



1                               Wednesday Evening Session  
2                               January 28, 2015  
3                               beginning at 6:36 p.m.

4                               - - -

5                               MR. POLIT: Can I have everybody's  
6 attention, please? We're going to go ahead and  
7 get started.

8                               I apologize. We don't have a  
9 microphone today, so you're going to have to  
10 listen to me yell. I'll be as loud as I can.  
11 And I just wanted to go ahead and get started.  
12 We're already a few minutes late.

13                              Feel free to sit down, fill in the  
14 gaps. If you want to stand around in the back,  
15 that's fine.

16                              Anyways, I really want to thank  
17 everyone for coming out tonight. Good evening.  
18 My name is Juan Polit. That's P-O-L-I-T. And  
19 I'm with the FERC, Federal Energy Regulatory  
20 Commission.

21                              On behalf of FERC, I'd like to welcome  
22 you here tonight. This is an environmental  
23 scoping meeting for the planned Leach Xpress  
24 Project, as you may know. And this is being  
25 planned by Columbia Gas pipeline -- I'm sorry --

1 Columbia Gas Transmission.

2           The primary meeting of this -- purpose  
3 of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to  
4 give environmental comments for the planned  
5 project. Comments and input by the public will  
6 become part of the official environmental record  
7 that we will keep at the commission. I'll go  
8 ahead and let the record show that the scoping  
9 meeting in -- where are we tonight?

10           MR. DANIELS: Noble. Noble County.

11           MR. POLIT: -- Noble County, West  
12 Virginia, began at 6:35 --

13           FROM THE FLOOR: It's Ohio.

14           FROM THE FLOOR: Ohio.

15           MR. POLIT: -- Noble County, Ohio,  
16 began at 6:35 on January 28th, 2015.

17           So I'm the project manager for -- doing  
18 the EIS for this project. So an EIS stands for  
19 environmental impact statement. And I'll just  
20 keep calling it EIS for short. We're going to be  
21 doing a detailed environmental analysis of this  
22 project.

23           With me, in the back table -- you may  
24 have seen another FERC person. Her name is  
25 Christine Allen. And also in the back table we

1 have Monica Rudowski and Ben Pizii. And they --  
2 along with Brian Sterner, who's standing up to my  
3 left. Those three people are with ERM, and  
4 they're a contractor helping us to run these  
5 meetings and do the overall EIS. That's the  
6 meeting today. We do also have reps from the gas  
7 company here tonight.

8 Now, we're being recorded by the court  
9 reporter so that we can get everything on the  
10 record. And later on when I come up -- have you  
11 come up and speak, for those of you who are going  
12 to speak, please try to speak loudly. And we'll  
13 have a chair set up right in the front for you.

14 Okay. So you probably saw our sign-up  
15 table. That's in the back, on the left. That's  
16 FERC's table over there. And on the right is  
17 Columbia Gas' setup. We've got a lot of  
18 information, brochures we'd love for you to take  
19 off our hands, take home with you. So if you --  
20 one of the things that's back there is a sign-up  
21 sheet to speak. So if you feel like you want to  
22 speak and you haven't signed up yet, go ahead and  
23 put your name down on that. And eventually that  
24 list will get up here to me.

25 Okay. So what I want to do is go ahead

1 and begin by describing FERC. Let me do who we  
2 are. We're an independent agency, and we  
3 regulate interstate transmission of natural gas.  
4 And by interstate, you probably know we mean  
5 across state lines. That's our jurisdiction.  
6 The actual FERC has a five-member commission that  
7 the commission is named after, and these five  
8 members are appointed by the President and  
9 approved by the Senate. The rest of the FERC is  
10 the regular FERC staff, which includes Christine  
11 and myself.

12           Now, the five-member commission reviews  
13 proposals for authorization and construction of  
14 interstate natural gas pipelines, natural gas  
15 storage facilities, and the natural gas  
16 terminals. The commission members are employed  
17 by -- oh, I already told you that.

18           It's the commission staff, like myself  
19 and Christine, who actually prepare the  
20 information, including the EIS, that will  
21 eventually make its way into their hands, so when  
22 they have a decision they can have that at their  
23 disposal.

24           Just a bit about how FERC works. When  
25 a company wants to build pipeline facilities to

1 transport and sell natural gas in interstate  
2 commerce, that comes within FERC's jurisdiction.  
3 They will file an application before the FERC.  
4 What they will be seeking is a public convenience  
5 and necessity, and that will give them the  
6 authority to construct and operate their  
7 pipeline.

8           It also gives them some other  
9 authorities which I'll talk about later.  
10 Columbia Gas plans to file their application  
11 around June of this year, and they plan for their  
12 certificate to be timed for hopefully late --  
13 well, sometime late next year. So that's the  
14 timeline that they have indicated to us.

15           It's important for everyone to  
16 understand that Columbia Gas' planned project is  
17 not proposed by FERC, is not conceived by FERC.  
18 As a federal licensing agency, FERC has a  
19 responsibility under the National Environmental  
20 Policy Act, and that has an acronym. That's  
21 called NEPA. So that, again, stands for the  
22 National Environmental Policy Act. And under  
23 that act, we have to consider the potential  
24 environmental impacts associated with any project  
25 within our jurisdiction, and we also happen to be

1 the lead federal agency for preparation of that  
2 legal document. So, again, the NEPA document I'm  
3 talking about the EIS.

4 Now, tonight's meeting we don't intend  
5 to be a public hearing, and we really can't  
6 debate the project -- project-related issues from  
7 termination or any phase of the project here.  
8 That's not the purpose of the meeting. We're  
9 here to listen to your concerns and comments so  
10 we can consider them in our analysis of the  
11 impacts of the project on the human and natural  
12 environment.

