

SUPPLY HEADER PROJECTS

ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE PROJECT

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

March 9, 2015

Fayetteville, North Carolina

KING'S COURT REPORTING SERVICES, INC.

Leigh S. Boyette, Court Reporter

Post Office Box 7323
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804
(252) 937-6663
fax (252) 937-7501

kingreporting@gmail.com

1 FAYETTEVILLE - MARCH 9, 2015 -- 7:02 p.m.

2 MR. KEVIN BOWMAN: Can you guys all
3 hear me okay there in the back?

4 Okay. Great. Thank you.

5 Good evening everyone. On behalf of
6 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC,
7 I'd like to welcome you all here tonight for our
8 public scoping meeting for the Atlantic Coast
9 pipeline and Supply Header Projects.

10 Let the record show that the public
11 meeting in Fayetteville, North Carolina began at
12 7:02 p.m..

13 My name is Kevin Bowman and I am an
14 environmental scientist with the FERC's Office of
15 Energy Projects. Here representing FERC tonight at
16 the table with me tonight is Jeff Mackenthun, and
17 outside at the sign in table is Gertrude Johnson and
18 Zeke Rice.

19 So we're here tonight to provide some
20 information on the federal process as it relates to
21 these projects. And we're here to hear your
22 comments and concerns regarding these two proposals.
23 So fundamentally, the purpose of tonight's meeting
24 is to provide each of you with an opportunity to
25 give us your comments and tell us what additional

1 environmental issues you think we should address in
2 our analysis of the proposed projects.

3 We've already received numerous
4 comments concerning the projects, including
5 alternatives. And this is one of the areas that we
6 hope to hear from you all tonight. So we've
7 included affected landowners for each of these
8 alternatives on our mailing list for the Notice of
9 Intent, which we mailed out a few weeks ago
10 requesting comments and announced tonight's
11 meeting.

12 All of your comments will help us to
13 determine what to study as we prepare the
14 environmental impact statement or EIS. The FERC is
15 the lead federal agency responsible for the National
16 Environmental Policy Act review of the Atlantic
17 Coast Pipeline and Supply Header Projects and the
18 lead agency for the preparation of the EIS.

19 The National Environmental Policy Act
20 requires FERC to analyze the environmental impacts,
21 consider alternatives, and identify appropriate
22 mitigation measures where necessary on any proposal
23 before it decides whether to approve or deny that
24 project.

25 Currently the United States Forest

1 Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great
2 Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Army Corp
3 of Engineers, and the Bureau of Land Management are
4 currently cooperating with agencies in our review of
5 this project. Additional federal, state, and local
6 agencies are welcome to participate as full
7 cooperators with FERC in our review of this
8 project.

9 I do want to clarify that the projects
10 in front of us are not conceived by the FERC and
11 they're not promoted by the FERC or the cooperating
12 agencies. FERC reviews applications for the
13 authority to build and operate interstate natural
14 gas pipelines. And Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC,
15 and Dominion Transmission are in the process of
16 preparing applications to submit to FERC. Once
17 those applications are submitted our obligation is
18 to review those applications and prepare an analysis
19 of those environmental impacts.

20 Tonight's meeting is not going to be a
21 public hearing and we're not here to debate the
22 proposal or to make any determinations on its fate
23 tonight. We are here simply to listen to your
24 concerns so that we can consider them in our
25 analysis.

1 The pipeline proposals often encounter
2 objections. Some are general in nature and some
3 objections are based on potential environmental
4 impacts. Both categories are extremely important to
5 FERC, but they are addressed in different ways. The
6 general objections are considered during the
7 Commission's public convenience and necessity
8 review, whereas environmental concerns and safety
9 impacts are addressed by the FERC environmental
10 staff, which includes myself, in the environmental
11 impact statement.

12 So on February 26th, 2015, the FERC
13 issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an
14 environmental impact statement. It also announced
15 the locations of these meetings, identified how to
16 file comments and the deadlines for getting those
17 comments to us. So in the Notice we asked that you
18 submit comments to FERC by April 28th, 2015.
19 However, that -- the end of that scoping period is
20 not the end of public involvement with FERC in these
21 projects. Nor will it be the only opportunity to
22 give public input to FERC. We will continue to
23 accept comments after the deadline and throughout
24 the pre-filing process. But for us to adequately
25 address those comments, analyze them, and research

1 the issues, we do ask that you try to get those
2 comments to us during the deadline.

3 So the Atlantic Coast and Supply Header
4 Projects are currently in what I just mentioned as
5 our pre-filing process. That is, an application has
6 not yet been submitted to the FERC. We consider the
7 pre-filing process, amongst other things, to be an
8 extension of our scoping process. The scoping
9 process for FERC is a learning process. It is where
10 we educate ourselves about the project and the
11 potential issues and environmental impacts.

12 So during this scoping process we are
13 gathering information. The four general sources
14 that we use to gather information about the projects
15 are one, information provided by the applicant,
16 input from other federal, state, and local agencies,
17 our own field work and research of different issues,
18 and four, information submitted to us from the
19 public.

20 Now, once we gather information
21 developed during the scoping process and the
22 application is formally filed by the applicant we
23 will analyze it and prepare a Draft Environmental
24 Impact Statement, and we will distribute that Draft
25 Environmental Impact Statement for public comment.

1 So this Draft EIS, Draft Environmental Statement,
2 will include an examination of the proposed facility
3 locations, as well as alternative sites. We will
4 assess the projects' effects on the waterbodies, the
5 wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, endangered
6 species, cultural resources, land use, air quality,
7 and safety.

8 We will mail the EIS to our mailing
9 list, so if you didn't receive our notice in the
10 mail make sure you do give us your name and address
11 and we'll make sure that we get the Draft
12 Environmental Impact Statement to you. Also do note
13 that the size of the Environmental Impact Statement
14 can be lengthy so we tend to send out CDs. So if
15 you would like a hard copy please indicate that to
16 us so we can mail you one.

