folks are actually some of the most highly
15 trained people in the entire organization. They
16 are constantly training for all different types
17 of scenarios. You can imagine that they will
18 throw everything at them just to make sure that
19 they react appropriately. That's a very
20 important thing for us.

21 Oh, we skipped ahead. Am I running out
22 of time?

23 Another thing that we are a big
24 supporter of, obviously, is the 811. Call 811,
25 Call Before You Dig program. Although, I have

1 skipped over a little bit of the important
2 slides. We also see the local first responders
3 as an extension of our safety team, and we
4 actually will go through the effort of training
5 them and make sure they're aware of the potential
6 hazards that we have and that they know how to
7 address them appropriately if they have to
8 respond. There we go. Thank you.

9 MS. DETTLING: I'm going to talk a
10 little bit about environmental and land. As Juan
11 was speaking about the environmental impact
12 statement that they will prepare, we as a company
13 will prepare an environmental document that we
14 submit to FERC with our application. We've
15 already been submitting drafts, as he said,
16 during this pre-filing process.

17 Right now -- or last year we began
18 field surveys. Some of you may have been
19 notified that we were coming out to gain some
20 data for field surveys. So here's what we're
21 looking at from an environmental outlook.

22 We have a corridor that we look at to
23 maintain for the project space, but also for the
24 areas around that. Environmental is really
25 important to us. We certainly want to build a

1 project in a safe manner, but we also want to
2 minimize the environment impacts to the best of
3 our ability. So we're going to be designing our
4 project, gathering information in the field.

5 We're talking to agencies -- which I'll
6 get into a little bit more specifics of that --
7 so we can compile data from everyone that's on
8 our stakeholder list to get the best data we can.

9 Environmental and cultural is what
10 we're looking at. Wetlands, water bodies,
11 habitat it might support, as well as protected
12 and sensitive land use. We also are looking for
13 cultural resources, so we have separate survey
14 crews that are experts in looking for
15 architectural and historic and any cultural
16 resources that may be in the area.

17 We began our surveys, as I said, last
18 year in, I believe, June 2014. Right now we're
19 waiting for the weather to let up to finish those
20 surveys. So we'll begin that again in the
21 spring.

22 Here's just a list of some of the
23 agencies. We work with a long list of
24 regulations that we adhere to when we're going to
25 be working on a project of this kind. So here's

1 a list and some of the resources that they fall
2 under. We work with the Corps of Engineers,
3 wetlands, DNR, Ohio EPA, just to name a few.
4 Water resources, protected species, and as well
5 as air quality. So we'll be working with all
6 these agencies.

7 Started last year, just like we're
8 reaching out to the landowners and having open
9 houses. We're also sitting down with agencies
10 that we're going to be going through their
11 permitting processes so we can get information
12 from them and keep them informed through the
13 whole process, as well as starting the
14 communication with them for any permits and
15 applications that we may need to file with them.

16 Here's a few other agencies that we may
17 consult with just to get information. NRCS, for
18 example, when we're looking for how to best
19 restore the area, the local, the best -- we
20 always consult with agencies that will give us
21 information on the areas we're working. Park
22 Service, DNR, as well as state and historic
23 preservation offices, to discuss cultural
24 resources that may be affected.

25 I'm going to talk a little bit about

1 right-of-ways. Right now we're looking at in
2 your area just the proposed compressor station,
3 but obviously the project is going to have
4 pipeline work. For those cases, we'll be
5 obtaining an easement to maintain -- well, to
6 construct, operate, and maintain our pipeline in
7 those areas. Right now that easement for all of
8 the pipelines that we're proposing will be 50
9 feet, 25 feet on either side of the center line.
10 It's just an easement for that pipeline. We'll
11 keep the pipeline easement clear of obstructions
12 so that we can control. As Ted was discussing,
13 pipeline markers will be put in and we'll
14 maintain and monitor that system.

15 Zane's going to wrap up here for us.

16 MR. DANIEL: And, finally, a little on
17 community relations. Columbia Gas Transmission
18 has been a part of Ohio and West Virginia for
19 over 100 years, and we're very proud of the
20 relationships that we've built with local
21 communities along the way.