13 Part of this analysis includes  
14 considering how those impacts might be reduced or  
15 avoided. So we look at the route of the  
16 pipeline, if it can avoid certain areas, and then  
17 how the -- you know, how you build the pipeline  
18 to accommodate smaller-scale disturbances to  
19 provide the least amount of impact on the  
20 environment that we can.

21 Now, when we get your comments, which  
22 includes whatever you give us tonight and  
23 whatever you choose to write in with letters or  
24 online comments, just know that your comments are  
25 not the only source of information that we're

1 going to consider in the EIS. A lot of the  
2 information in the EIS will come from a variety  
3 of sources from the stakeholders, and you should  
4 know that there are other entities, including  
5 state, local, and federal agencies, that will be  
6 involved in providing input. We're going to have  
7 input from elected officials, Indian tribes,  
8 nongovernmental associations, and also from our  
9 own independent analysis and fieldwork.

10           Now, let me explain a little bit about  
11 the environmental review process. There are  
12 several different timelines that we're dealing  
13 with. Right now FERC is in the first phase of  
14 our review of the planned project, and that is  
15 called the scoping phase. And we sometimes refer  
16 to that as the scoping period. So right now  
17 we're in the scoping phase, scoping period.

18           The scoping period is when FERC staff  
19 assembles all environmental information and  
20 determines the overall extent of what we want to  
21 study in terms of the area of impact and the  
22 types of natural resources that we'll be looking  
23 at.

24           Where this project officially began is  
25 when the company entered into our FERC pre-filing

1 process, and that was on October 9 of 2014. So,  
2 now, what is the pre-filing process? The  
3 pre-filing is a part of the timeline in which  
4 FERC staff will actually begin environmental  
5 study even though a planned project has not been  
6 filed with FERC. So that, as I said before,  
7 they're going to file roughly around June, or  
8 later. And we've already started the  
9 environmental review project.

10           The purpose of doing that, getting  
11 involved in it early, is we want to encourage  
12 greater involvement by all the interested  
13 stakeholders so that we can identify issues  
14 earlier and even resolve some of them as we  
15 approach the filing date so that we can have a  
16 better set of information to go with from that  
17 point forward.

18           So I'd just remind you, no filing has  
19 occurred yet. And the pre-filing process that  
20 I'm talking about now, it will end when they  
21 file. And at the moment that they file, we're  
22 going to go ahead and issue a notice for  
23 application. So that's a big item that we're  
24 going to issue that you'll be able to notice on  
25 our website.

1           Now, the commentary that we're in right  
2 now began a little bit later. It began on  
3 January 13th, 2015. That was the date when FERC  
4 issued what is called a notice of intent to  
5 prepare an environmental impact statement. So  
6 the short for that is the NOI. So you'll hear me  
7 talk about the NOI. We issued that January 13th.

8           The notice of intent was mailed to  
9 about 1,400 stakeholders. And in that, there's a  
10 lot of detail about the environmental process  
11 that I'm talking to you right now about. There  
12 are certain dates in that, and we'll talk about  
13 some of our milestones. That period is to begin  
14 February 12th, 2015. So that's the end of the  
15 official filing period. However, if you haven't  
16 gotten your comments ready by that date and  
17 you're late, you can still write them in to us,  
18 file them with us, and we will consider them just  
19 the same as though they were offered during the  
20 scoping period.

21           Okay. So I'm going to have Brian  
22 discuss a few points about the process. That  
23 will help save my voice. Then Brian will get  
24 back to me. Thanks.

25           MR. STERNER: Okay. You bet.

1           Okay. So I'm just going to give a  
2 couple paragraphs to you, just like Juan said,  
3 just to save his voice a little bit. So I do  
4 want to say thank you for coming out. We really  
5 do appreciate your time.

6           So we have already begun analyzing  
7 Columbia's preferred route and some issues that  
8 have been identified during the scoping period.  
9 As we progress toward the end of the scoping  
10 period, we will be constantly reviewing and  
11 updating environmental resource reports required  
12 to be developed by Columbia Gas.

13           Resource reports contain environmental  
14 information for several different routes,  
15 resource areas, such as water resources, wildlife  
16 habitat, land use impacts, and air and noise  
17 quality. Some of these resource reports are  
18 already being put into the public record and can  
19 be reviewed by anyone using FERC's e-library  
20 system.

21           MR. POLIT: Brian, a little bit louder,  
22 please.

23           MR. STERNER: A little bit louder?

24           MR. POLIT: Yes.

25           MR. STERNER: Can you hear me?

1 FROM THE FLOOR: You were louder than  
2 him.

3 MR. STERNER: Okay. Using all  
4 information collected during the scoping period,  
5 FERC staff will factor them into our independent  
6 analysis for the planned project's potential  
7 impacts on the human and natural environment.  
8 The EIS will contain our assessment of the  
9 planned projects, the effects on agriculture,  
10 residences, water bodies, vegetation, endangered  
11 species, cultural resources, soils, land use,  
12 noise and air quality, and public safety.

13 The EIS will include a set of  
14 environmental conditions required to be carried  
15 out and abided by Columbia Gas during  
16 construction and operation of its projects, if  
17 approved.

18 The FERC will publish a draft EIS which  
19 will distribute to all identified stakeholders --  
20 which is you -- for a 45-day draft EIS comment  
21 period. At the end of the draft EIS comment  
22 period, FERC staff will prepare a final EIS that  
23 specifically addresses each comment received on  
24 the draft EIS and include all necessary changes,  
25 additions, modifications to conclusions reached

1 in the draft EIS. Good? Did you hear me? Okay.