17 Now, after the Draft Environmental
18 Impact Statement is mailed out there will be another
19 public comment period for you to send us comments on
20 the Draft EIS. During that period we will probably
21 hold another scoping, or another comment meeting
22 similar in format to this one, maybe at this same
23 location if it's available, and ask you to provide
24 feedback to us on the information that's provided in
25 the Draft EIS.

1 At the end of that public comment
2 period for the Draft EIS we will begin organizing
3 all the information gathered to date on the projects
4 and prepare a final Environmental Impact Statement
5 addressing all the comments that we've received.
6 Once we have issued a Final Environmental Impact
7 Statement it is forwarded to the Commissioners at
8 the FERC for their consideration.

9 Now, the EIS is not the decision making
10 document. It's merely our analysis of the potential
11 impacts of the project and the project alternatives.
12 The five commissioners at the FERC, the Federal
13 Energy Regulatory Commission, i.e.: the
14 Commissioners will use that document, as well as
15 other information to make a determination on whether
16 or not to approve the projects.

17 Now, these Commissioners are appointed
18 by the president and they're confirmed by Congress.
19 Additional information about the Commissioners can
20 be found on our website at [ferc dot gov](http://ferc.gov).

21 On December 12th, 2014, Atlantic Coast
22 Pipeline and Dominion filed preliminary information
23 with the FERC about their projects. According to
24 those preliminary filings, Atlantic Coast Pipeline
25 and Dominion are proposing two jointly related

1 projects to deliver 1 point 5 billion cubic feet of
2 natural gas per day to markets in West Virginia,
3 Virginia, and North Carolina.

4 The Atlantic Coast Pipeline facilities
5 would consist of about 554 miles of pipeline ranging
6 between 16 and 42 inches in diameter from Harrison
7 County, West Virginia, to Robeson County, North
8 Carolina. The project would also have smaller
9 diameter pipeline laterals extending from the main
10 line, which would terminate in Chesapeake and
11 Brunswick Counties, Virginia. It would also include
12 three new compressor stations in Lewis County, West
13 Virginia; Buckingham County, Virginia; and
14 Northampton County, North Carolina.

15 The Supply Header Project would involve
16 the construction of 39 miles of 30 and 36 inch
17 diameter pipeline in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.
18 In addition to those facilities Dominion would seek
19 to modify four existing compressor stations in
20 Pennsylvania and Virginia. So with that, just a few
21 things before we start taking speakers.

22 Please note that this meeting is going
23 to be recorded by a transcription service. All of
24 your comments will be transcribed and placed into
25 the public record. For the benefit of all

1 attendants and the accuracy of the transcript, when
2 your name is called please come up and step up to
3 the podium, clearly state your name and any
4 affiliation that you have, and speak directly into
5 the microphone so you can be accurately recorded.

6 In addition to the verbal comments
7 provided tonight, we will also accept your written
8 comments. If you didn't wish to speak tonight you
9 can grab a comment form from us outside at the
10 table. You can drop those off with us tonight or
11 you can mail them into FERC at a later date.

12 So I currently have 12 people signed up
13 to speak, so we have some time to hear from everyone
14 here tonight. I will suggest trying to keep your
15 comments under ten minutes and I think with that
16 we'll be able to accommodate everyone that signed up
17 tonight.

18 Because we're here to hear your
19 comments, please do respect the speaker who's at the
20 podium whether you agree with them or not. So with
21 that the first speaker tonight is Durwood
22 Stephenson.

23 MR. DURWOOD STEPHENSON: Good evening
24 and thank you for the opportunity to come to speak.
25 I am a North Carolina boy -- Eastern North Carolina

1 boy by birth and choice. I've been here all my
2 life. By profession I'm a general contractor and
3 developer. When I learned about the pipeline I was
4 asked to talk to people about it. I did my
5 homework. I'm fairly familiar with the legal
6 process, having served on the Board of
7 Transportation for a term or two.

8 The NEPA Act of 1969 -- the Clean Water
9 Act, as you probably know -- you guys know, the
10 regulatory that affects energy also has a similar
11 board for transportation projects as well, so it's a
12 similar process. I'm pretty familiar with that
13 process.

14 Being here tonight sort of reminds me a
15 little bit about a church service recently. The
16 minister invited all of our kids to come down to the
17 front of the church. And as they were coming down
18 he started tossing up a baseball, and the preacher
19 said, what does this remind you of. One little boy
20 piped up immediately and said, God. And the
21 minister was a little bit shocked at that and he
22 said, now, why does the baseball remind you of God.
23 He said, well, I'm pretty sure you didn't invite us
24 down here to talk about baseball, so I'm here to
25 talk about the gas, as all of you have probably

1 figured out.

2 For the last six and a half years, in
3 addition to my regular paying job, I have been an
4 advocate for Eastern North Carolina. I think those
5 of us from Eastern North Carolina sort of feel like
6 we've been left out of the growth pattern. We have
7 a couple of the fastest growing counties in the
8 nation in our state, but unfortunately, Eastern
9 North Carolina has not enjoyed that success. With
10 the demise of tobacco and cut and sew operations
11 we've kind of been on the decline for a period of
12 time. We haven't found anything to fill that void.
13 And one of the reasons I think we haven't been able
14 to fill that void, we hadn't been able to grow, join
15 the global marketplace is because of infrastructure.
16 We're lacking infrastructure in Eastern North
17 Carolina. Gas is infrastructure. I think it's
18 extremely important. We need roads, broadbands.

