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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Columbia Gas
Transmission, LLCIn Re:
Docket #PF14-23-000

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TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC MEETING

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Proceedings recorded by Donna J.

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Karoscik, Registered Professional Reporter,

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Registered Merit Reporter, Registered Diplomate

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Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, Certified

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CART Provider, Certified LiveNote Reporter, and

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Notary Public in and for the States of Ohio and

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West Virginia, at Huntington High School, One

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Highlander Lane, Huntington, West Virginia 25701,

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on February 4, 2015, beginning at 6:35 p.m. and

21

concluding on the same day.

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1 Wednesday Evening Session
2 February 4, 2015
3 beginning at 6:35 p.m.

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5 MR. POLIT: We're going to go ahead and
6 start momentarily. Thank you.

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

13 The primary purpose of this meeting is
14 to give you an opportunity to provide
15 environmentally related comments to the Leach
16 Xpress Project being planned by Columbia Gas.
17 Comments and input received by the public will
18 become part of the environmental record for the
19 planned project.

20 Let the record show that the public
21 scoping meeting in Huntsville -- Huntington, West
22 Virginia began at 6:35 on February 4th, 2015.

23 My name is Juan Polit, and I'm from the
24 environmental -- I am from the FERC, and I am an
25 environmental project manager in their Office of

1 Energy Projects. I am responsible for conducting
2 a detailed environmental analysis of Columbia
3 Gas' planned project and producing an
4 environmental impact statement, or EIS for short.

5 Alisa Lykens, my supervisor at FERC, is
6 also with me here in the back. She's at the
7 sign-up table. Also with me joining us tonight
8 and helping us out are Brian Sterner and Monica
9 Rudowski. They're also at the sign-up table in
10 the back.

11 Mr. Sterner and Ms. Rudowski are with
12 our contractor, ERM, and ERM is an environmental
13 consulting firm assisting us in the production of
14 the EIS that will be prepared for this project.

15 Do come on in.

16 We also have representatives from
17 Columbia Gas present tonight whom you may have
18 already met at their table.

19 As you can see, this meeting is being
20 recorded by a court reporter so that we can have
21 an accurate record of tonight's comments. A
22 transcript of this meeting will be placed in the
23 public record so that everyone has access to the
24 information discussed here tonight.

25 There is a sign-up table in the back --

1 actually, out in the hallway -- and that contains
2 a sign-up sheet for attendance and also another
3 one for those of you who would like to speak
4 tonight. Also, that table has a number of
5 informational handouts.

6 I'll quickly run through the agenda for
7 tonight's meeting. I will start off by briefly
8 explaining FERC and our environmental review,
9 then I will have a Columbia Gas representative
10 give a brief overview of the project. Following
11 that presentation, we are going to go ahead and
12 invite those in the audience who have signed up
13 to speak to come up and make your comments.

14 Let me begin by briefly describing
15 FERC. FERC is an independent agency that, among
16 other things, regulates interstate transmission
17 of natural gas. By interstate, we mean
18 transmission of natural gas across state lines.

19 The FERC is comprised of a five-member
20 commission and the regular staff, which includes
21 myself and Ms. Lykens. The five-member
22 commission reviews proposals for and authorizes
23 construction of interstate natural gas pipelines
24 and also for natural gas storage facilities and
25 natural gas terminals. The commission members

1 are appointed by the President and approved by
2 the Senate.

3 Commission staff in general prepares
4 technical information to assist the commissioners
5 in making their decisions. The FERC certificate
6 process begins when a company who wants to build
7 pipeline facilities to transport and sell natural
8 gas in interstate commerce files an application
9 before the FERC. Companies will be seeking a
10 certificate of public convenience and necessity.
11 That certificate gives them the authority to
12 construct and operate the pipeline and proposed
13 facilities.

14 Columbia Gas plans to file their
15 application around June of this year, and is
16 requesting its certificate for late next year.
17 It is important for everyone to understand that
18 Columbia Gas' planned project is not proposed by
19 us and is not conceived by the FERC.

20 As a federal licensing agency, FERC has
21 the responsibility under the National
22 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, to consider
23 the potential environmental impact associated
24 with projects under its jurisdiction, such as the
25 current one that has been or will be filed with

1 the FERC. With regard to the Leach Xpress
2 Project, FERC is the lead federal agency for NEPA
3 review and for preparation of the EIS.