2 MR. POLIT: Thank you very much.

3 MR. STERNER: You bet.

4 MR. POLIT: Before I go on, we got  
5 these wonderful brochures we want people to take  
6 home with them. One is how to file  
7 electronically with FERC, and there's one in  
8 general for landowners, "What Do I Need to Know,"  
9 and both of these tell you how to file. I also  
10 want to show you a copy of the NOI that was made  
11 for us. This has even more information. So  
12 please take these off our hands.

13 Okay. Now, I talked about the  
14 commission -- the five-member body of people.  
15 Now, they have the responsibility to use the  
16 final EIS that we will prepare to help them  
17 determine whether or not to grant Columbia Gas  
18 its certificate request, and that request -- that  
19 authorization will allow them to construct and  
20 operate the project. And it will usually have a  
21 bunch of environmental conditions attached.

22 The commission's considerations will  
23 include the findings, conclusions, and  
24 recommendations. I will produce the final EIS.  
25 But it will also include the responses to all the

1 stakeholder comments, including the ones that we  
2 get tonight. And it will also discuss other  
3 types of issues, such as the engineering,  
4 economic issues like market need, rates,  
5 finances, tariffs, and costs.

6           So it's a big, long order. And at the  
7 finish of that order, there's a certain part of  
8 it that's not environmental. But what I want to  
9 emphasize is they take the economic part of the  
10 application and the environmental which comes  
11 from the EIS, and they put it together and they  
12 use both of these to make their final decision.

13           Okay. So there's a few other ways that  
14 you can get your comments to FERC aside from  
15 speaking tonight. So what we have are written  
16 comments that you can write out and give us  
17 tonight, or you can take it home with you and  
18 mail it in to the secretary. You can also use  
19 our electronic filing system. And like I said,  
20 the NOI and the electronic brochure here have all  
21 the information in here about how to file with  
22 us.

23           Now, when you do send in comments, they  
24 do have to have a certain docket number on them.  
25 Otherwise they won't get to the right project.

1 They won't get to me. What I have here in the  
2 NOI, and I think we have it on various sheets and  
3 handouts at the sign-up table, is our docket  
4 number. And the docket number -- it's not on  
5 there? I see. So we were supposed to write that  
6 in the brochure. I apologize for that. I'm  
7 going to go ahead and tell it to you. It's  
8 PF14-23-000. Here's a pen.

9 FROM THE FLOOR: Thanks. Say that  
10 again.

11 MR. POLIT: It's PF14-23-000. Okay?

12 FROM THE FLOOR: Thanks.

13 MR. POLIT: And that is right on top of  
14 the NOI.

15 Well, I also want to inform you that we  
16 do have Columbia Gas here, and they would like to  
17 give a presentation to help describe the nature  
18 of the project. And with that, I'd like to turn  
19 it over to them.

20 MS. COPPEDGE: Can you guys see that  
21 okay?

22 MR. POLIT: I think we need the lights  
23 down.

24 MS. DETTLING: Lights dim? Yeah. Can  
25 you see if that will go down, please?

1           MR. DANIELS: I've got to be able to  
2 see. Flip that one back on.

3           Good evening. My name is Zane Daniels,  
4 and I am manager of community relations and  
5 stakeholder outreach for Columbia Pipeline Group.  
6 Regardless if you're here tonight in support of  
7 the Leach Xpress Project or to voice specific  
8 concerns on behalf of the entire project team,  
9 I'd like to thank you for your interest and  
10 taking the time to be here this evening to share  
11 your thoughts.

12           Public input is critical in helping us  
13 build the safest, most reliable and  
14 environmentally sound project possible. The  
15 following presentation, although brief, is an  
16 opportunity for us to give you a better  
17 understanding of the Leach Xpress Project, why  
18 it's needed, and who we are as a company.

19           Before we begin, I'd like to introduce  
20 you to some of our members of our project team  
21 that are here tonight. So when I call your name,  
22 please raise your hand to be recognized.

23           Jim Prince.

24           MR. PRINCE: Here.

25           MR. DANIELS: Jim is our contract

1 right-of-way manager.

2 Melissa Dettling, natural resource  
3 permitting project manager.

4 Dave Beckmeyer.

5 MR. BECKMEYER: I'm back here.

6 MR. DANIELS: Dave Beckmeyer is an  
7 environmental permitting consultant with  
8 Perennial Environmental Services.

9 Leslie Yoo, she is a principal  
10 biologist for Perennial Environmental Services.

11 Ted McDavitt.

12 MR. McDAVITT: Right back here.

13 MR. DANIELS: He's our facility project  
14 manager.

15 Elaine Coppedge.

16 MS. COPPEDGE: Right here.

17 MR. DANIELS: She is the pipeline  
18 project manager.

19 D.J. Reza --

20 MR. REZA: Back here.

21 MR. DANIELS: -- associate pipeline  
22 project manager.

23 And, finally, Ben Lun --

24 MR. LUN: Back here, also.

25 MR. DANIELS: -- who is our lead

1 project engineer.

2 Columbia Pipeline Group owns and  
3 operates over 15,000 miles of interstate natural  
4 gas pipeline and one of the largest underground  
5 natural gas storage systems in the United States.  
6 Our market connects premium natural gas supplies  
7 with some of the nation's strongest energy  
8 markets and serves customers in 16 states. We  
9 transport more than one trillion cubic feet of  
10 natural gas through our pipeline and storage  
11 systems each year.

12 Columbia Gas Transmission is currently  
13 owned by NiSource, but it was announced late last  
14 year that we will be spinning off and forming our  
15 own stand-alone publicly traded company in  
16 mid-2015.

17 Over the past year and a half, Columbia  
18 Gas Transmission has been evaluating the  
19 infrastructure needs in eastern and southeastern  
20 Ohio, and we've determined that there is a  
21 critical need for new transmission pipeline to  
22 move locally produced natural gas from this  
23 constrained Appalachian basin to regional markets  
24 throughout the United States. As a result, we  
25 are proposing the Leach Xpress Project.