19 We need a number of things in Eastern
20 North Carolina to be a part of this global
21 marketplace. And I think this is a great
22 opportunity for us to start in Eastern North
23 Carolina, putting infrastructure in place in Eastern
24 North Carolina so we can attract people from abroad
25 and -- and -- that are looking to locate facilities

1 in our state. But this is a first step. We've got
2 many other things we need to do in Eastern North
3 Carolina, and hopefully we're all about the common
4 good, what's good for the state, not necessarily
5 what's good and bad for me. And I know some of the
6 farmers will have mixed emotions about it and
7 hopefully will do the same as I did, do your
8 homework, determine what it does. You got a lot of
9 questions to ask and I'm sure these guys will be
10 providing a lot of answers for you. It's a long
11 process, but a process that I encourage you to ask
12 about and get all the answers so you can satisfy
13 yourself. We're probably here as diverse in our
14 opinions about the gas line as we are in our
15 backgrounds, as I look around. But, you know, we're
16 all about making our state, a particular a region of
17 our state, a better area.

18 You know, it's surprising that I
19 learned recently, and maybe some of you knew that
20 are smarter than me, 20 of our counties in the heart
21 of Eastern North Carolina are considered the poorest
22 regions in the United States; not in North Carolina,
23 mind you, but in the United States, the poorest
24 regions lie in the heart of Eastern North Carolina.
25 And unless we do something about that we're going to

1 continue to decline. We've got 15 of our counties
2 in Eastern North Carolina that continue every year
3 to lose population. They've got no reason, no jobs
4 for the kids to stay home.

5 And we get back to the environmental
6 impact, and you guys will certainly evaluate that
7 and each of you will. It's your own peril and as it
8 affects you individually. But there's a number of
9 jobs to be had in this. And I am told -- and I
10 don't have a pay scale, but I'm told they're not
11 entry level positions. They are -- they're high
12 paying jobs, that there will be a lot of service to
13 be provided while the workers are here building
14 these lines, so I think that's important to bring
15 some things to the economy. A lot more than the
16 jobs will be during construction. There will be a
17 fair amount of jobs I'm told after the fact, the
18 maintenance and other such operations. I'm sure
19 those numbers will be available to you.

20 Another thing that I think is
21 important, a lot of our counties in Eastern North
22 Carolina are extremely poor counties. They have a
23 very low tax base. A lot of businesses were there.
24 They've moved out and gone. And with that erodes
25 the tax base so that they can't provide services for

1 quality of life for a lot of our citizens. And so
2 this -- fortunately for those counties that this
3 passes through, this is a tax paying entity. This
4 is not a nonprofit putting this in, so it's a tax
5 paying entity. So a lot of our counties will be
6 getting significant revenue when the gas line passes
7 through their respective county.

8 And as I said, I would just ask
9 everybody to give it a fair shake. We all have
10 diverse opinions as we do diverse backgrounds. Give
11 it a fair shake and think about the common good for
12 the Eastern -- for the state, and particularly
13 Eastern North Carolina, as you deliberate what your
14 position will be, whether it's pro or con. And I'm
15 sure some of you probably haven't made up your mind
16 yet. I've made up mine after doing my research and
17 I hope you'll do your research and do the same.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. BOWMAN: The second speaker
21 tonight is Barry Stanley.

22 MR. BARRY STANLEY: My name is Barry
23 Stanley with the Town of Four Oaks, Fire Chief. I
24 got two points I'd like to make.

25 First is safety on the gas lines. As

1 far as the fire department's standpoint is safety is
2 usually very minimal as far we're concerned. The
3 second point is financial. The route that this gas
4 line is continuously going to take is affecting 40
5 to 50 communities, the fire departments in each of
6 those. And historically the eastern part of North
7 Carolina, as Mr. Stephenson brought up, is the
8 poorer fire departments in the state. So initially,
9 financially there's going to be some tax base and
10 all these fire departments are driven -- tax base
11 driven, which would allow those financially to
12 receive a benefit initially.

13 Secondly, the economic impact that they
14 potentially could receive, that they're not going to
15 receive any other way other than this line coming,
16 is great. That's -- that's all I have. Thank you.

17 MR. BOWMAN: Our third speaker tonight
18 is Linwood Parker.

19 MR. LINWOOD PARKER: I'm Linwood Parker
20 of Four Oaks, North Carolina. I serve as the mayor
21 when the fire chief doesn't serve as mayor. But I
22 am -- it's a pleasure to be here tonight and to
23 address this group.

24 The gas line is important to the people
25 of Eastern North Carolina for several reasons.

1 First of all, we need jobs and we need good paying
2 jobs. Those jobs are preparing natural gas. And I
3 would say to the people holding the hearing, the
4 people across the nation, if it wasn't a good thing
5 then they ought to do away with it everywhere.
6 Obviously natural gas is a cheaper utility so it
7 will be able to make our industries be more
8 competitive so we can encourage jobs to come back to
9 our country and hire our people.

10 The second thing is it's
11 environmentally sound. I'm a hunter and a
12 fisherman. Piedmont Gas ran a line over to the edge
13 of Goldsboro, did away with a plant there. There's
14 been no damage done to the environment in Johnston
15 County. And not only because they've done away with
16 the dams, we have seen the game fish, shad, herring,
17 striped bass relocate all the way to Johnston
18 County.

19 So environmentally it's a win;
20 economically it's a win. And I like to think that I
21 stand here tonight speaking for the people who don't
22 have a job tonight. I'd like to think I'm speaking
23 for the children that didn't have food when -- they
24 didn't go to school because their family didn't have
25 food. I hope I'm speaking for the people who don't

1 have adequate utilities to make sure they have a
2 warm house. All these things can be adjusted and
3 corrected based on infrastructure, based on the
4 things that we need to be able to create the
5 environment, the economy that we need in Eastern
6 North Carolina. And I hope you'll carry the message
7 back to the people who can make a decision that
8 there are people who are without food, without
9 adequate heat, and without jobs. And without the
10 infrastructure to change that we need to make a
11 decision. I thank you for your time.

