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BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Project No.

PENNEAST PIPELINE PROJECT : PF15-1-000

- - - - - x

The Grand Colonial
86 Route 173 West
Hampton, NJ 08827

Thursday, February 26, 2015

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting, pursuant to notice, at 6:00 p.m., Medha Kochhar, the moderator.

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

2 (6:00 p.m.)

3 MS. KOCHHAR: Good evening. On behalf of the
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also known as FERC, or
5 Commission, I would like to welcome all of you here tonight.
6 This is a scoping meeting for the PennEast Pipeline Project
7 planned by PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC. PennEast.

8 Let the record show that the public scoping
9 meeting in Hampton, New Jersey began at 6:00 p.m. on
10 February 26, 2015.

11 The primary purpose of this meeting is to provide
12 you an opportunity to comment on the project or on the scope
13 of the environmental analysis for the project.

14 We want to hear what you believe we should
15 include in the environmental analysis of the project.

16 Please note that this is not a hearing. There
17 will be no sworn testimony taken, although we do have a
18 court reporter who will transcribe everyone's comments and
19 questions so they can be made part of the proceeding and can
20 be appropriately addressed.

21 My name is Medha Kochhar. And I am the
22 environmental project manager for the project. I am in the
23 Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

24 With me at the table tonight is -- Alex, where
25 did you go? He was sitting right here a minute ago. Alex

1 Dankanich is from DOT. I'll introduce him when he comes.
2 He will be sitting next to John.

3 The next person sitting at the table is John
4 Scott. He is with Tetra Tech. Also with me tonight is
5 Alisa Lykens from FERC. She is outside at the sign-in
6 table. In addition to that we have a couple more people
7 from Tetra Tech outside at the sign-in table.

8 Tetra Tech staff is assisting us in the
9 environment review of the project.

10 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an
11 independent agency that regulates interstate transmission of
12 electricity, natural gas, and oil. It has up to five
13 Commissioners who are appointed by the President of the
14 United States with the advice and consent of the Senate.
15 Commissioners serve five year terms and have an equal vote
16 on regulatory matters.

17 FERC has about 1,200 staff employees. FERC
18 reviews proposals for the construction and operation of
19 interstate natural gas pipelines, storage facilities,
20 liquefied natural gas terminals, as well as the licensing
21 and inspection of hydroelectric projects.

22 As a federal licensing agency the FERC has the
23 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act
24 or NEPA to consider the potential environmental impacts
25 associated with the project which is under its

1 consideration.

2 The environmental review must comply with various
3 federal environmental laws and regulations including, but
4 not limited to, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act,
5 Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
6 Conservation and Management Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act,
7 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and National Historic
8 Preservation Act.

9 The FERC is the lead federal agency for the NEPA
10 review and the preparation of the environmental impact
11 statement or EIS for this project.

12 In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has
13 expressed interest to participate as a cooperating agency in
14 the preparation of the EIS and will use this EIS to meet its
15 NEPA responsibilities.

16 As I said earlier, the primary purpose of this
17 meeting tonight is to give you an opportunity to comment on
18 the project or on the environmental issues that you would
19 like to see covered in the EIS. It will help us most if
20 your comments are as specific as possible, regarding the
21 potential environmental impacts and the reasonable
22 alternatives for the planned project.

23 Issues generally focus on the potential for
24 environmental impacts, but may also address construction and
25 restoration issues, mitigation, and the environmental review

1 process.

2 At the speaker sign-in table we also have comment
3 forms you may use to provide written comments tonight. Or
4 you may have already prepared written comments that you
5 would like to present to us. We can take them and have them
6 filed for you in the docket for this project when we get
7 back to the office.

8 So tonight's agenda is a simple one. First I'm
9 going to describe the environmental review process and the
10 Commission's role. Then Alex, he is back here.

11 Alex Dankanich will speak about DOT's process.
12 Then the project sponsor will provide a brief description of
13 the project. After that we will hear from those of you who
14 have signed up to speak. We will go in the order you signed
15 up. So if you would like to give comments tonight, please
16 be sure to sign the speakers' list.

17 Now, I will describe our environmental review
18 process. To illustrate how this process works, we have
19 prepared a flow chart which is outside and also there is a
20 copy with a prefiling review document available at the
21 speaker's sign-in table.

22 At this time we are at the beginning of our
23 environmental review process and are in the public input
24 opportunities part performance the session. In November
25 2014, PennEast held four open houses which gave PennEast a

1 chance to meet with the affected landowners and other
2 interested parties to explain more about the project. It
3 also provided us an opportunity for FERC staff to introduce
4 our agency and explain our role in the process.

5 The FERC approved PennEast's request to begin the
6 pre-filing process for the PennEast Pipeline Project on
7 October 10, 2014. This began our review of the project.
8 The purpose of the pre-filing process is to encourage the
9 early enrollment of interested stakeholders and early
10 identification and resolution of environmental issues.

11 As of today, no formal application has been filed
12 with the FERC. However, FERC, along with other federal,
13 state, and local agencies and their staff have begun review
14 of the project.

15 On January 13, 2015, FERC issued a notice of
16 intent, called NOI, to prepare an EIS for this project and
17 initiated a scoping period. The scoping process is a
18 learning process. It is where we educate ourselves about
19 the project and potential environmental issues and many
20 issues about the project have been provided in comments that
21 have already been filed with the Commission since the
22 pre-filing process began in October.

23 The scoping or comment period announced in the
24 notice of intent was February 12, 2015. On January 22nd,
25 2015, we announced that the scoping period will close on

1 February 27th, 2015.

2 Once scoping is finished, our next step will be
3 to analyze the company's proposal and the issues that have
4 been identified during the scoping period. This will
5 include an examination of the planned facility locations as
6 well as alternative sites or routes.

7 We will assemble information from a variety of
8 sources including PennEast, the public, other state, local,
9 and federal agencies and our own independent analysis and
10 field check.

11 We will assess the project's effects on water
12 resources, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, endangered
13 species, cultural resources, geology, land use, air quality,
14 noise and safety, air quality also.

15 When complete our analysis of the potential
16 impacts will be issued as a draft EIS. It will be mailed to
17 all interested parties, and it will have a 45-day comment
18 period during which time we typically schedule public
19 comment meetings on the draft EIS. Comments on the draft
20 EIS received at the public comment meetings and filed either
21 electronically or by mail will be addressed in the final EIS
22 for the project.

23 The mailed version of the EIS is usually on a CD.
24 That means unless you tell us otherwise, you will get the
25 EIS on a CD. If you prefer to have a paper hard copy mailed

1 to you, you must indicate that choice on the return mailer
2 attached to the NOI.

3 Also it is likely that the appendices for the
4 hard copy will be provided on a CD simply because of its
5 sheer volume.

6 As I mentioned earlier, the issuance of the NOI
7 opened the formal comment period that will close on February
8 27th, 2015. However, we will continue to take and address
9 your comments throughout our review of the project beyond
10 this date.

11 We ask that you file your comments as soon as
12 possible and by February 27th in order to give us time to
13 analyze and research your issues.

14 If you received the NOI in the mail, you are on
15 our mailing list and will remain on our mailing list to
16 receive the EIS and any other supplemental notices we may
17 issue about the project unless you return the mailer
18 attached to the back of the NOI and indicate you wish to be
19 removed from the mailing list.

20 If you did not receive the NOI and you should
21 have, I apologize. There are extra copies of the NOI
22 available at the sign-in table. You can be added to our
23 mailing list by signing up at the speakers' sign-in table or
24 by filing comments on the project and including your mailing
25 address in your comments.

1 If you have filed comments that included your
2 address within the comment, and it is clearly readable, you
3 have been added to the mailing list.

4 I would like to add that FERC encourages
5 electronic filing of all comments and other documents. The
6 pre-filing handout that's available at the sign-in table and
7 the NOI explain FERC's e-filing process and how it works.
8 It provides you instructions also.

9 Instructions for using the e-filing system are
10 also available on our website, www.ferc.gov under the
11 e-filing link. It is very important that any comments you
12 send either electronically or by traditional mail include
13 our internal docket number for the project. That will
14 ensure that members of the staff evaluating the project will
15 get your comments as soon as possible.

16 The docket number for the PennEast Pipeline
17 Project is PF15-1-000. Again, P as in Peter, F as in Frank
18 15-1-000.

19 In addition, we offer a free service called
20 e-subscription which automatically notifies you by e-mail of
21 all issuances and filings and provides you with a link to
22 access the documents. You can register for the this service
23 at our website under the e-subscription link, the NOI, and
24 the forms at the sign-in table also provide these
25 instructions.

1 Now, I want to explain the roles of the
2 Commission and the FERC environmental staff. The
3 five-member Commission is responsible for making a
4 determination on whether to issue a certificate of public
5 convenience and necessity to an applicant. In this case the
6 applicant will be PennEast. The EIS prepared by the FERC
7 environmental staff, of which I am a part, will describe the
8 project facilities and associated environmental impacts,
9 alternatives to the project or parts of the project,
10 mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts, and the environmental
11 staff's conclusions and recommendations.

12 The EIS is not a decisionmaking document. It is
13 being prepared to disclose to the public and to the
14 Commission the environmental impact of constructing and
15 operating the proposed project.

16 The Commission will consider the environmental
17 information from the EIS along with the known environmental
18 issues such as engineering, marketing, rates in making its
19 decision to approve or deny PennEast's request for a
20 certificate.

21 There is no review of the Commission's decision
22 by the president or Congress maintaining FERC's independence
23 as a regulatory agency.

24 Now, that I've gone through the FERC process, I
25 would like to hand it over to Alex Dankanich of DOT to give

1 an explanation of DOT's role. Alex.

2 MR. DANKANICH: Thank you.

3 Good evening. My name is Alex Dankanich. I'm an
4 engineer -- you can't hear me?

5 MS. KOCHHAR: We can give you this microphone
6 here.

7 MR. DANKANICH: Good evening. My name is Alex
8 Dankanich. Can everybody hear me?

9 Everybody is good. Excellent.

10 I am an engineer with the U.S. DOT Eastern Region
11 Office of Pipeline Safety. The Eastern Region of Pipeline
12 Safety is a branch of the U.S. DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous
13 Material Safety Administration, commonly referred to as
14 PHMSA.

15 I'd like to thank the FERC for the opportunity to
16 provide an overview of PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety
17 program. PHMSA does not have the authority to approve
18 projects, issue permits or prescribe location or routing of
19 pipeline facilities. PHMSA's jurisdiction begins once a
20 project is approved and PHMSA works to ensure that pipeline
21 facilities are designed, constructed, operated, and
22 maintained in compliance with federal safety regulations.

23 If the PennEast Pipeline Company receives
24 permission from the FERC for this natural gas pipeline
25 project, PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety will provide the

1 regulations for the construction and safe transportation of
2 natural gas through the pipeline facilities and will
3 maintain regulatory oversight over the safety of the
4 pipeline facilities throughout its operation.

5 PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety will perform
6 safety inspections on the natural gas facilities as well on
7 PennEast's plans, procedures, and records to ensure that the
8 design and construction are in compliance with Title 49,
9 Code of Federal Regulations, or CFR -- 49 CFR, Part 192,
10 which are the minimum federal safety standards for the
11 transportation of natural gas by a pipeline.

12 This oversight includes inspections to ensure
13 that suitable materials are used in construction, welding is
14 performed in accordance with federal standards by qualified
15 welders, the pipeline is installed to the required depth,
16 the pipeline is protected from corrosion, and the pipeline
17 contains pressure limiting devices and is properly tested
18 before its initial use.

19 Beyond the construction process, PHMSA conducts
20 periodic inspections of operation and maintenance
21 requirements outlined in 49 CFR, Part 192. The operator
22 must establish comprehensive written procedures describing
23 the types and frequencies of monitoring to ensure the
24 continued safe operation of the pipeline. This monitoring
25 that an operator must perform includes monitoring the

1 operation of external corrosion prevention programs,
2 inspecting and testing of pressure control devices,
3 inspection of the operating transmission line valves, and
4 periodic patrolling of the pipeline.

5 In addition to this monitoring, PHMSA's pipeline
6 safety regulations require natural gas transmission pipeline
7 operators to implement integrity management plans and
8 programs where the pipeline goes through highly populated
9 areas. These integrity management programs require periodic
10 integrity assessments of natural gas transmission pipelines.
11 These assessments provide a comprehensive understanding of
12 the pipeline's condition.

13 Inline inspection tools frequently referred to as
14 smart pigs provide detailed information about the pipe
15 condition. During an inline inspection, sensors and
16 computers are sent through the pipeline. These devices
17 indicate pipe deformations and changes in the wall
18 thickness. By analyzing this data collected during and
19 after inline inspection, operators can locate and repair any
20 areas of the pipeline that may have become deteriorated.

21 A well-constructed and maintained pipeline also
22 must be properly operated. Operators must ensure that
23 personnel performing operations, maintenance, or emergency
24 response activities are qualified to perform these
25 functions. Operators must implement training and testing

1 programs for employees and contractors whose performance is
2 crucial to maintaining the safety of the pipeline and the
3 pipeline facilities.

4 Pipeline operators must also implement a public
5 awareness program to improve the awareness of pipeline
6 within communities. Operators communicate pipeline safety
7 information to local public officials, to the public along
8 the right-of-way, and to emergency responders, and
9 excavators.

10 Public awareness programs also emphasize the
11 importance of calling 811 prior to excavating. A call to
12 811 provides notification to all participating, underground
13 utility owners, including pipeline operators, to mark the
14 location of their facilities and to monitor the excavation
15 to help ensure that their facilities are not damaged.

16 Pipeline operators are also required to have
17 written emergency plans in place prior to the operation of
18 their facilities. These programs require operators to
19 establish and maintain liaison with fire, police, and other
20 public officials, to acquaint the officials with the
21 operator with their respective responsibilities and
22 resources in planning for and responding to perceived
23 emergencies. These emergency plans must, at a minimum,
24 provide for establishing and maintaining communication,
25 prompt and effective response, and the availability of

1 personnel, equipment, tools, and materials as needed at the
2 scene of an emergency.

3 These plans help both the operator and the
4 emergency responders know their roles, responsibilities, and
5 available resources prior to the need to respond to an
6 incident.

7 Safety inspections by PHMSA find inadequate
8 procedures or that an operator is not following their
9 procedures, PHMSA is authorized to require remedial actions,
10 PHMSA can assess civil penalties.

11 Safety is PHMSA's primary mission and we
12 understand how important this mission is to you and your
13 community. If this project is approved, PHMSA will work to
14 ensure that the pipeline and the facilities are constructed,
15 operated, and maintained in compliance with a Federal
16 Pipeline Safety Regulations.

17 Thank you for this opportunity to describe our
18 program.

19 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you, Alex.

20 Before we start taking comments from you, I will
21 request Alisa Harris of PennEast to provide an overview of
22 the planned PennEast Pipeline Project. Alisa?

23 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. Good evening.

24 Out of respect for many other who want to speak
25 tonight, I will keep my project description brief.

1 Again, my name is Alisa Harris and I am
2 representing PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC on behalf of
3 PennEast Pipeline Company.

4 I would like to introduce you to six companies
5 that comprise PennEast Pipeline, collectively the member
6 companies operate thousands of miles of natural gas pipeline
7 throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania and have come
8 together to improve the reliability and lower cost of
9 natural gas and electric service to consumers in our region.
10 The PennEast project is not an export project.

11 The proposed PennEast Pipeline project is
12 approximately 114 miles in total length comprised primarily
13 of a 36-inch, underground, interstate natural gas pipeline
14 that will deliver approximately one billion cubic feet of
15 natural gas per day.

16 The project will begin in Dallas, Luzerne County,
17 Pennsylvania and end at an interconnection with Transco near
18 Pennington, Mercer County, New Jersey.

19 As stated in the prefiled application and
20 resource report the proposed project includes one compressor
21 station which is proposed in Kitter Township, Carbon County,
22 Pennsylvania.

23 The facility which will house three natural gas
24 fueled, turbine driven units, will be designed and operated
25 in a manner that meets or exceeds local, state, and federal

1 requirements.

2 Local utilities such as UGI and other PennEast
3 companies are pursuing plans to update, extend and diversify
4 existing pipeline infrastructure for the benefit of their
5 consumers, residential, commercial, and industrial.

6 Further, consumers in southeastern Pennsylvania
7 and New Jersey will realize overall energy cost savings from
8 lower electric and natural gas costs and lower price
9 volatility as well as increased reliability.

10 During construction PennEast Pipeline will
11 proudly employ approximately 2,500-family sustaining
12 construction jobs directly. The majority of which will
13 involve a highly skilled union workforce.

14 Throughout the life of the project we will
15 support more than 10,000 jobs through design, engineering,
16 inspections, and local services.

17 Since announcing the project in August 2014,
18 representatives from PennEast have met with public
19 officials, state and local regulatory agencies, community
20 leaders, businesses, environmental and land conservation
21 organizations and more than 3,000 residents through many
22 different forums.

23 PennEast received extensive feedback on the
24 original proposed route. Subsequently PennEast engineers
25 and environmental consultants conducted further analysis,

1 refined the route, and moved a significant portion of the
2 proposed route in New Jersey adjacent to an existing
3 electric power line right-of-way.

4 This new preferred route substantially increases
5 the amount of collocation along the entire route bringing
6 the total to nearly 50 percent and decreases the overall
7 permanent land impact to approximately one square mile.

8 Throughout the multi-year process, PennEast will
9 continue to --

10 (Laughter.)

11 (Simultaneous conversation.)

12 MS. KOCHHAR: Please --

13 MS. HARRIS: -- proven to be be invaluable in
14 identifying environmental, historical, geological,
15 agricultural, and cultural issues. This information will
16 lead to further review and analysis by our qualified
17 engineers and consultants who will eventually define a route
18 that further minimizes impacts.

19 In closing, PennEast employees, consultants, and
20 contractors live and work in the communities where PennEast
21 is seeking to construct the proposed pipeline.

22 PennEast will make every effort to ensure our
23 employees and land agents treat each landowner and
24 stakeholder with respect and honor any no trespassing signs
25 on their property.

1 Any specific complaints about our land agents or
2 staff should be directed immediately to PennEast.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you, Alisa.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. KOCHHAR: We will now begin with the most
7 important part of the meeting where we hear your comments
8 and questions. We will first take comments from those who
9 signed up on the speakers' list.

10 As I mentioned earlier, this meeting is being
11 recorded by the transcription service. This is being done
12 so that all of your comments and questions will be
13 transcribed and put into the public record. To help the
14 court reporter produce an accurate record of this meeting,
15 please only speak when you are at the microphone. Please
16 face the FERC staff and the court reporter so that we can
17 accurately record your comments.

18 I ask that when I call your name you come up to
19 the microphone and state your name and spell it for the
20 record. Please make a point to spell it. Because I get
21 messaged from the court reporter several times, have them
22 spell it.

23 Identify any agency or group you are representing
24 and define any acronyms you may use.

25 I also ask that everybody else in the audience

1 respect the speaker and refrain from any audible show of
2 agreement or disagreement. I can't emphasize this more
3 because the more you speak, the less we hear, and the more
4 time it will take and less speakers will get the opportunity
5 to speak. So please abide by this and I'll appreciate that.

6 In the interest of allowing as many speakers as
7 possible, I would like you to keep your statement brief.
8 Preferably to three minutes I will set the visual timer to
9 allow -- here's the visual timer here -- two and a half
10 minutes of green light, 30 seconds of the yellow warning
11 light to indicate to the speaker when it is time to conclude
12 and you will have ten seconds for the red indicating that
13 your time is up. I ask you to please abide by this time to
14 allow as many people as possible the opportunity to speak.

15 Whether you have your your comments verbally
16 tonight or mail them in, they will be considered equally by
17 FERC.

18 We are now ready to call our first speakers. I am
19 going to call speakers in groups of four to come down to the
20 front of the room and wait in line for their turn to speak
21 so we are not waiting for people to make their way down to
22 the podium here. After the initial group of four, I will
23 call subsequent groups of four just before the third speaker
24 begins.

25 If you have a lot to cover, please consider

1 summarizing your points tonight and submitting additional
2 comments in written form.

3 And I plan on taking a ten-minute break after
4 some time and we will announce that. It usually comes up
5 close to eight o'clock.

6 We want to give you a chance to speak here, as
7 many people as possible. So, please try to limit to three
8 minutes and let everybody have an opportunity to speak here
9 tonight. I will give the microphone to John so he can make
10 announcements of the names.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. SCOTT: All right. Good evening. A couple
13 housekeeping things. There are seats in the middle. We
14 have this facility until ten o'clock tonight. It's a long
15 time to stand. Please try to squeeze and if you -- those of
16 you standing you can find a seat, I would encourage that.

17 We have about 70 speakers signed up. We have
18 three minutes a piece, that gets us out of here just about
19 ten o'clock.

20 But also, last night there were some speakers who
21 did not get to speak. We ended at 11. If you're signed up
22 to speak tonight and you also spoke last night, we'd ask
23 that you consider giving up your time so that folks who did
24 not get to speak last night could speak tonight. And if
25 you're signed up and you agree to do that, you can just say,

1 I spoke last night.

2 And when we get through the list of speakers that
3 have signed up, if we still have time, we'll open up the
4 floor or if you pass on your time and we have available
5 time, we'll add you to the end.

6 And we'll start with elected officials. We have
7 about ten that are signed up tonight. The first four are
8 Richard Dodds, Tom Stinnet, Ray Krov, and Amanda Woloshen.

9 MR. DODDS: Richard Dodds, D-o-d-d-s. I am the
10 Mayor of Kingwood Township, New Jersey.

11 Kingwood Township is 36 square miles in area and
12 has approximately 3800 residents. All of the households in
13 Kingwood are dependent on well water and on-site septic.
14 The proposed pipeline will cut through seven miles of the
15 Township from north to south with potential impacts on every
16 single well.

17 I urge the Commission to read the report and
18 testimony of the Kingwood Township Environmental Commission
19 which clearly spells out Kingwood's underlying geology and
20 the source of our drinking water.

21 If this Commission does approve this project, I'm
22 requesting the FERC requires that all wells in the Township
23 be monitored, not just those on the properties where the
24 proposed pipeline is sited.