1           The Leach Xpress is designed to safely  
2 transport up to 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural  
3 gas per day from the Marcellus and Utica  
4 production areas in Ohio and West Virginia. The  
5 project link the local energy supplies with  
6 regional markets to supply natural gas users with  
7 a reliable and affordable new gas supply.

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

15           MS. COPPEDGE: So the scope of Leach  
16 Xpress, the proposed project, is 160 miles of  
17 36-inch pipe and a half mile of 30-inch pipe.  
18 Like Zane said, it starts in Marshall County,  
19 West Virginia, crosses the Ohio River, through  
20 Monroe and Noble, eventually ending in Fairfield  
21 and Hocking County. That's the Leach Xpress  
22 mainline, LEX.

23           From there, a 27-mile pipeline will be  
24 installed. That's 36-inch as well. And that  
25 pipeline will be adjacent to some of Columbia's

1 existing systems which go from north to south.

2           In addition to that, there is a  
3 three-mile loop in Wayne County, West Virginia.  
4 What we call a loop is basically a pipeline  
5 that's installed next to some of our existing  
6 systems. So with the 27-mile pipeline that I  
7 described earlier that's running from Fairfield  
8 south, that pipeline going adjacent to some of  
9 our systems will be taking place -- taking the  
10 capacity of one of our older lines. So we'll be  
11 taking one out of service and putting this new  
12 one in service.

13           So in addition to the pipeline, we also  
14 have aboveground facilities. And a part of these  
15 aboveground facilities, there's three brand-new  
16 compressor stations. One is in Marshall County.  
17 One is in Noble. And that compressor station is  
18 called Summerfield. And the third one is in Oak  
19 Hill -- or, I'm sorry -- Jackson, Ohio.

20           In addition to these three compressor  
21 stations, we will be doing modifications at two  
22 of our existing compressor stations, one in Ohio  
23 and one in West Virginia. We will also have some  
24 smaller aboveground facilities, which is mainline  
25 valves, launcher and receiver sites, which I'll

1 explain what those are in a later slide, and some  
2 regulator stations which allow us to control the  
3 flows at certain points.

4 MS. DETTLING: This is hard to see.

5 MS. COPPEDGE: Yeah. This is kind of  
6 very hard to see. But we wanted to show a  
7 footprint of where Summerfield is. Basically, we  
8 got the name for the compressor station by the  
9 nearest town. But if you're interested in really  
10 zooming in on it, you can go back to the monitors  
11 in the back after this meeting and really see  
12 where that compressor station is.

13 So a look at the construction process.  
14 Basically, pipeline construction is a sequence of  
15 events, starting with our survey crew, which will  
16 likely begin in fall of 2016. That survey crew  
17 stakes where the pipeline will be installed and  
18 the construction corridor where our contractors  
19 are staying within. So this is what would be  
20 agreed to with the landowners beforehand and will  
21 start with the survey crews.

22 Shortly after the survey crews, a  
23 clearing and grading crew will follow them.  
24 Basically, that crew is setting up a safe work  
25 environment for the contractors, who will then

1 string out the pipe and weld it up and dig the  
2 trench. Once the pipe is welded, we do what we  
3 call an x-ray test just to make sure that the  
4 pipe was welded together to very strict  
5 standards.

6           After that, the pipe is lowered into  
7 the ground, covered back up, and the final two  
8 steps are filling it with water and raising the  
9 pressure and holding that pressure for an amount  
10 of time just to make sure that the pipe wasn't  
11 damaged during construction. The final final  
12 step is full restoration.

13           So here's just a quick look at what the  
14 construction looks like. Typically, we require a  
15 typical workspace of 110 feet, except in certain  
16 areas close to road crossings where you might  
17 need a little bit more. The 110 -- it's kind of  
18 hard to see, but the pipe where it's centered  
19 there, 25 feet to the right and 25 feet to the  
20 left, is permanent easement which is maintained  
21 through the life of operations.

22           Then 55 feet will be used during  
23 construction so that the equipment can travel  
24 safely back and forth and you can move the  
25 material around.

1           In addition to that, there's a  
2 five-mile -- a five-foot section on the other  
3 side of where the permanent easement will go, and  
4 that's just to help store all of the soil and  
5 materials so that it stays within the footprint  
6 that we're supposed to be staying within.

7           So in some areas, especially in West  
8 Virginia and the eastern part of Ohio where it's  
9 very hilly, those areas typically require a  
10 little bit more, just to make sure that our  
11 contractors have a safe environment. It's a  
12 little bit tougher for them to move around on  
13 those hills. So in those areas, the temporary  
14 construction workspace is a little bit bigger,  
15 but the permanent easement stays the same.

16           So pipeline safety is very, extremely  
17 important to Columbia. We install, design,  
18 maintain our pipelines in accordance with the  
19 Department of Transportation. In addition to  
20 that, there are measures that we take to ensure  
21 that our pipeline is working and remaining safe.  
22 Those measures include underground cathodic  
23 protection which helps the pipeline -- prevents  
24 it from corrosion. In addition to that, we do  
25 visual inspection, whether it's aerial or

1 actually on the ground looking. We also have a  
2 24/seven monitoring center which I'll talk about  
3 on the next slide.

4           And, lastly, like I was describing  
5 before, the launchers and receiver sites -- this  
6 tool that you can kind of see up here is called a  
7 smart pig. And those launch and receiver sites  
8 basically are entry points where this pig can go  
9 into the line. And that tool picks up millions  
10 of data points that we take back, analyze, and  
11 make sure that the pipeline is in good working  
12 condition. So without having to look at it, we  
13 know that it's great.

