

SUPPLY HEADER PROJECTS

ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE PROJECT

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

March 11, 2015

William R. Davie Middle School
Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina

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1 ROANOKE RAPIDS - MARCH 11, 2015 -- 7:11 p.m.

2 MS. GERTRUDE JOHNSON: Good evening,
3 everyone. How are you?

4 On behalf of the Federal Energy
5 Regulatory Commission or the FERC or F-E-R-C, I
6 would like to welcome all of you tonight for your
7 public scoping meeting for the Atlantic Coast and
8 Supply Header Projects.

9 Can everyone hear me? We're really
10 having some huge auditoriums.

11 Let the record show that the public
12 scoping meeting in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina
13 began at 7:11 p.m. on March 11th, 2015.

14 My name is Gertrude Johnson and I am an
15 environmental field project manager with FERC's
16 Office of Energy Projects. Here with me tonight
17 representing FERC is Kevin Bowman, Jeff Mackenthun,
18 and Zeke Rice. Before we get started and for the
19 courtesy of everyone in the room please turn off or
20 silence your cell phones. Thank you.

21 We're here tonight to provide some
22 information on the federal process in relation to
23 the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply
24 Header Projects, and to hear your comments and
25 concerns about these projects.

1 Fundamentally, the purpose of tonight's
2 meeting is to provide each of you with an
3 opportunity to give us your comments and to tell us
4 what additional environmental issues you think we
5 should address in our analysis of the proposed
6 project. We've already received numerous comments
7 concerning the project, including alternatives,
8 which is one of the areas that we're seeking input
9 on from you guys.

10 We included affected landowners for
11 each of these alternatives on our mailing list or
12 the Notice of Intent. I don't have a copy, but it's
13 a hard stock cover and back cover that everyone
14 should have received with list of this meeting and
15 information about the project.

16 All of your comments will help us to
17 determine what to study as we prepare an
18 environmental impact statement or EIS for these
19 projects. The FERC is the lead federal agency
20 responsible for the Nation Environmental Policy Act
21 or NEPA review of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and
22 Supply Header Projects. And the FERC is the lead
23 agency for the preparation of the EIS.

24 NEPA requires FERC to analyze the
25 environmental impacts, consider alternatives, and

1 identify appropriate mitigation measures where
2 necessary on proposals before it makes any decision
3 on whether to approve or deny the project. The U.S.
4 Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's
5 Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the
6 US Army Corps of Engineers are currently cooperating
7 agencies in the preparation of the EIS. Additional
8 federal, state, and local agencies with special
9 expertise are welcome to cooperate as well.

10 I'd like to clarify that the proposed
11 project was not conceived by and is not promoted by
12 the FERC or the cooperating agencies. FERC reviews
13 applications for the authority to build and operate
14 interstate natural gas pipelines. And the Atlantic
15 Coast Pipeline, LLC, and Dominion Transmission,
16 Incorporated, are in the process of preparing
17 applications to submit to FERC. Once the
18 application is submitted our obligation is to review
19 that application or those applications and prepare
20 an analysis of the environment impacts.

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

1 Pipeline proposals sometimes encounter
2 objections. Some are general in nature and some
3 objections are based on potential environmental
4 impacts. Both categories are important to the FERC,
5 but they are addressed in different ways. General
6 objections to the project would be considered during
7 the Commission's public convenience and necessity
8 review, whereas environmental and safety impacts are
9 addressed by the FERC environmental staff in our
10 EIS.

11 On February 26th, 2015, the FERC issued
12 a Notice of Intent -- that hard back, front and back
13 mailing that I just referred to earlier -- a Notice
14 of Intent to prepare an EIS for the projects, which
15 also announced the locations of these meetings, how
16 to file comments, and the deadlines for getting
17 those comments to us. In the Notice of Intent it
18 asked that you submit comments to FERC by April 28,
19 2015. However, the end this scoping period is not
20 the end of public involvement, nor will it be the
21 only input opportunity for the projects. We will
22 continue to accept comments after the deadline and
23 throughout our review of this project. But for us
24 to adequately address your comments, analyze them,
25 and research the issues we ask that you try to get

1 those comments to us as soon as possible.

2 The Atlantic Coast and Supply Header
3 Projects are currently in our pre-filing process.
4 That is the applicants have not filed an application
5 with the FERC. And so we consider the pre-filing
6 process to be, amongst other things, an extension of
7 our scoping process. The scoping process is a
8 learning process. It is where we as FERC staff
9 educate ourselves about the project and the
10 potential issues and environmental impacts.

11 During this scoping process we are
12 gathering information. The four general sources
13 that we are using right now are: information
14 provided by the applicant; input from other federal,
15 state, and local agencies, our own field work and
16 research of different issues; and information from
17 the public.

18 Once we gather the information
19 developed during the scoping process and the
20 application is formerly filed by the applicant we
21 will analyze it and we will prepare a Draft
22 Environmental Impact Statement or EIS that we will
23 distribute for public comments. So everyone on our
24 mailing list will receive a copy of the Draft EIS.
25 This will include an examination of the proposed

1 facility locations, as well alternative sites. We
2 will assess the projects' effects on waterbodies and
3 wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, endangered
4 species, cultural resources, soils, land use, air
5 quality, safety, and cumulative impacts. We will
6 mail the EIS to our mailing list, so if you don't or
7 didn't receive our Notice of Intent in the mail make
8 sure you give us your address so we can include you
9 in those mailings. There are forms at the entrance
10 table that you can fill out if your address if you
11 haven't received mailings. The mailed version of
12 the Draft EIS will be a CD.

13 If you prefer to have a hard copy
14 mailed to you please indicate so on the form that
15 you can fill out to add your address to the mailing
16 list.

17 Now, if your address is already added
18 to the mailing list you can still on that form, or
19 in the Notice of Intent, return the mail -- on the
20 back of that notice check the box that says you'd
21 rather have a paper copy rather than the CD copy.

22 After the Draft EIS is mailed out there
23 will be a public comment period for you to give us
24 comments on this EIS. During that period we will
25 hold another public meeting similar in format to

1 this one. We will probably come back here to this
2 same facility, if it is available, and ask you to
3 comment on the information provided in the Draft
4 EIS.

5 At the end of that public comment
6 period we will begin organizing all the information
7 gathered to date and prepare the Final EIS,
8 addressing all of the comments that we've received
9 on the Draft EIS. What I might add is comments that
10 we receive during the scoping period -- during this
11 period of time, we're certain would be addressed in
12 the Draft EIS. So we would have a list of the
13 comments that we received during the scoping period
14 and address them in the applicable section of the
15 Draft EIS. At the end of that public comment
16 period we will begin organizing all the information
17 gathered to date and prepare a Final EIS. Once
18 we've issued the Final EIS it is forwarded to our
19 Commissioners for their consideration. I'd like to
20 remind everyone that the EIS itself is not the
21 decision making document. It's merely our analysis,
22 or FERC staff's analysis of the potential
23 environmental impacts of this project and the
24 alternatives.

25 Our five Commissioners at the Federal

1 Energy Regulatory Commission will use that document,
2 as well other information, to make a determination
3 on whether to grant or not grant authorization for
4 this project or not. The five Commissioners are
5 appointed by the president and confirmed by
6 Congress. Additional information about the
7 Commissioners can be found on our website at [www dot
8 ferc dot gov](http://www.ferc.gov).