22 We're supported -- we're committed to
23 supporting growth, vitality in the communities
24 that we serve, and we pledge to you to do
25 everything we can to keep you informed of new

1 developments throughout the life of the project.

2 Over a two-week period in November
3 2015 -- or 2014, Columbia Gas Transmission held a
4 series of open house meetings throughout the
5 region to educate landowners on the project and
6 give them a better understanding of what to
7 expect going forward.

8 In addition, I have been in direct
9 contact with local elected officials to brief
10 them on the project and will continue to do so in
11 an effort to keep them up to date.

12 As for landowners, we have developed a
13 quarterly newsletter that you'll be receiving in
14 the mail that will keep you informed of our
15 progress and information on how to sign up to
16 receive updates from the Federal Energy
17 Regulatory Commission.

18 Columbia Gas Transmission's long-term
19 commitment to your community includes supporting
20 local non-profit and civic organizations,
21 sponsoring community events, and volunteering
22 within the community.

23 If you would like any more information,
24 please do not hesitate to contact me directly.
25 My information is on all the newsletters that

1 you'll be receiving in the mail and the materials
2 that we have over on our table.

3 Again, on behalf of the entire Columbia
4 Gas Transmission project team, we appreciate
5 everyone being here tonight, and we appreciate
6 you taking the time. So thank you very much.

7 MR. POLIT: Thank you, Columbia Gas.

8 All right. Now we are going to go
9 ahead and begin the part of tonight's meeting
10 when we take your comments. We're going to take
11 the comments in the order of those who have
12 signed up on the speaker list in the back. I
13 invite you to go ahead and add your name if you
14 haven't added it on. We only have four right
15 now. I want to remind you that when you come up,
16 please make your comments as specific as possible
17 regarding the potential environmental impacts of
18 this planned project.

19 Now, the issues that you may have in
20 mind should generally focus on the potential for
21 environmental impacts. However, you may have
22 issues in mind in which you want to address
23 construction issues, mitigation, and our overall
24 environmental review process, as well as other
25 things that I think may not be related, but try

1 to make them tie into environmental impact.

2 Regardless, we're going to take any
3 comment that you give us. This meeting is
4 designed to provide you an opportunity to meet
5 with Columbia Gas and FERC people afterward to
6 continue to ask us some questions and get more
7 clarifications. And we'll be happy to do that
8 once this meeting ends.

9 Now, when you make these comments,
10 please come up and step up to the center
11 microphone and clearly state your name and spell
12 it out, please, and your affiliation, if you have
13 one. Speak directly into the microphone, and
14 that way our court reporter can have a good
15 chance to get everything recorded accurately.

16 So with that, I'd like to go ahead and
17 begin our comments. And if we could have, first
18 up, Phillip Smith.

19 MR. SMITH: Hello. My name is Phillip
20 Smith, P-H-I-L-L-I-P, S-M-I-T-H.

21 My first concern is -- my affiliation
22 is this pipeline will be going 1,000 feet from my
23 front porch, around 500 feet from my property
24 line. My first concern is to care for my family.
25 The gases that are released to relieve pressure

1 causing health issues, up to cancer, will affect
2 both humans and animals. And this is going to be
3 very close proximity to Cooper Hollow, which is a
4 state hunting preserve.

5 Also, Columbia Gas admitted at the last
6 meeting that this plant could explode at any
7 second, which makes it a dangerous plant.
8 Hopefully that would not happen, but we still
9 have to face the fact that that could happen at
10 any time.

11 Also, there's the fact that noise
12 pollution is going to be 55 db at the fence.
13 According to the internet, that is equal to a
14 semi truck traveling down the road. And the
15 property they bought off of the gentleman who's
16 my neighbor, every morning when he starts his
17 trucks, I can hear them start up. And so I will
18 definitely be able to hear the constant hum of a
19 47,100 horsepower motor, which is proven to
20 affect sleep, any db range, at night.

21 Also, this has already caused undue
22 stress to me and my family, worrying about this
23 going in. And I also don't like the fact that
24 the people monitoring this place will be miles
25 away. I don't like the fact that it's not going

1 to be manned. There will be no one on site.