25 This is a critical issue in Kingwood because of

1 the geological features of our bedrock that's described in
2 your formation report. The monitoring conducted for a
3 minimum of ten years should consist of premium
4 post-construction depth of water well capacity and recharge
5 the reports. If any wells are negatively affected by the
6 construction of the pipeline, Kingwood expects that the
7 Commission will require PennEast to make whole those
8 property owners that are affected by methods, including, but
9 not limited to, drilling new wells, providing potable water
10 in perpetuity, or fee simple purchase of property at rates
11 based on the past ten-year high.

12 The same monitoring and making whole should be
13 also done for all septic systems within the Township.
14 Kingwood is known for it's water table and numerous streams.
15 Any and all streams, stream buffers, wetlands, wetland
16 buffers must be fully delineated and avoided along the
17 route. The wetlands and streams carry water that is used in
18 the recharge of our groundwater and provides drinking water
19 throughout the region.

20 Furthermore, a number of the stream crossings
21 that are proposed in the pipeline route are high quality
22 streams that are protected by federal laws. Delineations
23 must be done by qualified, environmental scientists paid
24 for, but not employees, of PennEast.

25 Please note the property owners in Pennsylvania

1 who allow natural gas drilling on their leased lands will
2 receive ongoing compensation based on gas output in the
3 terms of their leases. Pipeline companies such as PennEast
4 will reap profits from their pipeline for the lifetime of
5 the pipeline. However, property owners in Kingwood are
6 expected to give up their property rights with a one-time
7 minimal payoff, regardless of the volume of gas piped and
8 the number of subsequent pipelines sited in the easement.
9 This is wholly unfair to property owners, an abuse of power
10 by PennEast and the federal government.

11 Kingwood Township is opposed to the PennEast
12 Pipeline, however if FERC allows this to go through, we
13 respectfully demand that there be no impact on the township
14 wells, streams, wetlands, view scapes, farms, threatened and
15 endangered species, cultural heritage property ownerships or
16 safety of Kingwood Township.

17 The potential impacts are so severe that
18 mitigation is not an option.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

22 Tom Stinnett?

23 MR. STINNETT: Hello, my name is Thomas Stinnett,
24 that's S-t-i-n-n-e-t-t. I'm a resident of Riegelsville
25 Borough in Pennsylvania and currently president of the

1 Riegelsville Borough Council.

2 The borough council has passed a resolution
3 expressing several concerns with the proposed PennEast
4 Pipeline that it could prove would pass through the portion
5 of the Borough. I am submitting three copies of this
6 resolution to you tonight even though it has been posted on
7 your website by our borough secretary.

8 I am, by education and employment, a mechanical
9 engineer that has worked in the biotech field for over 40
10 years. I personally have several environmental concerns
11 with the pipeline installation which I would like to point
12 out tonight.

13 The first is Cooks Creek which is an EV-1 stream,
14 it's an exceptional value stream which is located just
15 south of the Borough in German Township. The pipeline is
16 within the watershed of the stream in both the borough and
17 German Township. There is also a waterway that leads to
18 Crooks Creek which serves as a storm water collection stream
19 which is even closer to the pipeline.

20 The land in Riegelsville that the pipeline is
21 crossing is a trust that is farmed and I am concerned about
22 the fact that it cuts across a field and does not follow any
23 boundary lines. It is also a concern for the depth -- I'm
24 also concerned for the depth of the lines and potential for
25 hitting the pipe with farming equipment.

1 I'm also concerned with the disturbance of the
2 Delaware Canal and the Delaware River. I am concerned with
3 the destruction of wooded areas in our neighborhood that
4 will disturb birds and other wildlife. There is an osprey
5 nest on a cell phone tower behind the bank just south of
6 Riegelsville in Durham Township. The pipeline would come
7 very close to this nest.

8 The field that the pipeline is crossing is in
9 fact zoned as a resource protected land because of the
10 limestone and carbon geology and is subject to several
11 sinkholes which occur on a regular basis. I am concerned
12 that this fact may cause a potential leakage. Within a
13 few hundred feet of the proposed pipeline is the fire hall
14 which hosts many events involving several hundred people.
15 There are also three churches within a few hundred feet of
16 the proposed pipeline which would also have a few hundred
17 people attending events on a regular basis including a
18 preschool at one of the churches.

19 The fact concerns me a lot if there was an
20 accident to occur. The pipeline is coming through preserved
21 as open space land in many places near and afar and I feel
22 that this land should not be associated with a thousand
23 markers, et cetera.

24 For these reasons and many others spelled out in
25 our resolution, in my opinion this pipeline should be

1 installed.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

4 Ray Krov.

5 MR. KROV: Good evening, my name is Ray Krov,

6 K-r-o-v, and I'm the mayor of Holland Township New Jersey.

7 The Holland Township Committee adopted a resolution on

8 October 21st, 2014 opposing the PennEast Pipeline. We have

9 filed that resolution as a comment on the FERC website.

10 Much of the content of that resolution was based on

11 information from the Highlands Environmental Resource

12 Inventory, or ERI for Holland.

13 We broke down the information in the Highlands

14 ERI to a few paragraphs in our resolution. So my purpose

15 for being here tonight is to give you two sets of the full

16 texts of the Highlands ERI along with the maps that

17 accompany the document.

18 Highland Township is voluntarily conforming the

19 entire township to the Highlands regional master plan. As

20 part of the conformance process, the experts at the

21 Highlands Council developed ERI and was adopted by our

22 township committee November 2013 as an element of our

23 Highland master plan. So, if the purpose of this scoping

24 hearing is to obtain accurate and current information on all

25 environmental resources of Highland Township, the Highland

1 ERI is the place to look.

2 The purpose of the Highlands Act was to protect
3 the water resources in the high lands which provides
4 drinking water to half the people in New Jersey.

5 Technically one could say that the PennEast
6 Pipeline will only cross three stream systems in Holland
7 referred to a HUC14's. However, there isn't just one
8 mainstream but lots of tributaries. The Holland
9 Environmental Commission has done maps that superimpose the
10 pipeline route on the maps from the ERI. They show the
11 pipeline cross the three HUC14 streams at 23 places. That's
12 23 opportunities that damage those stream systems. The
13 stream that it will produce silt that can smother trout
14 eggs. Those Seymour and trout breeding streams have a
15 300-foot buffer on each side. Construction will cut down
16 vegetation in those buffers that will increase runoff and
17 allow pollutants and storm water to enter the streams.

18 The steam will heat the water and negatively
19 impact trout which require cold water. Construction
20 upheaval will compact the soil and provide contaminants that
21 could enter the streams.

22 Each crossing may do a bit of damage, but we're
23 talking 23 stream crossings in Holland alone, more than
24 other communities on the route. I cannot conceive how this
25 won't result in cumulative damage to C1 streams where New

1 Jersey DEP rules require no measureable change to protect
2 those water bodies.

3 And in Holland, all those streams ultimately flow
4 into the Delaware river, the source of drinking water for
5 major cities to our south.

6 The ERI shows lots of other issues that will be
7 encountered along the eight-mile pipeline route in Holland
8 including carbonate rock areas, critical habitat, severely
9 constrained slopes, and forest resource areas. That
10 information is all in the documents I provided to you
11 tonight. The only conclusion I can come to is that the
12 no-build option is the only viable way to protect our
13 community's precious resources.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

17 Amanda Woloshen, and then the next four speakers
18 are Susan Lockwood, John King, Floyd Evans, and Donna Simon.

19 MS. WOLOSHEN: Good evening. I'm Amanada
20 Woloshen, Congressman Leonard Lance's District Director
21 represent Leonard Lance this evening.

22 I will read you his statement concerning

23 (41:37:3).

24 Dear Staff Members of FERC, elected officials and
25 concerned citizens. I thank Chairman LeFleur and the

1 members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for
2 agreeing to my request to hold a FERC scoping hearing on the
3 proposed PennEast Pipeline here in Hunterdon County. I
4 regret I am not with you personally, but the U.S. Congress
5 is currently in legislative session and I am voting in
6 Washington, D.C. this evening.

7 I oppose the current PennEast Pipeline Project.
8 As I have stated in the past, I have significant questions
9 and concerns about PennEast's project path an expected use
10 of lands under farmland preservation protection and within
11 the Delaware River watershed. These are environmentally
12 sensitive open space areas that I have fought to protect and
13 preserve while a member of the New Jersey legislature and I
14 believe it would be fiscally, environmentally irresponsible
15 to allow taxpayer protected open space to be used in this
16 manner.

17 I will also express my strong reservations about
18 the potential use of eminent domain in this situation. I
19 have heard from many Hunterdon County landowners personally
20 who fear the federal government will eventually invoke the
21 right of eminent domain to compel the sale of easements and
22 right-of-ways along the proposed pipeline route.

23 I respectfully request that FERC use eminent
24 domain authority only in the most limited and extreme cases
25 that benefit public use and not private corporate entities.

1 I ask that FERC reject the PennEast pipeline
2 project and allow company representatives to reexamine the
3 project's proposed path and work with New Jersey's two U.S.
4 Senators, New Jersey's House delegation, state and local
5 elected officials, and concerned citizens in preserving
6 public and private lands and protecting property rights.

7 Thank you again for listening to our concerns.
8 As someone who has lived his entire life in Hunterdon
9 County, I understand how important environmental and fiscal
10 issues are for resident of the county and its communities.
11 We appreciate the opportunity to have our views heard by the
12 federal regulators.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

16 Susan Lockwood. Then John King, John.

17 MS. LOCKWOOD: My name is Susan Lockwood and I am
18 a township Committee Woman representing Delaware Township,
19 Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The PennEast Pipeline would
20 affect between six and and ten miles of Delaware Township
21 land depending upon which alternative is considered. And we
22 strongly object to both routes.

23 Delaware Township is 177 years old. Over the
24 years township officials have done everything in their power
25 to protect the natural beauty, environment sensitivity and

1 cultural heritage of our township. The township's master
2 plan and it's land use ordinances all state as the
3 township's primary goal protection of agricultural lands and
4 the farmers who farm it, many of whom represent several
5 generations of farmers on the land.

6 The township together with Hunterdon County and
7 the state of New Jersey has invested over \$9 million of
8 taxpayer money in Delaware Township which taxpayers chose to
9 pay via referendum to protect agricultural lands and other
10 open space from unwanted development.

11 Recognizing that portions of Delaware Township
12 still remain as unblemished as they were in the 1800s, the
13 township established the rural and cultural historic
14 district and it is listed on the federal register of
15 historic places.

16 Understanding the connection and importance of
17 the development intensity with protection of our residents'
18 water supply since all residents rely upon wells and a
19 majority upon septic systems, the township enacted
20 ordinances requiring oversized lots, protection of stream
21 corridors and flood plains, limits on impervious cover, and
22 protection of forested areas. These are the lands that have
23 been targeted by PennEast for their pipeline and that is why
24 the proposed pipeline is unacceptable.

25 We also note that there are several different

1 pipelines proposed or planned throughout the state of New
2 Jersey. There can be no real evaluation of the PennEast
3 proposal without considering the cumulative impacts of all
4 of these pipelines in this state.

5 New Jersey is a small state and most densely
6 populated state in the nation. For years New Jersey has
7 been the dumping ground for unwanted garbage, hazardous
8 waste. Companies come and take what they want and leave the
9 residents to clean up their mess. These pipelines are the
10 latest way for companies to take residents' property and
11 take state resources for their own benefit and use and to
12 leave New Jersey residents with unwanted, unsafe
13 development, and waste. We strongly urge FERC to say a
14 resounding no to the PennEast Pipeline.

15 Thank you. Delaware Township has already
16 submitted scoping comments on cultural resources. I have
17 for you a package of comments on open space, water
18 resources, and eminent domain. We also have letters from
19 our environment commission, historical societies, and open
20 space committee. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

23 A reminder to please state your name and spell
24 it, please.

25 MR. KING: John King, K-i-n-g. I'm The Director

1 for Hunterdon County and I represent the 126,000 residents
2 of this county.

3 The subject of the PennEast Natural Gas Pipeline
4 has sparked comment and controversy since the unveiling of
5 the project's concept last year. This -- to afford the
6 pipeline's proponents and critics a fair hearing to consider
7 additional issues affecting Hunterdon County as a whole.

8 In light of the facts before us, we are compelled
9 to oppose PennEast's application. Our objections are based
10 upon, one, the district or the potential alternative paths
11 using existing easements that may result in the use of
12 eminent domain to destroy conservation easements and
13 pre-empt county-owned space policy.

14 Two, the insufficiency of proposed compensation
15 to affected landowners.

16 Three, the threat of construction generated water
17 contamination in specific neighborhoods serviced by private
18 wells, and four, the absence of a lasting public benefit
19 outweighing the burdens of homeowners in the project's path.
20 Let me explain.

21 The properties lining the proposed pipeline's
22 path are 23 farms constituting 2,007 acres of county
23 preserved open space. If approved the PennEast Pipeline
24 would necessarily extinguish the county's conservation
25 easements on those farms and trump the county open space

1 policy mandated by three successive voter referendum. This
2 issue alone warrants our opposition.

3 Moreover, PennEast has raised the part of eminent
4 domain presumably to thwart the defense of its interest in
5 the preserved open space. This threat arises despite the
6 existence of alternate routes within established public
7 utility rights-of-way including similar pipeline easements.

8 It is our understanding that PennEast has not
9 contacted some utility companies to negotiate collocation of
10 the pipeline within their easements.

11 A judicial taking of property for use by
12 for-profit corporations should always be the last resort.

13 We will never support proposals that threaten the
14 condemnation of land where less draconian measures of
15 property acquisition have not first been exhausted.

16 PennEast also proposes inadequate, and therefore
17 unjust compensation to Hunterdon taxpayers in the project's
18 path. The utility conglomerate merely proposes to pay a
19 one-time loss of value attributed to the new encumbrance on
20 the property.

21 Pipelines earn continuous profits. The benefits
22 PennEast would reap from any targeted property are analogous
23 to those received by wireless providers from cell towers.
24 Wireless companies place cell towers on another's property
25 with an agreement to provide the owner with a stream of

1 income much like a lease. When the company leases those
2 towers to other wireless providers, the landowner receives
3 additional income due to the third-party's commercial use of
4 the owners' land.

5 Property owners in the pipeline's path should be
6 treated no differently. Thus, if PennEast is going to earn
7 continuous profits from the exploitation of the land of
8 another, it should make that owner a partner.

9 Construction disturbance and local drinking water
10 supply raises contamination concerns. I understand that my
11 time is up, but I beg your forgiveness and patience. I'm
12 just about to come to a close of my comments.

13 The proposed project slices through 53 acres of
14 tier one well protected areas. Neighborhoods with residents
15 overwhelmingly depending on the consumption of well water.
16 Prior local experience, and I must emphasize, prior local
17 experience in Hunterdon County with drinking water
18 contamination caused by poorly supervised construction
19 during existing transfer station proves that a potential
20 threat to the well protection area is a well-founded
21 misgiving.

22 In fact, we would prefer that any pipeline be
23 routed around this area entirely.

24 There are significant deficiencies with respect
25 to the use of natural gas within Hunterdon County which is

1 poorly served by natural gas simply because our situation.
2 Therefore the advance of this is more of an undue burden on
3 the owners of the land than there is for potential use.

4 MR. SCOTT: Mr. King, can you wrap it up, please?

5 MR. KING: I can. Allow me. To be clear, it is
6 not swallowed whole -- by critics to PennEast's application.
7 We do not oppose the principles of constructing underground
8 pipelines to transport natural gas.

9 Several natural gas pipelines already cross
10 Hunterdon County and have existed for decades and we do not
11 subscribe to the notion of the mere presence of an
12 additional pipeline within the county's borders as a
13 sufficient basis to oppose the project.

14 Let me summarize. As proposed, however, the
15 PennEast project unnecessarily threatens property rights
16 that the constitutional sore point of eminent domain and
17 offers no prospect of just compensation for the land it
18 targets for lease or accommodation. The pipeline's
19 construction is dangerous and identifiable drinking water
20 supply, are the only lasting benefits that the subject
21 project can offer affecting neighborhoods' connection to the
22 natural gas and just due compensation for its residents.
23 Thus, the Hunterdon County Board shall resolve the -- to
24 oppose the proposed configuration of the PennEast Pipeline.

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your time.

2 MS. SIMON: Good evening. Thank you very much
3 for being here. And I also would like to introduce Senator
4 Kip Bateman. We represent Legislative District 16.

5 MR. SCOTT: I'm sorry, can you state your name?
6 And spell it for the record?

7 MS. SIMON: Sure, Donna Simon, S-i-m-o-n. I'm
8 the assemblywoman for Legislative District 16 in New Jersey
9 and behind me and with me in my -- as part of our team is
10 Senator Kip Bateman, B-a-t-e-m-a-n.

11 I want to thank you for being here. I also want
12 to thank Congressman Lance for requesting that you come to
13 Hunterdon County.

14 I know we have a very limited window for comments
15 and FERC is absolutely fully aware that legislative District
16 16 is opposed to the PennEast Pipeline Project for various
17 reasons. The fact that you are considering eminent domain
18 before investigating any other options is by far one of the
19 biggest concerns. But you will hear from that other 70
20 speakers that environmental concerns and also grave concerns
21 about public trust using taxpayer funded property.

22 However, I think the reason I want to speak
23 tonight is I think it's noteworthy to share that our
24 constituents spanning three legislative districts, receiving
25 a flyer yesterday --

1 (Audience comments.)

2 MS. SIMON: -- stating that the proposed PennEast
3 People would safely move natural gas from rural Pennsylvania
4 down through Hunterdon and Mercer Counties providing
5 affordable energy for our homes and local businesses and the
6 PennEast representative said the same thing this evening
7 when she opened. This is a false statement.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. SIMON: Our district office received
10 up-to-date information yesterday. Elizabethtown Gas had
11 originally considered bringing gas to constituents and they
12 stated that a year ago when we all met in Delaware Township,
13 directly from the pipeline. However, according to them,
14 while they do want to extend gas to places where it doesn't
15 currently exist, they have no plans to do so due to the fact
16 that it would be expensive and homeowners would have to
17 contribute potentially as much as \$5,000 a home and
18 oftentimes homeowners declined. So I find this -- on behalf
19 of our constituents, I find this misleading at best and
20 manipulative at worst.

21 This process is supposed to be transparent and
22 forthcoming, and it's anything but that unless you disclose
23 that gas will not be delivered to our constituents, I'm not
24 sure how PennEast had put in a flyer that it will be and
25 that we will enjoy the riches of energy coming to us.

1 So I would like Senator Bateman also to say
2 something. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

5 SENATOR BATEMAN: Good evening. I'm Senator Kip
6 Bateman, K-i-p B-a-t-e-m-a-n and I'm the Senator from the
7 16th Legislative District which encompasses Delaware
8 Township's land.

9 First off, let me thank you for the opportunity
10 to speak tonight. Let me express my disappointment that
11 one, there's only one hearing in Hunterdon County, and two,
12 it took a great deal of pressure to have a scoping hearing
13 in Hunterdon County, and that's wrong.

14 (Applause.)

15 SENATOR BATEMAN: I have spent the better part of
16 my public life advocating for open space farm land
17 preservation, historic preservation and Jack and Donna and I
18 have already written to FERC. We are on record opposing
19 this. We have outlined many, many reasons in a five-page
20 letter to your chairwoman.

21 I'm going to read part of what was in that letter
22 because I think it's important.

23 Running a pipeline through numerous parcels of
24 preserved land in some of the most beautiful places in the
25 state poses far too many environmental risks.

1 There is certainly a need to plan for the future
2 to make sure that safe community standards remain, but
3 constructing a pipeline in a way that would lower property
4 values, impact quality of life for residents and damage the
5 state's dwindling open space is not the way to go.

6 We must be diligent in ensuring that human health
7 and safety environmental impacts are first and foremost in
8 considering any pipeline proposal.

9 The proposed route is terrible for the
10 environment and we oppose it and we continue to oppose it
11 and I'm working legislation right now with two of the
12 Senators in Trenton to come up with a criteria. Because
13 unfortunately right now there are too many pipelines going
14 through New Jersey, especially environmentally sensitive
15 areas.

16 (Applause.)

17 SENATOR BATEMAN: So, again, I thank you for your
18 time and look forward --

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

21 MR. EVANS: Floyd Evans, Alexandria.

22 MR. SCOTT: All right. And then the next four
23 speakers are Robert White, Eric Peterson, actually Kip
24 Bateman already spoke, and then Warren Cooper.

25 MR. EVANS: You want me now or --

1 MR. SCOTT: Yes. Yes. Sorry.

2 MR. EVANS: I am Floyd Evans. I am the deputy
3 sheriff of the agricultural open space committee in
4 Alexandria Township and I am here this evening representing
5 Mayor Paul Abraham who is unable to attend.

6 Alexandria Township opposes the pipeline and the
7 present structure and it would seem to us that there should
8 be some way to plan the pipeline so it follows existing
9 routes of the other pipelines that already established in
10 our area.

11 We have strong considerations to ensure that any
12 soil that is disturbed is properly remediated so that it's
13 turned into its original state so that there's no long-term
14 negative impact. And we want to ensure that it's continuing
15 oversight of all operations by PennEast as they go forward
16 so that there's minimum damage to the environment and it is
17 fully mitigated.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

21 MR. WHITE: Robert White, R-o-b-e-r-t W-h-i-t-e,
22 Milford Borough Town Council. Milford Borough is a 1.2
23 square mile town sitting on the Delaware River. The
24 proposed PennEast pipe would cut through the Delaware River,
25 even though it doesn't actually run through Milford itself.

1 The town council has passed a resolution opposing
2 this. It is a beautiful area, if you've ever fished the
3 area, gone through there on a canoe, you'll understand just
4 how beautiful this area is. And I would challenge the
5 members of FERC to actually take a look at the property
6 before you simply put a stamp on something and say, yes,
7 it's okay to cut through there.

8 Since 1970 the U.S. Government and the American
9 People had decided that it's not simply okay to do something
10 to the environment because there's profit to be made.
11 That's the whole point of the EPA and it's been the whole
12 point of a number of laws that have come out of the
13 government since that time.

14 It's very clear that the U.S. recognize the
15 growing fragility of the environment that we live in. The
16 PennEast Pipeline ignores all of that, cuts through the
17 areas that have already been mentioned by the other speakers
18 and does threaten the water and the likelihood and the
19 general lifestyle that we have in our area.