9 On December 12, 2014, Atlantic Coast
10 Pipeline and Dominion filed preliminary information
11 with the FERC about their projects. According to
12 their filings, Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Dominion
13 are proposing two jointly related projects to
14 deliver 1 point 5 billion cubic feet of natural gas
15 per day to markets in West Virginia, Virginia, and
16 North Carolina. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline
17 facilities would consist of about 554 miles of
18 pipeline, ranging between 16 and 42 inches in
19 diameter, from Harrison County, West Virginia to
20 Robeson County, North Carolina. The project would
21 have smaller diameter pipeline laterals extending
22 from the main line, which would terminate in
23 Chesapeake and Brunswick County, Virginia. It would
24 also include three new compressor stations in Lewis
25 County, West Virginia; Buckingham County, Virginia;

1 tonight, we will also accept your written comments.
2 If you have comments or don't want to speak tonight
3 you may provide written comments on the comment
4 forms at the entrance table. You can drop those off
5 with us tonight or mail them at a later date. Be
6 sure to include the Project Docket number, which is
7 P as in Paul, F as in Frank 15 dash 6 and P as in
8 Paul, F as in Frank 15 dash 5. The comment forms
9 that we have at the entrance table do have those
10 docket numbers and the project name already on that
11 form that you can check off.

12 I also want to make sure that we
13 conduct this meeting, that we're here to hear your
14 comments, in a professional manner, so please
15 respect each speaker and refrain from any
16 interruptions, whether you agree with them or not.

17 The first speaker coming to speak is
18 Allen Purser.

19 MR. ALLEN PURSER: Hi there. Is that
20 close enough to the mic?

21 MS. JOHNSON: Can everyone hear?

22 MR. PURSER: My name is Allen Purser.
23 It's A-L-L-E-N P-U-R-S-E-R. I represent the Roanoke
24 Valley Chamber of Commerce and I'm chief executive
25 officer there. And this project is much needed in

1 the southeast. We have a great opportunity to
2 create common growth and we're hoping this pipeline
3 will help. I have a gas line that runs through my
4 property. And outside the little metal sign that
5 says, do not dig, that's the only effects I've ever
6 had, no safety issues, no problem with anything we
7 wanted to do on it.

8 America's infrastructure was built by
9 the World War II generation. And unfortunately,
10 it's degrading. And that's why we need projects
11 like this, to open up economic potential to Eastern
12 North Carolina and all of North Carolina. This
13 project is going to produce about 680 million
14 dollars in more additional economic activity for the
15 state, with more than 4,400 jobs, including 2,600
16 directly supported by the construction activities.
17 It's going to save North Carolinians a lot of money
18 in gas usage, but it's also going to open up
19 opportunities for manufacturing that needs gas, and
20 large quantities of gas to operate. We appreciate
21 the fact that they're doing it through Halifax
22 County because we are much needing to grow our tax
23 base, take the tax burden off of individuals and
24 companies. And they estimated in 2022 they're going
25 to pay \$629,000 -- \$629,600 in property tax. That's

1 huge and we need that, not only to help our schools
2 and our infrastructure in the county, but to avoid
3 higher taxes in an already impoverished area of the
4 state.

5 And so I -- my board of directors
6 approved a resolution and we're very much in favor
7 of having this project come through North Carolina.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. JOHNSON: The second speaker we
10 have is Gary Brown.

11 MR. GARY BROWN: Good evening. I am
12 Gary Brown. I'm the executive director of the
13 Northampton County Economic Development Commission.
14 And that's Northampton County, North Carolina. And
15 I speak tonight on behalf of the economic
16 development commission.

17 We have expressed the opinion that
18 promises -that this project promises to be a very
19 valuable and critically important asset to the
20 energy infrastructure in this region. We believe
21 that will strengthen the ability of public utilities
22 to provide reliable energy to residential and
23 commercial customers, and that the short and long
24 term economic benefit will we believe be very
25 meaningful. Certainly the jobs that come with

1 construction of the project will be meaningful,
2 likewise will be the growth of our tax base and the
3 benefits to the existing industry.

4 The Northampton County Economic
5 Development Commission -- I'm sorry, the Northampton
6 County Board of Commissioners have endorsed the
7 project by resolution. And you will hear from
8 Commissioner Barrett on that matter shortly.

9 Over the course of the days that we've
10 been involved in the project from early on I've had
11 the opportunity to talk with a lot of the landowners
12 in Northampton County who might be involved in -- in
13 the project. And they have posed questions, not
14 objections, all expressed interest, and some have
15 expressed support. They've come to understand the
16 farmers in Northampton County and along the route of
17 the pipeline will continue to be able to farm. They
18 posed questions about timber value and they've come
19 to understand -- most of them -- that Dominion and
20 the project partners have been sensitive to that,
21 and they understand that the long term growth of
22 timber is important from a farming perspective and
23 income perspective to those landowners. And we
24 understand that Dominion and the project partners
25 are likewise in the process of evaluating that

1 further and making plans to address that and to
2 compensate those landowners accordingly. They've
3 also acknowledged that throughout in their
4 conversations with Dominion representatives that all
5 of those have been courteous, considerate, and
6 demonstrated a very easy approach to project
7 planning. And they've been very sensitive to the
8 needs and concerns of landowners.

9 We are -- in short, the Northampton
10 Economic Development Commission echoes the
11 endorsement of our board of commissioners and
12 encourages favorable consideration of the proposed
13 pipeline. Thank you.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Our third speaker is
15 Marshall Cherry.

16 MR. MARSHALL CHERRY: Good evening. My
17 name is Marshall -- Marshall Cherry -- M-A-R-S-H-A-
18 L-L -- Cherry -- C-H-E-R-R-Y. I'm here tonight
19 speaking on behalf of Roanoke Electric Cooperative
20 and our 14,500 customers located in Northeastern
21 North Carolina. We have our service area obviously
22 in Halifax and in Northampton County.

23 The way we see this project is -- is
24 really one that provides a major economic
25 opportunity for our area. You know, when we thing

1 of things like broadening the tax base there's
2 opportunities to provide additional services and
3 create some room within our members' budget. We
4 obviously acknowledge that we're serving one of the
5 more critically challenged economic areas in the
6 State of North Carolina. And we see it from time to
7 time and our members ability -- inability at times
8 to -- to pay electric bills, to cover the services
9 that, you know, we're providing them. And so we see
10 this -- this project as one that can really be
11 supportive in holistically providing services, and
12 obviously helping our citizens in their households
13 to be able to sustain budgets, to do the things that
14 they need to do on a regular basis. So this
15 -- this definitely is one that can be an economic
16 arm boost to our economy and we definitely support
17 that.

18 Secondly, as an industry provider --
19 one of the local providers, in addition to Dominion,
20 in the area, we're all driven obviously to work
21 toward a cleaner environment in terms of providing
22 electricity to our customers. And so if it's not
23 for gas, our concept obviously is one that -- ones
24 that are renewable type standards we're all working
25 towards reaching with respect to providing services

1 -- the service that's known as electricity to our
2 citizens.