4 Now, the EIS, if I haven't mentioned it
5 before, stands for environmental impact
6 statement.

7 Tonight's meeting is not a public
8 hearing, and we cannot debate project-related
9 issues or make any determination on the project's
10 fate. We are here to listen to your concerns and
11 comments so that we can consider them in our
12 analysis of the potential impacts of the planned
13 project on the human and natural environment.
14 Part of this analysis includes considering how
15 those impacts might be reduced or avoided.

16 During our review of the planned
17 project, we will assemble information from a
18 variety of sources and stakeholders. Those
19 sources include Columbia Gas, state and local and
20 federal agencies, local and state governments,
21 elected officials, Indian tribes, nongovernmental
22 organizations, and our own independent analysis
23 and fieldwork.

24 Now, a little bit about our
25 environmental review timeline. Currently FERC is

1 in the first phase of our review of the planned
2 project, and this is called the pre-filing phase.
3 Pre-filing for this planned project began when
4 Columbia Gas entered into the FERC pre-filing
5 process on October 9 of 2014.

6 Pre-filing is a part of the
7 environmental timeline in which the FERC staff as
8 well as some state and federal agencies begin
9 environmental study even though a planned project
10 has not been filed with FERC. The purpose of the
11 pre-filing is to encourage involvement by all of
12 the stakeholders in a manner that allows for the
13 early identification of environmental issues and
14 resolution of some of them.

15 Our primary task during this early
16 stage of the pre-filing phase is to scope the
17 planned project. By scoping, I mean the act of
18 assembling environmental analysis -- I'm sorry --
19 information from multiple sources and determining
20 the extent of our overall environmental analysis.

21 Within the pre-filing phase, FERC has
22 initiated a formal comment period which began
23 with the issuance on January 13th, 2015 of our
24 notice of intent to prepare an environmental
25 impact statement for the Leach Xpress Project.

1 The notice of intent, or NOI for short,
2 was mailed to over 1,400 stakeholders and
3 describes the environmental review process and
4 some already identified environmental issues and
5 some of the steps that FERC will be taking to
6 prepare the EIS.

7 We have set an ending date of
8 February 12th, 2015 for this comment period.
9 However, this is not the end of your chance to
10 comment. We will still accept comments after
11 that date, but we just needed to go ahead and set
12 the date in order to gather as many of those
13 comments to facilitate the process in a timely
14 manner.

15 Once again, I'd like to go ahead and
16 draw your attention to the sign-up table out in
17 the hallway. We have all kinds of informational
18 handouts and our attendance sheet is there. We
19 also have comment forms.

20 Right now we have a large mailing list.
21 If you have received a copy of the NOI, you are
22 already on our mailing list to receive copies of
23 the draft and final EIS. If you did not receive
24 the NOI or would just like to have another one,
25 please go ahead and pick up a copy.

1 Finally, if you would like to add your
2 name to the mailing list, there is a place on the
3 sign-up sheet to do so.

4 We have already begun analyzing
5 Columbia Gas' preferred route and some issues
6 that have been identified during the scoping
7 period. As we progress toward the end of the
8 scoping period, we will constantly be reviewing
9 and updating what are known as environmental
10 resource reports, and those are required to be
11 developed by Columbia Gas. These resource
12 reports contain information for several different
13 resource areas, such as water resources, wildlife
14 habitat, land use impacts, air and noise quality,
15 and public safety.

16 Some of these resource reports have
17 already been put onto the public record in draft
18 form, and they can be viewed by anyone using
19 FERC's e-library system.

20 As of today, no formal application has
21 been filed with the FERC. The pre-filing
22 process, the parallel scoping period, both of
23 those will end when Columbia Gas files their
24 application to FERC. At that time FERC will
25 issue a notice of application.

1 The application will include, among
2 other items, a complete set of the required
3 environmental resource reports and statements
4 addressing all the nonenvironmental issues
5 identified in pre-filing.

6 When using all information collected
7 during the scoping period, FERC staff will factor
8 that into our independent analysis of the planned
9 project's potential impacts on the human and
10 natural environment. The resulting draft and
11 final EIS will contain our assessment of the
12 project's effects on soils and agriculture,
13 residences, waterways, wetlands, vegetation and
14 wildlife, threatened and endangered species,
15 cultural and historic resources, noise and air
16 quality, and public safety.