12 MR. BOWMAN: And our next speaker
13 tonight is Ayden Lee.

14 MR. AYDEN LEE: Good evening. I'm
15 Ayden Lee. I run a small community bank in Four
16 Oaks. It's a 103 years old. I'm not nearly as
17 eloquent as the last speaker or the first speaker.

18 This will certainly have an impact I
19 know on a number of our customers. By the same
20 token, the infrastructure is extremely important.
21 Eastern North Carolina, we -- when the textiles
22 moved on off in the gulf shores we had the
23 agriculture, which we still have a lot of kids that
24 come through schools, that get their education. And
25 then where do they go? They don't stay in Four

1 Oaks. They don't stay in Eastern North Carolina.
2 The are just moving to other places. They go where
3 the jobs are.

4 This could help create the jobs.
5 Certainly there would be jobs while this
6 construction's going on for the four years. But
7 after that hopefully the infrastructure -- we've got
8 good roads. We've got Interstate 95; we've got
9 Interstate 40. We've got a pretty good network of
10 roads throughout our area. We need the natural gas
11 so that we can attract industry. The industry will
12 keep the youth in North Carolina -- in Eastern North
13 Carolina.

14 I know there's environment issues. I
15 was raised on a farm. I understand those and I'm
16 very passionate about quality of life. So I
17 understand that there will be issues there, but
18 surely they can be overcome in a reasonable manner
19 for all concerned. Thank you.

20 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker tonight
21 is Bobby Greer.

22 MR. BOBBY GREER: Good evening and
23 thank you for the opportunity to be here. My name
24 is Bobby Greer. Last name is spelled G-R-E-E-R. I
25 am from New Hanover County, which is the

1 southeastern part of the state, in the Wilmington
2 area.

3 I had the pleasure of serving as the
4 county commissioner there for 21 years and also have
5 served as the past -- as the president of the North
6 Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

7 In my time as a commissioner I saw what
8 it takes to make a community successful, chief
9 operating costs to help support local businesses, as
10 well as numerous employment opportunities close to
11 home for citizens. This pipeline can bring these
12 benefits into communities like Cumberland County.
13 The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will increase the
14 availability of natural gas supplies in the state,
15 bringing lower prices to power businesses and
16 manufacturers and more jobs.

17 Over the next 20 years the pipeline is
18 poised to deliver 4 point 8 billion in energy
19 savings for North Carolinians. That's more money in
20 the pocket for business owners to power their
21 businesses and support additional jobs. Local
22 communities will flourish on the energy savings
23 alone. The pipeline will deliver much needed jobs
24 to a state that's still working towards recovery.
25 More than 900 employment opportunities would be

1 created as a result of the pipeline. These jobs
2 would be quality, high paying positions that could
3 help North Carolinians support themselves and their
4 families.

5 Furthermore, the added availability of
6 natural gas infrastructure would amplify additional
7 opportunities for rural communities to recruit
8 manufacturing jobs and other economic development.

9 Finally, the eight counties the
10 pipeline will run through will receive great
11 financial benefit. Cumberland County, they're
12 proposed -- poised to receive an estimated 1 million
13 dollars a year in property taxes. These funds can
14 be used to support schools, many other things,
15 needed infrastructure developments, and things like
16 that that help make communities great. The Atlantic
17 Coast Pipeline gets my support, not because it's
18 just good for our state, because it also is an asset
19 for local counties and the community. Thank you.

20 MR. BOWMAN: We will next be hearing
21 from Darlene Bain.

22 MS. DARLENE BAIN: Well, I feel like
23 the deck's stacked against me because everybody
24 else is for it. But I have some questions and
25 concerns.

1 And the first thing I want to know is
2 why this notice was sent out so late. I got mine
3 Saturday, the meeting's today. My neighbors, some
4 of them didn't know about this meeting until I
5 called them because they hadn't gotten their mail
6 yet. And I think it's a shame that you supposedly
7 said something about beginning the meetings on the
8 15th of February and I don't get the notice until
9 the 7th, and the meeting is today -- tonight. They
10 said -- some of them couldn't be here because they
11 hadn't got enough notice.

12 Mine are more questions than anything
13 else because I want to know why some of these power
14 lines are not being used. I understand some are,
15 but there are some right down from my property,
16 within three quarters of a mile, and I don't know
17 why that property can't be used where the power
18 lines are. And that's concerns of my neighbors
19 also.

20 And the other thing is -- one of the
21 other things is I understand that they're going to
22 have the right of way on my property, but I'm going
23 to be the one paying taxes. Why should I have to
24 pay taxes on something that I can't use; I can't
25 build on if I want to?

1 I'd also like to know if this easement
2 has anything to do with giving up rental rights.

3 And on my particular piece of property,
4 which is close -- is very close to two elementary
5 schools, and I want to know if that matters or it
6 doesn't. Nobody's addressed that. I've asked these
7 questions before and I've not been answered.

8 And I want to know what the blast
9 distance is from the pipeline if there is a failure
10 because I've seen in the news, there are the
11 failures that happen. And if that's the case how
12 close would that be to the schools that are near
13 me?

14 And another concern of mine is I've
15 been told that I was going to have surveyors in
16 November, in December, in January, and here it is
17 almost the middle of March and I still don't know
18 exactly where they're talking about coming across my
19 property. It looks like it's going right through
20 the middle of it. And it's a narrow piece of
21 property so they're going to basically destroy the
22 whole thing. I can't get anything for it.