3 So with that being said, I'm on record
4 tonight, speaking on behalf of our board of
5 directors, endorsing the project and, of course,
6 anything that we can do to help.

7 MS. JOHNSON: The fourth speaker is
8 Troy Varnadoe. I'm sorry if I --

9 MR. TROY VARNADOE: Perfect. My name
10 is Troy Varnadoe -- V as in victory, A-R-N-A-D-O-E.
11 I live in Northampton County, North Carolina, in
12 Seaboard. I own two farms in Northampton County.
13 My home is on one of them. I already have a power
14 line from NC Power coming through my back yard -- a
15 major one. So -- and the proposed route of the
16 pipeline is my -- what I would like to discuss
17 about. And I realize that this is very beneficial
18 and I, as much as anybody, would like to have a
19 pipeline in here for the economic value of it. It's
20 just as most people here that are individual
21 landowners, you just don't want it in your back
22 yard. But, you know, it's got to be in somebody's
23 back yard, and I realize that.

24 And in the literature I received from
25 you all, it was said that the impact on wetlands is

1 one of the very big items that we have to take into
2 consideration in putting this in. My concern with
3 that is, is that when it gets behind my house that
4 is in the -- already a right of way at the power
5 line, but then it diverts and goes across a couple
6 of -- at least two other sensitive wetlands, instead
7 of maintaining its path on the existing power line.
8 I realize that would have changed some of the
9 engineering scopes of it, but engineering scopes can
10 be changed in everything done. It would have
11 minimized all of the environmental issues that are
12 coming up because you already have a right of way
13 here that's already cleared through any wetlands
14 that are there. It would have saved NC Power, in my
15 opinion, a lot of land clearing because you already
16 have a right of way. And I realize you'd have to
17 take a little more. And like the first gentleman
18 who spoke tonight said, you know, I don't have no
19 problem with it, you know, if it's there.

20 The same thing with the power line I
21 have there, I have no problem with it, and I would
22 have no problem with the gas line following the gas
23 -- I mean the gas line following the existing power
24 line. But when you have two of them behind your
25 house it's kind of takes a little bit of air out of

1 your -- you know, when I have two separate farms
2 eight miles apart and it goes through both of them
3 it kind of compromises your, you know, feelings for
4 the land you get. When you own land in a rural
5 county like that, people in a farming community and
6 other people here, you develop feelings for your
7 land. You hate to see it compromised in any sort of
8 way. And I know that we're going to take into
9 account all the environmental issues. If we would
10 have -- I believe if we would have engineered it out
11 maybe to try to follow the existing power line it
12 would have saved money in the long run for
13 everybody, and been a whole lot easier to pass
14 everybody's approval because the power line's there.
15 What's another 30 feet off to the side of it. And
16 you would have less friction in the power line
17 itself, following it because it is perfectly
18 straight.

19 And now you're putting in a substantial
20 amount of bends in the system. Clearing the land
21 would have been minimized and the cost of upkeep
22 because, you know, NC Power will have to upkeep the
23 right of way wherever it's put. It's a whole lot
24 cheaper to minimize one right of way instead of
25 two.

1 So -- but I appreciate your time and
2 thank you.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. The fifth
4 speaker is Cary Rodgers.

5 MR. CARY RODGERS: My name is Pastor
6 Cary Rodgers from Blue Ridge Environmental Defense
7 League. I'm here just to look at the other side,
8 again, so others can understand that we're talking
9 about real lives, real people. And we've been
10 talking about the benefits. And I think, you know,
11 that is fine to talk about the benefits of the
12 pipeline. But the reality is there's another side.
13 And I think we all need to understand the other
14 side. We talk about economic benefits, but it's not
15 as big as we are speaking, as others are talking
16 about how big these economic benefits are. So I'm
17 going to talk about -- bringing you today about the
18 environmental factors to take into consideration,
19 also some things the landowners need to take into
20 consideration, and the infrastructure itself and
21 what it supports.

22 And first of all, let's go ahead and
23 look at quickly environmental factors. As you may
24 already know as FERC, but others may not know, but
25 there is an acceptable leak factor. Methane gas,

1 that's what natural gas actually is. Methane gas
2 actually leaks into water -- ground water and
3 streams. But the main issue with that is how do you
4 clean up a -- a stream? What's the plan to clean up
5 a stream if there's an accident? Are there plans
6 actually put together? What are the plans of
7 putting -- what are the plans if the -- if it leaks
8 into water reservoirs and things like that?

9 Also we need to understand there are
10 potential explosions. You know, this high -- this
11 pressure -- this pipeline is 36 inches, high
12 pressure, and it can explode. So the reality is
13 what are the emergency plans put together for that?
14 Is that part of the -- is that all part of the EIS
15 planning, what have you, that the public can
16 actually see how you plan to deal with emergencies
17 like this? And never say it never happens because
18 it does happen. And we see those things in the
19 news.

20 Also we also know that it disrupts
21 springs and river beds, and so we're going to have
22 some destruction of the river beds and streams and
23 possible leaks there. For those sitting by the
24 compressor stations, especially Northampton, you
25 have 24/7 pollution running all the time to keep

1 that pipe -- that natural gas or methane gas down
2 the pipe. We have miles and miles of destruction of
3 natural habitat and natural forests that people need
4 to understand. And one thing that I just want to
5 mention again about the methane gas is that it
6 actually has to burn -- it actually, especially for
7 the power plant -- it actually burns or lets off
8 formaldehyde and benzene, which are very poisonous.
9 So the clean energy that we're talking about -- this
10 is not solar, this is not a wind -- wind turbine.
11 This is methane gas. It's still a fossil fuel and
12 it still pollutes. And everybody should understand,
13 so even though they call it natural, it doesn't mean
14 it is clean.

15 Some other things we need to take into
16 consideration, especially for landowners, is the
17 decreased property value, inability to sell. And
18 there's also decreased property value because you no
19 longer own that, plus you have a -- you don't have a
20 golden goose under your property. You don't -- it's
21 not really going to benefit you. It benefits maybe
22 a few -- a few industries, a few companies, mainly
23 Dominion and Duke. But the reality is now I'm the
24 landowner and I have a pipeline -- a dragon
25 underneath my property, and now I got to let

1 everyone know that wants to buy my house, hey, you
2 know, I do have this 36 inch pipeline underneath my
3 house. It's highly pressurized. It can actually
4 leak. Would you want to buy my house still.

5 Also we have -- people need to
6 understand the inability to get mortgages and
7 refinancing because of this. There are some
8 mortgages, there are some refinancing actually has
9 -- have in their stipulations about not able to
10 refinance a house because of a pipeline. And you
11 need to -- everyone needs to do research on that.
12 Plus you know, of course, you have restricted use of
13 the property where the pipeline is located. So in
14 other words, even though I'm still paying taxes on
15 the property itself, I can't use that part of it.
16 And I hear about, you know, how the community's
17 going to get benefits from the taxes, so why do I
18 have to continue to pay taxes on a pipeline -- I
19 mean on a piece of property I don't even own? I
20 own, I'm still paying for it, but I thought Dominion
21 and Duke is paying taxes too for -- to create all
22 these jobs and things like that, and all the money
23 and benefit everyone in the community.