17 The EIS will also include a set of
18 environmental conditions that we will require
19 Columbia Gas to carry out during construction and
20 operation of its planned project, if approved.

21 The FERC will publish a draft EIS which
22 we will distribute to all of the identified
23 stakeholders who are on that 1,400 mailing list.
24 That will be out for a 45-day comment period. At
25 the end of the draft EIS comment period, FERC

1 staff will prepare a final EIS that specifically
2 addresses each comment received on the draft EIS
3 and includes all necessary changes, additions,
4 modifications to the conclusions that we reached
5 in the draft.

6 The final EIS will be considered by the
7 commission -- that is, the five-member
8 commission -- in its determination whether or not
9 to grant Columbia Gas its certificate request
10 authorizing them to construct and operate the
11 planned project and, if so, under what
12 conditions.

13 When the commission is considering
14 this, they will include -- consider findings,
15 conclusions, and recommendations that will be put
16 into the final EIS, but also they will also
17 include and consider stakeholder comments on
18 nonenvironmental issues, such as engineering,
19 market need, rates, finances, costs, and tariffs.

20 Aside from speaking into the public
21 record tonight, there are three other ways to get
22 your comments to the FERC. These include
23 handwritten comments, or typed, to myself. You
24 can hand them in to myself, Ms. Lykens,
25 Mr. Sterner, or Ms. Rudowski tonight. Or you can

1 just simply write in your comments to the
2 secretary of the commission, or you can use our
3 electronic online filing system. We would like
4 to encourage people to use that filing system
5 online.

6 The NOI and two of the brochures at the
7 sign-up table have instructions for using our
8 online filing system, or, if you want, you can
9 simply go to FERC's website and get the
10 instructions from there. And our website is at
11 www.FERC.gov. You would click under the e-filing
12 link.

13 It's very important that any comments
14 you send either online or by traditional mail or
15 that you hand in tonight include the internal
16 docket number for this particular project. The
17 docket number is on the cover of the NOI. That
18 will make sure that your comments will get to the
19 right project. The docket number for this
20 project is PF14-23-000.

21 So with this being said, I would like
22 to go ahead and allow Columbia Gas to do a short
23 presentation on the nuts and bolts of their
24 planned project. And with that, I'll turn it
25 over.

1 MR. OEHLER: Thank you.

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3 (A discussion was held off the record.)

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5 MR. OEHLER: Okay. We have
6 successfully passed the first test. We'll get
7 the slides up.

8 My name is Alex Oehler. I'm part of
9 the community relations department for Columbia.
10 And I want to thank everyone for coming tonight.
11 We really appreciate it.

12 Public input is a critical part of this
13 project. As we're designing and trying to get
14 approval and trying to build a project like this
15 one, we want to work with communities throughout
16 the entire area that the project touches. And so
17 your attendance tonight is critical in that, and
18 we really appreciate it.

19 We have some of our project team
20 members here tonight. I just wanted to introduce
21 them quickly. If you have specific questions for
22 these individual team members, I'm going to ask
23 them to raise their hand. Please be sure to seek
24 them out.

25 First, Jim Barrett and Nena Honaker.

1 Nena and Jim are in the back. Nena and Jim work
2 with landowners across the entire project area.
3 So they have intimate knowledge of and access to
4 photographs and things of individual parcels. If
5 the pipeline is going to be near property that
6 you own, Nena and Jim are good people to talk to
7 about the proposed positioning of the pipeline.

8 Melissa Dettling here, who will talk in
9 just a second, Melissa is in charge of all the
10 environmental permitting. A project like this
11 has extensive permitting that it has to meet.
12 Melissa's job is to make sure we meet all of
13 those requirements.

14 And Melissa is working with Dave
15 Beckmeyer in the back, and Leslie Yoo, who is a
16 biologist. Dave and Leslie are experts in the
17 environmental services field, and we've hired
18 them to kind of help us through this project.

19 Ted McDavitt. Ted is in charge of --
20 the project manager for the facilities that
21 we're -- the aboveground facilities that we're
22 going to be building. There are some compressor
23 stations that are part of the project. Ted is
24 leading that effort.