23 And mine is just an individual question
24 and all your other people here are professional
25 people and supporting all this. And I understand

1 that we need growth, but I don't understand why --
2 my husband and I worked hard for this piece of land.
3 We paid for it. We weren't given it. Nobody willed
4 it to us, nobody gave it to us, and now it's being
5 taken away.

6 And on top of that this week I got a
7 letter from an attorney telling me that the DOT's
8 going to take another piece of a property that I
9 have on another -- on another road. It's just --
10 you can't have anything in the United States anymore
11 without fighting to the end. And my husband is a
12 Viet Nam Veteran and he can't come to these meetings
13 because he gets too upset about it. Thank you for
14 your time.

15 MR. BOWMAN: Our next speaker is
16 Katrina Allen.

17 MS. KATRINA ALLEN: My name is Katrina
18 Allen. I'm with the Four Oaks Area Chamber of
19 Commerce. And I know there's a lot of questions
20 both ways and I feel bad going after someone who was
21 so upset. But I do feel good that I have a lot of
22 representation from my area tonight.

23 Now, as an individual I also have a lot
24 of questions, but I also am trying to look at the
25 bigger picture. If it was my piece of property I'd

1 hate to give it too, but for the greater good I
2 would be willing to let go of a piece or sell.

3 I have five children. They've all
4 graduated high school. All of them have moved to
5 other locations because of lack of employment in
6 Fayetteville, out of state, other towns, and I
7 understand. But if anybody would take the time -- I
8 trust my fire department, I trust the EPA to do your
9 jobs, to make this safe for us. We do need to grow
10 our economy, and from what I see every day, losing
11 businesses, gaining some businesses, being in the
12 Chamber of Commerce we see a little bit of
13 everything. We have a great amount of people
14 relocating to North Carolina because it's a
15 wonderful state.

16 But when you look at the big picture,
17 are they going to keep coming if the resources
18 aren't available? I'm for this project as long --
19 and from my understanding, it will develop into
20 commercial use and residential use. I think we need
21 this. I think Eastern North Carolina needs this.
22 And if it will -- it will take time, I understand.
23 It could be 10 to 15 years before we see these jobs.
24 It might be my grand-kids out there getting these
25 jobs. It might be my grand-kids out there working

1 to repair this line.

2 But we need a little more research and
3 we need to be able to say, I trust our fire
4 department or our police department or EPA, our
5 environmental specialists to keep this safe for
6 us.

7 So all in all, I'm in favor. I hope it
8 works out. I hope we can make the property owners
9 happy in the long run to know that this is a good
10 thing. I thank you for your time.

11 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number nine is
12 Chad Stewart.

13 MR. CHAD STEWART: I'm Chad Stewart and
14 I'm a Johnston County commissioner. I'm coming in
15 two capacities. My first capacity is I am a
16 landowner. I have two farms that this line's going
17 through. One of the farms there's one right in the
18 middle of the field.

19 I represent the region of all of
20 Johnston County along I-95 where it's going to be
21 going. I've taken a lot of interest in this line.
22 I listen to my constituents. I talk to my
23 constituents. They question, you know, where's
24 the line going, why is it going, what's the need,
25 what -- how does it benefit. There's a lot of

1 answers I have to come up with. And I'm trying -- I
2 do -- I get answers and I bring answers back.

3 I met with one today and after talking
4 with him he was adamant. He felt the same way this
5 young lady felt, the way a lot of them feel. But
6 after talking with him, I told him -- I said, hey,
7 look, where can there be some compromise. He said,
8 you know, I'm willing to compromise. I said, well,
9 okay. He said, I'd like it to be moved just a
10 little bit one way. And I said, well, that's
11 probably not out of the question. That probably
12 needs to be addressed.

13 Like I said, it's crossing my place,
14 two of my farms. And I would like to have it moved
15 just a little bit. Will it happen? I don't know.
16 I'm going to ask and I'm working with them.

17 My second part is I am a county
18 commissioner. That is my -- that is my region. I
19 do have children. I hope to have grandchildren one
20 day. And I'm not going to keep reiterating on what
21 we've already heard. But it is essential to
22 economic growth in my region. We have to have it.
23 Natural gas is the future. Am I willing to give up
24 my land for it? Yes, I am. And my ancestors worked
25 very hard for my land. My father was a Viet Nam vet

1 and he worked hard for that land. If he was
2 standing here he'd be saying the same thing I'm
3 saying. We need it. It is the future.

4 We all have to sacrifice a little bit,
5 and our nation's sacrificed things for many years
6 for the better good. And I happen to feel the same
7 way. Thank you for your time.

8 MR. BOWMAN: The ninth speaker is Chris
9 Johnson.

10 MR. CHRIS JOHNSON: Thank you,
11 everyone, for your time. My name is Chris Johnson.
12 I'm the director of economic development for
13 Johnston County. Like Mr. Stephenson, by choice
14 I've lived nowhere and was born and raised in
15 Eastern North Carolina. I was born in Rocky Mount.
16 I lived in Stedman; I lived in Weldon; and home for
17 me and always will be home would be Northampton
18 County, Jackson.

19 But as I sat there and was listening to
20 everybody, I googled some things about Eastern North
21 Carolina. And in ten counties in Eastern North
22 Carolina it's been labeled persistently poverty.
23 And what does that mean? That means over 20 percent
24 -- over 20 percent of the population has been in
25 poverty for over 30 years. And many of those people

1 for generations after generation after generation
2 for over 150 years. And that's what I'm here to
3 talk about is job creation. When you talk about
4 Halifax County, Roanoke Rapids, they're closing the
5 textile mills there; J.P. Stevens. Over 3,000
6 people lost their jobs.