24 Also we have little compensation for
25 the landowners. It's not -- again, it's not the

1 golden -- golden -- golden egg. Plus we have
2 constructions hazards. We're forced to surrender
3 property via eminent domain. And one thing when you
4 first drive into Halifax County, it says, this is
5 where independence was born. We don't have to lay
6 down and say, okay, you just take my property, you
7 just do what you want to do because it will benefit
8 everybody.

9 We need to get all the facts. And I
10 don't think anybody's given us all the facts.
11 They're talking like politicians. And we want to
12 know the facts. And as I did research, the facts --
13 there aren't the facts. In America today no private
14 company should be able to take eminent domain of my
15 property for their own profit. That's not American.
16 The reason why we declared independence from England
17 was because we had no representation. We wanted to
18 make sure we had our -- our property, our land, and
19 nobody could mess with it. And that's -- today
20 that's what's going on.

21 And the reality is short-term jobs --
22 we're talking about jobs, jobs, jobs, 4,000 jobs,
23 and this and that. That's only during the
24 construction phase. And they normally hire people
25 from the outside, not from the local communities

1 that really need the jobs. That's the reality. So
2 when you look at the Old Dominion site I think
3 there's around 15 jobs at the end. When it's all
4 said and done, 500 miles of pipeline is about 15 or
5 20 jobs. That's not a big economic boom. And
6 that's why everybody needs to research themselves to
7 understand.

8 And the last thing I'm going to talk
9 about is the infrastructure itself. This is
10 literally the highway to support the fracking
11 infrastructure, which is devastating in and of
12 itself, and which community after community up --
13 and especially in Pennsylvania the pipeline comes,
14 goes to Marcellus Shale to give cheap gas. That's
15 the bottom line for these utility companies. They
16 want cheap gas, not to lower your utility bill, but
17 to give more profit in their pockets. That's
18 reality. They're not going to say, well, because
19 we've got this cheap gas we're going to lower your
20 bill by 50 percent. And we don't want to -- you
21 know, as a consumer myself, I don't want to be
22 deceived in thinking that they're thinking that at
23 all. So this whole pipeline, it actually supports
24 the destructive and dirty method of extracting this
25 methane gas or natural gas, and it supports a large

1 sum of natural gas coming from that fracking site up
2 in Marcellus Shale. And again, only the gas
3 companies benefit. And we already know this
4 infrastructure is set up for fracking here in North
5 Carolina. It's set up -- this highway is going to
6 be set up to the coast, and we all know it's for
7 exporting this natural gas for the big business.

8 But anyway, I really appreciate your
9 time and thank you very much.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Our sixth
11 speaker is J. Rives Manning.

12 MR. J. RIVES MANNING: Good afternoon.
13 I thank you very much for holding this. My name is
14 J. Rives -- that's R-I-V-E-S Manning, Jr. I live in
15 Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, in Halifax County.

16 I'm a property owner and farm land, and
17 I don't like right of ways. They disrupt your
18 property, but it's -- the gas is in Pennsylvania and
19 it needs to get to South Carolina or Robeson County,
20 North Carolina. And the only way to get it there is
21 by a transmission line, so I know the facts.

22 The problem is, as I understand it, the
23 compression stations that you talked about, one in
24 North Carolina -- in Northampton County and one in
25 Johnston County, and there won't be any in between.

1 As I understand it also, the industry is not going
2 to be able to tie in to this transmission line and
3 pull gas off to go to Hobgood or Scotland Neck or to
4 Littleton. They would have to come off at that
5 compression station or put a compression station in,
6 or sub station. And we've been told that it's over
7 a million dollars tap on fee to put in a tap.

8 Well now, folks, if we go out and
9 solicit industry to come in here -- new industry
10 they're going to want utilities, including gas. We
11 don't have it already, so we're going to have to get
12 it. We're going to have to put in a tap. This is
13 going to cost the present property owners of Halifax
14 County money to pay that tap fee. FERC is in a
15 position to tell the transmission line folks, okay,
16 these counties don't have a tap, you furnish it at
17 no cost to the counties. That's the only way
18 economic development is going to benefit the people.
19 And FERC is the one that can put these strings on
20 them.

21 Halifax County cannot, the property
22 owners cannot, but you have -- you're in the
23 driver's seat.

24 I think that we had a situation that
25 when they approached property owners -- let me --

1 let me back up. I own property. This gas line will
2 not go through my property. And I also am a Halifax
3 County Commissioner. I was elected by the people.
4 But I'm trying -- I have had dealings with gas lines
5 in the past. I have one that goes across one of my
6 pieces of property, so I'm familiar with situation.
7 It's been there for a number of years through farm
8 land and it's never caused a problem. But -- so I
9 know what the right of way is. I know what the gas
10 lines do and that sort of thing. But I think that
11 the proposal, when they went to the landowners and
12 said, I want a 400 foot right of way here. The
13 land's going to be 400 foot. It will be somewhere
14 in there. It may be 50 to 75 feet, but we're going
15 to take 400 foot.

16 Now, let's represent it the way it's
17 supposed to be. If they want 75 feet then tell
18 folks, okay, it's going to be 75 foot and it's going
19 to be here. That's the way it's got to be
20 presented. And they have not, as I understand it,
21 presented it that way. I don't think it's been
22 presented that way to the county because it does go
23 across one of the county farms. And so I'm a little
24 bit familiar there.

25 But yes, the gas line is going to come.

1 I have no problem. I understand, it's going to
2 come. Do I like it? No. I don't like the right of
3 ways, the idea. But I want lower priced gas, to
4 make it available for industry, for businesses. But
5 the gas line, per se, is not going to add these
6 \$600,000 to Halifax County. It's going to be on
7 these supplemental businesses that are able grow and
8 they're going to be taxed. I don't think that this
9 gas line, that 36 inch pipe is going to pay \$600,000
10 in tax -- in property taxes to the county.

11 So my main point here is please make
12 these taps available, one to two, in any town if it
13 does not have a substation already established at no
14 cost to the county. And that will help all the
15 people. Thank you very much. I appreciate your
16 time.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Our seventh
18 speaker is Valerie Williams.

19 MS. VALERIE WILLIAMS: Good evening.
20 I'm Valerie Williams -- V-A-L-E-R-I-E W-I-L-L-I-A-M-
21 S. I am POA for my mom, Mary W. Williams; my dad,
22 Oscar Williams, is just deceased. I am here as a
23 representative -- representing us as landowners, and
24 also as president and founder of two 501c3.

25 I have written my letter, but I just

1 got my information on Monday, but I'm still thankful
2 that I received the information we've been talking
3 about. I've not had time to respond so I would like
4 to share some of my concerns. And I'm truly
5 thankful for this opportunity to share some
6 concerns. Well, I'm thankful for several reasons.

7 I am against the pipeline coming
8 through our property, and it's because for the last
9 two years I've been working and getting training and
10 planning and studying with the North Carolina
11 Association of PPC to prepare myself as a developer,
12 because my former career was as an educator. My
13 main mission for my 501c3, Action Community
14 Empowerment, Incorporated, is to -- is to develop.
15 As a developer I wanted to develop my very own
16 properties, after working and helping others with a
17 couple of project development.