14           So this is like I was describing  
15 before. Our 24/seven, 365-day-a-year monitoring  
16 center. We have highly, highly trained employees  
17 that their sole responsibility is watching these  
18 screens which are realtime data points from the  
19 pipeline facilities themselves so we know what's  
20 going on. And they can make quick decisions if  
21 they need to.

22           And, lastly, with pipeline safety, for  
23 local emergency responders, we consider them an  
24 extended piece of our safety culture, so we offer  
25 training to emergency responders. We also

1 participate heavily in the 811 dig program, Call  
2 Before You Dig. That just educates people that  
3 there are things under the ground. And we want  
4 you to know to Call Before You Dig so you don't  
5 hit something. That's it on safety.

6 MS. DETTLING: I'm going to talk a  
7 little bit about environmental. As Zane said  
8 earlier, I'm the environmental project manager.  
9 Juan talked a little bit about the environmental  
10 impact statement that they prepare, and Columbia  
11 as a company will prepare an environmental  
12 document that we submit to them for a review.

13 So right now, where we're at in that  
14 process is collecting field data. We survey --  
15 some of you may have received letters or seen  
16 some of us out there doing field surveys. We  
17 look at a corridor much larger than what we're  
18 proposing to impact so that we can gather as much  
19 data as possible so that we can present what we  
20 think the impacts will be from this project being  
21 built.

22 Next, to safety. Minimizing impacts to  
23 the environment is our next, you know, highest  
24 goal. We survey for biological resources as well  
25 as cultural resources. So we're out there

1 looking for wetlands, water bodies, any habitat  
2 that might be present for threatened endangered  
3 species. We're also looking for cultural  
4 resources that might be present.

5 Right now, we're in a pre-filing  
6 process. So that allows us to make our --  
7 identify issues so that we might be able to avoid  
8 that and rerouting around it. We haven't filed  
9 an application, as Juan said, so we're in the  
10 information-gathering phase of all this  
11 environmental data. We started field surveys  
12 last year in June. Right now we're on a break  
13 for the winter. We'll continue finalizing those  
14 surveys as soon as weather permits this spring.

15 Here's just a list of some of the  
16 agencies that we work with. We coordinate and  
17 permit with a long list of environmental  
18 agencies. They help us to gain data from the  
19 areas that we're crossing, so we send out letters  
20 on where our proposed project is to all these  
21 agencies. They can give us data back on any  
22 information they have. But, also, we provide  
23 them with the field data that we get, and they  
24 also work with us in obtaining any of our  
25 federal, state, or local permits that may be

1 applicable to us.

2           We have it broken out here just to show  
3 you. Water resources, there are several agencies  
4 we work with in West Virginia and Ohio, as well  
5 as the Corps of Engineers, protected species.  
6 And then we also get permits for air quality.

7           Here are just another list of agencies  
8 that we may coordinate with. It might be NRCS,  
9 where we're going to coordinate with how we're  
10 going to restore for these local areas. National  
11 Park Service, DNR, any other agencies that may be  
12 able to give us information on what we may be  
13 impacting, as well as for cultural resources.

14           Here I'm going to talk a little bit --  
15 as Elaine said, we will maintain a 50-foot  
16 easement for our pipelines. We need to be able  
17 to monitor them and maintain a clean line of  
18 sight so that we can do aerial patrols and make  
19 sure that our system is operating safely.

20           For that reason, we have land agents --  
21 a large team of land agents that maybe have  
22 spoken with some of you, are going to be living  
23 right here in the local area for the life of the  
24 project, and hopefully working with you often if  
25 you're going to be impacted -- or possibly

1 impacted by the project.

2           We will just be maintaining or reaching  
3 out to obtain an easement for our pipeline. As  
4 Elaine said, 50 foot. We need this. We need to  
5 keep it free of obstructions, as far as  
6 buildings, tree roots, anything that might  
7 inhibit us from maintaining the system or might  
8 cause integrity issues to our project.

9           And as Elaine mentioned, the 811, which  
10 is the Call Before You Dig, we make sure that all  
11 of our pipelines are marked properly, so that if  
12 anyone is out there, that they will call ahead of  
13 time and make sure that they know where  
14 everything is located if there's any work going  
15 on in the area.

16           MR. DANIELS: Now to talk a little bit  
17 about community relations. Columbia Gas  
18 Transmission has been a part of Ohio and West  
19 Virginia for over 100 years, and we're proud of  
20 the relationships that we've built along the way.  
21 We're committed to supporting the growth and  
22 vitality of communities that have supported us  
23 for so long. We pledge to do everything we can  
24 to keep you informed of new developments  
25 throughout the life of this project.

1           Over a two-week period in November of  
2 last year, Columbia Gas Transmission held a  
3 series of open house meetings throughout the  
4 region to educate landowners on the project and  
5 give them a better understanding of what to  
6 expect going forward. In addition, I personally  
7 have been in direct contact with local elected  
8 officials and briefed them on the project and  
9 will continue to do so in an effort to keep them  
10 up to date.

11           As for landowners, we have developed a  
12 quarterly newsletter that you will be receiving  
13 in the mail. That will keep you informed of our  
14 progress and information on how you can sign up  
15 to receive updates from the Federal Regulatory --  
16 Energy Regulatory Commission. Columbia Gas  
17 Transmission's long-term commitment to your  
18 community includes supporting local non-profit  
19 and civic organizations, sponsoring community  
20 events, and volunteering within the community.

21           If you would like more information,  
22 please do not hesitate to contact me directly.  
23 My information is on all the newsletters that  
24 you'll receive as well as the materials that we  
25 have in the back. And, again, on behalf of our

1 entire project team that's here tonight, I just  
2 would like to, again, thank you all for being  
3 here. Your input is very valuable to us, and we  
4 appreciate you taking the time.