25 Elaine Coppedge in the back. Elaine is

1 project manager for the pipeline portion of the
2 project.

3 And D.J. Reza. Where's D.J.? D.J. is
4 the associate pipeline project manager.

5 And finally -- well, not finally, but
6 Ben Lun. Ben is our lead engineer designing the
7 project and its facilities.

8 And then, finally, Craig Roberts.
9 Where's Craig? Craig is with our operations
10 team. So this is a proposal now. If it's
11 approved and built, we will turn the facilities
12 over to our operations team. Craig's a local
13 employee, and they maintain and run the system on
14 a day-to-day basis.

15 Just very quickly about Columbia
16 Pipeline Group, Columbia Gas Transmission. In
17 this group, if you're not familiar with us, we're
18 an interstate natural gas provider. So we've
19 been in the area for a long, long time. Our job
20 is to move natural gas from point A to point B.
21 We're like UPS or Federal Express. We don't
22 produce natural gas. We don't deliver it from
23 homes. We just -- deliver it to homes. We just
24 move it through the interstate market.

25 So people contract us to move it from

1 an area close to a production field to a place in
2 the interstate market where it continues down the
3 chain, ultimately going to homeowners or
4 businesses or whoever the end user is.

5 We've got about 15,000 miles of
6 interstate pipeline. You can see our system
7 there. We go from Louisiana in the south up to
8 the southern tier of New York. The bulk of our
9 service territory is here in West Virginia, Ohio,
10 and Pennsylvania.

11 We're also one of the largest natural
12 gas storage providers in the country. We store
13 natural gas underground in depleted gas
14 reservoirs. Having that gas in those storage
15 areas enables us to get it quickly to market
16 during high-demand times.

17 About a trillion cubic feet of natural
18 gas goes through our system every year. We're
19 part of the NiSource family of energy companies.
20 We're in the process now of splitting away from
21 NiSource, and we're going to be a stand-alone
22 energy company called Columbia Pipeline Group.

23 We've been watching the development of
24 natural gas in the whole region -- Pennsylvania,
25 Ohio, West Virginia -- and have been looking at

1 our system and trying to determine what the needs
2 are throughout the region to help facilitate
3 natural gas delivery to end users, and our team
4 of engineers has looked at our current facilities
5 and what we think is needed, and we've designed a
6 project that we call Leach Xpress, which that's a
7 very high-level map.

8 We've got more specific mapping in the
9 back that you can look at. But it essentially
10 starts in Marshall County, West Virginia, moves
11 west through the state of Ohio, connects into an
12 existing system that we have, and then there is
13 some pipeline that we're replacing toward the
14 south, and then eventually it comes out again and
15 terminates here in Wayne County, tying into our
16 existing pipeline system.

17 This is a proposal right now. It's a
18 fairly extensive and exhaustive permitting
19 process. If we get through that permitting
20 process successfully, we would like to begin
21 construction in the fall of 2016 with an
22 in-service date of November 2017.

23 I'll turn it over to Ted now.

24 MR. McDAVITT: Thank you, Alex.

25 As Alex mentioned, I'm Ted McDavitt.

1 I'm the facilities project manager. So I will
2 carry you through the project overview for the
3 pipeline and for the facility.

4 So, real quick, the project that we've
5 proposed, roughly about 157 miles, broken up into
6 a few different sections. We've got some 36-inch
7 pipe and we also have about a half a mile of
8 30-inch pipe. So the bigger portion is the LEX
9 line, and it's 130 miles of the 36-inch. We have
10 about -- like I said, about a half a mile of
11 30-inch.

12 We have the R-801 loop which we've
13 proposed, which is 27 miles, plus/minus, of line
14 central to our facilities, adjacent to our
15 existing R-501 line. What actually we're going
16 to do is we're going to take a portion of our
17 R-501 line out of service and put in the new
18 R-801 line.

19 We also have the BM-111 loop, which
20 actually is down here, and it's about three miles
21 of 36-inch pipe. And as Alex said, terminating
22 in our Ceredo facility.

23 Let's talk about the facilities. So we
24 have three Greenfield facilities that we'll be
25 constructing. Yeah. One over in Majorsville,

1 one over in Summerfield, Ohio, and one in Oak
2 Hill, Ohio. All going to be natural gas
3 turbines. And as you can see here, 31,000
4 horsepower, 15,000 horsepower, 47,000 horsepower
5 is what we're looking at in each one of those
6 facilities in order to carry the new gas
7 supplies.