18 So I was very frustrated and still am
19 very emotionally disturbed that now our properties,
20 which are off the beaten path -- it's a path that
21 was only paved late 1990 -- about 1999. But it's a
22 mile off the main highway. It's a beautiful place.

23 My main mission is to establish
24 facilities and maintain them for my programs and our
25 programs are all helping programs. They're programs

1 to mainstream adults back into society. Excuse me,
2 I have allergies. To help with juvenile
3 delinquency, to help the elderly and senior
4 citizens, to do community development and economic
5 development. Those will bring in several jobs, as
6 well as working with teenage pregnancy, among other
7 things.

8 And so I wanted to deal with the low
9 income housing and programs. I have a program that
10 I call Lydia House. It's to help our abused and
11 neglected women. And our place will provide that
12 secrecy, a safe haven. A men's program called Hints
13 of God, that would deal with their problems, the
14 fatherless, the motherless, the homeless. So now I
15 feel that terrorists -- we're concerned about
16 immigrants trespassing, but I feel like we have had
17 trespassing going on right here in our towns in
18 America all the time.

19 I have put into letter several sites
20 that can be visited for proof of my 501c3. And like
21 I said earlier, the farm is the location for my
22 business. And my original concern is about the
23 Beaver Dam Swamp that runs the line of our property.
24 It's a historic blue line tributary. And I was very
25 concerned that that would be disturbed because it

1 has beautiful swamp flowers, arms of water coming
2 off that run about 35 feet wide, just a beautiful
3 place. We call it an oasis. But anyway to -- I
4 wanted to offer a campsite and I wanted to offer off
5 grid homesteading for children, provide ample
6 tourism. I've already gotten our place established
7 by the National Wildlife Federation as a wildlife
8 habitat farm, so I wanted to offer bird watching,
9 butterfly watching. I want to help protect the
10 Monarch butterfly, in addition to wild game
11 watching. I think that's something that children
12 need to enjoy. Many don't see a deer or a rabbit or
13 a squirrel, and they can come here and see that, and
14 still experience what it is to see peanuts growing
15 on a farm. And I've also shared in the letter an
16 additional site that -- where you can get additional
17 information about my project.

18 But my true position, I didn't want to
19 share at this point, but it could mean saving our
20 farm and to keep this pipeline from coming through,
21 was to build a 20-story high rise. Now, it's
22 future, but it's planned. And that was for helping
23 people worldwide. I did not understand my vision
24 from the beginning, but since Katrina and what
25 happened in Haiti, New Jersey, with the Sandy --

1 Hurricane Sandy, it's a place to bring people when
2 they are displaced or -- or they need to relocate
3 when they are displaced. So I wanted to bring
4 people to a safe haven when they could learn to
5 sustain for their future, for the future of their
6 children. But right now I'm feeling like all of
7 that's threatened.

8 And I want to say that I don't care
9 personally when I look at the news I feel like we're
10 not taking 360 degree look at this project. I think
11 we need to look at the entire project, especially at
12 a time when we have threats of nuclear war. I look
13 at a map on the internet and I've added the site
14 here, [www dot pipeline dot 101](http://www.pipeline101.com). It gives all the
15 pipeline, shows in red all the pipelines in America.
16 And I believe we have enough so I'm going to say no
17 to pipeline for the safety of America. I also feel
18 like what happened to a government of the people,
19 for the people, and by the people. And what -- why
20 does eminent domain take precedence over private
21 homes' property. And because I feel that way I
22 think it's imminent I am -- I am like that, you
23 know, when all these drastic weather conditions
24 happen we can't be guaranteed or assured that we
25 won't have explosions, these leaks that would

1 destroy America on a large scale.

2 So I believe if you look closely at
3 this project and the way it is worldwide with the
4 treat that we'll receive with what's going on and
5 knowing that we had a earthquake in Richmond 2011,
6 which affected the Capitol and the monument, and
7 they were upright. Think of a pipeline that's in
8 the ground, you know? We can't be assured or
9 guaranteed that drastic will not happen.

10 So I just want to end by saying that
11 this farm has been in our family for nearly a
12 century and that during the time of desegregation it
13 was a safe haven for us, my family because it was
14 off the beaten path. It's provided us with food and
15 shelter, recreation and water. And I want to do
16 that for the clients that we serve. I want to
17 provide them with a safe haven, a natural habitat.
18 As I said, I'm doing the off grid. I dug two little
19 four inch diameter wells myself, have my pumps all
20 ready. I want the children to know and understand
21 what it was to provide its own water to take a bath,
22 because that just might be our future again with the
23 pipeline. Thank you so much and no more pipelines.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Our eighth
25 speaker is Rick Gilstrap.

1 MR. RICK GILSTRAP: Good evening. Rick
2 Gilstrap -- R-I-C-K G-I-L-S-T-R-A-P. And I'm
3 representing Halifax County Economic Development
4 Commission. We're in favor of the pipeline.

5 This is a nice facility we have here.
6 I hadn't been in this auditorium, but it really
7 shows well.

8 I'm going to read a resolution so that
9 I do not miss any sums or amounts. This is the
10 resolution of the Board of Directors of the Halifax
11 County Economic Development Commission supporting
12 the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

13 "Whereas, the proposed Atlantic Coast
14 Pipeline will provide a critically important new
15 route for the abundant natural gas that comes from
16 the Appalachian Region, Marcellus, and Utica Shale
17 Basin to reach most of the southeast, including
18 North Carolina.

19 "And whereas, the path of the project
20 will pass directly through Halifax County along the
21 Interstate 95 Corridor.

22 "And whereas, access of reliable and
23 reasonably priced natural gas supplies will be a
24 fundamental requirement for many modern business
25 operations, especially manufacturing.

1 "And whereas, the expanded available of
2 this clean environmental fuel will greatly enhance
3 the ability of Halifax County to recruit new
4 businesses and provide additional employment
5 opportunities for the people of our locale.

6 "And whereas, the pipeline will provide
7 other significant benefits to our locality and its
8 residents, including greater stability and energy
9 costs for electricity, home heating, and commercial
10 heating, as well as the important new tax revenues
11 to help support our community services.

12 "And whereas, even before the pipeline
13 begins operations its construction will generate the
14 potential economic activities and create needed new
15 jobs throughout most of North Carolina, including
16 Halifax County.

17 "And whereas, the project will help
18 protect the environment by furnishing additional
19 supplies of this clean burning lower emissions fuel
20 to electric utilities for power generation.

21 "And whereas, the Halifax County
22 Economic Development Commission // as the
23 partnership consisting of Dominion and Duke Power,
24 and Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources will
25 build and operate the pipeline in an efficient,

1 safe, and environmentally safe manner.

2 'Now, therefore, be it resolved that
3 the Board of Directors of the Halifax County
4 Economic Development Commission of Halifax County,
5 North Carolina, expresses its support for the
6 Atlantic Coast Pipeline and respectfully ask that
7 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve
8 the project after a timely and comprehensive review
9 of this proposal."

10 Thank you.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Our ninth speaker is Hope
12 Taylor.

13 MS. HOPE TAYLOR: I'm Hope Taylor -- H-
14 O-P-E T-A-Y-L-O-R. I'm the executive director of
15 Clean Water for North Carolina, which is a statewide
16 environmental justice organization. And we are at
17 least as concerned about the environmental health,
18 safety, and social justice for the people in North
19 Carolina as we are for protecting those natural
20 resources.