2 A plant that exploded in 1944 in
3 Cleveland, Ohio that was not this size leveled
4 homes for a mile and a half, killed 300 and some
5 people. There was also explosions recently in
6 Canada. All you have to do is simply Google
7 "natural gas pump station explosions," and there
8 will be plenty of pages for you to read.

9 I feel that going forward the
10 government needs to make some sort of regulation
11 on the distance this can go in close proximity to
12 homes, residences, and schools. As stated, the
13 one that exploded in 1944 that leveled homes for
14 a mile and a half would clearly reach the
15 building we're standing in now that could be full
16 of children and kids.

17 Also, this is within a half mile of the
18 wetlands that is frequently visited by migratory
19 birds. They constantly frequent the place.

20 And, also, this going in -- as far as
21 on a personal note, when I bought my property, I
22 planned on building homes for my retirement --
23 build eight homes to sell them. And I do not
24 believe that I will be able to do so with a
25 dangerous pump station across the way. I don't

1 feel that anybody would be interested in buying
2 that.

3 So I understand the good aspects of
4 money. I understand that natural gas needs to be
5 pumped. I understand that there is an extreme
6 need for that. But I think that what needs to be
7 taken into account is the effects that it can
8 cause on American citizens who has bought dream
9 homes, who has done things to be able to raise
10 their family and have plans for the future to be
11 affected by the development of a pump station
12 that realistically -- I have not been able to
13 find on the internet what would happen if
14 something of this size was to have a problem.
15 You can find the small ones that have the
16 problems, but nothing of this size.

17 So we really don't know the
18 repercussion of a problem with this. And facts
19 are about anything human-made can have problems.
20 So thank you.

21 MR. POLIT: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

22 Our next speaker is Elizabeth Leach.

23 MS. LEACH: Hi. My name's Elizabeth
24 Leach. And it's E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H, L-E-A-C-H.
25 And I am also affiliated with the neighborhood.

1 I don't live on his property, but my house is
2 near. My major concern deals with health.

3 Actually, I work in the health field.
4 I see a lot of -- I actually work with heart and
5 vascular, which is not related. I did a lot of
6 research on different pump stations that have had
7 problems, including one that was owned by
8 Columbia Gas that was in -- located in
9 Pennsylvania. And when it blew up, it was only a
10 4,000 horsepower compressor, and it only had 20-
11 to 24-inch pipe. So the one that's coming here
12 is 47,000. So that's 11 times the size of what
13 that was actually that they had problems with the
14 one at -- the one that was built in Pennsylvania
15 and was an older facility.

16 So it may not be as updated, but there
17 was -- right here it says, "The fire late Tuesday
18 was the second at Williams compressor station in
19 the county in 14 months. The explosion in the
20 Lathrop compressor station in Springville
21 Township in March of 2012 blew a hole in the roof
22 of the complex. The same set of procedures
23 kicked in and staunched the gas flow into and out
24 of the station." So it happened more than one
25 time at the same plant.

1 And there was a picture that was
2 attached to it that has a picture of a flame, but
3 since talking to them I realize that whoever
4 filled this out -- this is the Sissonville, West
5 Virginia, which I didn't know anything about.
6 This is not actually a picture of the plant. But
7 with being 1,100 feet from the actual site, I'm
8 sure no one would survive. Like it's going to be
9 a huge, huge explosion, if it would happen.

10 And, also, it can cause reproduction
11 problems in mammals, in humans, and animals. And
12 there's life-causing mental health and child
13 mortality rate -- but I also researched about the
14 size and where the nearest house was. So here's
15 a copy of the actual plant itself, and then the
16 actual nearest house was a half a mile away. So
17 the person from a half a mile away felt it to
18 notify the authorities to come and check it out.

19 So out of all the plants, like the
20 closest one that has a house closest to it is a
21 quarter of a mile away. So 1,100 feet, I do not
22 feel is sufficient enough away from the station.

23 And this also has a wooded area all the
24 way around it. This property on my road has no
25 wooded area. It would be in plain view. So I am

1 just more worried about my kids' health, and I do
2 want to stay here. I do love living in Oak Hill.
3 I'm actually not originally from here, but my son
4 goes to school here and I love the school
5 district. And I understand they'll be receiving
6 a lot of money from taxes, but I don't really
7 believe that that is any justification of putting
8 my family at risk.