20 So I would ask you think very long, very hard, is
21 this really necessary? Is this something that really, truly
22 benefits the public as is proposed by PennEast and
23 furthermore challenge their statements. I find it very
24 difficult for them to say that they are following all local
25 regulations when our local regulations specifically forbid

1 allowing the disturbance of these areas that were purchased
2 for and by the public.

3 So thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

6 MR. PETERSON: Good evening, my name is Erik,
7 E-r-i-k, Peterson, P-e-t-e-r-s-o-n, a member of the New
8 Jersey State Legislature, District 23. With me is my
9 running mate in the legislature, John DeMeio. We represent
10 the towns of Holland and Kingwood, Alexandria, Frenchtown,
11 and Milford, the towns that are being affected by this.

12 A short statement. I first want to say, I'm also
13 a member of the Hunterdon County Freeholder Board and I
14 share the sentiments of the Freeholder Board and my
15 colleagues in the legislature who spoke previously.

16 You know, New Jersey is the most densely
17 populated state in the nation with almost nine million
18 citizens in our small state land is at a premium. The
19 residents of New Jersey and Hunterdon County and local
20 municipalities decided decades ago that they were willing to
21 incur an additional tax on their property to preserve open
22 space and farmland.

23 They did this because they wanted to preserve
24 Hunterdon County's rural heritage by purchasing at market
25 value from willing landowners development rights and

1 outright land acquisition in order to prevent development,
2 protect what was left of New Jersey's agricultural industry
3 and to protect the watersheds. These watersheds supply
4 water to five million people east of here and south of here.
5 That part of the watershed is where the pipeline is going
6 through.

7 More importantly, and most importantly in my
8 mind, we wanted to leave this land preserved, open, and for
9 cultural purposes, for our children and our grandchildren.
10 A legacy of open space, farms, beautiful views, sheds, and
11 the ability to enjoy the outdoors.

12 One thing that we did not -- we did not ever
13 envision was that when we preserved this land with taxpayer
14 money, was that we would be providing Wall Street with an
15 inexpensive pathway to pipe their natural gas.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. PETERSON: The proposed pipeline is currently
18 where it's proposed to traverse through the western portion
19 of Hunterdon County down into Mercer County. Most of the
20 pipeline's pathway is through land that has been preserved
21 as either open space or farmland. When you look at the
22 proposed pipeline pathway on a map -- on a map that also
23 shows other pipelines that exist in Pennsylvania and New
24 Jersey, and other utility easements for power lines, oil
25 lines, and such, it becomes apparent that there are other

1 routes which exist that this pipeline could take as being
2 collocated. It's also obvious that this pathway was chosen
3 because this is the cheapest way to go.

4 I respectfully request that before you make the
5 decision -- before you make the decision on this pipeline
6 that you first secure the fact that the pipeline that
7 PennEast has looked at every available way to collocate this
8 pipeline with existing utility easements where the bird and
9 the degradations to the land has already occurred to prove
10 to you that there is no alternative to coming through this
11 pristine land that we have preserved as our legacy.

12 Finally, and we're putting this in a letter, my
13 running mate and I, and so finally we also have grave
14 concerns about the use of eminent domain for a for-profit
15 enterprise. We believe that the methodology in which
16 compensation is provided in eminent domain is not
17 appropriate under these circumstances where there's going to
18 be an ongoing profit being made through the use of land. We
19 --

20 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Peterson, can you wrap it up?

21 MR. PETERSON: Sure. I guess I will.

22 We encourage you to require PennEast that if they
23 use eminent domain that they use a different formula that
24 actually provides true value to them of that land that they
25 are taking through eminent domain, just like the cell tower

1 companies do when they give people a lease to use their
2 land.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. DeMEIO: Good evening. John DeMeio, District
7 23. John D-e capital M-e-i-o. We're going to sound a
8 little bit like a broken record, but the reality is that
9 this part of New Jersey, the northwestern part of New Jersey
10 has worked very hard and invested great with their own
11 dollars to preserve farmland and open space to keep
12 developers away so that their value of their land their
13 quality of life will be much better out here. But it came
14 at a cost. Their monied up and paid for the land.

15 We have to and we must ensure that we protect the
16 environment, number one. I get it, I'm a business person.
17 I understand that we need resource to run business in New
18 Jersey and to take care of our needs for energy in all of
19 the state.

20 But the reality is there are, as Erik said, there
21 are alternate routes that this pipe could take, existing
22 right-of-ways so that without going out into pristine lands
23 and starting all over again, but we're following existing
24 paths. And the amount of remuneration should be appropriate
25 for the investments that have -- might be folks that sit in

1 this room. We just can't do it for the least expensive,
2 cheapest way. It needs to be planned out well. But we
3 should be telling this company to seek out existing pathways
4 first.

5 If this has to happen, it really should be
6 piggybacked on the areas of -- the energy through.

7 It's just not fair that we impact the value and
8 the quality of life to people who invested greatly. So I
9 put my two cents in, I'm here to support the folks in this
10 room any way we can.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

13 Next is Warren Cooper, and then after that the
14 next four speakers Bruce Shapiro, Jeff Tittel, Laura Wilson,
15 and Doug O'Malley.

16 MR. COOPER: Ritchie put me on the list to speak,
17 but it is Warren Cooper, W-a-r-r-e-n C double o p-e-r. I'm
18 the mayor of the magical town on the Delaware River called
19 Frenchtown. It's 1.1 square miles, housing about 1,300
20 residents. All of those resident are threatened by this
21 proposal because everybody is downhill from this proposed
22 pipeline.

23 You've heard from a lot of people and you'll hear
24 from a lot more who will talk about the environmental
25 impact. I'm going to talk about something else.

1 I would warn you not to trust PennEast.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. COOPER: When this pipeline was first
4 proposed a representative of the company reached out to me
5 and asked to come to Frenchtown to a Borough Council meeting
6 to present the plan. At that time I said, "that's great, we
7 want our people to be informed." And I invited them. We
8 set the date, they didn't come. We set the second date,
9 they didn't come. During the course of that time between
10 those proposed meetings and their failing to show up, the
11 plan, as it was, at least as it was presented to me by the
12 representatives of PennEast, changed several times. The
13 proposed route of the pipeline either crosses into
14 Frenchtown slightly, or runs along the border. But we can't
15 get PennEast folks to confirm that it won't change one way
16 or the other.

17 I hope you get a chance to hear from the
18 Environment Commission of Frenchtown, and they're going to
19 talk about a lot of these same kinds of impacts on our
20 waterways and on our people. But I think that the issue
21 here for you to consider is trust. And I don't think that
22 PennEast in its dealings with the public has been
23 trustworthy, forthright, or forthcoming. And I don't see
24 any reason for you to trust them anymore than we do. And
25 that's one of the reasons why when they failed to show up on

1 several occasions the Frenchtown Borough Council voted to
2 oppose the pipeline. We did not have our minds made up at
3 that time. We wanted them to come and talk to us. They
4 failed to do that.

5 I don't think you should trust them. Thank you
6 for your time.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

9 MR. SHAPIRO: Good evening. My name is Bruce
10 Shapiro, S-h-a-p-i-r-o. I'm here tonight to represent the
11 New Jersey Realtors along with two of our local
12 associations, the Hunterdon Somerset Association of Realtors
13 and Mercer County Association of Realtors to voice our
14 opposition to the PennEast Pipeline.

15 The New Jersey Realtors along with our local
16 associations, in this case Hunterdon Somerset and Mercer
17 County and one of the only organizations in New Jersey truly
18 fighting for the rights of the private property owners.

19 Despite the recent changes that have been made to
20 the proposed pipeline route, it so appears that the
21 construction of this pipeline will infringe on the rights of
22 private property owners and go through the lands of
23 residential properties and farmland here in Hunterdon and
24 Amherst Counties as well as across the border in
25 Pennsylvania.

1 It remains unclear to us what the consequences
2 would be if a private property owner denies the PennEast
3 Pipeline Company access to their property. In that role we
4 are here tonight to support the property owners that you see
5 sitting behind us as well as those who couldn't be here
6 tonight.

7 While the New Jersey Realtors along with
8 Hunterdon and Somerset and Mercer County Associations
9 appreciate the need to bring affordable natural gas to the
10 consumers of our area, we also have grave concerns regarding
11 the risks that both the pipeline construction and the
12 existence of a pipeline itself brings to the homeowners at
13 the properties in that area.

14 This pipeline could have severe impacts not only
15 on private property rights, but also on the values of homes
16 and lands in this area. There could also be disclosure
17 issues arising not just for the realtors who are
18 representing buyers and sellers, but also for those selling
19 their homes themselves as it would be possible either for a
20 seller or a builder to misrepresent that a pipeline may come
21 through the property if they're not aware of it especially
22 if the route continues to change.

23 For these reasons, we are urging FERC and the
24 PennEast Pipeline Company to continue to seek other
25 alternatives including continued collocation, as you've

1 heard from a few of the elected officials coming before you,
2 however, let me make it clear that the realtors oppose this
3 pipeline both under the state and local levels if it's going
4 to have any adverse impacts to any property owners here in
5 Hunterdon and Mercer Counties. We look forward to working
6 with our elected officials at the federal, state, and local
7 level as well as the residents to continue our opposition to
8 this project. And we will submit a formal copy of these
9 comments to you in writing as well and I thank you for your
10 time tonight.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

13 MR. TITTEL: Jeff Tittel, T-i-t-t-e-l, director
14 of New Jersey's Sierra Club. I just wanted to start off and
15 say, instead of limiting the public, you should extend the
16 comment period and have additional scoping hearings
17 especially since --

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. TITTEL: -- a new route and so we believe
20 that you should extend the period and have more meetings
21 because everybody should have a right to speak. This is our
22 government.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. TITTEL: I just wanted to start off in saying
25 that I'm here representing our 2.5 million members and

1 supporters. But listening to the person from PennEast
2 because you cannot trust anything they say, when they say,
3 we don't expect to be exporting. There's no guarantee.
4 It's not worth the paper it's not written on.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. TITTEL: This pipeline is heading down
7 towards Maryland where Cove Point is an export facility. So
8 there's no guarantee. What we do know may happen is that
9 the gas companies will get the money, Europe will get the
10 gas, and we'll get the pipe.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. TITTEL: The new route actually has bigger
13 impacts environmentally than the other route. And I'm not
14 here to play one route against the other because no route is
15 acceptable.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. TITTEL: But the new route is going through
18 steeper slopes even where you have a new right-of-way that
19 new right-of-way actually -- that existing right-of-way is
20 actually through parks and when you go through an existing
21 right-of-way that is 50-foot wide and mostly grown with
22 trees, you're going to have plans to open another hundred
23 feet, plus a lot of damage.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. TITTEL: The only gas that PennEast will give

1 anybody in this room will be from a leak in that pipe.

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. TITTEL: When I heard the woman from PennEast
4 say about one square mile of impact, that's like saying,
5 someone is going to take a chainsaw and cut your house right
6 in half, but we're going to impact 50 feet.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. TITTEL: Your house is ruined. So is this
9 valley that we all love. And this is a valley that people
10 have spent years working to save. This is a valley where
11 the public has spent tens of millions of dollars of their
12 own money to help preserve farmland and open space. This is
13 a valley where governmental agencies over 50 years have put
14 in place programs to protect areas like this in this valley
15 itself whether it's a Delaware River Basin Commission, the
16 National Park Service Wild and Scenic, the Clean Air Act,
17 the Clean Water Act, the Highlands Act and I can go on and
18 on and on because there's at least two dozen laws that this
19 pipeline is going to violate.

20 I'm here today because they talk about economic
21 impact. Yes, there will be a wonderful economic impact for
22 the towns as you have to invest in new fire equipment,
23 hazmat equipment and hospital burn units.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. TITTEL: I hear, you know, pipeline safety.

1 That's an oxymoron. There's been more than 100 accidents a
2 year of major failures in this country.

3 The concern that we have is for the environment,
4 and for the health and safety of the people in this valley.
5 This is a beautiful valley, this is a place where people
6 come to recreate for tourism, to bike ride, to kayak, to
7 fish, to get fresh produce, and that's the economic impact.
8 The structure of the tourist and farm mixed economy with
9 this pipeline putting an ugly scar right through the middle
10 of it, and that is the problem. This is an area that was
11 known as the crossroads of the revolution, not the
12 crossroads of pipeline.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. TITTEL: This is an area where General
15 Washington marched with his troops whether it was to go to
16 Valley Forge or to attack Trenton, today the gas companies
17 are the British and the pipeline companies are the Hessians.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. TITTEL: And what we're seeing here is part
20 of that grassroots army, just like General Washington has,
21 get the FERC out of our valley.

22 (Cheering.) (Applause.)

23 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

24 PARTICIPANT: I'm ceding my spot to Mark
25 Gallagher.

1 MR. GALLAGHER: My name is Mark Gallagher.
2 Environmental consultant with Princeton Hydro.

3 MR. SCOTT: I'm sorry, could you spell your name?

4 MR. GALLAGHER: Sure. M-a-r-k G-a-l-l-a-g-h-e-r.

5 And that was a tough act to follow, but I'm going to speak
6 more about regulatory compliance because the route that
7 PennEast picked, I couldn't think of a more environmentally
8 sensitive route to follow even if they tried. Which goes to
9 the point that I'm not sure that either FERC or PennEast has
10 any idea what the regulations say. And many of the speakers
11 before talked about the pristine streams and the wonderful
12 resources. Well, they are protected by regulation. And I'm
13 going to start with the Clean Water Act.

14 New Jersey has regulations and there's an MOU
15 between EPA and New Jersey DEP that clearly states that the
16 minimum requirements of DEP's assumption is that it meets
17 the minimum standards of the Clean Water Act. It can be
18 more restrictive, not less.

19 And that leads you to the 404(b)(1) guidelines.
20 Those guidelines guide alternative analysis. They also
21 guide someone going into regulated areas to show that they
22 can't avoid, and if they have to encroach, then they have to
23 show minimization and mitigation as the last resource. And
24 mitigation shouldn't be rhetoric that has been in previous
25 pipeline applications that simply say that mitigation is

1 going to solve all the ills of the pipeline.

2 That it should be based on factual
3 determinations. And it needs resources. It needs studies,
4 it needs to be based on fact, not words.

5 And the factual determinations include
6 environmental values. It's in subchapter F of the 404(b)(1)
7 guidelines. And that includes sections that talk about
8 natural areas, nature preserves, and speaks to the possible
9 loss of values from the discharge of dredged and fill
10 material that may modify the aesthetics of the area.

11 So people have been concerned about it, but the
12 404 regulations speak directly to that issue.

13 It also speaks to aesthetics, general aesthetics.
14 And it states that part of the issue has to be an
15 identification of any loss of aesthetics as it relates to
16 the public.

17 If you look at this pipeline, that could never
18 have been taken into account when it was laid out. It also
19 speaks to the secondary impacts as well as cumulative. But
20 before my time is out, one of the more important issues is
21 satisfying the antidegradation standards. And I will read
22 it to you. Category I water to New Jersey are associated
23 with New Jersey's assumption of the 303 of the Clean Water
24 Act. And it means those waters designated in tables which
25 are listed for purposes of implementing the anti-degradation

1 policies for protection from measurable change in water
2 quality based on exceptional ecological significance,
3 exceptional recreational significance, exceptional water
4 supply significance, or exceptional fishery resources that
5 protect their aesthetic value and ecological integrity.
6 That is going to be a tough route for this pipeline to
7 satisfy.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

12 I have Doug O'Malley and the next four speakers,
13 Philip Geibel, Emile Devito, Diane Hartford, and Judi
14 Roggie.

15 MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you. My name is Doug
16 O'Malley. That's spelled D-o-u-g, O'Malley, O-'- capital
17 M-a-l-l-e-y. I'm the director of Environment New Jersey.
18 We represent over 20,000 citizen members across this great
19 state.

20 And I wanted to start of by thanking the three
21 members of the assembly and Senator Bateman who spoke out
22 against this project. There's also multiple mayors and
23 committeemen tonight and also last night, Senator Turner and
24 the assembly member from Mercer County. But most
25 importantly I want to thank the hundreds of citizens that

1 have come out to multiple meetings and to the meeting last
2 night and to the meeting tonight to stand up against
3 PennEast and to stand up against assault, this fossil fuel
4 assault on our land here in New Jersey.

5 And FERC clearly needs to listen to the public.
6 But it also needs to be looking at the cumulative impacts
7 that are directly impacting our lands because PennEast is
8 going to tear a massive ecological scar right through the
9 heart of Central Jersey's environment. And it should be
10 dubbing down our dirty fracked gas.

11 FERC can't rubberstamp this pipeline. Because
12 quite honestly the only sustainable option is the no-build
13 alternative. And the reason that's so is because of the
14 landmark court case won by our allies at Delaware River
15 Keeper Network and the New Jersey Sierra Club that
16 specifically said that FERC must not ignore the cumulative
17 impacts of their actions. We heard that only from Mark
18 Gallagher just now on the level of environmental standards
19 that PennEast is not meeting.

20 And quite honestly, it boggles the mind that
21 PennEast is proposing to build a massive pipeline across
22 eight category one streams and yet not have measurable
23 degradation to these streams. The PennEast's proposal
24 clearly violates 404(b) and, you know, as anyone who has
25 dealt with 300-foot buffers to assume that you're not going

1 to have increased pollution into these waterways, waterways
2 that provide drinking water is ludicrous. And it's up to
3 FERC to be looking not just at this one project, to be
4 looking at the cumulative impacts. And that's why I urge
5 FERC to call a time out, to put a moratorium on new pipeline
6 projects.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. O'MALLEY: As Senator Bateman said, there are
9 too many pipelines going across this state and no one is
10 looking at their overall impact.

11 Now, of course, if this pipeline was just --
12 there are so many reasons to oppose this pipeline based on
13 its environmental damages, but if this pipeline was merely
14 transporting chocolate syrup, there would still be massive
15 reasons to oppose it. And the biggest that FERC needs to
16 acknowledge based on the White House CEQ directive is
17 looking at climate change. And this pipeline fails the
18 climate change test because it's going to double down on
19 fracked gas, it's going to mean more gas power plants all
20 across the state. It's going to mean more methane leakage
21 and it's going to mean we're turning away from clean energy
22 and energy efficiency. And looking at the DEIS FERC is
23 required to look at the conservation elements. Energy
24 efficiency is our best bang for the buck. You get four more
25 jobs when you do from fossil fuel investments. And perhaps

1 most importantly, these are not speculative jobs. There are
2 over 12,000 jobs through energy efficiency over a four-year
3 period. That's what FERC needs to look at.

4 This pipeline is a pipeline too far. Please do
5 not build it. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

8 MS. KOCHHAR: Excuse me, if you will stop
9 speaking loud, we can continue with it. Yes, go ahead, sir.

10 (Shouts from audience participants.)

11 MS. KOCHHAR: Just go ahead and start.

12 (Audience talking.)

13 MR. GEIBEL: My name is Philip Geibel.

14 P-h-i-l-i-p G-e-i-b-e-l.

15 MS. KOCHHAR: Please. Please respect the
16 speaker. We are losing time in this process. So you want
17 to speak, be cooperative and let the speakers speak and keep
18 your voices outside of this premises. Thank you.

19 MR. GEIBEL: Philip Geibel, P-h-i-l-i-p
20 G-e-i-b-e-l. I'm a resident of Holland Township, for
21 globally and the environmental impacts. So I would like to
22 describe a very specific local impact on Holland Township.

23 Hopefully you are familiar with the laws of the
24 New Jersey Supreme Court. Briefly they required that
25 essentially every town in this state provide their fair

1 share of low and moderate cost housing. The decisions are
2 based squarely on federal constitutional law.

3 Holland Township has struggled to comply with
4 this costly mandate. Presently it has an agreement with a
5 developer to construct a large number of affordable units
6 which would satisfy Holland's obligations on a property
7 located where the pipeline would cross Route 519 in Holland
8 Township. The proposed route goes right through the middle
9 of this development. Now, that route through or even along
10 side of the development would make the housing units
11 essentially unsalable at normal market rates.

12 This development must go forward otherwise
13 Holland will have to find other ways to satisfy its
14 affordable housing obligations at a cost that could exceed
15 \$2 million to the residents of that town and rather than
16 concentrate development with straight development to as many
17 as 35 other sites with consequent environmental costs.

18 I understand that PennEast has been negotiating
19 with the developer but a cash settlement with the developer
20 would only make things worse for Holland. It would give the
21 developer most or all of the expected profit up front and
22 destroy his incentive to proceed with the project.

23 Worse, constructing the requisite number of
24 affordable units requires relatively dense clustering which
25 means public water and sewer hookups are required. Those

1 resources are strictly limited in Holland and essentially
2 all of the remaining capacity has been dedicated to this
3 project. If this project is not built, those resources
4 cannot be easily shifted because there are no other single
5 tracts of land available within the sewer and water
6 districts. This means that if this route is approved
7 Holland could easily challenge that approval in court under
8 federal constitutional grounds including equal protection
9 clause to give Holland the means to preserve the already
10 court ordered rights of New Jersey's economically
11 disadvantaged citizens and an argument that carried great
12 weight. At a minimum the proposed route must be radically
13 altered to avoid this development preferably it should be
14 altered to require that PennEast use an already existing
15 pipeline easement.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

18 MS. HARTFORD: Good evening, my name is Diane
19 Hartford, D-i-a-n-e H-a-r-t-f-o-r-d. I am a resident of
20 Riegelsville, Pennsylvania and I'm greatly alarmed by the
21 proposed pipeline or any pipeline that may be dug here.

22 The land needed for this proposed pipeline will
23 cut a large swath through forests and vegetation where our
24 most precious commodity, water, resides. We have here
25 creeks and streams of excellent quality.

1 Our watershed is priceless and irreplaceable.

2 Construction would devastate our water as well as
3 the fish, the turtles, the eagles, the osprey, the heron,
4 and the salamanders that live here. It would be an
5 insurmountable tragedy for the animals as well as for the
6 people who choose to live here because of the wild river,
7 excellent creeks, wetlands and drinking water.