21 We see this pipeline as an extremely
22 expensive and shortsighted project that will be of
23 limited benefit to all but a few people for a
24 relatively short period of time. It will, as
25 pointed out by other speakers, bring fracked gas

1 from the Utica and Marcellus Shale formations. And
2 in so doing, will cause even more rapid emissions of
3 methane, which there's now a growing consensus that
4 that may -- may actually accelerate climate change.
5 And I would point out that no place in North America
6 really is as vulnerable to sea level rise and
7 violent storms as is Eastern North Carolina. So
8 that is a very global concern, that it could have a
9 local impact here in North Carolina.

10 I also am very concerned about the late
11 notice. We have members in at least six of the
12 eight counties through which this pipeline would
13 pass. And we have heard that some of them have
14 gotten notice as late as the day of these hearings
15 for participation. So that needs to be looked at
16 very hard in terms of the responsibility for doing
17 that notice and some compensatory opportunities.
18 And we are trying to get the information out to get
19 more public comments in letter form and on your
20 internet site as well.

21 The Department of Energy and EPA
22 project only very modest increases in the need for
23 natural gas. And I put need in quotes because that
24 is based on the projections from the Clean Power
25 Plan, which we also see as relatively shortsighted,

1 directing power plants electrical reduction
2 primarily towards natural gas to reduce certain
3 types of emissions, given that there are those
4 methane emissions associated in the -- in the whole
5 life cycle of methane that can increase climate
6 change.

7 Despite the fact that those increases
8 needed for the EPA's Clean Power Plan are pretty
9 moderate, we have seen estimates that FERC is the
10 process of permitting five times the capacity
11 actually needed to meet that Clean Power Plan
12 capacity, in terms of pipelines to provide gas for
13 power plants. This is -- it seems to me that there
14 is a real problem with FERC and it does not have the
15 responsibility to actually require a demonstration
16 of the need for the pipeline. At the same time,
17 we're looking at a pipeline that will, in fact, be
18 financed by rate payers. As a for profit utility,
19 the companies that are building this pipeline will
20 have a guaranteed greater return on the investment
21 in this project. So unless it can be demonstrated
22 to provide public benefit there's going to be an
23 added cost to rate payers as well.

24 So we're concerned about the
25 information propoganda, I would say, about jobs and

1 economic development that's being sent to public
2 officials and the public in order to generate
3 support. We feel it's an exaggeration in terms of
4 the total economic benefit to communities in this
5 area. We are very concerned about wetlands impact
6 along the way. And having challenged some 401 water
7 quality certifications, we know how inadequate the
8 notice by our own state agency of those 401
9 certifications. And we're going to want to be
10 involved and we know it's not going to be easy.
11 We've been told that supposedly their permits are
12 going to in place by October. That's going to
13 involve some major permitting and real problems with
14 notification to the public.

15 We are very deeply concerned about
16 compressor stations. We have a staff member here in
17 Northampton County and many friends here. We are
18 concerned about the fossil and toxic air emission
19 from the compressor stations, the 24/7 noise, so
20 this is going to be an environmental injustice over
21 and above the health and safety factors of the
22 pipeline itself.

23 So thank you very much for your -- the
24 time to speak to you about these concerns, and we
25 hope you'll be open to many others too. We'll send

1 more comments later.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Our next
3 speaker is Michael Wray.

4 MR. MICHAEL WRAY: My name is Michael
5 Wray, W-R-A-Y. I'm state representative for Halifax
6 and Northampton Counties and I'm here tonight to
7 support the project. I've had many conversations
8 with Congressman Butterfield, State Senator Erwin
9 Smith Ingram, and State Senator Angela Bryant, which
10 represents both Halifax and Northampton Counties.

11 We support the project for economic
12 development for Eastern North Carolina and our
13 communities. And we have some concerns.

14 And the concerns we have and want to
15 address is we want to make sure that Dominion, Duke
16 Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas goes out in our
17 communities and assures and can prove to our people
18 and our communities the questions that they have to
19 answer. If one person calls we expect them to meet
20 with those persons, one person or any group. We
21 just want to make sure the citizens are educated.
22 We want to make sure the meetings are adequately
23 advertised. You know some of our mail -- whatever
24 it takes, we want to make sure our citizens -- if
25 people have to go door to door in the community and

1 talk to people and educate them and make sure.

2 Our county commissioners in both
3 counties support this project. The economic
4 development group supports it. We support it, but
5 we want to make sure that it's friendly for the
6 environment. We want to protect our environment for
7 our future, but also we want to have opportunities
8 for our people to have opportunities for natural
9 gas, opportunities for growth and economic
10 development, and also opportunities for our children
11 and our future. We don't want to do anything to
12 harm our future because that's what life's about and
13 that's what we need.

14 We also would like to make sure that
15 FERC, whenever you -- I think tonight you can see
16 the citizens are here. There's more citizens that
17 need to be here. But I don't know -- I think you
18 mailed invitations or -- I don't know, but I got the
19 information by internet. But again, we need to make
20 sure that we adequately get the information to the
21 people.

22 And again, we thank you for taking time
23 to be here, but again, we ask you to be transparent,
24 get the information out to the people, answer their
25 questions, whatever it takes. We thank you for the

1 opportunity to speak.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Our next
3 speaker is Mike Marlowe.

4 MR. MIKE MARLOWE: I also attended last
5 night's meeting that was in Wilson. The short
6 notice of these meetings is actually kind of very
7 sad. The turnout here is just about as pathetic as
8 last night's meeting. There's not enough of the
9 public that is aware of these meetings, that's not
10 even aware of the pipeline itself. There are very
11 minimum citizens that are aware of the pipeline
12 project at all. The pipeline -- I'm from Wilson. I
13 live in Sims. The pipeline is proposed to be about
14 300 yards off my back door, which also goes through
15 wetlands and past my daughter's elementary school.
16 So as far as protecting our future and our children,
17 being near a elementary school, as well as in the
18 area of an elementary school and a middle school
19 there. It's a little too close for comfort.

20 I know the politicians are endorsing
21 this project and have spoken with senators and
22 congressmen and county commissioners. They're not
23 speaking with the public. They're not speaking
24 with the citizens. They're not speaking with the
25 voters.

1 There's -- what the proposed route
2 through these small towns as -- to try and keep it
3 quiet. They don't notify the people. My town hall
4 meeting got information on Monday morning, you know,
5 and -- and that's just kind of ridiculous for a 36
6 inch pipeline with 700,500 PSI pipe. You have your
7 car fire, that's 34 PSI. This is a lot of pressure.
8 This is a great big deal.

9 The shortest distance between two
10 points is straight on. What's wrong with the I-95
11 corridor? It's already cleared. There's plenty of
12 room there. You don't have to cut through people's
13 farms. You don't have to go by schools. You don't
14 have to go through residential neighborhoods. The
15 neighborhood that I live in has 45 plus school age
16 children. None of these people are happy to hear
17 about this pipeline.

18 As far as the economic growth and the
19 jobs, those statistics have varied from 15 to 5,500.
20 Where they're getting these numbers, I have no
21 idea.