7 In Johnston County the closing of
8 Fieldcrest Mills, Burlington Mills, Eaton, Champion,
9 Channel Master in the mid nineties and early
10 nineties, over 4,500 people lost their jobs. And
11 these were good paying jobs and not whatever we
12 replaced it with. But unfortunately as an economic
13 developer for Johnston County, and I am confident
14 all counties across Eastern North Carolina and all
15 across North Carolina, the key number one thing that
16 companies are looking for today is reliable,
17 inexpensive energy. And natural gas is at the top
18 of their list. Yes, it's water, sewer, and natural
19 gas. Those things -- and we need to make sure that
20 the infrastructure's in place.

21 It's also about education
22 opportunities. Obviously, just like myself,
23 graduating from Northampton obviously we all had to
24 go away if we wanted -- if we didn't own land or a
25 farmer or weren't on public assistance we had to go

1 to other communities to find a job. And that's what
2 happened -- that's what's happening in Eastern North
3 Carolina.

4 The key thing we also need to think
5 about is safety. And we talk about the
6 environmental, but just today, and as you've seen
7 all over the news, there was a rail -- there was a
8 wreck at the railroad crossing in Halifax County.
9 Right now we have liquid petroleum, coal -- we have
10 all sorts of chemicals riding up and down our roads
11 and on our railroad lines. This is the safest way
12 to transport reliable, safe energy for our
13 industries.

14 So I appreciate your time. Thank you.

15 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number ten is
16 Crawford McKeithan.

17 MR. CRAWFORD MCKEITHAN: Thank you for
18 having us this evening. My name is Crawford
19 McKeithan. I'm a lifetime resident of Fayetteville
20 and I'm proud to say that I have a background in
21 real estate appraising for over 40-something years.
22 My clientele represents DOT, Progress Energy, Public
23 Works Commission, Piedmont Natural Gas, and private
24 individuals.

25 I'm here tonight because I have a

1 knowledge about the utility easements, which in my
2 opinion are some of the most complex appraisal
3 analysis that you can have. I realize that no one
4 wants this line across their property. And I'm
5 representing the Thompson heirs that are here
6 tonight and we're going to bring it out of the big
7 picture of the total line down to one particular
8 tract. And that tract is parcel number 22 dash 100
9 that we would like for the group to look at and you
10 all sit down and take the time.

11 This property is located at the eastern
12 terminus of I-295 and Interstate 95. In my career I
13 would have to say that I-295 possibly could be one
14 of the most -- outside of I-95 could possibly be one
15 of the most significant roadways to affect
16 Cumberland County. It will be bringing traffic from
17 Raeford Road, Cliffdale Road to I-95. And the
18 Thompsons' 300 acres sits right in this interchange.
19 It is proposed in this gas line that it bisect
20 through the center of the Thompsons' tract. This is
21 a major concern to us.

22 We have talked about possible
23 rerouting. We would appreciate any input by the
24 engineers and staff. But as I look at your criteria
25 on your list of -- of looking at soils and geology

1 and historical, one of your things is socioeconomic
2 issues.

3 Well, as representing the Thompson
4 heirs, we consider a -- the bisecting of this tract,
5 which is an interchange piece of property, as going
6 to be a extremely negative consequence against this
7 property. And our concerns would be that we have
8 the bisecting of the property, the safety issues
9 that we will become more and more aware of as we get
10 into this process, and then the impact on
11 socioeconomic conditions.

12 I ask this committee to seriously look
13 and talk with the designers and the engineers of
14 parcel 22100, and I thank you for your time.

15 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 11 is Jane
16 Myers.

17 MS. JANE MYERS: I'm Jane Myers. And
18 like the lady who came before me, I just wanted to
19 put an individual face on a property owner that's
20 being affected by the location of the pipeline.

21 I'm one of four sisters, two of which
22 are here with me tonight. And my dad purchased this
23 property over 50 years ago for the future. And he
24 passed away not long after he purchased it and we've
25 kept it as a tree farm ever since then, knowing that

1 eventually it would likely get developed, but we
2 haven't done that yet. And we've watched the area
3 change. We grew up in Cumberland County. I don't
4 live here anymore, but it's not because there wasn't
5 a job. I got married and moved away. We've watched
6 the area change, especially in the last five to ten
7 years with I-296 being built right there, which also
8 took part of our land. And we know that the
9 extension in the future is going to continue to
10 change what happens in Eastover. It's clearly
11 going to devalue our property's potential. And we
12 just wanted to go on record that, you know, property
13 owners need individual attention, realignment needs
14 to be considered. And we aren't opposed to all the
15 benefits that it could bring to Eastern North
16 Carolina. I'm just not completely sure that
17 everything people think it's going to do it's going
18 to do.

19 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 12 is Cary
20 Rodgers.

21 MR. CARY RODGERS: Hello. My name is
22 Cary Rodgers. I'm a pastor. I'm also a committee
23 organizer for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense
24 League. And this is actually a negative process for
25 me, what I'm hearing today. I represent some of the

1 landowners who actually are affected by this
2 pipeline. I'm here to just give a few facts, what
3 we've actually researched ourselves. Yes, we've
4 also researched pipelines. And it's amazing for me
5 that, you know, we talk about all the benefits, but
6 this is not the golden egg, as people bring it out
7 to be. As a matter of fact, it's a dragon. A
8 dragon that's been around for many, many, many
9 years. And you talk about jobs, and we'll talk
10 about that in a little bit in terms of reality of
11 the job creation concerning this pipeline. That's
12 what I'm talking about, this pipeline.