8 Any pipeline dug through the canal and the river
9 would shift huge amounts of soil and rock, exposing large
10 areas of land and would cover over other areas destroying
11 the river's banks. The sediment buildup around Cooks Creek
12 would have a grave effect not only for us, but for the
13 people of Philadelphia who stand to lose their drinking
14 water due to this proposed pipeline as well.

15 As for the pipeline itself, it most probably
16 would break and fall into the cave that leads to an
17 underground river flowing north under the Delaware. All of
18 this places enormous value on our great fortune to live here
19 and treasure not only the beauty of our wetlands, springs,
20 and creeks, but believe it to be our responsibility to
21 protect them, not only to safeguard our way of life, but to
22 those who follow.

23 I believe that as in Denmark, Germany, and other
24 countries natural gas will be banned here because it is deadly
25 and that other saner and more effective sources of energy

1 will be used to build a stronger economy and a thriving
2 middle class.

3 The Delaware River, the last wild river in the
4 east has finally recovered from the devastation caused
5 solely by the paper industry. This expensive lesson should
6 have been learned the first time.

7 I personally fear that our community will turn
8 into a wasteland for another's profit. This river is
9 protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 for its
10 geologic, wildlife, and historic values. I ask you to stop
11 PennEast. Our nation has already asked you to do so.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

15 MS. ROGGIE: Good evening. My name is Judi
16 Roggie, J-u-d-i R-o-g-g-i-e. I'm a resident of Durham
17 Township and Upper Bucks County, Pennsylvania. I'm right
18 outside of Riegelsville.

19 I'm strongly opposed to the PennEast Pipeline
20 Project because of the numerous negative impacts that it
21 would have on our environment. If it's allowed to go
22 through, PennEast investors will profit, but the citizens
23 will suffer.

24 By its very nature pipeline construction will
25 always carry severe environmental consequences. It will

1 have a negative impact on our wetlands, groundwater and well
2 water as well as cause excess runoff and erosion.

3 We hear that natural gas is the clean fuel. That
4 may be when compared to other fossil fuels. But fugitive
5 emissions associated with transmission of this gas are a
6 definite health hazard to all living creatures and our
7 endangered species.

8 Clean water is essential to life and 5 percent of
9 the entire United States depends on the Delaware River basin
10 for this precious resource, yet all proposed paths cross
11 high-quality watersheds of the Delaware River. How can we
12 take this risk, especially given that this pipeline is
13 redundant? The Litey Southeast expansion begins and ends at
14 the same points as PennEast is proposing. Can't they buy
15 capacity from them instead of more countryside?

16 And worse yet, all proposed paths cross the river
17 directly under a national historic landmark, the Delaware
18 State Canal Park and its tow path and national recreation
19 trail.

20 I believe that everyone has a right to a healthy
21 life, a right to experience the beauty of nature, and also a
22 right to visit and learn about the history of our nation
23 first-hand at historic sites.

24 In Pennsylvania we have an environmental rights
25 amendment to our constitution and it includes this one

1 sentence that I'll ask you to listen to: Public natural
2 resources are the common property of all the people
3 including generations yet to come. So let's remember the
4 generations yet to come. This project has so many negative
5 impacts, especially to the environment, that it must come to
6 an end and never regress beyond this prefiling stage. Thank
7 you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

10 The next four speakers, Nancy Tate, John Walsh,
11 Susan Grimshaw and P.J. Conway and Emile.

12 MR. DeVITO: Thank you. My name is Emile DeVito,
13 manager of Science New Jersey Conservation Foundation. I
14 greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak.

15 I'm going to elaborate a little bit more on a
16 couple of natural resource issues that have been developing
17 over the course of the evening.

18 Earlier you mentioned endangered species in your
19 introductory comments. I believe it was Joan from Holland
20 Township that had mentioned that standard that threatened
21 species and talking about the Highlands Act.

22 Actually, the pipeline route -- every route
23 that's been proposed -- crosses numerous acres of public
24 trust lands that have been purchased by the people of the
25 state of New Jersey, the state, the counties, the towns, and

1 nonprofit organizations. Every one of those lands is
2 protected by the Green Acres covenants and all rare species
3 must be given consideration when those lands are proposed
4 for other uses. That doesn't just include threatened and
5 endangered species, that includes all rare and special
6 concerned species in both the Green Acres rules and the
7 Highlands rules. And there are over 1,000 special concerned
8 species in New Jersey.

9 The folks who are proposing the pipeline don't
10 have the foggiest idea what's out there. They would have to
11 do surveys for the next two years, full season surveys to
12 find all the rare plants and rare animals that inhabit the
13 proposed pathways.

14 Just one example is the Ted Siles Preserve at
15 Bald Pate Mountain which is now on the proposed route in
16 Mercer County. That forest contains numerous forest
17 interior, neotropical, long-distance migrant birds, their
18 breeding territories, they're all declining species, they're
19 all under special concern lists, and they have no other
20 habitat in the county. That's the only big patch of forest
21 that supports the diminishing population. If that pipeline
22 goes through Bald Pate Mountain their territories will be
23 destroyed and there's no other place to mitigate for those
24 birds. It's absolutely impossible. The population could
25 easily be pushed into the threshold valley where it has a

1 local population and those birds go extinct. Any attempts
2 at creating forests or managing forests somewhere else would
3 be like trying to providing a life insurance policy for
4 somebody who is already dead. It's absolutely impossible to
5 mitigate for those species. And there's no theory that can
6 be drawn up to actually overcome that thesis.

7 Now, secondly, there are another -- Bold Pate
8 Mountain is just one example of what's called "historic
9 forests" and this gets to Mr. Gallagher's comments about the
10 public trust resources and aesthetics and the natural
11 resource values that go beyond just regulations.

12 Historic forests have undisturbed soil.
13 Undisturbed soil which has never been farmed, which has
14 never been plowed, which has never been overgrazed, and
15 those soils support natural communities that still contain
16 remnant populations of species that go back for centuries.
17 Any kind of construction project that damages the soil can't
18 be mitigated. You cannot put back an historic soil. It is
19 physically impossible. You need another ice age and another
20 millennium to go by before that can happen.

21 When you lose those soils, you lose the species,
22 you lose the populations of plants and you can't mitigate
23 for it.

24 Now, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation has
25 been working in Hunterdon, the Wikeshokie project, the

1 Wikeshokie Creek Project for 35 years. We have assembled
2 literally hundreds of acres of preserved forests and
3 farmlands on steep slopes, pristine streams, agricultural
4 conservation easements, but it's especially the steep slopes
5 and the forests, many of them on historic soil. There are
6 maps and aerial photos that go back to the 1800s where you
7 can identify these historic soils. And that's where
8 PennEast -- you could direct PennEast to start looking for
9 all of the dozens, if not hundreds of species that are
10 protected by the public trust doctrine in New Jersey that
11 they have to protect. And until they even find those
12 species, they cannot begin to contemplate the massive
13 environmental destruction that they're going to cause that
14 they can't mitigate for it throughout the course of this
15 project.

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

19 Nancy Tate?

20 MS. TATE: My name is Nancy Tate, T-a-t-e. I
21 Live in Riegelsville, Pennsylvania. My heart breaks to hear
22 what the man was just saying.

23 In a few weeks, I will slow down, open my car
24 window and listen as I drive on Skiles Valley Road pass
25 County Line Road, leaving North Hampton County and joining

1 Bucks County on my way to my mother in Riegelsville. I will
2 be listening for the peepers that live there and provide the
3 joyous annual announcement that spring is here.

4 This year the joy will be tempered with worry
5 about the fate of those tiny peepers should the destructive
6 pipeline proposed by PennEast invade Skiles Valley. What
7 happens to peepers when a pipeline invades their home? I
8 had a long list of worries about the fate of which much that
9 I hold dear as the pipeline prevails, deer, raccoon and fox,
10 threatened stone remnants of old lime kiln that share
11 history and the reality that the fields on which the
12 pipeline has its sights are prone to sink holes. And by
13 multitudes of geese, osprey nesting near the Delaware within
14 sight of the proposed crossing point for the pipeline over
15 the Delaware. That's your extinction due to right-nosed
16 syndrome living in a cave not far from the pipeline --
17 pipeline route the fragile canal and towpath. Our quiet
18 town filled with resilience and acts of community. The
19 worries would grow by thousands and all the people living
20 along the proposed 100-plus-mile pipeline route could share
21 what they want to protect from the ravages of the pipeline
22 assault.

23 I, like many, celebrate the Environmental rights
24 Amendment to the Pennsylvania State Constitution which reads
25 in part, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water,

1 and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic,
2 and aesthetic values of the environment." The PennEast
3 Pipeline would violate every phrase and sentiment in that
4 document.

5 To me it is totally unjust that gas company
6 moguls can simply draw lines on a map to prepare their
7 greedy scheme for exporting natural gas. There's a plan that
8 violates property rights, open space protections,
9 environmental rights, and threatens the health and safety of
10 thousands of people. The pipeline damage will be permanent
11 and irreparable.

12 I work in Bethlehem, I consume that city's
13 excellent water. Who will protect the Penn Forest and Wild
14 Creek Reservoirs supplying Bethlehem water from the damage
15 of the construction, loss of forest cover, herbicides, and
16 pipeline explosions if the pipeline is approved.

17 I want to state that as good as these scoping
18 meetings have been, they have been no where near inclusive.
19 Advertisings for the meetings were non-existent. The
20 meetings were too distant or intimidating for many of those
21 concerned. The massive impact of the proposed pipeline
22 should have been matched by an equally massive effort by
23 FERC to hear from affected citizens.

24 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

25 MS. TATE: I have written copies of my statement

1 and documents.

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

3 John Walsh.

4 MR. WALSH: My name is John Walsh, W-a-l-s-h.

5 I'm a business representative for the International Union of
6 Operating Engineers, Local 825. We represent 6,500 men and
7 women in New Jersey, parts of New York, and Pennsylvania.
8 Our members are highly experienced in pipeline construction
9 and this project could mean as many as 2,000 construction
10 jobs during it's seven-month construction phase.

11 We have successfully and safely built pipelines
12 in all types of surroundings including environmentally
13 sensitive areas. Our workforce is highly trained and safety
14 is always our priority. However, this project will not
15 provide construction jobs, it will provide important
16 economic boost to New Jersey in the long run. The
17 technology that is built in the state of New York pipeline
18 like the one that PennEast is proposing provides a safe and
19 efficient delivery system for the energy we need to power
20 our economy.

21 The PennEast pipeline will help to make sure that
22 the growing demand for natural gas in New Jersey is met by
23 providing the link to the fastest growing natural gas
24 producing state in the United States. It will lower the
25 costs for New Jersey businesses as well as residents like

1 our members.

2 Our members don't just work here, we live here,
3 raise our families here, recreate here, this isn't just
4 about creating construction jobs. We also know the benefits
5 of a safe, reliable energy source for the communities.
6 Pipelines are the safest and the most reliable way to
7 transport natural gas. In addition pipeline transmission
8 also is more efficient than transporting by rail or truck.
9 This reliable source of affordable energy will also help to
10 retain and attract businesses that keep our state
11 competitive.

12 New Jersey can't see the economic growth we need
13 without the basic infrastructure that companies need to run
14 their operations.

15 This isn't just about temporary jobs, it is about
16 keeping our economy moving.

17 I would like to voice the support of the members
18 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local
19 825. I would ask that the Federal Energy Regulatory
20 Commission approve the PennEast pipeline.

21 Thank you.

22 (Appause.) (Cheering.)

23 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

24 (Appause.)

25 MS. KOCHHAR: Excuse me, please (inaudible).

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. KOCHHAR: I'm going to make a big request
3 here for everybody in support or against the project.
4 Please do not waste our time. Let the speaker speak,
5 respect the speaker, you want to give opportunity to others
6 to speak and without me coming in between. Please hold your
7 clapping, hold your booing to yourselves and do it outside,
8 not inside this place. Thank you.

9 MS. GRIMSHAW: My name is Susan Grimshaw. I live
10 on Shier Road in Holland Township and my home is less than
11 1,000 feet from the place where the Elizabethtown Gas
12 Pipeline ruptured last month. My feeling is that gas
13 pipelines are about as safe as a vacation resort in Syria
14 right now.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MS. GRIMSHAW: I feel a lot less safe in my home
17 than I used to. And I feel this project should not move
18 forward for more reasons than anyone can explain in just
19 three minutes.

20 PennEast is scaled to perform anything beyond a
21 cursory review of the environmental issues involved in the
22 proposed route and they have been oblivious to the important
23 fact that all of Holland Township is encompassed by
24 Highlands Planning and Preservation Areas where so much of
25 New Jersey's drinking water originates.

1 Holland is already categorized as a community
2 with a groundwater deficit the the serious disturbance of
3 irreplaceable watershed land is only one aspect among many
4 serious environmental dangers posed by the proposed
5 pipeline.

6 PennEast has submitted completely inadequate and
7 biased environmental analyses that ignore the real threats
8 to our sensitive environmental areas while also grossly
9 exaggerating the supposed economic benefits and lying about
10 the ultimate destination of that gas.

11 PennEast has mounted a disingenuous publicity
12 campaign boasting the creation of over 10,000 new jobs when
13 the fine print reveals many of those jobs will be filled by
14 specialized workers from outside the state and after a few
15 months only ten permanent jobs will remain in New Jersey.
16 In no way do those ten jobs justify the disturbance and
17 destruction of irreplaceable agricultural lands and wooden
18 open space.

19 And while I personally do not hold title to any
20 of the preserved farmlands so tragically impacted by this
21 project, my taxes paid for the purchase of the development
22 rights so I and every other taxpayer in my community we are
23 indeed stakeholders in this process.

24 If this Commission decides to rubberstamp
25 PennEast's application, I think PennEast should be forced to

1 repay every penny of tax that Hunterdon County residents
2 spent for land preservation in these impacted areas since
3 the program's inception.

4 These farms were supposed to be preserved for
5 agricultural use only and allowing private industry to
6 steamroll over those rights and restrictions is tantamount
7 to a billion dollar fraud. PennEast claims its gas will be
8 for eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey customers, but the
9 UGI is a major principle behind this project and according
10 to their 2014 annual report almost one-sixth of their net
11 income was derived from overseas markets in 16 western and
12 central European countries.

13 Spectra Energy Partners' website states, "one of
14 their economic goals is supporting the export of natural gas
15 supplies beyond North America." So they are being dishonest
16 when they do not disclose that millions of gallons of this
17 gas is going to end up overseas. And they should not be
18 allowed to use eminent domain to get their product to more
19 profitable, overseas markets. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

23 After P.J., the next four speakers, Janine
24 Mickels, Ken Collins, Jack MacConnell, and Carla Cielo.

25 MR. CONWAY: My name is Patrick Conway,

1 C-o-n-w-a-y. I'm a resident of Holland Township. And the
2 proposed pipeline will be moving -- will be within a couple
3 thousand feet of my home.

4 I am here and I'm not going to be as long as the
5 other speakers. They are much better prepared and much more
6 detailed than I have. I would just encourage the Commission
7 to please pay special attention to the written testimony
8 submitted by Dr. Onstad of Princeton University. He's a
9 geologist. He was in 2007 rate on Time Magazine's 100 most
10 influential Americans.

11 His thesis -- or not his thesis, his study that
12 he sent to the Commission, and I would encourage everybody
13 in the room to go to website and get a copy of the study,
14 indicates that the very act of digging the pipeline will
15 disturb the bedrock in Holland Township and will cause
16 arsenides to be released from the bedrock and into the wells
17 of the people in Holland Township.

18 Those arsenides are almost impossible to
19 mitigate. It means if the pipeline is dug and the worst
20 case happens, your well is poisoned. You have no way --
21 never mind saying that the real estate gentleman said that
22 you could have depressed values, you would have zero value
23 when your well -- we are all well dependent -- when your well
24 is dry, so is your house.

25 Thank you very much.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

3 MR. COLLINS: I'm Ken Collins, C-o-l-l-ins.

4 Everybody listen up. I've got to read this. I'm a 25-year
5 union worker and a former United States Army Sergeant and I
6 oppose the PennEast Pipeline in its entirety.

7 I want to thank New Jersey Resources, the parent
8 company of PennEast Partners and J. R. Pipeline Company and
9 New Jersey Natural Gas who blew up a house in New Jersey the
10 other day, graphically illustrating the unsafe nature of
11 natural gas.

12 I'm here tonight to expose PennEast's
13 vulnerability. I oppose the PennEast Pipeline in its
14 entirety and I support the no-action alternative
15 exclusively. PennEast's Achilles Heel is what I'm going to
16 tell you about, but I'll do it with my back facing the
17 federal officials who clearly are not hearing us.

18 On behalf of the community, I would like to say
19 to PennEast, welcome to New Jersey, now go home.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. COLLINS: You see, PennEast wants the
22 landowner to be terrified by two little words, eminent
23 domain. But I'm here to tell you the truth and the truth is
24 that PennEast is terrified of eminent domain.

25 Here's the deal. If you landowners stand your

1 ground, if you all stand together and deny PennEast access
2 to your land, PennEast will simply give up and walk away.
3 Landowners, if you all post no-trespassing sign around the
4 circumference of your property and deny all access to
5 PennEast and its contractors, it forces them to take all of
6 you to court for eminent domain proceedings and the backlash
7 of bad publicity they would face, the sheer number of
8 eminent domain cases would be too much for them to contend
9 with and that is a secret that they don't want you to know.

10 They cannot win if all of you landowners force
11 eminent domain. If you stand firmly together the most
12 effective weapon in your arsenal becomes eminent domain.
13 That's PennEast's worst nightmare. This is a key integral
14 part of the legal strategy to beat this pipeline. With just
15 over half the route surveyed -- and hear me -- half the
16 route cohabitating with other infrastructure, most
17 landowners have denied PennEast access. Do not let them on
18 your property. FERC is here to help PennEast get this
19 pipeline built as quickly and as cheaply as they can.
20 That's what they do.

21 FERC Commissioner Philip Moeller was an energy
22 industry lobbyist before his appointment. Cheryl LeFleur,
23 the Chairman, was acting CEO of National Grid, USA, whose
24 subsidiaries include Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas
25 Company. These people are all revolving door personnel from

1 the very industry they are tasked to regulate and they
2 advocate burning more fossil fuel when they know it is
3 killing us. That is just plain stupid.

4 They are not going to do anything about it. It's
5 up to us. We have to make them take action. It is time to
6 rebel against this fossil foolishness.

7 Recently in reference to National Gas Pipeline
8 Resistance FERC Chairman Cheryl LeFleur said, FERC has a
9 problem and the problem is they keep forcing these projects
10 down the throats of our communities. Today the Nebraska
11 landowner who took TransCanada to court succeeded in halting
12 eminent domain proceedings to take their land and the
13 proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Well, FERC, this ain't
14 Nebraska, this is New Jersey. And we're not afraid of
15 eminent domain here either.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. COLLINS: This is the place, now it the time
18 to take this stand. We will stop the PennEast Pipeline, but
19 only if you landowners refuse to buy into the fear of
20 eminent domain that PennEast wants to desperately instill in
21 each of you. We can't count on FERC or PHMSA to listen to
22 us and take the bold step of rejecting this project.
23 Landowners, the power is in your hands. Just say no. Force
24 eminent domain proceedings and send PennEast home without a
25 pipeline. Stand your ground. We will all stand with you

1 and send them home.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

4 MR. MacCONNELL: Hi, I'm Jack MacConnell. I am
5 the emergency management coordinator for Kingwood Township.
6 M-a-c-C-o-n-n-e-l-l.

7 At milepost 87 on their map, they intersect
8 Buckeye Pipeline. Buckeye Pipeline has an 18-inch and a
9 20-inch petrochemical pipe system. If they intersect there,
10 they're right next to the JCPNL transmission line from
11 Gilbert to Rosemont and this is a prime target for any kind
12 of clandestine terrorism. All you have to do is park on
13 Gray Hill Road and walk 450 feet and you will be right at
14 the site of that intersection.

15 The problem we have is we have no police. We
16 have state police, they can do what they can, but they are
17 not there every day. We have to have something done in
18 regards to either protecting that or making sure that it
19 will not be a target.

20 If you put fences up, they'll send a drone over.
21 If you take or a satchel charge that gets thrown right over
22 the top of the fence and it's right in there.

23 If this goes up and blows up, you're going to
24 have the same kind of crater, if not bigger, than in Edison.
25 You're also going to look at major pollution problem because

1 the petrochemicals will be coming out and it will be --
2 because of the amount of compressed gas coming out next to
3 those pipes, and it pulls that fluid right out. And it goes
4 right down to Copper Creek, right down to the Delaware. And
5 it's very close to the Delaware.

6 So I think you should think about either making
7 them have some kind of protection program or eliminate it
8 altogether.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

12 MS. CIELO: I'm Carla Cielo. I'm here
13 representing Holland Township Historic Preservation
14 Commission. The proposed pipeline route traverses 13
15 locally significant historic, 19th century farmsteads.
16 Eight of which are proposed farm -- are preserved farmland
17 and all of which maintain an integrity of place.

18 The scar of the pipeline will visually destroy
19 this integrity.

20 I am submitting photographs, survey forms,
21 drawings, and descriptions of all 13 farmsteads and a map to
22 indicate their location on the proposed route.

23 The 13 farmsteads form the nucleus of two rural
24 historic landscape districts. The proposed -- attract
25 district that has resources that date from 1790 through the

1 1930s. And the Buns Valley Historic District that has
2 resources that date from 1806 through 1930s.

3 The Buns Valley District has a SHPO certificate
4 of eligibility. These resources cannot be replaced and
5 represent 15 years of work to preserve them.

6 In addition, the proposed pipeline crosses the
7 Delaware River from Durham Township just above the historic
8 district which dates to 1741 and which was placed on on the
9 national -- the state and national register of historic
10 places in 1974.

11 The historic district connect Holland Township
12 with Durham Township and their association with the 1727
13 blast iron furnace that is a colonial era furnace.

14 And Durham Township is a preserve in our
15 district.

16 The proposed half of the pipeline through Holland
17 Township has no highways and no shopping malls and there is
18 very little modern development. It is a rural,
19 agricultural, historic landscape which we want to preserve
20 for future generations.