22 Now, I know Wilson County, they're
23 doing a re-evaluation of tax assessments this year.
24 This is supposed to raise our tax value and lower
25 our property value. I just signed into a 30-year

1 mortgage. I'm not happy about this pipeline going
2 through my neighborhood, as well as you wouldn't
3 be.

4 I also live within a mile, as the crow
5 flies, of a rock quarry. When I sit in my living
6 room I can feel blasts when they do blasting. Like
7 I said, this pipeline's supposed to be 300 yards off
8 of my back door. What is the impact there? I just
9 don't feel it's safe. The other explosions and
10 catastrophic events that have had high property
11 value and loss of life, like for granted -- for
12 instance, they're not new pipelines. This is going
13 to be a new pipeline, but like I said, I will be in
14 home for at least the next 30 years.

15 Last night's meeting I happened to
16 attend, there was a group of people. I don't know
17 who they were from, whether they're from Dominion or
18 FERC, but every person that spoke, they google
19 searched them, looked them up on Facebook. I have a
20 page on Facebook to stop the pipeline through Wilson
21 County. I had two new views on that last night.
22 And there's also another page that's, stop the NC
23 pipeline. I'm not real tech savvy, so the page that
24 I have is not set up real good. But I'm here to
25 inform people as best I could.

1 And I would like FERC or Dominion or
2 our politicians or local government to inform the
3 people, because like I said, tonight's turnout is
4 pathetic, the amount of people. This room should be
5 full for this -- for the situation at hand.

6 And that's all I have. Thank you.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Our next
8 speaker is Ivan Mosley. Mr. Mosley's not here?
9 We'll move along.

10 Our next speaker is Cathy Scott.

11 MS. CATHY SCOTT: Good evening. My
12 name Cathy Scott. I am the Director of Economic
13 Development in Halifax County.

14 And I believe this Atlantic Coast
15 Pipeline Project will be a chance of growth for
16 Halifax County and its citizens. I do believe that
17 it will create really significant jobs for the --
18 during the construction of the pipeline and the
19 significant new revenue for the state and local
20 government in North Carolina. The expanded source
21 will help fuel economic development across this
22 area. We're -- in North Carolina -- the State of
23 North Carolina is served primarily by only one major
24 interstate pipeline. And this new source will help
25 provide large scale supplies from different sources

1 in our state, and particularly benefit Eastern North
2 Carolina.

3 The availability of this infrastructure
4 and the pipeline capacity is a game changer for the
5 economy of Eastern North Carolina. Thank you. And
6 that's Cathy with a C. Thank you.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Our next speaker is John
8 Chaffee.

9 MR. JOHN CHAFFEE: Thank you very much.
10 You were close. I pronounce it Chaffee, but many of
11 my relatives do pronounce it Chaffee. It's spelled
12 C-H-A-F-F as in Frank -E-E as in Edward, first name
13 John with an H.

14 I'm a resident of Greenville, North
15 Carolina. I found out about this hearing as a
16 result of reading my local newspaper a little over a
17 week ago. So I appreciate the fact that you're
18 getting the notice out to somebody and that some
19 media, in fact, are taking the time to publish that
20 information. I think that is very important to make
21 sure people have adequate notification of these
22 types of meetings.

23 A bit about me. I'm a bit of a oddity
24 in a sense. I'm sensitive to environment issues.
25 I'm one of those that drive the hybrid vehicle. I'm

1 an avid recycler and I'm a composter. I've
2 insisted on saving the maximum number of trees on my
3 house lot when I built my new house. That was about
4 15 years ago. So I have some degree of sensitivity
5 about environmental concerns.

6 But I also happen to be an individual
7 that's been involved in local economic development.
8 I've been in economic development for approximately
9 38 years, most of that time in Eastern North
10 Carolina. I know the circumstances in terms of
11 which we've actually had opportunities to recruit
12 new companies, and we were not able to do so because
13 we had a lack of available natural gas in the
14 pipelines that currently serve Eastern North
15 Carolina. We're at the tail end of the pipeline.
16 And that means any time in terms of the winter we're
17 the -- we're the first ones to be able to suffer
18 from decreased pressure in the lines, which means
19 our industries are the first ones to be cut off and
20 curtailed in operations. Number one, that throws a
21 hardship on the companies we already have, and it
22 certainly is an impediment to be able to recruit new
23 companies.

24 Again, I've done this for 38 years.
25 I've done it in Eastern North Carolina, mostly in

1 Greenville, North Carolina, but I know in terms of
2 the plight that those exist down beyond us, down
3 east like Washington and Beaufort County and what
4 they've faced.

5 So in that respect, in terms of if I'm
6 in favor of this pipeline to bring a new source of
7 natural gas to Eastern North Carolina, I have faith
8 in the folks at Piedmont Natural Gas, that they're
9 going to tap into this line. We've had that
10 conversation. So that will mean new gas that will
11 run through the pipelines of North Carolina --
12 excuse me, Piedmont Natural Gas. It shows how old I
13 am because I go to back to when they were North
14 Carolina Natural Gas. But Piedmont Natural Gas in
15 terms of our current service provider.

16 I think it's important to remember that
17 this is the safest way to transport natural gas, is
18 through a pipeline, not over the roads, not by rail,
19 but in a pipeline. I think it's still very
20 important that FERC and all the other federal
21 regulatory agencies to give adequate review to
22 ensure that it has minimal environmental impact to
23 the people of Eastern North Carolina and the people
24 from which this gas comes.

25 But we do need reliable energy --

1 reliable sources of energy and funding natural gas
2 is important to us. I think it's important in terms
3 that we look at this as a good transition from coal
4 to a cleaner energy source, and natural gas provides
5 that cleaner energy source to power -- to run our
6 power -- to fuel our power plants.

7 I think it's interesting in terms of
8 safety is that, yes, there are still issues
9 associated with carbon from natural gas, but it's a
10 better alternative to what we've had in the past.
11 And anybody that's read the newspapers of late, they
12 know in terms of what the potential for coal does.
13 And this is a good first step.

14 I certainly hope you will continue to
15 evaluate all available fuel sources and sources of
16 energy as we move forward as a country and as a
17 state. I'm proud of the fact that our state has
18 adopted alternative energy standards that encourages
19 the development of alternative energy. But I still
20 realize the need for things like natural gas to
21 power our plants and to support our manufacturing
22 facilities.

23 The jobs that come, my understanding is
24 in terms of the primary contractor will be required
25 by the ACP to subcontract as much of this work as

1 possible so that local contractors, and therefore
2 local people, could benefit from the jobs to be
3 created by this pipeline while it's under
4 construction. But I think the bigger opportunity
5 for Eastern North Carolina is that it will finally
6 remedy those limiting factors that's held us back in
7 terms of seeing really good quality job growth, and
8 new manufacturing activities and other types of
9 facilities. We've already been contacted by someone
10 or an organization that -- with anticipation of this
11 pipeline coming, will think about alternative fuel
12 vehicles in terms of natural gas power. And I think
13 that's a good alternative to what we face today in
14 terms of gasoline powered or diesel powered
15 automobiles.