13 First of all, looking at the
14 environmental factors, environmental impacts --
15 first of all, there is a acceptable leak rate.
16 Methane gas could leak into the ground, into our
17 water streams. And that can be that we have an
18 acceptable leak rate. We all know that pipelines do
19 leak. And this one is a high pressurized pipeline
20 and it will leak. And there is potential
21 explosions. So if I have a pipeline that's going
22 through my land and it's highly pressurized -- a
23 pipeline coming through my land it potentially can
24 explode. And to say it will not, it will never
25 happen, never say never. Also we know it would have

1 to go through streams and river beds, which will be
2 disruptive. There's 24/7 toxic air pollution from
3 our compressor stations, especially those in
4 Northampton. We understand that. The run basically
5 24/7. The construction of miles and miles of
6 natural forest and habitat that that have to be
7 displaced. But those are some of the environmental
8 factors that we need to break down here.

9 The next thing we need to look at is
10 the landowners. Let's get some facts here.

11 First of all, there will be a decreased
12 property value. When your value drops you may have
13 an inability to sell the land to somebody else.
14 They can't use it. You can't use it, I can't use
15 it. I can use it for very limited things. Also we
16 need to understand it may interfere with your
17 ability to get a mortgage or refinance based on
18 this. It also can restrict the use of property.
19 You can't -- as mentioned before you can only do
20 certain things.

21 Now, one thing that's really disturbing
22 is the compensation to the landowners. And I've
23 asked this question to Dominion and some Duke
24 representatives, so how much will I get compensated.
25 Now, how do I know if my -- my neighbor gets more or

1 less and how do you determine compensation. But the
2 reality is it's not a month to month compensation.
3 It's a one time payment plan. And you really have
4 nothing to compare it with. And it's not bringing
5 in -- I don't see it.

6 You keep talking about bringing taxes
7 to the local community. How is it bringing taxes to
8 the local community? And that's the question I want
9 to -- you know, that's the question I have because
10 it's -- you know, it's basically one time payments.
11 Once the pipeline is down how is it bringing in
12 jobs? The next thing is forcing the landowners
13 through construction hassles, especially if it's
14 going right down the middle of my property,
15 especially if it's going across my driveway or
16 something like that. Plus landowners have to pay
17 the taxes on it.

18 Now, I could see it if Duke and
19 Dominion, they chose to pay the taxes on it, the
20 chose to buy the property since they need it so
21 much.

22 Second of all, I'm forced to surrender
23 property via eminent domain. Now, this is America.
24 This is not a typical America. One of the main
25 reasons why we have the Declaration of Independence

1 is because we want to make sure we have control over
2 the property we own. And here it is that we can be
3 forced to surrender our property because a company
4 wants to make more money. It's not going to benefit
5 me, period. It's not a highway. It's a pipeline --
6 high pressure line pipeline that's mainly going to
7 benefit Duke Energy, period, not me.

8 Again, this is not the golden egg we're
9 talking about. The jobs -- let's talk about the
10 jobs. The majority of the jobs created is only
11 during the construction phase, which is just another
12 word for short term. So many of the skilled labor
13 -- skilled laborers are hired from outside your
14 community. Just like I talked to a person who was
15 actually a welder himself, several years experience.
16 He went -- not this particular pipeline, but another
17 pipeline that was being constructed. He said, hey,
18 I'm a welder. I've been a welder for many, many
19 years. They said, well, do you have such and such
20 and such and such. He said, well, no, not yet.
21 Well, we only hire those that have this experience
22 and we get them from Texas.

23 So it's not bringing the local jobs
24 that we were talking about. So the reality is the
25 permanent -- the permanent jobs are about 20 -- 20

1 permanent jobs. Wow, that's a big economic boom.
2 And you talk about 3,000 jobs being lost and 4,000
3 jobs being lost. This is not the pipeline that's
4 going to bring back those jobs. We can be more
5 creative in bringing back jobs with technology, we
6 can do it with energy, but this is not it.

7 Second of all, this pipeline is
8 basically a highway to support the fracking
9 infrastructure of North Carolina. We know North
10 Carolina is the major target right now of fracking.
11 We have not learned the lesson of other states. It
12 seems like we're putting our head in the sand like
13 nothing is happening. But the reality is this is
14 actually to support the destructive and dirty method
15 of extracting natural gas. In reality natural gas
16 is methane gas. It is still a fossil fuel. It's
17 not -- we pretend like it's some type of clean
18 energy and it's not clean energy and that's a
19 reality. It's cheaper, yes, but clean, no. It also
20 supports the large sum of natural gas coming from
21 the fracking sites. As a matter of fact, this
22 particular pipeline is coming from -- down from the
23 Marcellus Shale, one of the mother lodes of fracking
24 of the Pennsylvania area.

25 And we need to learn a lesson from New

1 York. New York banned fracking all together because
2 they've seen the light and they've seen what it can
3 do. And this is what supports the infrastructure.
4 And one the main things I know Atlantic Coast
5 Pipeline said, this is not for exportation for
6 fracking gas. They say that it's not. Well, this
7 is literally what they want to go out to the coast
8 to actually support exportation.

9 So really who it benefits is only gas
10 and utility companies. They're the main thing. It
11 is not the local community. That's reality.

12 And there's something else that I just
13 want to mention that I'm extremely, extremely
14 disappointed with FERC. Because the thing is, you
15 know, we like to organize -- our landowners want to
16 organize -- actually get together and actually -- so
17 we can come to meetings like this and speak our
18 minds, speak what the -- what the real deal is.

19 See, in reality if I had a two week
20 notice or at least three week notice we would have
21 had this auditorium filled. But it appears to me
22 that maybe -- I don't know who's running -- I don't
23 know who's running things down at FERC because just
24 like, you know, when the Harlem Globe Trotters are
25 coming to town we know two or three weeks in

1 advance. When the circus is coming in town we may
2 know at least a month in advance. But when FERC is
3 coming to town to talk about an issue that can
4 affect our livelihood, our land, and our rights I
5 get a two to three day notice.