9 And I know that education is the most
10 important for people as parents, and I don't want
11 to move. I don't want to switch school
12 districts. I actually drive an hour away from
13 Oak Hill to work. I drive an hour each day just
14 because I want to keep my son in the Oak Hill
15 School District because of the possibilities and
16 the programs they offer here.

17 And I just really don't want to hear a
18 constant hum. I know it's not supposed to be
19 24/seven, but with it being unmanned, I mean, I
20 have the report from the pipeline and Hazardous
21 Material Safety Commission, and it was unmanned.
22 By the time the person that was supposed to be
23 covering it got there, it was a total of like 15
24 minutes. But in 15 minutes, if that's the
25 beginning of an explosion, that wouldn't be

1 enough time to save me and my family.

2 So I don't -- I don't support it. I
3 know that -- I understand that we do have to get
4 natural gas from one point -- from A to B, but I
5 just really don't want it 1,100 feet from my
6 home. And if this ever happened -- \$456,000
7 worth of property damage to the compression
8 system, and then \$53,000 of gas was just exposed.
9 So many of the neighbors could be affected by
10 this. I don't feel that my health is worth any
11 amount of money for what we could be exposed to.

12 MR. POLIT: Thank you very much for
13 your comments.

14 Our next speaker is Mark Johnson.

15 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Mark Johnson,
16 M-A-R-K, J-O-H-N-S-O-N. I'm here tonight to
17 represent the tri-state construction building
18 trades union.

19 We represent about 25,000 skilled
20 building trades people in this region. My office
21 is based in Ashland, Kentucky. Within an 85-mile
22 radius of Ashland, Kentucky is where our people
23 reside. I've been told by others across the
24 country that based on the population of this
25 region, we have the highest population of

1 building trades people in America, and we also
2 have the best work ethic in America compared
3 to -- talking to a man from Moundsville Power.
4 We have the lowest multiplier when it comes to
5 productivity, is right here in our region.

6 We support this project 100 percent
7 basically for the obvious reason, for the jobs it
8 gives our people. And one of the best ways to
9 have a safe pipeline is to have skilled tradesmen
10 to install it right the first time. Columbia Gas
11 is committed to utilize local building trades
12 people to build this pipeline and don't intend to
13 bring a migrant workforce in here to build this
14 pipe. They want to utilize as many construction
15 people here, such as operating engineers,
16 pipeliners, pipefitters, Teamsters, laborers, and
17 so forth.

18 But besides providing jobs for our
19 people, this project is very well needed for the
20 economic prosperity, not only of our region, but
21 our country in general. Sometime in May of this
22 year, we're going to lose a lot of coal-burning
23 and base station power stations. In the region
24 that I cover, the 33 counties in the three
25 states, there are seven coal-burners. That

1 provides a lot of megawatts of power. American
2 Electric Power is our biggest customer, and
3 there's five of those coal-burners that's in the
4 American Electric Power system.

5 One of those base stations is not too
6 far from where this pipeline is going to end on
7 the Kentucky side of the river. It's in Louisa,
8 Kentucky. It's got two units and today produces
9 about somewhere around 700 megawatts. I'm told
10 by American Electric Power alone that we're going
11 to lose 6,000 megawatts of power from burning
12 coal because these plants don't meet the EPA
13 regulations. Well, people -- some people may not
14 think 6,000 megawatts is a lot, but when you
15 think that a thousand megawatts of power provides
16 power for 500,000 homes -- so if we're not going
17 to burn coal to produce power and we're not going
18 to put in the environmental standards to improve
19 these plants where they can improve the
20 efficiency where they can keep making power, the
21 way we're going to replace this power is with
22 natural gas combined cycle units.

23 We can make all the power we want today
24 utilizing natural gas, as long as it's in the
25 summertime. But in the wintertime, people turn

1 their furnaces on and want to heat their homes.