5 MR. POLIT: Thank you for that  
6 presentation.

7 I just want to go ahead and begin the  
8 important part of tonight's meeting. Those of  
9 you who want to come up and comment -- make your  
10 comments, we'll take them in the order that they  
11 appeared on the sign-up sheet, and I have that  
12 sign-up sheet in hand.

13 Please try to remember to make your  
14 comments specific, detailed, and environmentally  
15 related. Whether you're for or against, try to  
16 make them environmentally related. We're not  
17 going to put a time limit on tonight, unless  
18 you're going off -- we only have four people so  
19 far. So if you feel like you want to go ahead  
20 and add your name on and it's not on the list  
21 right now, there's another one back there. You  
22 can go ahead and put it on there.

23 Okay. And also know that after the  
24 meeting you'll still have a chance to go back and  
25 meet with FERC and the Columbia Gas people.

1 We'll show you some graphics, maps, things that  
2 you can find out where your property is.

3 Now, when you come up, we're just going  
4 to have to sit on this chair here. That's all  
5 we've got. And go ahead and spell out your name,  
6 try to speak clearly. And we can progress that  
7 way.

8 So let's go ahead and start. If I  
9 could have Rose -- Zatezalo? Is that pronounced  
10 correctly?

11 MS. ZATEZALO: Close enough.

12 MR. POLIT: All right. You can spell  
13 it out for us. Please come up.

14 MS. ZATEZALO: Thank you. My name is  
15 Rose Zatezalo, Z-A-T-E-Z-A-L-O.

16 I wrote a letter to the FERC, and I  
17 gave them a copy tonight as well as mailed it,  
18 but I understand you only want comments that are  
19 environmentally -- the topic is for the  
20 environment, right?

21 MR. POLIT: Yes. Just try to make it  
22 relevant.

23 MS. ZATEZALO: I'm not going to read my  
24 whole letter. But, basically, I have three  
25 parcels in Sarahsville, and the pipeline will go

1 through -- proposed pipeline will go through all  
2 three parcels. So it's very important to me what  
3 happens to the land.

4 I will lose my -- my land is mostly  
5 heavily wooded, and I bought it for that reason,  
6 to keep it natural. So I am very concerned about  
7 what's going to happen to the vegetation. Not  
8 only the large trees that are there, but also the  
9 small understory trees, how they will be removed.  
10 And some of the representatives from Columbia  
11 already answered my questions. I wanted to know  
12 if they used chemicals. They said no. I wanted  
13 to know if they use explosives because it's a  
14 high -- the area is the highest point in Noble  
15 County, and it's rock. There is -- it's called  
16 the ridge for a reason. It's rock. And I have a  
17 cabin there. The proposed pipeline is supposed  
18 to go through my cabin. That's another issue,  
19 but I won't talk about that.

20 I'm concerned about -- there's a creek  
21 at the bottom of my one parcel that runs through  
22 several parcels. It's called Buffalo Creek. I'm  
23 concerned about runoff. I am at the highest  
24 point, so once you remove the vegetation, there's  
25 going to be quick runoff of anything during the

1 construction project, whether it's rain or  
2 chemicals or whatever. So I'm concerned. That  
3 water's got to go somewhere. So is it going to  
4 go into the Buffalo Creek, and what's going to  
5 happen to the fish and the beavers and  
6 salamanders and whatever's in that creek? So  
7 that's in my letter, too.

8           Of course I'm concerned about the  
9 wildlife. One of the reasons I bought the  
10 property was because of all the wildlife. So,  
11 naturally, I'm concerned. But I realize clearing  
12 a 100-foot-wide swath of land, it's going to take  
13 a long time for vegetation to recover. I'm  
14 concerned about that. I already have the Spectra  
15 pipeline -- that's old -- that's on there. I see  
16 how that land has recovered. Not well. So I'm  
17 not optimistic. But I'm realistic.

18           I understand this is going to go  
19 through. It's going to create -- by clearing the  
20 land, it's going to create what they call an open  
21 notch. And I looked on the government website  
22 about that, and it will be clearly visible from  
23 Township Road 139 and also 146.

24           So, in other words, just like you see  
25 the Spectra pipeline that looks like a -- like

1 something shaved the hair down somebody's head  
2 and down the hill, well, that's what's going to  
3 happen. It's going to be even wider. So I'm  
4 concerned about that.

5           Let's see. I also wanted to know if  
6 there's going to be any underground storage. I  
7 realize some of the questions I'm asking tonight  
8 may be premature. In the final analysis, you'll  
9 have all the answers. Right now, you don't have  
10 them. But that doesn't mean I'm not concerned  
11 about it.

12           Also -- and I told this to the Columbia  
13 representatives -- I do not have an accurate map  
14 yet, aerial or survey map. My land has been  
15 surveyed. It's not accurate with the maps.  
16 Eventually they've -- the Columbia people have  
17 assured me that they will be, and I look forward  
18 to seeing that, because how can I agree to  
19 anything when it's not accurate? So thank you.

20           MR. POLIT: Thank you very much.

21           The second speaker we have is Phil  
22 Harris. Please come forward, please.

23           MR. HARRIS: Good evening. My name's  
24 Phil Harris. I'm the business manager with  
25 Laborers Local 530 in Zanesville, Ohio.

1           We cover four counties, which is Perry,  
2 Muskingum, Guernsey, and Noble. Thanks for the  
3 invite from the FERC people and the Columbia  
4 Pipeline Group, Zane Daniels specifically.

5           I'm going to answer a couple of your  
6 questions which I didn't have for my information.  
7 But one of the things we do is we support out  
8 there -- and labor's labor. Okay. And to touch  
9 on one subject environmentally, what specifically  
10 one of the things our group of people do is we do  
11 protect the environment. And we actually have  
12 crews that are called the environmental crews.