21 I am also submitting -- of course, I am most in
22 favor of no build. But, I am also submitting an alternative
23 route collocating with power lines that have already
24 disturbed the landscape and by collocating, it will reduce
25 the visual impact on our historic farmland. And since I

1 have a minute left, just as discussed, how we can't trust
2 PennEast, I talked to the guy out there on the table about
3 collocating and he said that we're doing everything we can
4 to lessen the impact on environmental and historic and
5 everything. So in Holland Township there's a wooded slope
6 that's called Gravel Hill and Gravel Hill is cut by about
7 four power lines already. So don't you think PennEast would
8 choose one? No, they put a new proposed within 100 feet
9 from an existing power line. Makes totally no sense.

10 I'm out of time. Thank you very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

13 And then after Ms. Nichols, the next four
14 speakers, Lane Britten, Melissa Drozdoff, Holly Low, and
15 Scott Johnson.

16 MS. NICHOLS: My name is Janine Nichols and my
17 partner and I Tim Siberman are land owners in Stockton, New
18 Jersey. For the past six years and Tim an artisan architect
19 who is building by hand on available weekends, a modest
20 retirement for us in Delaware Township. That house replaces
21 a dilapidated wreck that one scarred a three-quarter acre --
22 Creek in a pristine waterway included in the 4,000 acre and
23 Creek preserve of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.
24 Another side of the lot is bounded by taxpayer funded forest
25 preserve.

1 When the land was purchased, it was impossible to
2 imagine the historic landscape of working farmland replete
3 with protected waterways, historic forests, and colonial
4 stone buildings. There are eight historic districts on the
5 state and national registers of historic places in Delaware
6 Township. Would one day be subjected to the desecration
7 that the PennEast Pipeline will bring in defiance of the
8 extraordinary physical, emotional and financial investments
9 of generations of landowners.

10 The proposed pipeline serves none of their
11 interests, only in the short-term profits of those peddling
12 unsustainable fossil fuel fuel from the Marcellus shale to
13 the Atlantic Coast, to the benefit of no one but the
14 peddlers.

15 At a recent informational meeting PennEast
16 representatives reluctantly admitted that our house would be
17 in the kill zone which they prefer to call an impact zone.
18 In the event of an explosion, an eventuality that we were
19 assured was extremely unlikely to occur. The fact is that
20 there is on average a devastating gas explosion every month
21 in the United States not counting incidents. Therefore we
22 are not comforted by the reassurances of midlevel
23 representatives of PennEast acting as a sales force, but the
24 proposed pipeline will not be near our house and omit odors
25 or explode, nor are we comforted by the DOT representative's

1 remarks about PHMSA's requirements to ensure compliance with
2 minimum safety standards. I would like to enter into the
3 record a hastily put together list of pipeline -- of gas
4 explosions of a catastrophic nature since August of 2013.
5 Duquesne, Illinois, Ripley, New York, Harper City, Oklahoma,
6 Moon Township, Pennsylvania, Fallensby, West Virginia, St.
7 Louis, Missouri, Brentwood, California, Louisville,
8 Kentucky, Greensboro, North Carolina, Chicago, Harlem in New
9 York City, Bettsville, Ohio, Plymill, Kansas, Augusta,
10 Georgia, and most notably Ewing, New Jersey, and Stafford,
11 New Jersey.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

15 MS. BRITTEN: Lane Britten, L-a-n-e
16 B-r-i-t-t-e-n. I'm going to start out by saying how proud I
17 am to be born and bred in New Jersey.

18 I'm going to read. We live on the Woodlands farm
19 in Hunterdon County. We implore a no-action, no-build
20 judgment for the PennEast pipeline.

21 Due to FERC's position in serving the citizens,
22 the number of scoping meetings and length of intervention
23 time has been unsatisfactory. There is a need for
24 responsibility, accountability and extended time in granting
25 pipeline requests.

1 The Indiana Bat and the American Bald Eagle were
2 placed on the federal endangered species list in 1967.
3 Natural habitats for both are verified to be along the
4 proposed pipeline path. Our topography requires maintaining
5 a delicate balance in natural resources. A 10 percent
6 change for a watershed will affect drinking water. A 25
7 percent change created by removing vegetation, compacting
8 soil, or blocking natural flow with impassable objects will
9 completely degrade a waterway. FEMA could halt flood
10 insurance to properties with natural gas leases. The
11 drastic flooding along the Delaware River causes a need for
12 further investigation.

13 Developers of this pipeline are private entities.
14 Responsibility of disaster insurance coverage needs to be
15 determined and should include the cost to train and certify
16 first responders in pipeline accidents. Resolving sources
17 of funding for clean up from a disaster should be addressed.

18 The amount of permanent jobs claimed on filed by
19 PennEast is inflated, thereby insulting the intelligence of
20 the people in our area. The ugliness of their approach is
21 obvious. In a proponent's website posting that local high
22 schoolers are mind-numbed robots because of their action in
23 environmental concerns. These children inherit
24 responsibilities of maintaining the planet and dealing with
25 the choices were are making today. We will not cosign the

1 expansion of an industry refusing to make public the toxic
2 chemicals and work practices used in mining a limited
3 resource. This is criminally negligent land use. People,
4 animals, vegetation and livelihoods are dying. The earth is
5 literally shaking.

6 We ask that you promote self-sustaining energy,
7 solar glass, roof tiles, solar windows and blinds.

8 Paris, France is installing energy generating
9 wind trees within the city this spring. We are for a no
10 action, no alternative answer to PennEast's proposed
11 destruction of land and life.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

15 MS. DROZDOFF: My name is Melissa Drozdoff, it's
16 D-r-o-z-d-o-f-f. I'm a lifelong resident of Hunterdon
17 County and I'd like to thank PennEast for not -- for only
18 their supports -- for about two hours, from 6 to 8 p.m.
19 because they --

20 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

21 MS. DROZDOFF: -- in the back for those of us who
22 were sitting there, so thank you for at least being cheap on
23 that point.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MS. DROZDOFF: The planned PennEast Pipeline that

1 proposes a 36-inch wide and a 50-foot wide easement to be
2 built and operated within Hunterdon County. My purpose is
3 to go on record as a concerned citizen not only residing in
4 Hunterdon County, but living on the one planet we all place
5 our feet on.

6 The issue of fossil fuel production being a
7 contributor to climate change is being presented in public
8 news on a daily basis. Although not educated in the field,
9 and I won't use specific scientific rhetoric, as a lay
10 person I have researched this in hopes of finding the
11 correlation between climate change and fossil fuel
12 production. From my perspective, the mining of fossil fuel
13 is not alone responsible for advent of climate change.
14 There is little doubt that the increasing devastation and
15 transmutation causes has many contributing factors. But by
16 the same token, evidence is clear that carbon dioxide
17 emitting from the hydraulic fracturing process does add a
18 proponent to the extreme weather conditions experienced
19 worldwide at this time.

20 Governments around the world cannot come to
21 agreement on how to address this situation. Therefore we
22 have no solution to help the climate heal from this
23 overload.

24 There's no debating that the earth is in worse
25 condition today than it was before the industrial revolution

1 150 years ago. An agreement has been reached on that fact.

2 We the majority of people here today request a
3 moratorium on this development immediately. Locally animal
4 and plant species are endangered because their natural
5 habitat is eroding. Not only is this source of food
6 changing from water and soil erosion, additionally locations
7 that enabled them to be nurtured and prosper are being
8 robbed from them for industrial purposes. This system is
9 not working and needs to change.

10 Water is used at an alarming consumption rate for
11 fracking specifically. Not only is the process draining our
12 reserves, it is also changing out supply with chemicals used
13 in the process which are being injected directly into our
14 soil. These injections allow chemicals to seep into our
15 tables and promotes -- for any well in the area.

16 The flagrant disrespect shown here is reflected
17 in the thought that ten permanent jobs from PennEast for New
18 Jersey is worth destroying farms, river beds, state parks
19 owned by taxpayers, all for the promise of saving a few
20 dollars for one single generation of people.

21 The price today's youth will pay is grotesquely
22 higher than that.

23 Kindly think about allowing this or any other
24 pipeline in the United States to be built. I implore you to
25 be responsible and accountable to not only the people in

1 this room, but to those who will be following us seven
2 generations ahead.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

5 MS. LOW: Hi, my name is Holly Low. H-o-l-l-y
6 L-o-w. I live in Frenchtown, New Jersey. I'm a member of
7 the Frenchtown Environmental Commission. And there are
8 several of us here on behalf of the Commission.

9 We object to the PennEast pipeline and we're in
10 support of the no-action alternative. We also object to
11 FERC's recent clarification policy, quote, "The Commission
12 will continue to take into account as a factor of its
13 consideration the overall benefits to the environment of
14 natural gas consumption." End quote.

15 We urge FERC, consider the single greatest threat
16 to our environment, global warming. According to a recent
17 study in the Journal of Nature, the natural gas boom will
18 actually increase overall carbon emissions and squeeze out
19 renewable energy sources.

20 The methane leaked from drilling sites even on
21 lower estimates will drive global warming too. So if FERC
22 is to write a true environmental impact review of PennEast
23 it must include the scientific data.

24 Now, to the more immediate impacts to Frenchtown.
25 We are located on the Delaware, Alexandria is north of us,

1 and Kingwood is east of us. The potential impacts are huge
2 because we are directly downstream. The proposed route
3 crosses two creeks that flow through protected nature
4 preserved in Frenchtown and drain into the Delaware. These
5 creeks are classified as category one. Any construction or
6 operation that negatively impacts these creeks will violate
7 the Clean Water Act.

8 The proposed route goes over half of the C1
9 protected Nishasacowit Creek tributary. So construction
10 would destroy it.

11 Finally the Nishasacowit flows through
12 Frenchtown's playground. My two small boys and hundreds of
13 families in the area enjoy this creek all year long. It's
14 unthinkable to imagine it was harmed by surface water
15 pollution during construction.

16 So PennEast claims this is all worth it because
17 it will create and support jobs. I got the flyer in the
18 mail. They are pitting environmentalists against unions
19 again. Yes, we desperately need good construction jobs.

20 I care about that guy's job. I'm not joking. We
21 should all care about people trying to get work in this
22 economy. But PennEast and the fracking boom is not the
23 answer. Because you know what threatens jobs in the economy
24 more? Global warming. More dependence on fossil fuel means
25 more threats. This means more unemployment. In the wake of

1 Super Storm Sandy, 86,000 jobs were cut from payrolls.
2 Weather events in 2011, the year of Sandy and other
3 record-breaking weather cost taxpayers \$52 billion. And low
4 income and working families bear the brunt of climate change
5 because they have a harder time recovering from the damage
6 done by extreme weather.

7 We cannot afford PennEast and more natural gas
8 infrastructure.

9 Walter Reuther the President of United Auto
10 Workers said, quote, "The labor movement is about that
11 problem we face tomorrow morning, damned right. But to make
12 that the sole purpose of the labor movement is to miss the
13 main target. What good is a dollar an hour more in wages if
14 your neighborhood is burning down? What good is another
15 week's vacation if the lake you used to go to is polluted?
16 You can't swim in it and the kids can't play in it." End
17 quote.

18 Studies show cleaner energy sources like solar
19 will create more jobs in a fossil fuel economy. I'm here to
20 say if you are against PennEast, you also need to call an
21 elected official to promote green energy construction jobs
22 for our state. And here's an idea for jobs. Why doesn't
23 PennEast put people to work fixing aging, dangerous, natural
24 gas pipelines? Because jobs is not their priority.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. LOW: Despite the flyers. They care most
2 about their profit at all cost.

3 FERC, please use your power to lead the way to
4 cleaner, greener energy.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

8 PARTICIPANT: Do you want to call the next four?

9 MR. SCOTT: Actually, we're going to take a
10 break.

11 PARTICIPANT: Okay. Great.

12 MR. JOHNSON: Scott Johnson, Fifth Street,
13 Frenchtown, New Jersey. Lifelong Hunterdon County resident.

14 MR. SCOTT: Can you spell your name, please?

15 MR. JOHNSON: J-o-h-n-s-o-n. Personally I
16 support exclusively a no-action move regarding the PennEast
17 proposed pipeline. Supporting this pipeline is supporting
18 hydraulic fracturing, fracking. The rest of my time
19 tonight, I'm speaking on behalf of the Frenchtown
20 Environmental Commission.

21 The proposed pipeline comes within a mile of
22 community wells and very close to the private wells of 26
23 homes in Frenchtown. Some of them half a mile of the
24 proposed construction. Frenchtown homes and businesses get
25 their water from the Brunswick aquifer within which

1 groundwater is stored and transmitted in fractures.

2 The construction would put our groundwater at
3 risk to pollution sources by opening fractures that don't
4 currently exist and by closing fractures that may be the
5 water yielding fractures our wells rely on.

6 Additionally, the drilling lubrication fluids and
7 mud slurry required to construct the pipeline pose serious
8 risks of contaminating our drinking water.

9 The pipeline would exacerbate Frenchtown's
10 already serious flood issues. Between 2012 and 2014 major
11 stream bed restoration on the Nissisior Creek has been
12 required to damage incurred by flooding. In total it has
13 cost a half million dollars funded by our tax dollars.

14 The pipeline construction has the potential to
15 undo these expensive restoration projects. Although the
16 PennEast Pipeline Projects tell us its economic benefits to
17 the state of New Jersey, what future costs will fall on the
18 taxpayers when the next major storm comes through?

19 The loss of forests due to the clear cutting of
20 trees in Alexandria Township will increase storm water
21 runoff. The construction of the pipeline would require a
22 great deal of soil compaction further increasing storm water
23 runoff into the creek.

24 The flood conditions expose the proposed pipeline
25 to scouring, subsequent gas leaks and pollution of our water

1 supply.

2 The risks of erosion and sedimentation are even
3 greater because of the steep cliff bases of the proposed
4 route, increased storm water runoff will mean severe stream
5 bank erosion downstream, loss of stream habitat and water
6 quality issues.

7 It is more cost effective to preserve vegetative
8 cover rather than destroy its natural system and later have
9 to replace it with storm water management such as pipes,
10 pumps, storage chambers, et cetera. This is yet another
11 potential burden to taxpayers due to this pipeline.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SCOTT: Thank you. We're going to take a
15 brief ten-minute break and we'll be right back.

16 (Brief recess taken.)

17 MR. SCOTT: Okay. Our next four speakers are
18 Adrienne Crombie, Anne Anderson, Michael Keady and Kyle
19 Culver. If you could come up to the podium, please?

20 MS. CROMBIE: I am Adrienne Crombie. Are we
21 ready?

22 MR. SCOTT: Give it a minute or so until it
23 quiets down so we can all hear.

24 (Pause.)

25 MR. SCOTT: Okay. Thanks.

1 MS. CROMBIE: I am Adrienne Crombie,
2 A-d-r-i-e-n-n-e, last name, C-r-o-m-b-i-e. I am Secretary
3 of the Frenchtown Environmental Commission.

4 The proposed pipeline route crosses an area in
5 Alexandria that borders the others preserve and the
6 northeast corner of Frenchtown Borough.

7 The permanent loss of habitat and fragmentation
8 that would result from a pipeline and the right-of-way
9 construction would be irreparable.

10 Established in 2000 by the Hunterdon Land Trust
11 and the New Jersey Green Acres Program to protect the Creek,
12 this ecosystem is very intact, healthy, and relatively free
13 from invasive species according to the Hunterdon Land Trust
14 Steward.

15 Pipeline construction and the right-of-way will
16 cause fragmentation and destroy the habitat for deep forest
17 species. The 100-foot right-of-way would create permanent
18 damage on 12 acres per mile. A swath cut into a forest
19 creates a negative impact at a rate of 72 acres per mile.

20 The Nishisacawit Preserve is only 12 acres.

21 Alexandria list theirs as critical wildlife
22 habitat in their environmental resources inventory.
23 Endangered or threatened species that need this kind of
24 habitat include the great blue heron, the wood turtle, the
25 bob turtle, the eastern meadowlark, Savannah sparrow,

1 Cooper's hawk, gosling, wildcat and grasshopper sparrow.
2 The landscape project program at the New Jersey DEP has
3 identified the Nishisacawit Preserve and also the Frenchtown
4 preserve because they provide important habitats. The
5 Frenchtown preserve would be impacted by pipeline
6 construction because the proposed route crosses the little
7 Nishisacawit Creek in Kingwood and this creek flows into the
8 preserve.

9 There are frequent sitings of a pair of bald
10 eagles. It provides a habitat for the American Kestrel, the
11 Northern Harrier, both on the state endangered wildlife
12 list.

13 There is also confirmed siting of the gray
14 butterflies in the Frenchtown Preserve considered very rare
15 in New Jersey.

16 The only reasonable response to this is the no
17 action alternative. And to continue the last part of our
18 statement from the Frenchtown Environmental Commission, Ann?

19 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

20 (Appause.)

21 MS. ANDERSON: My name is Ann Anderson, it's
22 A-n-n A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n. I live in North Hampton Township in
23 Pennsylvania, in Williams Township rather, North Hampton
24 County and I'm here tonight to support the Frenchtown
25 Environmental Commission. And also to stress that reaction

1 against this pipeline is not all about NIMBY or not in my
2 back yard. What happens in Frenchtown and all the other
3 places mentioned tonight will happen wherever the 108-mile
4 pipeline ditch will be dug. This is a huge swath of
5 environmental impact upon hundreds of streams and rivers,
6 wildlife, human homes, and drinking water.

7 Much of this impact cannot be mitigated. There
8 is no place on this planet where this pipeline can be done
9 where it isn't in our back yard. It's all our back yard.

10 To continue the Frenchtown statement.

11 When birds have their nests in a nature preserve
12 and they leave their homes, go on their migratory path and
13 come back and their nesting tree is not there, an entire
14 generation of peach bird is extremely stressed and could
15 fail. If you lose that generation, you risk losing the gene
16 pool of that particular family. This is one reason why bird
17 populations are plummeting worldwide.

18 Bird diversity is a measurable indicator of the
19 environmental health. They are our canaries in the coal
20 mine. The forest that spans the Nishisacawit preserve has
21 many large stands of healthy hemlock trees which is
22 increasingly rare in New Jersey.

23 If a large swath is cut through this forest, it
24 will be highly susceptible to invasive species which
25 threaten the future. The right-of-way for the pipeline

1 would be sprayed on a continued basis with the herbicide
2 glyphosate. Glyphosate has the potential to contaminate
3 surface waters through erosion as it absorbs or clings to
4 soil particles suspended in runoff.

5 If Glyphosate reaches surface water it could not
6 be broken down readily by water or sunlight.

7 In conclusion, the proposed PennEast Pipeline
8 threatens Frenchtown's drinking water, surface water, and
9 protected habitat and wildlife. And the same goes for every
10 municipality that is impacted or downstream from this
11 project.

12 Furthermore, the overall environmental impact of
13 multiple pipelines in the region, whether existing or
14 proposed, and there are a lot of them proposed, must be
15 considered.

16 The Frenchtown Environmental Commission urges
17 that FERC deny any approval of the PennEast Pipeline Docket
18 PF-15-1, and that you choose the no-action alternative.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

22 Michael Keady and Kyle Culver?

23 MR. KEADY: Good evening. I'm Michael Keady and
24 that's M-i-c-h-a-e-l K-e-a-d-y. And I'm the Chairman of the
25 Holland Township Environmental Commission. As our Holland

1 Mayor, Ray Krov, said earlier this evening, our Environment
2 Commission -- a project that superimposed the route of the
3 PennEast pipeline over many of the maps from the Highlands
4 Environmental Resource Inventory, or ERI.

5 Tonight as part of my testimony I'm going to give
6 you copies of those maps as well as a CD with files. These
7 maps use the Highlands Resource maps, but the background is
8 a block and lot map of Holland and the pipeline route is
9 overlaid. That makes it very easy for the average resident
10 to see the pipeline route in relationship to where they live
11 and how the pipeline endangers the resources we're trying to
12 protect in our community.

13 Holland Township is the only Highlands
14 municipality of the pipeline route that has chosen to
15 conform the entire township to the Highlands regional master
16 plan or RMP. That means we have very credible information
17 on environmental resources in our entire municipality,
18 information that has been developed in partnership with the
19 technical experts on the Highlands Council staff.

20 Holland has been actively working on reforming to
21 the Highlands RMP for more than six years. The state has
22 given hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to fund
23 this work. Local volunteers have done hundreds of hours of
24 work. The citizens of Holland have sacrificed by moving,
25 for example, to much larger lot zoning in order to ensure

1 adequate nitrate dilution from septic systems. And now
2 comes PennEast feeling that they can slash their way through
3 the resources we've worked so hard to protect in cooperation
4 with the Highlands Council.

5 Mayor Krov focused on the 23 stream crossings as
6 the most worrisome cumulative damage, but there are a host
7 of other intrusions upon Highland's resources. One ERI map,
8 for example, shows carbonate rock areas and the pipeline
9 crosses two such areas. The Highlands Council ERI text even
10 says that these areas can be dangerous specifically for
11 natural gas pipelines. The ERI recommends not building on
12 severely constraining slopes, those more than 20 percent.
13 The pipeline intrudes into multiple slopes over 20 percent.

14 Runoff of silt from these slopes will provide
15 another cumulative damage to our streams. The pipeline cuts
16 through high integrity forest areas in several places,
17 leaves fragmentation of the forests and the spread of
18 invasives.

19 The pipeline goes through groundwater recharge
20 areas where compacting from construction equipment can lead
21 to less recharge. This in a township already identified as
22 having a water shortage.

23 The vast majority of the pipeline route intrudes
24 upon critical habitat mapped in the Highland's ERI.

25 We have given you the best information we have

1 and now we expect the environmental impact statement to
2 demonstrate how the damage can be eliminated. Personally, I
3 don't think it can, and the no-build, no-action option is
4 the only way not to destroy what we have worked so hard to
5 protect.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

9 It's Culver, our next four speakers are Erich
10 Zeh, Danita Park, T.C. Buchanan, and Ann Marshall.

11 MS. CULVER: Hi, my name is Kyle Culver, K-y-l-e
12 C-u-l-v-e-r. I was born and raised in Holland Township. My
13 parents still reside there and they own and operate a
14 business since 1978 in the Township.

15 We live on a property that is directly next to a
16 farm where the proposed pipeline is set to run directly
17 through the farm. There's multiple concerns that have been
18 raised this evening and I would echo all of them.