8 We will also be doing some
9 modifications to existing facilities, one of them
10 being here, our Ceredo facility, where we'll be
11 installing 33,000 horsepower of electric
12 compressors if this project gets approved.

13 We'll also have some regulation
14 stations or regulator stations, which as you can
15 imagine we increase, decrease pressure --
16 actually, mainly decrease pressure at these
17 certain tie-in points with our facilities, and
18 that's what those stations will do.

19 All right. So we're going to talk a
20 little bit about the pipeline construction
21 process, for those of you that are not as
22 familiar with it. We start off with our
23 surveying and staking, up there in the top
24 left-hand corner, work our way into clearing and
25 grading. Then we'll do what we call stringing

1 the pipe, in which we'll carry the joints of
2 pipe, which are the lengths of pipe, from the
3 pipe yards out onto what we call a right-of-way.
4 We'll line them up. We'll have some folks come
5 out and bend them as necessary for contours of
6 the earth.

7 And then we'll weld them all up
8 together as we see there in cell 6. 7, you'll do
9 your trenching. I would say we'll probably do
10 trenching with an excavator as opposed to the old
11 trenching wheel. And then we'll be lowering that
12 pipe in, as you can see, as it comes through 8
13 and up into 9. Then we'll be covering it as we
14 see in 10.

15 And then we'll hydrotest the pipe.
16 When I say hydrotest, we'll actually fill the
17 line up with water, bring it up to a certain
18 pressure for a certain period of time, make sure
19 that it was installed correctly, that there are
20 no leaks. And then once it's finished with the
21 hydrotest, we'll go ahead and dewater the line,
22 dry it out, and get it ready for service.

23 Let's see. This is what specifically
24 our construction project will look like. I don't
25 have the laser pointer tonight. We have a

1 50-foot proposed permanent easement, which will
2 be more or less centered on the line itself, 25
3 feet on either side. And then you've got your
4 construction effort to where you have temporary
5 construction workspace on both sides, much
6 smaller on one side than the other. And we
7 actually offset that line in our construction
8 workspace. And what we accomplish with that is
9 we have what we call the spoil side, and we also
10 have our working side.

11 And, of course, as we excavate the
12 ditch, we'll actually spoil across the side of
13 the ditch and we'll run our side booms, which is
14 what these things are that actually lift and
15 lower the pipe into the ditch. Okay? And that's
16 just another configuration.

17 Pipeline safety. Obviously, we've got
18 15,000 miles of pipeline. We take safety
19 exceptionally seriously. That's what we do.
20 Right? We operate these things day-in/day-out in
21 a safe manner. So we'll be constructing it and
22 designing it and maintaining it in accordance
23 with the Department of Transportation's
24 requirements, which are, as Craig will probably
25 tell us, pretty good.

1 We also do an awful lot of things that
2 most of the public, you know, just aren't aware
3 of, and those are things such as cathodic
4 protection, which pretty much negates corrosion
5 on the lines due to reduced currents. We also
6 have around-the-clock monitoring. You know,
7 everybody kind of has a vision in their mind of
8 what that pipeline control center must look like.
9 Well, we actually have a picture so you can see
10 if it matches or not on the next slide.

11 We also do -- over in the top picture,
12 you're see the helicopter flying over. We do
13 periodic aerial controls. We also do -- in the
14 bottom picture you can see there, we run what are
15 called in-line inspection tools. Doesn't mean a
16 whole lot to a whole lot of people. We take this
17 pig -- what we call a pig, right? 36 inches in
18 diameter, put it in the line and run it down the
19 line.

20 And while it's running down the line,
21 it's taking thousands and thousands and thousands
22 of measurements. It will look for bends, dents,
23 anomalies, corrosion of any type. And we get
24 that data back, and we analyze it and make sure
25 that there's nothing that we need to go out there

1 and fix.

2 Here it is. This is what the control
3 center looks like. 24 hours a day, seven days a
4 week, 365 days a year, these guys are in there.
5 Not the same guys at the same time, but they
6 shift. All right? And so -- but these folks are
7 all assigned a specific area of the pipe. And so
8 you can see each console is a certain portion of
9 our 15,000 miles of pipe. And that actually
10 includes facilities as well.