6 MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: We got ours today.

7 MR. RODGERS: And some people today.

8 As a matter of fact, I know a landowner in
9 Northampton, she just got it today and her meeting
10 is Wednesday. So it appears to me that, you know,
11 we -- you know, when I walked up in here I saw
12 nothing but signs that said jobs, jobs, jobs, energy
13 -- great energy, clean energy. And the reality of
14 it is it's not clean energy.

15 Now, let's get the facts straight.
16 It's not clean. We know in some of these power
17 plants the formaldehyde rate will actually go up.
18 Like the Hamlet Plant in Richmond County. And that
19 came from an EPA report. It's not clean energy.
20 Solar is clean energy. Wind power is clean energy,
21 but natural gas is not clean energy, and I speak the
22 truth. And it's not bringing in the jobs.

23 And I just wish that you gave us an
24 opportunity to actually give you clear opposition,
25 or concern I should say, if you gave us a notice at

1 least two to three weeks in advance. I don't know
2 what your policies are in terms of connecting with
3 the landowners or how many days in advance we know.
4 I believe it is -- this is wrong, how you put it
5 together. But I just want to put it on the record
6 to let you know that we're upset about this.

7 So next time could you please give
8 us -- you know, give us at least two weeks so we
9 organize against this because, you know, I'll be
10 straight up with you, I don't want it, period. I
11 don't want the infrastructure here, period. This is
12 not the golden egg.

13 I really appreciate your time. Don't
14 take it personal, but God bless you.

15 MR. BOWMAN: The thirteenth speaker is
16 Katherine DeVoir.

17 MS. KATHERINE DEVOIR: My name is
18 Katherine DeVoir. I'm a native of Cumberland
19 County. I grew up in this area, went to high
20 school, graduated. I went to school at UNC, got a
21 degree there. I went to NC State and received a
22 degree in veterinary medicine, so I'm a veterinarian
23 now.

24 I have particular concerns about the
25 area of Gray's Creek School, the elementary school

1 in -- the primary school adjacent to us. Gray's
2 Creek School is located on School Road. The primary
3 school is located on Auburn Road. The proposed
4 pipeline, as it currently stands now, runs through
5 my neighborhood. And this is tract number 22365,
6 tract number 22367, and then towards my tracts,
7 which are 22371 and 372. I have about 90 acres of
8 farmland and woods.

9 But my concerns about the schools are
10 that this pipeline is running particularly close to
11 them. Not only that, in the event of a gas
12 explosion, which I am told by the -- the //, who is
13 also a lawyer, Mr. Buppert, that the blast radius of
14 a gas pipeline is 1100 square feet. That's a pretty
15 significant radius. But if there was a blast the
16 evacuation that would be required would be a much,
17 much larger area. The problems with the road, if
18 there is a blast you would have to take these
19 students out via the road. And the pipe will be
20 crossing School Road so if there's a blast there
21 you'd only have one exit there to get out. So it's
22 very limited if there was an evacuation and if there
23 was a such an explosion. I would ask that several
24 communities discuss not only the pipeline in this
25 area, but in other public facilities, whether

1 they're schools or whatever, along the path of the
2 pipeline to make sure people are safe. And suppose
3 there's a natural gas blast.

4 I just hope for the best for our area.
5 I appreciate your time. Thank you.

6 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. That is everyone I
7 have signed up to speak tonight. Is there anyone
8 else that would like to speak and share their
9 comments?

10 We'll need for you to spell your name
11 for the record.

12 MR. CLIFFORD BASTIEN: My name is
13 Clifford, C-L-I-F-F-O-R-D, last name is Bastien, B-
14 A-S-T-I-E-N. Because I received my notice so late
15 and I literally came in late to the meeting, and I
16 appreciate you allowing me to speak. At the first
17 the gentleman who spoke earlier, he told us that he
18 owns hundreds of acres of land -- farmland. But he
19 didn't say whether he lived on that land or not. He
20 may just be using that land for raising livestock or
21 whatever. But I happen to live on my land. And on
22 my land I have two easements already.

23 Duke Progress has a large transmission
24 line on my property. Piedmont Gas has a gas line on
25 my property. Now Atlantic wants to put a 36 inch

1 pipeline on it. That's going to render my property
2 useless. I am asking the commission, because of the
3 increased hazard to me because I live on that land,
4 that I should have the option of selling my property
5 to Dominion. Let them have it. They can have it
6 because I do not want to be exposed to all the
7 concerns that we have, an explosion or any gas
8 leakage. So I do not want for them to put a 36 inch
9 gas line on my property and walk away. And I'm
10 going to end up paying the taxes on my property year
11 after year forever. Whatever they give me as
12 compensation will not pay the taxes forever. Nor do
13 I want to live on the property worrying what's going
14 to happen the next day. I'm not going to fight them
15 over this easement, but I would like to sell my
16 property to them. Thank you.

17 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. Is there anyone
18 else that would like to speak? Okay.

19 Well then, I do want to apologize to
20 those that received their notices late, and I
21 appreciate that you came out here tonight on such
22 short notice. The project will be open if you want
23 some time until April 28th. We will continue to
24 accept comments that do come in after that time.
25 FERC will review those comments equally whether

1 they're submitted tonight or in writing, so --

2 So as I mentioned before, this meeting
3 is being recorded and will be placed in the public
4 record. The public record is available on the FERC
5 website, which is www.ferc.gov.

6 From that page you select the eLibrary
7 link and input the docket number, which is PF15 dash
8 6 and PF15 dash 5. You can use eLibrary to access
9 everything that the Commission does with this
10 project, as well as all of the filings and
11 information submitted by the applicant.

12 So on behalf of the Federal Energy
13 Regulatory Commission, I want to thank you for
14 coming tonight. This meeting is adjourned.

15 -----

16 Time is 8:02 p.m.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25