19 The primary concern is clean water. Our town
20 lives by well water. We've experienced disruption in our
21 well due to building properties locally from farmland that
22 was converted into a small development and we know what that
23 is like when there are problems with our well.

24 The preservation of clean and safe water has to
25 be the number one priority for small towns like this that

1 operate on well systems and that have no other alternative.
2 You could never bring in enough water to support these
3 towns. It's not reliable, it's not -- you shouldn't even
4 think of it as an option.

5 The concerns are also about the fact the proposed
6 pipeline goes through these preserved spaces, farmland, open
7 space, I'd remind the FERC Commission that New Jersey is the
8 Garden State. The Garden State because we have farms. Many
9 of these farms are being disrupted and run through by this
10 proposed pipeline.

11 The fact that when you have a preserved farm
12 you've given up the right to build new buildings on that
13 farm, you've given up the right to develop it in other ways.
14 But yet we can run a pipeline through it, is problematic.

15 I would also encourage the Commission if they
16 haven't been out to the Hunterdon County area, Holland,
17 Kingwood, Frenchtown, Milford, all of the areas, it is full
18 of wildlife. Everybody has mentioned that whether they be
19 from Pennsylvania or New Jersey that these are preserved
20 areas around wildlife is allowed to live amongst people's
21 properties.

22 The concerns that the pipeline would destroy this
23 wildlife area is huge. We're talking about numerous
24 species. We're also talking about the numerous migratory
25 birds. There's no way you're going to get, mitigate, or

1 rehabilitate the impact that building this pipeline would
2 have on the wildlife of the area.

3 I just encourage the Commission to really take
4 into account the option, no alternative action, no-build.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SCOTT: Erich Zeh.

8 MR. ZEH: Erich, E-r-i-c-h, Zeh, Z-e-h. There
9 are major concerns about how the PennEast pipeline will
10 impact the area both environmentally and culturally. The
11 proposed path as it passes through Holland Township in
12 Hunterdon County, New Jersey will significantly impact the
13 resources.

14 The area crossing Jags Road which is locally
15 known as abundant valley is one of the area's concern. The
16 right-of-way of the pipeline will be clear cut, turned to
17 grassland left devoid of trees forever. This area which is
18 currently tree covered protects many species that depend on
19 this forestation. Without the forest, this highly sensitive
20 area of steep slope with a grade in excess of 45 degrees
21 will be vulnerable to erosion. The unwanted silts and
22 sediments from the eroding slopes will lead directly into
23 the Haikihoki Creek. This creek is designated as a class
24 one, FW1 production stream and is maintained in its natural
25 state. The production stream is home to both regulated and

1 unregulated aquatic species that would be affected. The
2 creek and adjoining wetlands and forests is home to many
3 endangered species including land, avian, insects, and
4 plants.

5 There are dwellings located along the Haikihok
6 Creek that will also be affected by the proximity of the
7 pipeline, one of which is the historic three-story, stone
8 house built by the Bunn family 208 years ago. In addition
9 there is a rock shelter that was used thousands of years ago
10 by the Lunape Indians. The name Quaqua Creek officially
11 known as Haikihoki Creek is of native American origin.
12 Stone artifacts have been discovered on the surface
13 throughout this area which the Indians left behind in
14 hunting camps located on the plateau on the mountain.

15 Many have also been discovered both in and around
16 the creek. Prehistoric sites such as the one just mentioned
17 or found along the pipeline's path leading to the Delaware
18 River, this is the proximity of the Indians' Village.

19 A huge portion of the PennEast pipeline proposed
20 path cuts through preserved land. New Jersey, Hunterdon
21 County and Highland Township have worked extensively to
22 preserve and maintain these open spaces, wetlands, streams
23 and forests for generations to come.

24 I urge all members of FERC to oppose any pipeline
25 through this pristine land. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

3 MS. PARK: Hi, good evening. My name is Danita
4 Park, D-a-n-i-t-a, P-a-r-k. I work for a local company NRG
5 Energy. We had the head office in Bloomston, New Jersey and
6 we have three lines of business. We work to provide energy
7 to NRG business which provides energy to wholesale customers
8 on the -- provides energy to retail customers, we'll do
9 things like put solar on rooftops, and we have this consumer
10 products company called Goal Zero that provides innovative
11 consumer products, we promote like solar powered consumer
12 goods.

13 And finally we have NRG Renew. NRG Renew
14 develops large renewable solutions for utility and
15 commercial customers. You may have seen our solar powered
16 generation station out in California.

17 I am the director of asset management in the east
18 region for NRG. And while NRG will have no direct ownership
19 in the project, we are a potential customer of the PennEast
20 Pipeline. And as such NRG supports this project.

21 We own several electric power plants in the
22 region and we employ directly 22 staff members at the power
23 plants in New Jersey.

24 Our electric generating stations. In New Jersey
25 we have one directly in Milford, New Jersey and we have one

1 unit there that used to be both oil fired and gas fired. In
2 the near future it will run only on natural gas.

3 The PennEast project will provide a more reliable
4 and cleaner source of fuel for this unit. When PennEast is
5 in place, our plant will be more reliable on the coldest
6 winter days of the year and the hottest summer days of the
7 year.

8 This will help reduce interruptions to the power
9 grid. And if NRG has access to this pipeline, we believe
10 throughout we'll be better able to support the needs of the
11 local power grid and to the customers and to most of the
12 residents that are here tonight in this room.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

17 MS. BUCHANAN: Hello, my name is T. C. or Terese,
18 T-e-r-e-s-e, Buchanan, B-u-c-h-a-n-a-n. And I'm not an
19 expert, I'm a landowner. My husband and I live on a 32-acre
20 organic farm in Hunterdon County on Lower Creek Road. Our
21 address is 156 and if anyone from the pipeline company says
22 that they have permission to survey our property, they do
23 not.

24 And I applaud all those who went before me who
25 spoke to PennEast's lack of integrity in what they're

1 telling people and their bullying. I agree 100 percent and I
2 have two paragraphs in my written comments to you all about
3 those things.

4 Our farm is located in the Rosemont Historic
5 district. Our barn is one of the buildings listed in that
6 district, and the pipeline if it wouldn't plow it down, it
7 would come very close.

8 We grow our own food because I'm chemically
9 sensitive, I can't eat food with pesticides, I can't eat beef
10 with hormones and antibiotics. My husband hunts and fishes
11 for the food that we eat. And we grow our own vegetables
12 and fruits.

13 The pipeline will take out all our apple trees,
14 many of our pear trees, some our persimmon trees, it will
15 take out a beautiful stand of very old trees, it will take
16 out part of our woodlot, it will take out wine berries. It
17 will basically take out our portion of our food source as
18 well as the food source for the wildlife in the area because
19 what we don't consume ourselves, or put up for the winter,
20 the wildlife get and they really do appreciate that.

21 Our property is also bordering the Wichichioki
22 Creek and that is a beautiful pristine area very highly used
23 for outdoor recreation. Our road, Over Creek Road is
24 basically a nature path made for outdoor recreation,
25 bicycles, hikers, the creek fishing, and tubers, and really,

1 really adventurous kayakers once in a while. It's a very,
2 very beautiful and pristine area. And I would like to ask
3 for the protection of it.

4 I would like to speak a little bit to the jobs
5 that PennEast is talking about creating ten jobs. But
6 nobody is talking about the jobs in agriculture that will be
7 lost, nobody is talking about the landowners who will lose
8 their home, their livelihood, their way of life. We don't
9 have investments beyond our farm. We live off of our land.
10 Our investment is our farm. And PennEast threatens to take
11 that and to take away a life that we have chosen so that I
12 can be healthy. And I'm asking you to -- in proximity to
13 our well, it's about 400 feet, and all of neighborhoods' is
14 about 100 feet. So I'm asking you, please don't let this go
15 through and destroy people's lives, people's lands, and
16 people's rights.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

20 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

21 Ann Marshall, and then the next four speakers are
22 Sarah Snider, Michael Pressel, Patty Croheim, and Katherine
23 Dredsner.

24 MS. MARSHALL: Hi, my name is Ann Marshall and
25 I'm here from Durham Township Pennsylvania -- oh, A-n-n

1 M-a-r-s-h-a-l-l. I'm from Durham Township, Pennsylvania and
2 I'm here representing Durham's concerned citizens against
3 the people.

4 I'll keep my comment brief since there are so
5 many important people like the woman who just spoke before
6 me whose, you know, lives are being threatened by this.

7 But I'm here with the simple purpose of
8 presenting you with yet another resolution passed against
9 the PennEast Pipeline with this hope that this matters at
10 all in your discussions. I present this on behalf of
11 hundreds of my friends and neighbors, people affected by
12 this pipeline. The citizens of Durham Township where the
13 pipeline passes through are stunning, historical, preserved
14 lands that we love; lands that residents and township
15 officials have studied, inventoried, and worked hard and
16 paid much to protect, our exceptional value water shed,
17 Cooks Creek, where it threatens our well water. Further, it
18 makes its entry into the spectacular Delaware River that we
19 all love and serves as the water source for 15 million
20 people.

21 Our environmental advisory committee, our Cooks
22 Creek Watershed Association, our Historical Society have all
23 submitted resolutions detailing all the issues surrounding
24 the pipeline and why it seems impossible that it would be
25 put here. And tonight I add our citizen resolution.

1 We the undersigned landowners and residents of
2 Durham Township, Pennsylvania respectfully assert that the
3 proposed PennEast Pipeline would present a clear danger to
4 our health, safety, water supply, and property values to the
5 environment and to the public. We request that the
6 application for construction of the PennEast Pipeline be
7 denied.

8 In support of our request, we enclose a citizens'
9 resolution on the PennEast Pipeline proposal supported by
10 the majority of landowners and residents in Durham Township
11 and all the resident landowners whose property is included
12 in the pipeline's proposed construction.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

16 MS. SNIDER: Sarah, S-a-r-a-h, Snider,
17 S-n-i-d-e-r. Like Ann, I live in Durham Township, I grew up
18 there and I'm now living in that place where I grew up which
19 is preserved land. And I know then through that personal
20 experience that a pipeline on my property would be in direct
21 violation of the agreement that I had in order to have this
22 conservation easement, as it would be for anyone else.

23 My land adjoins over 1,500 contiguous acres of
24 preserved property in Durham Township though there are other
25 parts of Durham that are also preserved, they're just not

1 contiguous.

2 I'm here tonight as a member of the Durham
3 Historical Society to read a letter written by David Howepsa
4 who is the president of the Board of Directors of the Durham
5 Historical Society. And then I have a copy to give you for
6 your records.

7 February 25, 2015, At the most recent meeting of
8 the Durham Historical Society, I as the group's president
9 was directed to write this opinion letter to you concerning
10 the proposed PennEast Pipeline. The Durham/Cooks Creek
11 Heritage area is of important significance to the history of
12 18th and 19th century America. In addition to providing the
13 riveting picture of nearly 300 years of industrial history,
14 the area is one of rich background including river and canal
15 transport, river ferries, and rail transport all evidenced
16 by currently existing buildings and other structures dating
17 back to Colonial times.

18 Historic mills, verdant and active meadows,
19 pocket orchards, and large agricultural fields portray the
20 area much as it looks during the early days of our nation.

21 Several private graveyards are found in the
22 Heritage area and these include the tombs of noteworthy such
23 as Thomas Long, the recipient of the original deed to the
24 area from the Penn family and General Daniel Morgan and
25 Captain George Heimline both recognized leaders in the

1 American Revolution.

2 Not, Capitan Heimline's grave is believed to be
3 located in the path of the proposed pipeline. In addition,
4 the area also includes the home of George Taylor, a signer
5 of the Declaration of Independence. The following
6 designations have been garnered by or are included in the
7 area: National Wild and Scenic River status, National
8 Historic Landmark status, America's Top Ten Most Scenic
9 Roads, Delaware and Rearton Scenic Byway, Delaware Lehigh
10 National Heritage Corridor, National Natural Register of
11 Monroe Fault, National Historic Register Durhamville and
12 Furnace Site, Pennsylvania Exceptional Value Stream and Cold
13 Water Fishery, Cooks Creek Watershed and recognition from
14 Michelle Obama as a Preserve America Community.

15 It is our opinion that the PennEast Pipeline
16 Project would have a deleterious effect on the historical
17 richness evidenced in the area and that the project runs
18 counter to FERC's own guidelines concerning respect and
19 consideration to be shown to areas of historical and natural
20 significance.

21 Therefore, it is our opinion that PennEast's
22 application should be denied.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

25 MR. PRESSEL: Good evening, my name is Michael

1 Pressel, P-r-e-s-s-e-l. I'm from Hopewell Township.
2 Pipelines are being reviewed separate from each other. This
3 piecemeal approach is a mistake.

4 FERC should evaluate the existing network in all
5 proposed projects before accepting applications for
6 pipelines. Right now there's insufficient data to support
7 the need for additional gas New Jersey and therefore public
8 use cannot be established sufficient to justify eminent
9 domain.

10 Data compiled by the U.S. Energy Information
11 Administration, the EIA, shows that natural gas consumption
12 in New Jersey was less in 2013 than it was in 1997. In 2013
13 the volume of gas used by Navajo nation consumers was 681.5
14 billion cubic feet. That includes 221.8 billion cubic feet
15 used to generate electricity.

16 The EIA's annual energy outlook report for 2014
17 predicted nationwide growth and demand for electricity to be
18 less than 1 percent annually toward 2040. So where is the
19 increase in demand for natural gas coming from?

20 Remember what you heard early from PennEast. The
21 Pipeline will deliver approximately 1 billion gallons -- or
22 I'm sorry, cubic feet of natural gas per day which means
23 that this pipeline would have been able to provide more than
24 50 percent of the actual statewide consumption in 2013.
25 This is just one pipeline. That doesn't even consider the

1 other proposed pipelines or the fact that these pipelines
2 would be supplemental to the existing delivery systems
3 already in place that provide ample supply and continuous
4 service to New Jersians.

5 The proof of demand fabricated by PennEast, a
6 company that is made up of a consortium of gas producers
7 cannot be considered reliable. When the PennEast Pipeline
8 was introduced at a meeting in Hopewell, New Jersey last
9 September it was presented as a 30-inch pipeline. When the
10 application was submitted with FERC just weeks later, it
11 became a 36-inch pipeline. That's 44 percent greater volume
12 than proposed just weeks earlier. How could the demand have
13 been so misunderstood?

14 At the same meeting, PennEast declared that all
15 the natural gas was to serve local networks and it was not
16 for export, just as it was reiterated tonight. But there's
17 not been a natural gas shortage in recent history, nor
18 during major weather events.

19 The process is broken if we rely on solely on
20 companies like PennEast to determine if there is sufficient
21 demand and public use to justify eminent domain.

22 PennEast is -- future savings in gas prices, yet
23 they've not committed to specific price reductions for
24 consumers. The only known measurable is the amount that gas
25 companies can increase the rates based on the amount of

1 investment they make in the pipeline. According to the EIA,
2 the 30 years preceding 2014, the average annual increase in
3 gas price for commercial and residential clients was 12.63
4 percent and 2.13 percent respectively. According to the
5 U.S. inflation and guideline, the average annual inflation
6 rate over the same period was 2.8 percent. So right now as
7 we sit here in this room without the new pipelines we are
8 receiving an ample supply of gas and it is a cheaper
9 commodity than it was 30 years ago.

10 FERC needs to halt this and other pipeline
11 applications pending further coordination and more important
12 until there is substantiation that a public use will be
13 established. That is the constitutional requirement that it
14 takes to invoke eminent domain.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you

17 (Appause.)

18 MS. CRONHEIM: Hi, my name is Patty Cronheim,
19 that's spelled C-r-o-n-h-e-i-m and I am a coordinator for
20 Hopewell Township Citizens against the PennEast Pipeline.
21 And I'm really delighted to be here up the pipeline with all
22 of my friends because we're all fighting this together. So
23 you all are great --

24 (Appause.)

25 MS. CRONHEIM: My minutes have started so I'll

1 start. I have some very good news I would like to share. I
2 am happy to announce that we have very new residents in the
3 neighborhood in Hopewell. The Rosedale Park bald eagles
4 that everyone was at last night's hearing saw a photo of
5 have built a nest and they have moved in and we are very
6 excited about this because these eagles are protected,
7 federally protected by Bald Eagle -- Bald and Golden Eagle
8 Protection Act and that supersedes any Endangered Species
9 Act. So they have protection and they have built in. And
10 they will not be happy if they are subjected to PennEast
11 eminent domain I'm sure of that.

12 Specifically I request that the EIS address
13 increased noise and air pollution that will be caused by the
14 PennEast Pipeline. That must include evaluating potential
15 increased pollution from the cumulative impacts when
16 PennEast most likely hooks up with the transcontinental
17 compressor station that it will need in order for its gas to
18 travel beyond Hopewell as we know it will have to do.

19 PennEast's documents filed with FERC are
20 incomplete and they do not identify any information related
21 to the Transco connection and they really need to be made to
22 point that out and have that be in the EIS. It is a
23 cumulative impact.

24 Any changes to the Transco system be required as
25 part of the PennEast project. Those impacts which are

1 reasonably foreseeable must be identified and evaluated
2 under NEPA.

3 The EIS must also include all impacts related to
4 the interconnection with the Transco Pipeline in Hopewell
5 Township.

6 Increased air pollution and noise of the
7 neighboring community must be carefully evaluated. The
8 federal Bald and Gold Eagle Protection Act make it a federal
9 criminal offense, punishable by \$250,000 and/or a year in
10 jail to disturb bald eagles and their nests. So this is
11 serious business.

12 And I would like to stress that air pollution is
13 a fact of gas pipelines. Methane is not clean energy.
14 Every time someone says "clean energy" I am just reminded of
15 the pork campaign. Pork, the other white meat. It's
16 marketing. It's not true. Methane is 80 percent more of a
17 potent greenhouse warming gas than CO2. And as such, it has
18 to be considered a real threat to any living thing near it
19 and it increases in capacity and the compression station
20 will do that.

21 And, also, we are witnessing the last desperate
22 attempt of a failing fossil fuel industry to put all these
23 pipelines in the ground and prevent us from moving forward
24 to renewables. Because this is running completely contrary
25 to the 2009 New Jersey law which is called the Global

1 Warming Energy Response Act which goals are to decrease all
2 emissions including methane by 80 percent by 2050. So, the
3 gas industry said, let's all put everything into gas and New
4 Jersey lawmakers are saying, we need to decrease it. This
5 is insanity. We ask for planning and to reject the PennEast
6 Pipeline please.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

9 And then after this speaker we have Nancy Wilson,
10 Don Collure, Tona Granato and Ed Kalicki.

11 MS. DREDSNER: Good evening. Thank you for
12 providing this opportunity. My name is Katherine Dredsner,
13 I'm an attorney specializing in environmental and land use
14 law. I represent Hopewell Valley Citizens Group and
15 Hopewell Township, Citizens Against PennEast Pipeline. I am
16 standing here on behalf of well over 1,000 residents in the
17 Hopewell Valley and the surrounding region.

18 I formally request -- I have two major points I
19 want to make. I formally request that FERC provide proper
20 due notice for all stakeholders along the new reroute.
21 These stakeholders were not noticed about the open houses
22 held in November of 2014. And there has been a tremendous
23 amount of confusion about the routing process and what route
24 is in fact being considered.

25 FERC's timeline which has been handed out

1 specifies the applicant process is to identify stakeholders
2 prior to holding open house and prior to scoping. That did
3 not happen here. There is a violation of due process
4 rights.

5 I request that PennEast file technical data for
6 its reroute and then I ask FERC to notice procedures for all
7 the new stakeholders along the reroute, open houses and
8 scoping period with comment for at least 30 days and an
9 additional scoping meeting within the impacted community
10 which would be Hopewell Township.

11 In addition, my second point. Before FERC even
12 gets to consider many of the things that people have spoken
13 so beautifully about tonight, I ask that FERC look at the
14 first threshold issue which is public need and the economics
15 of this pipeline.

16 PennEast has stated in filings to FERC, the
17 purpose of this project is, quote, "a response to market
18 demand in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and to shipping
19 interests for capacity to accommodate increased receipt of
20 natural gas in the region.

21 The only true part of that purpose is the second,
22 shipping interests. Shipping interests are not a matter of
23 public need or a matter of public interest. They are of
24 private, corporate interest.

25 How much gas does New Jersey actually need? New

1 Jersey's total inflow capacity is approximately 3000 billion
2 cubic feet per year. More than two-thirds of New Jersey's
3 inflow capacity is already shipped out to other states. It
4 is not used in New Jersey.

5 In 2013 all New Jersey users used 381 billion
6 cubic feet per year. New Jersey used less than one-third of
7 its current inflow capacity of 3,000 billion cubic feet.

8 According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency,
9 market demand for gas is only growing at 1.6 percent per
10 year whereas inflow capacity has grown and at least 2.1
11 percent per year. Clearly in excess of market demand.

12 PennEast wishes to transmit more than half again
13 of all gas currently delivered to all users in New Jersey.
14 This is residential, commercial, industrial and power
15 generators.

16 Now, a woman from the company in Princeton talked
17 about two things, resiliency and repowering. Is it through
18 repowering? No. If all coal, petroleum and nuclear power
19 generators in New Jersey are converted to gas, that was just
20 provided by PennEast, there would still be a surplus of over
21 65 billion cubic feet per year. Is it for resiliency at
22 peak demand? No. Peak demand has been designated by the
23 New Jersey Energy State Master Plan as 50 hours per year.
24 We're talking about 50 hours of peak demand per year.
25 Building pipelines and associating infrastructure to serve

1 50 hours a year of demand is extremely costly and damaging.

2 MR. SCOTT: Ms. Dredsner, you need --

3 MS. DREDSNER: Can I finish? I'm wrapping up?

4 Thank you.

5 The alternative which would be to reduce peak
6 hour demand through energy efficiency programs is the
7 sensible, rational way to go. If FERC allows building
8 pipelines -- excuse me. This data proves that PennEast will
9 transmit surplus gas that is not needed in New Jersey. The
10 EIA has also reported expansion projects within service days
11 for 2013 and 2015. These projects will add 3.5 billion
12 cubic feet per day to the New York/New Jersey and regional
13 Mid-Atlantic markets. This is 3.5 billion cubic feet per
14 day does not include PennEast's capacity.