11 You can imagine they have a lot of
12 things moving on there, and they're constantly
13 monitoring pressures and temperatures and flows
14 and position of valves and percentage of
15 operating of the, you know, compressors. It's a
16 pretty intense job, and these guys are some of
17 our highest -- highest trained folks that we
18 have, and they do a good job.

19 Thank you, Melissa, for bumping me.

20 MS. DETTLING: Sorry.

21 MR. McDAVITT: Pipeline safety is what
22 we really kind of take to heart. You can imagine
23 that we have nice folks like Craig Roberts and a
24 handful of good operators, but we actually look
25 at the local first responders as an extension of

1 our safety team. And as such, we provide them
2 with regular training on an annual basis at a
3 minimum. We also provide them with supplies, if
4 necessary, to assist us in any event that might
5 happen.

6 And we also are a big supporter of the
7 811 program, which is Call Before You Dig.
8 Obviously, one of the things that we hope
9 everybody takes away from here is the 811 Call
10 Before You Dig. Usually you can find pipeline
11 markers, but if you can't, you want to build a
12 fence in your yard, call 811, have them come out
13 and mark any utilities in case there is an
14 unfortunate event.

15 MS. DETTLING: Thank you.

16 I'm going to talk a little bit about
17 environmental and land resources.

18 While safety is of our utmost
19 importance, we also want to design and build and
20 maintain our systems in a way that would minimize
21 impacts to environmental resources. And a way
22 that we do that is that when we're designing
23 these projects, we go out in the field, look for
24 any resources that might be in the area adjacent
25 to or within the project -- proposed project

1 workspace.

2 We prepare resource reports that we
3 will provide to FERC, which will allow them to
4 assist in their review of the project and
5 preparation of the environmental impact statement
6 that Juan referred to.

7 So to do that, we go out in the field
8 and look at a corridor, as I said. We look for
9 things such as biological and cultural resources,
10 wetlands, water bodies, threatened endangered
11 species habitat, cultural, historic,
12 archeological issues that might be around those
13 areas.

14 You may have been contacted or you may
15 have seen survey teams out there. We started in
16 June of last year to capture that data, and we're
17 compiling it to provide to FERC. We're going to
18 continue survey work this year for whatever areas
19 were not completed.

20 Here's a list of some of the agencies
21 that we work with just to show that the process
22 that we go through to get permits on a project of
23 this kind, whether FERC makes a decision for -- a
24 positive or a negative decision on the
25 application that we may have before them. We go

1 through processes to consult and get permits from
2 a lot of different agencies, from a federal,
3 state, and county level. Here's just a few of
4 them for water resources, protected species, and
5 air quality, the agencies that we'll be working
6 with for this project.

7 Here's a few more. We go through
8 consultation with a lot of local agencies,
9 whether it be NRCS for reseeding, the Park
10 Service, DNR. There's also some state historic
11 preservation offices that we consult with to get
12 information on any existing cultural resources
13 that may be in the area.

14 As Ted discussed, we have a
15 construction corridor, but for our pipeline
16 resources we'll only be maintaining 50 feet of
17 permanent easement for those pipelines for our
18 facilities. And in this area, our Ceredo
19 compressor station is existing, so -- but for the
20 pipeline work, we would be looking to obtain a
21 50-foot permanent easement, which would be inside
22 that 110 feet that Ted described as that
23 construction corridor. But this is where we'll
24 keep and maintain our system following the
25 construction of the project.

1 You may have been contacted by land
2 agents to get survey permission. You may have
3 been contacted because you're affected by the
4 project. We have a large land team that's living
5 in the area for the life of this project, and
6 some after that for maintenance and operations of
7 all these systems. So if you haven't heard from
8 somebody, if you have questions or concerns,
9 that's what we're here for. Please reach out to
10 us after, and we'll make sure that we answer any
11 questions you might have to the best of our
12 ability.

13 MR. OEHLER: I just wanted to close it
14 out just, again, thanking everyone for coming.
15 You know, we introduced Craig in the back who's
16 part of our operations team that's here full
17 time.