13           So in the event of -- like your concern  
14 with the runoff and that type of thing, there are  
15 so many systems that are preventative before even  
16 the dirt is even moved. Okay. A silt fence,  
17 which I don't know if you know what that is,  
18 that's the black curtain you see. That protects  
19 the runoff. Water bars. That's another stage  
20 that the operators and the laborers take care of.  
21 And what a water bar does, as the water gains  
22 momentum, the bar of dirt will slow things down  
23 to keep things from getting to a drastic area.

24           There's a lot of different things that  
25 we could go on and on about. There's a lot of

1 publication, there's a lot of literature that you  
2 could read about to show you about the  
3 environmental things that we do to help out, and  
4 their guidelines as well.

5           I'm not going to talk for a long time.  
6 Like I say, Columbia Pipeline Group is committed  
7 to the union so far, so we are excited. Very  
8 excited to be a part of it. We don't get the  
9 opportunity a lot of times to work with  
10 organizations like Columbia's been. Zane and  
11 Elaine and the group and all of them. So it's a  
12 good thing for us.

13           One thing we do, real quick, you might  
14 want to take note on, where there are people who  
15 are very specifically trained. You talk about  
16 other pipelines. You guys have been saturated in  
17 Noble County with pipelines. But with the union  
18 side of it, we do it right.

19           We have a training facility in  
20 Millwood, Ohio; Howard, Ohio. It's centrally  
21 located 15 miles east of Mount Vernon. It's a --  
22 just real quick, it's a 120-acre site that has  
23 classroom facilities, dormitory facility,  
24 cafeteria. It's set up to train our people  
25 professionally.

1           Safety is number one, of course, as  
2 always. But when we send people out on the  
3 pipeline, 50 percent of them are going to be  
4 local people. Okay? So when we say local, we  
5 mean they eat at your restaurant. They are from  
6 this area. They reside here. They pay taxes.  
7 Okay?

8           So the reason I'm saying that is  
9 because a lot of the companies that you see --  
10 and you see a lot of the traffic come in and out  
11 of Noble County, I'm sure, with the Pilot station  
12 and whatnot. You'll see a lot of out-of-town  
13 license plates. When you see the areas where our  
14 people are working for the contractors, you're  
15 going to see Ohio plates and specifically see  
16 Guernsey and Noble County on those Ohio plates.  
17 So I think that's pretty important to us and  
18 everybody in this room.

19           And for the environmental side of it,  
20 you know, one thing that -- it might sound a  
21 little bit as a cliché, but we leave -- like  
22 environmental is one of the last things that --  
23 the group that goes through the pipeline, or the  
24 cleanup, they call it. We say we'd like to leave  
25 it like our own backyard, because a lot of cases

1 it is our backyard because we're a neighbor to  
2 you and to a lot of people in the community. I  
3 hope you feel more comfortable with me saying  
4 that about the labor that's going to be working  
5 on the project.

6           One thing that we do do on the  
7 education side of it, we've trained right now --  
8 in the last few years, we've got over 18,000  
9 hours of people that have been trained  
10 specifically for the gas pipeline work. And what  
11 that means is we just -- a lot of companies out  
12 there that you'll see, they send people out  
13 there, but they're not really highly trained like  
14 we are. So what I'm saying with that, with the  
15 hours that we've trained -- when we send a guy  
16 out on an environmental crew, that's what he  
17 knows. We don't send a person out that's done  
18 nothing but flag or worked on another project.  
19 They specifically know how to do that job.

20           One thing that we've had -- on some  
21 impact areas that Columbia's brought to our  
22 attention as well is in the peak time in 2017  
23 when this project is going to go, it's going to  
24 create 5,600 jobs in the state of Ohio, 1,690 of  
25 them specifically here. 4,700 -- I mean,

1 directly. I'm sorry -- and 4,700 of those jobs  
2 indirectly, with an estimated income for those  
3 people of 122 million dollars. Okay? So you can  
4 see the impact it's going to have in the  
5 community. 1,900 construction in the peak, and  
6 that's all for local labor from start to finish.  
7 Okay?

8           Revenues from the state is going to be  
9 almost 40 million in the state of Ohio for the  
10 Leach Xpress specifically, and that amounts to,  
11 in just Noble County alone, a little over six  
12 million dollars. Okay? So numbers like that --  
13 I mean, it's impressive to me. I hope it's  
14 impressive to you.

15           We're looking really, really forward to  
16 working in the community, which we have been for  
17 years. You know, the Laborers International  
18 Union in North American's been around for over  
19 100 years, so we know what we're doing. We're  
20 professionally trained. We're safe. And we look  
21 forward to working with everybody out there.

22           FROM THE FLOOR: Excuse me. What local  
23 were you?

24           MR. HARRIS: Local 530.

25           And, you know, just as a small thing,

1 as a reminder how committed we are and how  
2 excited we are about the job, if we could have  
3 the guys -- this is just some representation that  
4 we have on the job. If you could stand up, the  
5 guys that came down. And these were our local  
6 representatives that came down, just to meet some  
7 people, shake hands, and introduce themselves to  
8 people tonight. Thanks, everybody.

9 MR. POLIT: Thank you very much,  
10 Mr. Harris.

11 Could we have Charles Yates come up  
12 now? Thank you.

13 MR. YATES: Boy, he's going to be a  
14 tough act to follow. Good evening. My name is  
15 Charles Yates.

16 In preparation for tonight's meeting, I  
17 prepared a few notes because I'm not a public  
18 speaker by no means. But I am a landowner and a  
19 taxpayer and a proud resident of the great state  
20 of Ohio. I'm also a pipeliner, a member of  
21 Pipeliners Local Union 798 for 33 years.