15 Finally, PennEast has a new shareholder which I'm
16 sure you're aware of called Spectra Energy. Spectra Energy
17 recently got affirm demand contract from New England
18 National Grid which owns 70 percent of the New England
19 Electrical Generating System. Spectra also operates the
20 Maritime and Northeast --

21 MR. SCOTT: Ms. Dredsner, can you wrap it up,
22 please?

23 MS. DREDSNER: -- pipeline -- I am -- with one
24 end of Massachusetts and it connects further to proposed LNG
25 export terminals in Canada.

1 In conclusion there is no market demand in New
2 Jersey or in this entire region for another one billion
3 cubic feet per day. PennEast gas will be surplus gas for
4 its shippers, private corporate profit, not public interests
5 and it's not in the public interest to approve this.

6 You do not have the documentation to find that
7 there is a public need for this gas.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 MS. WILSON: My name is Nancy Wilson and I'm a
12 resident of Holland Township, New Jersey.

13 I oppose the PennEast Pipeline project. FERC has
14 asked us to testify about our specific issues concerning the
15 PennEast pipeline. And I will focus my comments on a single
16 mile of this route near my house. In this one mile there are
17 several concerns that should be considered cumulatively.

18 FERC has considered the cumulative negative
19 effect on this -- FERC should consider the cumulative
20 negative effect of the surface and groundwater in this mile.
21 My main focus is on the Haikihoki Creek subwater shed which
22 flows into the Delaware River.

23 The current route is scheduled to cross the creek
24 and its tributaries at least five times. Every time it
25 crosses the waterway, there is the potential for pollution

1 and sedimentation. Haikihoki is a C-1 stream, the highest
2 quality water in New Jersey. It is stocked with trout each
3 year. It also recharges our groundwater.

4 PennEast proposes to cross these creeks that are
5 in the Highlands planning area where there is a recommended
6 300-foot buffer zone around waterways. PennEast has not
7 stated how they propose to maintain this buffer zone. The
8 only way would be to do horizontal drilling under all of
9 them.

10 The route crosses Spring Garden Road just down
11 the stream from the headwaters of the tributary of the
12 Haikihoki Creek and then parallels upslope from the creek on
13 a steep hillside, thus causing potential for runoff,
14 especially since it runs across the hill, not down it and
15 must be -- for a flat working surface. This makes for a
16 high risk of sedimentation especially during rain storms.

17 Further along the route there is a wetland
18 associated with the creek. Putting a conduit such as a
19 pipeline through this wetland will change the hydrology of
20 the shallow groundwater system.

21 It could intercept the water going into the
22 wetland and drying it up. There is a small unmarked stream
23 near this area and it has history of being used for water
24 for cows in the springtime. This may be a vernal pond which
25 is crucial to the growth of amphibians. This area acts as a

1 flood plain during times of high water flow.

2 FERC should investigate the potential for work
3 scene flooding below this point.

4 Another concern for safety during the
5 construction phase, both for the workers and the public.
6 The route crosses on the high tension wires on a slope.
7 There is a history of people getting shocked from static
8 electricity under these wires. These 250 kilowatt wires
9 attract lightening which could travel through the ground to
10 the pipeline. It must be engineered to avoid this
11 possibility.

12 The other safety concern is where the proposed
13 access road enters Route 519. Route 519 is a narrow winding
14 road with a steep cliff on one side and a drop off on the
15 other. The width of the road is restricted here because of
16 an old narrow bridge. It is not an appropriate place for
17 heavy equipment.

18 A further concern is the impact on the
19 residential area. PennEast proposes to place the people on
20 property owned by Mr. (45:37:9) where the pipeline upslope
21 from the stream. This property has been approved for
22 development of affordable housing the township's mandate
23 from New Jersey Council of Affordable Housing. If the
24 development does not go on due to the pipeline, Holland
25 Township has no other way to meet our obligation to the

1 Council of Affordable Housing.

2 In summary, I urge FERC to exercise the no-action
3 option due to my concerns about water quality, safety, and
4 impact on our residential area as well as the cumulative
5 concerns of the others here tonight.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

9 MS. GRANATO: My name is Toni Granato, T-o-n-i
10 G-r-a-n-a-t-o. And I am an administrative assistant for the
11 New Jersey Sierra Club. Like my colleague Jeff Tittle, I
12 represent over 100,000 members and supporters in New Jersey,
13 aka, the Garden State.

14 The New Jersey Sierra Club is opposed to the
15 PennEast Pipeline for many reasons because of it's
16 environmental impacts and the many violations to federal and
17 state laws, some which include the Highlands Act, the State
18 Planning Act, the Wetlands Act and millions of dollars we
19 have spent for open space.

20 FERC has not looked at the impacts under federal
21 laws either like the Delaware Basin Commission Compact, the
22 Delaware River Wild and Scenic National Park Service
23 designation, Clean Water, Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water
24 Act, Endangered Species Act, Historic Preservation laws and
25 a dozen of other laws.

1 One law in particular I'll talk further about is
2 the Clean Water Act. We believe that this pipeline violates
3 the Clean Water Act and cannot meet the criteria for 401 of
4 404 permits. This pipeline cannot meet the requirement for
5 a 401 water quality permit either. The reason is because
6 the amount of high quality streams, wetlands and rivers it
7 is crossing through. Many of these streams carry
8 antidegradation criteria. The route will cut areas with
9 steep slopes having a bigger impact on streams because of
10 siltation and runoff. The new pipeline route will be
11 crossing where the streams are wider than they were before
12 having a greater impact on streams and flood plains.

13 Like the mother from Frenchtown spoke earlier,
14 many of these streams are category one, meaning it would be
15 impacting some of the highest water quality waterways in our
16 state. That's irreplaceable. And that's why this permit
17 should not be granted.

18 The only option we have today is the no-build
19 option. And let me just make a final plea. I'm probably
20 the youngest standing here. I'm 24 years old and this is
21 about also my generation and the generations to come. This
22 is a scoping meeting with the scope of this project being a
23 disaster in the making. This project must be denied.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

1 Don Collier and Ed Kalicki. All right. Mark
2 Rotenberg, Laura Mirsky, Amy Hansen, and Caroline Katmann.

3 MR. KALICKI: Good evening. My name is Ed
4 Kalicki, K-a-l-i-c-k-i. I am representing the member of
5 Steamfitters Local 420. I'm here to ask you to support the
6 PennEast pipeline project. That is project not only would
7 bring welcome jobs and revenue, but improve the quality of
8 life for each of us. In fact, there isn't a person here
9 tonight who in some manner doesn't rely on natural gas or
10 natural gas products, from the cell phones in our hands to
11 the vehicles that brought us here.

12 I know I have only three minutes, so I want to
13 get this to the heart of the comments. And the Steamfitters
14 have worked many years within the industry and I am here to
15 tell you, building the pipeline can and has been done in a
16 manner that is safe for our environment and our community.
17 While some of the opponents of this project will tell you
18 that it is impossible, my experience would counter those
19 claims.

20 Here are a few things that are mounting up to
21 opposition and won't show you readily. Whether you use this
22 fuel in our cars, manufacturing, feedstock, or powering
23 generation -- generator fuel, the expanded use of natural
24 gas can reduce American Greenhouse gas emissions. Many
25 people will try to argue that natural gas pipelines are

1 dangerous. But the fact is pipelines are the safest, most
2 environmentally friendly and efficient mode of transporting
3 natural gas. This isn't my opinion, it is a fact supported
4 by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and
5 Hazardous Material Safety Administration. That shows that
6 while natural gas demand has increased to help provide each
7 of us energy including electricity, the frequency of serious
8 pipeline incidents has decreased by 90 percent during the
9 last three decades alone. This is because the industry is
10 upgrading and modernizing the pipe and infrastructure
11 incorporating improved safety measures into their
12 operations.

13 As a steamfitter I have witnessed the
14 improvements and in fact have been responsible for ensuring
15 our training programs reflect the quality of the standards.

16 I along with my fellow steamfitters urge you to
17 support the PennEast Pipeline Project, a project that will
18 allow consumers access to a safe, abundant, and clean
19 burning energy source.

20 Thank you

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

23 MR. ROTENBERG: My name is Mark Rotenberg,
24 R-o-t-e-n-b-e-r-g. I live in Holland Township, New Jersey
25 and I am vehemently opposed to the PennEast Pipeline Project

1 on every level. It should never be built. There's nothing
2 clean, safe, or necessary about the gas PennEast wants to
3 deliver.

4 Frackers drill holes in private property forcing
5 toxic chemicals into the earth, destroying nearby wells,
6 water tables and rivers. These companies and the federal
7 government are complicit in the wholesale destruction of
8 natural resources and should be held accountable.

9 I resent the imposition that this proposed
10 pipeline has put upon me and thousands of others resident in
11 the blast zone. I hope FERC realizes that the path of the
12 pipeline is called a "blast zone" for good reason.

13 PennEast wants to tear up 114 miles of private
14 property to ship the gas to liquefying stations and then
15 export the gas out of the USA.

16 There is nothing noble going on here. PennEast's
17 only goal is profit for a few investors at the expense of
18 everyone else. PennEast doesn't think many residents are in
19 the path of this pipeline but that's a lie given the huge
20 explosions of high pressure transmission lines.

21 I understand that if a bog turtle is in the path
22 of the people that could be a game changer. Well, I'm here
23 to tell you that with an enormous, under-regulated pipeline,
24 a mere 800 feet from my house I will become one of those
25 endangered species. A pipeline built over sinkholes and on

1 top of one of the most active, seismic fault lines on the
2 east coast, will endanger me. I may not be a bog turtle, but
3 this pipeline will be as dangerous to me as it would to a
4 bog turtle.

5 But, hey, according to PennEast, their pipeline
6 isn't near any populated areas. Well, that's nonsense.
7 Look at all the people here tonight. PennEast is in a
8 desperate race against time and the rising tide of
9 sustainable energy. They seek to do the easiest cheapest,
10 most destructive method of fuel extraction and delivery.
11 Landowners be ware of financial incentives as PennEast is a
12 purveyor of poison and death and they are effectively
13 domestic terrorists. They will destroy over 65 million
14 square feet of private land to install this single, unneeded
15 line. They will destroy it forever for the almighty dollar.

16 If the foreigners arrive in this country calling
17 themselves Taliban LLC, and drilled holes in private
18 property, force toxic chemicals into our earth, and then a
19 private property for hundreds, we'd call them terrorists.
20 Well, that's what PennEast is, a conglomerate of
21 conspirators who are effectively domestic terrorists
22 operating with the good graces of the U.S. government.
23 There is something desperately wrong here, and I hope that
24 someone in the U.S. government wakes up and sees this for
25 what it really is, domestic terrorists.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

3 MS. MIRSKY: Laura Mirsky, M-i-r-s-k-y. Church
4 Road, Holland Township, New Jersey.

5 I hereby argue for the no-build option for the
6 PennEast Pipeline. PennEast claims there's public demand
7 for natural gas in New Jersey, yet numerous studies by the
8 U.S. Energy Information Administration refute these claims
9 as has been stated previously.

10 There is no public demand, but there is mass
11 opposition to this pipeline. As demonstrated by the many
12 hundreds of comments to and by the opposition resolutions
13 from every New Jersey town on the route, and many in
14 Pennsylvania, plus condemnation from local, state, and
15 federal New Jersey representatives and some in Pennsylvania
16 as well.

17 The pipeline obstructs New Jersey's commitment to
18 renewable energy stated in the renewable portfolio standard
19 requiring that more than 20 percent of New Jersey's energy
20 come from renewable resources like solar and wind by 2021.
21 And legislation proposing that 50 percent come from these
22 sources by 2050. The pipeline violates FERC's own
23 regulatory statement of policy, No. PL99-3-000, in assessing
24 the public benefits and adverse effect of a pipeline. The
25 more interests adversely affected, the more adverse impact a

1 project would have on a particular interest, the greater the
2 showing of public benefits from the project required to
3 balance the adverse impact.

4 This pipeline would do huge environmental damage
5 to sensitive and pristine areas all along it's proposed 114
6 miles. It would contaminate the Delaware River within the
7 federally designated special protection waters area with its
8 exceptionally high recreational, ecological, and/or water
9 supply values and areas subject to the federal Delaware
10 River Basin Commission's strict antidegradation standards.

11 There are many errors in PennEast's resource
12 report 10 of November 7th, 2014. In Holland Township where
13 the pipeline would enter New Jersey. Page 10 of the report
14 says karsts within 200 feet of Lime, New Jersey, not
15 applicable. But Holland's October 2013 Highlands
16 Environment Resources Inventory or ERI which used New Jersey
17 Geological Survey and U.S. data shows evidence of karsts in
18 several places within 200 feet of the line. Two of these
19 are next to the Delaware River between 75 Old River Road and
20 the Georgia Pacific Cargo factory, and two, 392 Church Road
21 and the Moore Farm.

22 A gas pipeline in these sensitive karst areas
23 would present serious hazards to both water quality and
24 public safety. Says the ERI report, karst formations cause
25 sink holes, central streams and underground streams all at

1 present along the pipeline route.

2 Underground pipelines contribute contaminants
3 directly to ground water through karst beaches and sink
4 holes present a geologic hazard undermining infrastructure
5 like storm water basins, roads, sewer lines, septic system,
6 and natural gas lines.

7 I ask FERC to extend the scoping period to
8 accommodate a new revised route.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

12 MR. HANSEN: Hello, I'm Amy Hansen with New
13 Jersey Conservation Foundation. Amy, A-m-y, H-a-n-s-e-n.
14 Thank you for the opportunity to speak regarding our extreme
15 concerns about the PennEast pipeline. We have serious
16 worries about this pipeline that targets preserved lands.
17 New Jersey Conservation has worked for over 30 years to
18 preserve the lands that the pipeline proposes to cut through
19 and permanently harm, the Wickachioki Creek preserve.

20 We ask FERC to create a programmatic EIS that
21 considers the impacts of all of the current and proposed
22 pipelines in New Jersey and the Delaware River basin. Until
23 then we respectfully request that FERC impose a moratorium
24 on all pipeline projects and construction. Currently each
25 pipeline is considered separately.

1 I want to tell you a bit about the unique
2 Wickachioki Creek area that the pipeline proposes to cut
3 through. This unique and pristine preserve links three
4 nationally registered districts and is home to a vibrant
5 artist community along the Delaware River. The historic and
6 unique natural beauty of this area and the precious soils
7 provide a critical, economic driver for the region and
8 benefit the local agricultural industry. The PennEast
9 Pipeline would cause these economic harm.

10 New Jersey conservation, our conservation
11 partners, the local communities and statewide voters have
12 worked on all the fronts to preserve and permanently set
13 aside this landscape wide resource. There are not many
14 places where you can walk or ride between historic art
15 centers, pastoral hamlets, patterns of agricultural fields
16 and woodlands dating back to the 17th century through the
17 last covered bridge in New Jersey and then continue into a
18 breathtakingly beautiful valley where nearly every farm has
19 been preserved, the nationally designated Rosemont Valley
20 Rural Agricultural district.

21 PennEast proposes to put a pipeline through this?
22 New Jersey Conservation Foundation opposes this pipeline.
23 We ask you, FERC, to permanently reject the PennEast
24 pipeline. The no-build alternative is the only appropriate
25 option.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

4 Caroline Katmann and then the next four speakers,
5 Pelle Wheaton, David Griffith, Michael Spille, Aaron
6 Stemplewicz.

7 MS. KATMANN: I am Caroline Katmann,
8 C-a-r-o-l-i-n-e K-a-t-m-a-n-n. I'm the executive director
9 of the Saurlin Conservancy, and as such my comments are
10 based on the mission of that organization which is to
11 protect the ecological integrity, historic resources, and
12 special character of the Saurlin mountain region.

13 The approximately 90 square mile Saurlin mountain
14 region is one of only three major areas of relatively
15 unbroken habitat in New Jersey. Located in central New
16 Jersey midway between the Highlands and the Pine Barrens.

17 Both proposed PennEast pipeline routes cut
18 through agricultural land, forest, wetland, streams and
19 tributaries in the Saurlin Mountain region in West Amwell
20 Township and Hopewell Township.

21 Our organization is not advocating the location
22 of the PennEast Pipeline elsewhere. Our comments concern
23 impacts on the Saurlins, not because of NIMBY-ism, but
24 because this region is our area of expertise and because
25 within the state of New Jersey it is as valuable, unique,

1 and fragile as the Highlands and the Pine Barrens. The
2 source of the information presented in my comments is the
3 Smart Growth Planning and Management Project for the Saurlin
4 Mountain. This project was completed through funding
5 provided by the state of New Jersey, Department of Community
6 Affairs, Smart Growth Planning Grant.

7 I've provided you with copies of my comments as
8 well as print and electronic copies of that project.

9 I hope you will read it and share it with
10 PennEast because at the open house in November, at South
11 Hunterdon High School, none of the PennEast representatives
12 or FERC representatives, and I spoke to over a dozen people,
13 had ever heard of the Saurlins. The part of the Saurlin
14 ridge targeted by both pipeline routes is under lain by
15 three rock formations, Lacatonc, pasaic and Jurassic
16 diabase. In these formations, particularly the diabase, the
17 groundwater runoff, that is where precipitation enters a
18 subsurface saturated zone for which it slowly migrates to a
19 stream is dependent upon the frequency and intensity of
20 fractures, the size of the facture openings, and the
21 interconnection of these opening to each other.

22 The lack of significant fracturing in the
23 Lacatonc and diabase formations limits their ability to
24 store or to transmit substantial groundwater. Because of
25 this, subsurface velocities are very slow and it could take

1 months, years, potentially decades for water to travel from
2 the point of infiltration to the point of discharge to a
3 stream.

4 To bedrock in 95 percent of the Saurilins varies
5 from 0 to 48 inches dynamite or intensive drilling would be
6 necessary to create a deep enough trench for the pipeline.
7 Such a violent assault on this fragile system is so
8 dangerous that Saurilin Municipal Health Ordinances generally
9 prohibit blasting and hydrofracking for private wells.

10 FERC must conclude, therefore, that this violent
11 assault for the purpose of increasing business profits
12 should also be prohibited.

13 The New Jersey Landscape Habitat Survey
14 documented in the -- I've provided you with -- documents the
15 fact that the Saurilin Mountain region is rich in habitat
16 suitable to support populations of threatened and endangered
17 species. You can see Figure 25 of that natural inventory
18 section of that project.

19 FERC's EIS must consider every endangered,
20 threatened and special concern species identified in the
21 natural resources section of this project.

22 And, finally, today the natural beauty of the
23 mountain draws countless hikers and cyclists from through
24 the state. The Saurilins also offer splendid opportunities
25 for horseback riding, fishing, picnicking, bouldering,

1 hunting, cross-country skiing, photography, birding, or just
2 a lovely restful place to get away.

3 A decline in numbers of visitors to the area for
4 recreational purposes would have substantial economic
5 impact, not to mention substantial impact on the quality of
6 life of residents and visitors.

7 Please make the decision not to approve the
8 PennEast Pipeline.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

12 MS. WHEATON: Thank you. I really don't -- I
13 wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do, but I am here now. I
14 want to identify. I am Rele Wheaton, W-h-e-a-t-o-n. Also
15 known as Pelli Wheaton, P-e-l-l-i, Wheaton. And I am one of
16 those people that I hear referred to a lot. I am one of
17 those landowners who actually put their land in
18 preservation. And I would like to kind of elaborate on why
19 and how this piece of cardboard that I'm holding represents
20 my easement which I went and looked at today. Since I've
21 been hearing easements and easements, and easements, I went
22 to the easement that is at least five years old from when I
23 signed it, and years of putting it together with
24 conservation people and the United States government, one of
25 my partners in that.

1 So I brought this along to say, it is equally as
2 large as this which has only been generated by our meetings.
3 Since December I have accumulated this material and I have
4 copies for everyone. But I wanted to talk first about how
5 exciting it was to finally get that land. And so I'm doing
6 it in a letter form and I'll try to be as quick as I can.

7 I am the owner of a farm located in Hunterdon
8 Country, Delaware Township, Stockton, New Jersey, 08559,
9 referred to as Bock 33, Lot 4, encompassing 38 acres on a
10 revised right-of-way shown on the latest PennEast alternate
11 drawing, P.S., I have seen so many drawing that sometimes
12 when I want to identify myself, I want to say, I'm the
13 proposed alternate route because that seems more correct
14 lately.

15 Five years ago I placed my farm in the Farm Grant
16 Preservation Program. I did this because of my desire to
17 let future generations enjoy the beauty of this farm as has
18 my family and in essence and appreciation of many others
19 from those who marvel at its great, green, fertile fields,
20 it's radiant glowing water supply, our pond, apples, pears,
21 peaches, cherries, strawberries, and, yes, natural shoe
22 stain to keep our boots abundantly in water and at the ready
23 for or in the great German tradition of milking and storing
24 the liquid gold we call cow's milk, to those who have loved
25 these open spaces long walks and even longer talks, to those

1 to who came to visit once again, the homestead of their
2 Delaware Township families from historic boards with secret
3 initials and best buddy markings, and, yes, to visit once
4 again so as never to forget the man whose tombstone still
5 graces the farm. And I mean Mr. Ed Butterflues. The
6 stewardship of this farm, lot 33, block 4 PennEast docket
7 No. PF15-1000 is inconsistent with its numerical value and
8 its pipeline possibility. This farm supports life and your
9 plan, no offense, pipelines to no future except for the
10 banks that still fair destroys many more.

11 We may one day learn to restore room crop fields,
12 we will never learn to restore life to those we have taken
13 life from. No matter how many death kills you so designate
14 and worse, march those victims off in the name of
15 capitalism, socialism, communism, and/or profit. That may
16 have been a game plan many years ago. It isn't anymore.
17 Please enjoy this look at it, so we genuinely can pass it
18 back to you.

19 The planet may have indeed changed, so have it's
20 children, God Bless us all, Sincerely Marie E. Wheaton.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

23 MR. GRIFFITH: Hi, my name is David Griffith,
24 that's G-r-i-f-f-i-t-h. I'm a resident of Delaware Township
25 and I'd like to speak to you about my concern about a

1 specific corridor that's in Delaware Township that runs from
2 block 31, lot 11 known as the Rosemont substation to the end
3 of block 31, lot 12, which is only one quarter of a mile.