18 When we go through a project like this
19 and we build it, we hand it off to employees who
20 are living in the community, so community
21 relations are extremely important to us. Our
22 commitment to you is just to be open and
23 transparent and responsive. If you have
24 questions about the project, about what we're
25 doing, please do not hesitate to ask. You can

1 ask any one of the team members, and we will make
2 sure that you get in touch with the right
3 resources to get the answer that you need.

4 FERC did have a sign-in sheet in the
5 back. If you've been receiving stuff in the mail
6 from us, you're already on the list, or from the
7 FERC, you're on the list. If you haven't and you
8 would like to get information, be sure to sign up
9 there. We're going to be sending out periodic
10 updates on our progress, where the project
11 stands, and so forth.

12 So, again, thank you so much for coming
13 tonight, and I think we're ready to begin the
14 public comment session.

15 MR. POLIT: All right. Well, we'd like
16 to go ahead and begin the important part of
17 tonight's meeting, which is to have those of you
18 who have signed up to speak come up here as I
19 call your names. I'm going to have people come
20 up to the podium right here.

21 MS. DETTLING: Okay.

22 MR. POLIT: If you care to sit down,
23 I'll make sure there's a chair here for you to
24 sit down as well. Maybe make it this one right
25 here. That would be great if you could do that.

1 MS. DETTLING: Okay.

2 MR. POLIT: Just know that it will be
3 helpful if your comments are as specific as
4 possible regarding the potential environmental
5 impacts and reasonable alternatives of the
6 planned project.

7 As I understand some of the comments
8 may be made here, just try to make them as
9 relevant as possible. We accept all the
10 comments. If you decide to offer your comments
11 and you're not on the sheet, you still have time
12 to go ahead and put your name down, and we'll get
13 it up here to us.

14 When your name is called, go ahead and
15 step up to this podium. Take the chair, if you
16 would like. And I will hand you the microphone.
17 And go ahead and please spell your name for the
18 court reporter.

19 And with that, I'd like to go ahead and
20 first call up Neil Huffman, please.

21 MR. HUFFMAN: Hello. My name's Neil
22 Huffman. I'm with the International Union of
23 Operating Engineers, Local 132.

24 And we'd just like to state that we
25 have no environmental issues with this project.

1 We feel that the pipelines is the most
2 environmentally safe, economical, and
3 environmental friendly way to move the product.

4 And we'd like to thank Columbia Gas for
5 all the projects in the past that we've been
6 allowed to take part of. And we look -- we'll be
7 greatly appreciated to have the opportunity to
8 work with you on this project. And that's about
9 all I have. Thank you all.

10 THE REPORTER: Can you spell your name,
11 please?

12 MR. HUFFMAN: N-E-I-L, H-U-F-F-M-A-N.

13 MR. POLIT: Okay. How about, next,
14 Lloyd Lewis?

15 MR. LEWIS: My name is Lloyd Lewis, and
16 I represent the operating engineers, also.

17 Columbia Gas has been my friend for a
18 long time because I also have a gas line going 75
19 feet from my back door that belongs to Columbia
20 Gas. And they respond quick in everything that
21 we've ever asked them to do for us.

22 And on behalf of 132, we have 3,134
23 members that support this line, too. And we'd be
24 glad to take and help them in any way. That's
25 all I got tonight.

1 MR. POLIT: Thank you.

2 Next up is Joe Dillow.

3 MR. DILLOW: My name's Joe Dillow.

4 J-O-E, D-I-L-L-O-W. I represent IBEW Local 575
5 out of Portsmouth, Ohio.

6 We've got about 400 members we
7 represent. They would love to have the
8 opportunity to work on these facilities. The
9 unemployment in our area has been terrible, to
10 say the least. I'm also president of the Shawnee
11 Central Labor Council. We represent about 10,000
12 families. I think both organizations strongly
13 support this project. Thank you.

14 MR. POLIT: All right. Our last
15 speaker up tonight will be Shane Dillon.

16 MR. DILLON: My name is Shane Dillon.
17 S-H-A-N-E, D-I-L-L-O-N.

18 I'm a Wayne County resident and a
19 member of the Laborers 543, representative for
20 them. And we support this project fully, for the
21 economic benefit and the job creation for my
22 members. And the laborers would also like to
23 thank Columbia for being a great partner to work
24 for through the years. Employed a lot of our
25 members statewide.