2 I'm going to be the first to tell you
3 that I don't know everything there is to know
4 about natural gas distribution, but I talk to a
5 lot of people that do. And this project is going
6 to also provide -- utilize the Utica shale and
7 the Marcellus shale, which is going to bring a
8 large amount of prosperity to not only this
9 region but to our country in general. But the
10 wet gases that comes off of this provides crude
11 that we're going to refine in the Ashland
12 refinery. It's also providing work for our
13 people.

14 But I just want to make certainly clear
15 that this pipeline is very much needed and we
16 support it 100 percent. I want to go on the
17 record that -- and several of our members is
18 right here tonight in support of that. And I
19 understand the safety concerns, and I also
20 understand that we have a customer here that
21 wants to commit 100 percent to making this as
22 safe as possible. Thank you.

23 MR. POLIT: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

24 Our next speaker is Kenny Ruggles.

25 MR. RUGGLES: My name is Kenny Ruggles,

1 K-E-N-N-Y, R-U-G-G-L-E-S.

2 I'm international representative of the
3 United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters.
4 I've lived 20 miles south of here all of my life,
5 and I've been in the plumbing and pipefitting
6 industry since 1982.

7 I'm here tonight in support of this
8 project for several reasons that Mark Johnson
9 talked about, as far as the jobs and
10 opportunities for jobs of his, but if we want to
11 talk about safety, you heard tonight that they're
12 going to replace the pipeline that was put in in
13 1940 and replace it with something that's the
14 latest technology and the safest pipeline in the
15 world.

16 Our organization alone in the Building
17 Trades United Association, spends 250 million
18 dollars of our own money on training to train our
19 members to install pipelines, compressor
20 stations, power plants, chemical plants, and we
21 train for safety and keep up on the latest in
22 technology.

23 I live in 20 little -- over 20 miles
24 south of here. I have two major pipelines that
25 runs through my property. I've lived on the same

1 property. My grandson lives down -- it will be
2 the sixth generation that lives on my property.
3 I have two pipelines that runs through my
4 property. I've been there, lived there, hunted
5 there. My children, my father, and my
6 grandfather have been there and these pipelines
7 have been in place on that property.

8 To this date, there's never been a
9 problem, whether it be environmental or safety,
10 while I've lived there, and I know if we're
11 looking at putting newer pipelines in the ground
12 and with the technology today that it's a
13 positive all the way around, not just counting
14 the jobs, but for the environment and for the
15 people that live here close. Thank you.

16 MR. POLIT: Thank you.

17 Well, we've run out of speakers. We've
18 had four. Anyone who would like to come up now,
19 please do so. We'd like to hear from you
20 tonight. And we'd also like to encourage people,
21 especially those of you who need to have an
22 answer sooner rather than later, come up and talk
23 with the FERC staff here, myself included, and
24 also Columbia Gas here.

25 MR. SMITH: Can I say something again?

1 MR. POLIT: Yes, please. Phillip
2 Smith.

3 MR. SMITH: Yes. My name is Phillip
4 Smith. I don't need to spell it again, probably.

5 In regards to the pipeline that is
6 there and being replaced and to the pipeline
7 being on people's property, that does not cover
8 the pump station that does put out the noise
9 pollution, that does put out the gas emissions
10 that you can't smell, and that will be there when
11 the people are gone. There will not be any
12 people working there to sustain the work and pay
13 once it is installed.

14 So, you know, I want to make sure that
15 there's the understanding that the work will only
16 be while it is being put in. Once it is in
17 place, then what is left behind is the dangers of
18 the place and the ramifications of the time years
19 later, which is not just a simple pipe being in
20 the ground that you cannot hear, that you cannot
21 see.

22 And, also, in regards to the size of
23 the -- that the lady said that was going in, that
24 does not cover the stuff that's on the outside.
25 That is just the building. That doesn't cover

1 what you will be seeing sitting around also. So
2 thank you.

3 MR. POLIT: Thank you very much,
4 Mr. Smith.

5 All right. I think at this point I'll
6 go ahead and adjourn the meeting. We really
7 appreciate and thank you for taking the time to
8 come up, to have this meeting tonight. Thank you
9 very much.

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11 (Thereupon, the proceedings were
12 adjourned at 7:34 p.m.)

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