22 Let me start by saying thank you to  
23 FERC for holding these meetings to educate the  
24 public. And thank you, Columbia Gas.

25 As I said, I have been a pipeliner for

1 33 years, and I've seen firsthand the benefits  
2 that these projects bring to state and local  
3 economy. Projects like this one would create  
4 many jobs. Many welders, operators, laborers,  
5 and Teamsters are from right here in Ohio. These  
6 projects would go toward helping our great nation  
7 be more energy-independent.

8           Last, but not least, I would like to  
9 say -- I would like to ask you to build these  
10 projects with union labor. We are the best at  
11 what we do. We take pride in our job while  
12 protecting our environment and respecting our  
13 neighbors' property. Our pride is in every weld  
14 we make. It's 100 percent x-rayed and stronger  
15 than the pipe itself. Every string that is cut  
16 through is put back sometimes better than it  
17 originally was. Erosion-type.

18           We live here. We live near these  
19 pipelines. Many of us have them running through  
20 our property. We want to protect what we have as  
21 well as make a living for our family.

22           In closing, I would like to say that I  
23 stand here in approval of the Leach Xpress  
24 pipeline. Thank you.

25           MR. POLIT: Thank you, Mr. Yates.

1           Can we now have Lloyd Lewis come up  
2 forward, please?

3           MR. LEWIS:  Lloyd Lewis, L-L-O-Y-D,  
4 L-E-W-I-S.  And I'm here to represent the  
5 operating engineers and Local 18, which is our  
6 union local here in Ohio.  They have  
7 approximately 14,000 members statewide.  And on  
8 behalf of every one of these operators, I'd like  
9 to support this line.  With the experienced  
10 operators we have, I think it would be less  
11 impact on the environment along the pipeline  
12 because experience counts everywhere.

13           And a lot of our members take it in and  
14 live alongside this pipeline, too.  And that's  
15 what I have to say.

16           MR. POLIT:  All right.  Thank you.

17           We have another speaker, Robert --

18           MR. PETELIN:  Petelin.

19           MR. POLIT:  -- Petelin.  Please come  
20 forward.

21           MR. PETELIN:  Hi.  My name is Robert  
22 Petelin.  Last name is spelled P-E-T-E-L-I-N.  
23 I'm a landowner outside Marion Township, outside  
24 Summerfield.

25           And I can just say I have a concern

1 about the impact on the land. I purchased the  
2 property back in 1998, primarily for recreational  
3 use, for deer hunting. All right? I plant food  
4 plots and everything else for animals. I trap  
5 the property. And like I say, I use the  
6 resources.

7 I moved here five years ago for the  
8 peace and quiet. And right now we have the plant  
9 in Summerfield. All right? And I hear a  
10 compressor going around the clock. I can't sleep  
11 at night. There has been so much pipeline  
12 activity going around by me, I haven't been able  
13 to sleep. I'm looking -- ready to leave this  
14 great county that I moved into five years ago.  
15 All right?

16 I'm involved with the school. I coach  
17 football. I coach baseball. And I coach  
18 softball. All right? And I can say this, that,  
19 number one, Columbia Gas, they've sent three reps  
20 out to see me so far. All right? The first one  
21 came out because they wanted to do a survey.  
22 They promised they wouldn't put any stakes in the  
23 property because they were coming out during bow  
24 season, my prime time, the thing I live for. All  
25 right? Number one, they put stakes from the back

1 of my property all the way up to the front in  
2 October. All right?

3 Secondly, they said they would not cut  
4 down any trees. They lied. They cut down trees  
5 that were 22 inches around. All right? Ten of  
6 them, black walnuts, white oaks, and they come  
7 through and they just butchered them trees right  
8 up. All right?

9 They did send a rep out, and they tried  
10 paying me some money for those trees. They asked  
11 me, and they did send me a check. But then they  
12 also sent me a W-2 so I'd have to pay taxes on  
13 damages that they did on my property. And then  
14 they ran it right next to two springs I have on  
15 opposite sides of the hill. They said they were  
16 going to come back out and resurvey it. I  
17 haven't heard from them since.

18 I did hear from them in December. A  
19 fellow said he was going to come out of Columbus,  
20 and he scheduled a meeting. All right? He  
21 called me -- when the meeting was supposed to be  
22 at 6:00 o'clock at my residence, he called at  
23 6:00 o'clock and left me a message saying that he  
24 wasn't going to be able to make it out because  
25 they hadn't redone any surveys or anything and he

1 didn't have the proper information; that he'd get  
2 back with me. It's been now almost two months  
3 since that transpired.

4           So I don't know what Columbia Gas is  
5 saying. All right? Are these people saying it's  
6 not going to impact you? It's already impacting  
7 me. All right? And all I know is that I'm very  
8 concerned because I don't -- I can't make what  
9 the impact's going to be on my property because  
10 they haven't told me where it's going to go yet.  
11 So that's my main concern.

12           I have a limited time for this scoping  
13 process to take action, and I don't know what  
14 it's going to be yet. All I know is I'm  
15 concerned because they're going to blow this  
16 thing through, and I'm just really concerned.  
17 That's all I got to say.

18           MR. POLIT: Thank you, Mr. Petelin.

19           Now, is there anyone else who would  
20 like to come up and feel free to talk? We can go  
21 a little bit later, but we don't have to if you  
22 don't want to. Maybe you'd like to talk more  
23 with us out in the back. We welcome you to stay  
24 and do that.

25           We really appreciate you coming out

1 tonight and making this worthwhile for us to hear  
2 the comments. With this, I'll go ahead and  
3 adjourn the meeting. Thank you very much.

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5 (Thereupon, the proceedings were  
6 adjourned at 7:31 p.m.)

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