4 Within the path the following will be in effect.
5 The five-family properties will be crossed, 375 feet of
6 driveways will be destroyed, my question is how will
7 PennEast replace these driveways to their original
8 condition?

9 The following will be destroyed: 160-foot
10 Christmas trees and the balance of my tree farm, the
11 driveway lined by 80-foot pine trees, 6,500 feet of mature
12 trees, 18,000 square feet of 120-foot tall trees and two
13 additional acres of mature trees. My question is, how will
14 PennEast replace the wind and water erosion protection
15 provided by these trees.

16 There's a 100-year old stone gazebo with a well
17 in the middle of the power easement. My residence is
18 dependent on well water and the water table is only 60 feet
19 below the surface. Wells are the only source of water for
20 these farms. Construction of pipes -- I'm sorry,
21 construction of a pipe lease could cause the loss of our
22 access to clean water.

23 The question is what is the PennEast contingency
24 plan to furnish these farms with the water they will need
25 should they pollute or damage our wells?

1 A 1,000 gallon underground propane tank is 50
2 feet from the proposed route, three septic tanks would be at
3 risk and a septic bed would be destroyed. My question is
4 how is PennEast planning to replace these septic systems
5 when they appear to be in the percable space on these
6 properties. The power easement is only 20 feet from my
7 house which is well within the incineration zone.

8 Five families with this would be disrupted for a
9 period of time. The pipeline construction would eliminate
10 access of their homes to the street. Our children expected
11 to walk across construction zones to get to their buses.
12 How will PennEast provide safe access to the street?

13 Should one of these homes have a fire or medical
14 emergency, how would emergency vehicles cross the
15 construction trenches? How will PennEast provide access to
16 emergency vehicles? How will PennEast increase the number
17 of volunteers for emergency personnel that would be needed
18 should a gas-related accident occur?

19 My home is my life's investment and the pipeline
20 is not only going to decrease the property value, but would
21 make it impossible to sell in the future. My question is,
22 how is PennEast going to compensate for the loss of any
23 future sale of these properties?

24 Destruction of my tree farm will negatively
25 affect my livelihood. Why is an industry that brings no

1 guns into our community get to destroy the local industry
2 for its benefit?

3 The downward incline of my property creates a
4 runoff that will be worse once the construction occurs and
5 it will affect the properties below us. My question is, how
6 will PennEast prevent the problem from occurring?

7 To impose this level of destruction of personal
8 property and to have a devastating impact on all these
9 families is not reasonable. In order to prevent the
10 permanent damage to our environment and to our community
11 from this pipeline, I'm requesting that FERC deny permission
12 to PennEast to allow the construction of the pipeline.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

15 MR. SPILLE: My name is Michael Spille from West
16 Amwell Township. That's S-p-i-l-l-e. I'm a software
17 developer by trade in the financial services industry. And
18 I talk a lot about numbers, some of you are talking about
19 numbers here.

20 In their FRSE filing PennEast states that the
21 project is designed to bring lower priced natural gas to
22 houses and businesses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They
23 repeatedly state that the pipeline is for the benefit of
24 both states. Furthermore, they say that the pipeline will
25 carry one billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, enough

1 gas for 4.7 million houses.

2 Let's test some of those assertions. Let's look
3 at the data. I'll specifically go to the Energy Information
4 Administration's website, EIA.gov. According to them the
5 entire state of New Jersey has approximately 2.6 million
6 natural gas residential consumers, Pennsylvania has about
7 the same, about 2.6 million. Combined that's 5.2 million
8 residential customers. Look at the numbers and we see
9 PennEast is providing enough for 4.7 million homes, there's
10 only 4.2 million in both states that actually have natural
11 gas. So you have to ask the question, what is this for?
12 It's not going to matter to the residential people because
13 they already get more than enough gas.

14 This is actually about 90 percent of the total
15 supply currently being used in both states.

16 We clearly don't need this billion cubic extra
17 feet going to those two states.

18 You know, so the 4.7 million house number seems
19 like marketing fluff. So why don't we look at just
20 consumption, total consumption of both states. Eia.gov has
21 that data too. In New Jersey it's 1.8 billion cubic feet
22 across all users commercial and residential, Pennsylvania is
23 a little bit more, it's about 3.0 billion cubic feet total
24 consumption, so it's 4.8 billion cubic feet used by both
25 states per day.

1 When you look at it, the numbers still don't add
2 up. You know, that's over 20 percent of the total energy
3 use of the natural gas in both states. So, you know, where
4 is the need for this?

5 If you look at EIA.gov at consumption graphs
6 specifically, New Jersey's consumption has been flat for
7 decades. Going back 20 years it's been flat. If you look
8 at Pennsylvania, it's growing, but it's not growing nearly
9 enough to justify this pipeline. It certainly doesn't
10 justify bringing the pipeline to New Jersey.

11 The only place where you see some reasonable
12 justification is in price volatility. Again, looking at
13 EIA.gov, you do see price volatility and it agrees with
14 PennEast's graphs in their filing. However, the data only
15 shows ten days of extreme volatility in a five-year span
16 from 2009 to 2014. That's ten days out of 1,825 days.
17 That's less than one half of 1 percent.

18 The last point I want to make is that, you know,
19 the final piece of the puzzle for me is that if you look at
20 the total natural gas market today, the word that people use
21 is terrible. Gas prices are plunging, there's a glut of
22 gas, there's not enough consumers for it. There's a recent
23 research article by the firm or on the subject. It says,
24 "things are already ugly in the U.S. natural gas markets and
25 it's only going to get worse." Their analysts argue that

1 the double whammy of continued supply growth that natural
2 gas prices are still not done dropping and this slaps their
3 estimates across the board for natural gas universe.

4 The oil and gas in the U.S. will require lengthy
5 at times, painful healing process for coverage companies and
6 ENP investors. Natural gas prices are likely to stay
7 depressed well into 2016. So why do we need this pipeline?

8 There's a glut of natural gas in the market,
9 prices have never been lower, the pipeline is not sized to
10 benefit New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but it is much larger
11 and is obviously sized for the entire country, possibly even
12 elsewhere.

13 I think we should object to that is pipeline. I
14 think there's no need for it in this state.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

18 MR. STEMPLEWICZ: My name is Aaron Stemplewicz,
19 S-t-e-m-p-l-e-w-i-c-z. I'm a staff attorney for the
20 Delaware River Keeper Network.

21 The Delaware River Keeper Network is an
22 environmental nonprofit. We have a wealth of experience and
23 knowledge opposing pipeline projects and projects similar to
24 the PennEast project.

25 I'd like to take some time today to briefly

1 comment on something that really hasn't come up yet so far
2 and that is Tetra Tech. Tetra Tech was selected by PennEast
3 and agree to by FERC to function as an unbiased, objective
4 contractor performing services for the U.S. government.
5 However Tetra Tech has one, a direct financial interest in
6 the outcome of the project; and two, other courts have found
7 the evidence of its misconduct and document destruction
8 during its environmental review services.

9 The first thing I would like to talk about here
10 is FERC regulations essentially require that Tetra Tech has
11 no financial or other interests in the outcome of a project.
12 However, Tetra Tech does have a financial business and
13 corporate interest in promoting natural gas pipelines in the
14 Marcellus region. I am providing two examples.

15 First Tetra Tech has an affiliate called Tetra
16 Tech Rooney Engineering Incorporated which their direct
17 business is designing and constructing pipelines.

18 Two Tetra Tech is an associate member and
19 consultant for the Marcellus Shale Coalition. And as all of
20 you know, the Marcellus Shale Coalition is an outspoken and
21 explicit supporter for the exploitation of Marcellus shale
22 gas and movement of that gas to market.

23 As such Tetra Tech is nothing more than
24 essentially a cheerleader for the very industry it is now
25 supposed to provide and unbiased and objective review.

1 Secondly a federal district court in Colorado in
2 a court case called Colorado Wild, Inc. vs. The U.S. Forest
3 Service found that quote/unquote "clear evidence of Tetra
4 Tech destroying a hard drive that may have contained
5 information that was adverse to a project that they were
6 reviewing. And secondly, the court also found that it
7 appeared as if Tetra Tech quote, "was attempting to
8 influence U.S. Forest Service policy". As such we are
9 requesting that Tetra Tech be dropped and all their work
10 scrapped because clearly they --

11 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

12 MR. STEMPLEWICS: It should be of no surprise
13 that Tetra Tech has never once in their history of reviewing
14 pipeline projects in their environmental review for pipeline
15 projects never once have they chose a system alternative or
16 a no-build option, ever. They have never done it.

17 Furthermore, to be no surprise that the
18 environmental compliance monitors that they train and the
19 environmental inspectors that they train, which is another
20 part of their business, they provide environmental
21 inspectors and trainers for companies to use in their
22 overview of pipeline construction activity. Never once has
23 any of their inspectors recommended a civil penalty for a
24 violation of a term or a condition of a certificate for a
25 pipeline. Nor have they even issued a stop work order.

1 So I would like to conclude again by saying that
2 we believe that Tetra Tech is an inappropriate choice for
3 this project and any other project before FERC moving
4 forward.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

8 The next four speakers Lorraine Crown, T.C.
9 Onstott, Claire Taylor and Nancy Bond.

10 MS. CROWN: Good evening. My name is Lorraine
11 Crown. That's L-o-r-r-a-i-n-e C-r-o-w-n. I'm a resident of
12 Holland Township and my full comments are on the docket.

13 I oppose all configurations of the PennEast
14 Pipeline based on the statements made earlier tonight by
15 everyone regarding the environment, health, and safety. And
16 I request that FERC enter a no-action option.

17 I would also like to say, this is off the record,
18 or off the cuff here, I'm also a former chief shop steward
19 for a teamster local. And my community really believes in
20 good jobs for union workers. We just don't believe that
21 this project meets the criteria of good jobs for union
22 workers mostly because of the way that PennEast has jiggered
23 the numbers including in their jobs report. And so I'd like
24 to talk a little bit more about some of the numbers that
25 PennEast has jiggered.

1 I would like to comment on necessity. Where are
2 all these homes that PennEast and its cohorts claim to be
3 heating with these new projects? PennEast claims 4.7
4 million homes in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A Transco
5 claims two million homes for their project in Princeton.
6 The team 14 project just approved by FERC will add the
7 equivalent of 2.8 million homes to this route which
8 terminates in Lambertville and Staten Island. A projected
9 total of local services on 9.5 million homes just from these
10 three projects, and none of them will be -- you know, none
11 of the local gas will be coming to Hunterdon or Mercer.

12 New Jersey and Pennsylvania have two of the worst
13 recoveries from the great recession and there are no housing
14 or businesses that would qualify this kind of expansion.
15 The 2013 Census shows a total of 3.5 million housing units
16 in New Jersey total; 80 percent of them already using
17 natural gas. This market is saturated.

18 In its resource report one, PennEast implied that
19 the price spikes during the last -- polar vortex were a new
20 normal which requires increased capacity when in fact the
21 polar vortex was a statistical outlier and is handled as
22 such in industry analyses making this claim invalid.

23 The historic view of both the New Jersey delivery
24 price and the spot price indicate that natural gas prices
25 have been steadily dropping since 2008. PennEast further

1 claimed an increased demand on the electrical grid through
2 2040 to justify expansion. But their charts were poorly
3 sited for determining how they were derived.

4 Data from the American climate prospectus
5 indicates that New Jersey and Pennsylvania will experience a
6 zero percent increase in electrical demand relative to 2012
7 through 2040.

8 Given the excessive number of proposed pipelines,
9 not just for New Jersey, but for the region, 20 at last
10 count by the Northeast Gas Association and the low prices.
11 It's clear that there's not really an unmet demand in New
12 Jersey and Pennsylvania as PennEast claims, but rather a
13 need to relieve excess supply in the system which was
14 created by the boom cycle of the fracking.

15 Busts follow booms. And stress is showing on the
16 ONG market with tremendous pressure on the drilling side,
17 investors pulling out and operators pulling back on planned
18 projects. Marcellus Drilling News just reported that half
19 of the companies on the ONG debt list are placed there
20 because of debt operate in Marcellus in Utica. And Tetra
21 Tech is one of them.

22 The December 2014 job report shows significant
23 loss in the power sector employment except in renewables.
24 And the Texas studies how show that the EIA projections of
25 the 100-year supply are way off. Marcellus shale gas

1 capacity will peak by 2020 and by 2030 will only be
2 producing half of the EIA projections. All of this promotes
3 a contraction of activity which can only have negative
4 impacts on PennEast. I believe that PennEast will not be
5 able to afford to construct and safely maintain this
6 project. Not only the market contraction, but the
7 overwhelming financial and time burden facing PennEast's
8 develop mitigation plans for the nearly innumerable
9 environmental, historic, and wildlife resources along the
10 route.

11 And then there's the methane.

12 MR. SCOTT: Ms. Crown, can you wrap it up,
13 please?

14 MS. CROWN: I shall. Not only should FERC cast a
15 no-action option on PennEast until new methane reduction
16 rules are passed, and PennEast can demonstrate compliance,
17 but the U.S. will never, ever achieve its methane reduction
18 goal of 45 percent unless they remove the legacy stipulations
19 which they will have to do. In that case UGI and several of
20 its partners will face crushing financial demands to replace
21 their currently dangerous and leaking infrastructure.

22 I feel that their partners should take their
23 billion dollars and stick it into the renovation of the
24 existing damaged infrastructure and give the unions those
25 jobs. For these reasons I respectfully ask FERC to choose

1 the no-action option on this project.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

5 We have three more speakers. We've been asked by
6 the facility to wrap it up at 10 o'clock. So we'll finish
7 with the three more speakers. The ones that I have already
8 called.

9 PARTICIPANT: And what happens to the rest of us
10 that didn't get a chance?

11 MR. SCOTT: The rest of the people that have
12 signed up to speak tonight, if you have written statements,
13 you can hand them to us. Or you can present your written
14 statements or what you were going to speak or say tonight
15 onto the record directly to FERC.

16 (Simultaneous conversation.)

17 PARTICIPANT: Nancy Bond left, can I take her
18 spot? I know that she left, I saw her leave.

19 MR. SCOTT: There's three more speakers.

20 PARTICIPANT: Nancy Bond is one of them. May I
21 take her spot?

22 MR. SCOTT: Nancy Bond?

23 PARTICIPANT: She left.

24 MR. SCOTT: Yes. All right.

25 (Simultaneous conversation.)

1 MR. SCOTT: T.C. Onstott.

2 MR. ONSTOTT: That's Right. T. C. Onstott,
3 Princeton University. O-n-s-t-o-t-t. So last night I
4 talked to you about arsenic mass balance and the danger of
5 release of arsenic from the construction phase using a
6 sample of this and a bottle of Fiji water. I'm not going to
7 subject you to that again tonight.

8 What I want to talk about tonight, however, is
9 the repercussions of operating a gas pipeline in arsenic
10 rich bedrock. And the primary concern comes about from
11 methane gas leaks.

12 Now, the PennEast representatives have said that
13 gas leaking from the pipeline will migrate towards the
14 surface and the atmosphere and they're totally correct about
15 that. Completely believable. What they may not realize is
16 that most of that methane gas is actually oxidized by
17 bacteria before it reaches the surface. These are methane
18 oxidizers. This is a well-established phenomenon. Methane
19 bacteria, you're a good thing. They mitigate the release of
20 methane gas from pipelines. They create, by that process,
21 an anoxic zone around the pipeline that migrates to an oxy
22 zone as you approach the water table. The unfortunate thing
23 about this, in an arsenic rich formation, is that an anoxic
24 to hypoxic zone arsenate is converted to arsenic which is
25 the mobile form of arsenic.

1 Now, this is a big crop. There have been reports
2 commissioned by the American Petroleum Institute to look at
3 the impact of hydrocarbon leakages from pipelines and
4 arsenic under various scenarios. You read that report, the
5 worst case scenario is hydrocarbon leakages from pipelines
6 with arsenic rich formations for which there is no
7 mitigation option except shutting off the hydrocarbons.

8 The other concern has to do with one of the most
9 positive aspects about pipelines. Pick a public protection
10 system, pick a public shield which prevents the corrosion of
11 the pipeline. This is brilliant. We turn the pipeline into
12 a galvanic cell by putting electrodes on the side of it,
13 generate an electric current that goes towards the pipeline.
14 This fools the bacteria because they want to get their -- on
15 the pipeline and corrode it. Now they move up the current
16 towards the anodes to get the electrons that are being
17 provided. This is great, and it works. It really works.
18 The only problem is, in an arsenic rich nation it expands in
19 a zoning and creates an arsenide pathway.

20 My concern is that with these two combinations of
21 effects, the contiguity of it all and the pipeline creates
22 an arsenic migration pathway along the pipeline going
23 downhill, converging into the watersheds where the pipeline
24 is going like this (indicating) because of the route chosen
25 and from those watersheds into the Delaware River canal.

1 Now, if you look at the old pipelines, for
2 instance, Texas Eastern, they cross the river and in
3 parallel tributaries going across. And it's a good place to
4 look because if you look at the Algonquin, you will see
5 back, the water wells around the Algonquin branch all are
6 contaminated with arsenic.

7 Now, this is a problem that has to be
8 investigated. It has to be part of the EIS report before
9 you go ahead. I'm not saying we have an Aaron Brocavitch
10 situation here, because it wasn't until the last 15 years
11 that we've understood arsenic geochemistry in the
12 environment. But before we move ahead, we need a thorough
13 review from all existing pipelines to moving forward as to
14 what the cumulative impact is pipelines on arsenic
15 migration.

16 My concern is that you're creating with this
17 designed route, the galvanic arsenic pointed right at the
18 canal.

19 The only solution to that is to get the pipeline
20 away from the Delaware River and out of the arsenic rich
21 zone.

22 And thank you.

23 (Appause.)

24 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

25 MS. TAYLOR: Claire Taylor, C-l-a-i-r-e

1 T-a-y-l-o-r. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I
2 want to say that I agree with all of the points made tonight
3 in opposition and appreciate the attendance of so many
4 experts.

5 I am the owner of a small farm in Kingwood. I
6 raise horses and I have two points to make tonight.

7 First, I'm among many equestrians in Hunterdon
8 who are here for the land and the gorgeous miles of trails
9 over the historic and preserved open space.

10 Some of the trail associations are from
11 Reddington, Alexandria, Pittstown, Amwell Valley, and
12 Covered Bridge. They hold events throughout the year, are a
13 great draw, and bring equestrians from far and wide to ride
14 in our beautiful setting here.

15 I can't tell you how incredible it is to ride
16 over this land that the revolutionary troops did or see the
17 undisturbed vistas that have stood for a millennia from the
18 back of a horse. It is unique and it is rare.

19 It was just November we were riding our Amwell
20 way and came across a crest of a hill and four bald eagles
21 started -- came out of the trees and were circling over the
22 field. About 40 riders just stopped dead to watch this
23 rare, rare sighting of these incredible birds.

24 This project will forever change those
25 experiences that we have riding these trails. The other

1 point I want to make is about water. You've heard a lot
2 about it. The experts have spoken. But as a farmer, I
3 think about the animals, I'm not talking about the
4 endangered species because much has been said about them,
5 and I can't even fathom losing one species. It's about the
6 domesticated animals, it's about the farm animals, they
7 drink from our well too. My horses each consume about ten
8 gallons a day. My sheep seven gallons a day, our dogs
9 another gallon, my husband and I another gallon. But
10 imagine if we had 100 cows, which I assume some of the
11 farmers here tonight may have. They drink ten to 30 gallons
12 of water a day, or 1,000 chickens, I have no idea, but what
13 is the plan if this water is polluted? How will our farms
14 survive?

15 There are 27 farms in Kingwood alone that are
16 crossed by the pipeline route.

17 So, FERC, in closing, I ask for a no-build, no
18 action option. It's the only way to ensure that the farm's
19 future and of course the equestrian experience I mentioned
20 in my first point.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

24 MS. KLINK: Thank you for letting me take Nancy
25 Bond's place. My name is Kathleen Klink, K-a-t-h-l-e-e-n

1 K-l-i-n-k. I am the advisor to the student in middle group
2 -- I'm sorry, I'm very tired. This is what happens to my
3 voice -- at Delaware Township School, Hunterdon County, New
4 Jersey. This program was started to take care of our school
5 and community environment with the additional duty of
6 helping to educate our younger students. These students are
7 11, 12, and 13 years old. This statement is theirs.

8 The pipeline is a very current threat -- I have
9 to put my glasses on -- to some of New Jersey's most fragile
10 and diverse ecosystems. The pipeline is putting the
11 survival of nature for the new generation in jeopardy.

12 The environment in New Jersey is going to
13 continue to be a home to many endangered species but the
14 pipeline could change that. For example, the barred owl
15 requires in tact forests to exist. To build the PennEast
16 pipeline huge swaths of forest will be decimated in order to
17 place this 36-inch pipe.

18 Truly I did not write this.

19 As members of the Delaware Township School
20 Environmental Congress we have done extensive amounts of
21 trail work. The PennEast pipeline is striving to destroy
22 all of our hard work by clear cutting the preserved land
23 where our trails exist.

24 We also teach the younger grades how to care for
25 our environment. Is the PennEast Pipeline trying to teach

1 young children to industrialize our last remaining strips of
2 undisturbed land in New Jersey?

3 Clearly wildlife is essential to the human race's
4 survival, but the PennEast pipeline seems to be actively
5 aiming to destroy this. As an environment congress we would
6 be devastated to see this people approved and built. We
7 also know that we are not just speaking for ourselves, but
8 our community and maybe even the state of New Jersey as a
9 whole.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

12 MS. KOCHHAR: On behalf of Federal Energy
13 Regulatory Commission I'd like to thank you all for coming
14 tonight. Let the record show the PennEast Pipeline Project
15 Scoping meeting in Western New Jersey closed at 10:10 p.m.
16 on February 26, 2015.

17 Thank you for coming. If you have comments you
18 can hand it to us. Or you can efile it or mail it,
19 whichever way you prefer.

20 (Whereupon, at 10:10 p.m., the meeting was
21 adjourned.)

22

23

24

25