16 The other element I wish to state is
17 that I'm familiar with the economics. I know
18 they're one of the organizations that has contracted
19 to deal with all the economic impact of this
20 pipeline. And I trust in terms of what they do.
21 I'm familiar with their work. I've actually
22 contracted with them for work in the past. And I
23 think they're a source of good reliable information.
24 So I hope in terms of the people in the audience and
25 those beyond will take time to be able to read

1 through those documents and judge for themselves
2 what the economic impact of this pipeline would
3 be.

4 It's difficult to be able to project
5 out, but I think one -- speaking from experience, is
6 that you do know that when you limited energy or
7 limited access to transportation those are
8 impediments to growth. And we've suffered from that
9 in Eastern North Carolina. I think this is one of
10 those opportunities for us to be able to remedy a
11 circumstance that has been a limitation on the
12 growth and development of Eastern North Carolina
13 providing good jobs for people that reside here.

14 Thank you very much and I appreciate
15 you holding this event.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Our next speaker is
17 Belinda Joyner.

18 MS. BELINDA JOYNER: Good evening. And
19 that's B-E-L-I-N-D-A J-O-Y-N-E-R. I am a citizen of
20 Northampton County, also the northeastern organizer
21 for Clean Water for North Carolina. And I sat here
22 this evening and heard a lot of different things. I
23 was born in North Carolina, but had the opportunity
24 to move away for about 19 years. I always wanted to
25 come back home to what I thought would be peaceful

1 living. Quite contrary. We talk about economic
2 development and we talk about tax base, but my
3 question is who really profits. I live in one of
4 the poorest counties in North Carolina, which is
5 Northampton County, where in a 20 or 30 mile radius
6 we only have one grocery store. So, you know, it's
7 amazing how our representatives and our economic
8 developers and our commissioners can promote a
9 pipeline to come through that will give some people
10 a temporary job until it's built, because they're
11 going to bring professionals in. I can't build a
12 pipeline if I don't know anything about a pipeline,
13 so they're going to have to bring somebody there to
14 train me how to do it.

15 So when you talk about jobs, how many
16 jobs and for how long? We need economic development
17 that will be there for the people of the county,
18 where our children working after school won't have
19 to go to Halifax County to get a job because we
20 don't have anything in Northampton County.

21 I'm looking and I'm just leafing over
22 some information that I got from you all out at the
23 community college about the dangers of a pipeline.
24 And my concern is the citizens of Northampton County
25 and their safety. You know, we talk about economic

1 development, but what about the citizens that's
2 going to be directly impacted by this pipeline?
3 It's like the gentleman said, it might be 30 feet
4 behind his house. We got a substation. Who mans
5 these substations or compressor stations? Who's in
6 charge? Who's sees to them or, you know, monitors
7 them that they -- to see if they're running
8 properly? And then I read about a process that, you
9 know, I guess cleans the pipes out and -- but who's
10 inspecting them? How -- how often is this done?

11 So these are the things that we need to
12 look at. And then I'm looking over here where it
13 says, can compressor stations cause vibrations at
14 your house. And it says they can as if helicopter
15 is flying over, the vibrations that you hear. I
16 mean if I'm in my home what kind of -- I mean do I
17 want this noise? Do I want this vibration in my
18 house at night? Then they talk about the drilling,
19 the noise, and all this. My thing is these people
20 that, you know, promote these different jobs, and I
21 guess somebody's got to it, and I'm -- you know, I'm
22 not mad with them. But my thing is how close do
23 they live to a compressor station.

24 I will guarantee you that anybody that
25 works with Dominion and all these other pipelines, I

1 bet you they don't live in a 100 mile radius of
2 these pipelines that they're running through other
3 people's property.

4 So my thing is we need to stop and
5 think about the community. Some people don't have
6 an opportunity if they're not satisfied with what's
7 coming into their community to get up and be able to
8 move because of the hazards that's involved for
9 them. Like I said, we're a poor county. This is
10 Northampton, Halifax County. If you look at the
11 statistics, we're some of the poorest counties in
12 North Carolina. So when these things are dumped in,
13 and I say dumped because, you know, since I've been
14 back we've been fighting and I call my community the
15 dumping ground because I'm right off I-95, so
16 everything conceivable comes off I-95, and here we
17 are. I have the opportunity. I can move if I would
18 like to, but I don't want to because that is my
19 home. The community where I live and the people
20 that I know, people that I grew up with, I live in a
21 safe community. I don't have to worry about a
22 burglar or somebody coming to my community because
23 everybody around me, we grew up as children in that
24 community. But then when people come in and disrupt
25 our lives, and who benefits from it? The people

1 that's coming in, they make the money. They don't
2 leave it in the towns. Northampton County gives
3 incentives to different companies that come in, but
4 we don't benefit from it. But our taxes go up.

5 So I say to Dominion and to the rest of
6 the pipeline people, take into consideration those
7 people that will live around those compressor
8 stations. Take into consideration of the farms that
9 people have worked for all their lives and acquired,
10 and like you say, eminent domain can come in and
11 take something that I'm paying taxes on, but are you
12 going to help me pay my taxes? You're benefiting
13 from your pipeline going through my property, but
14 what am I getting from it? So I ask you all to take
15 that into consideration and not be so much about
16 money because when you think about the world, it's
17 been here a long time and we've survived off certain
18 things.

19 But now all of a sudden natural gas is
20 the key to the whole world. This is how we're going
21 to service from now on, is natural gas. What did we
22 do before we got natural gas? I just ask you to
23 take the citizens into consideration in the decision
24 making process and let it be about those people that
25 have worked all their lives to get what they have.

1 And then think if it was you, how would you feel if
2 I just come in with eminent domain and take what's
3 supposed to be yours, and you don't have no say so
4 about it. We're supposed to live in a free country,
5 but it just seems like things are a little
6 different. Thank you.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Our next speaker is
8 Richie Hardy.

9 MR. RICHIE HARDY: Hello. I'm from
10 Northampton County as well. A couple -- a couple of
11 things, economic development. If you look at the
12 map most of the pipeline is running east of US 301
13 and it's going through farm land. What exactly -- I
14 mean what exactly is the estimate of what the actual
15 economic impact will be? Also what economic
16 progress will be -- will we see once the pipeline is
17 constructed? And how many permanent jobs will
18 remain beyond -- beyond the close of the
19 construction phase?

20 In terms of safety of the pipeline -- I
21 moved back here in 2009 from Allentown,
22 Pennsylvania. It's an old city that has gas
23 pipelines, gas lines running through the town,
24 running through the city. Over a course of time
25 those lines have deteriorated. And as you see on

1 TV, there are quite a few explosions where you have
2 a leak here, it's repaired. There have been homes
3 destroyed. People have died. I looked on a website
4 and they list since 1986 there have been a total of
5 500 deaths, 4,000 people injured, and over 7 billion
6 dollars in property damage. So I ask what changes
7 have been made to improve the physical structure of
8 pipelines. I do understand those are residential,
9 but a pipeline is still a pipeline. With the
10 leakage that can occur what risks are there for the
11 farmers that we have that grow soy beans, that grow
12 cotton if these pipelines run beneath and near farm
13 land? And we're talking about the food that people
14 eat as well, will there be anything -- any risks of
15 any harm -- physical harm?

16 I live in a county where everyone does
17 not have county or city water. What risks are there
18 for underground streams that provide the well water
19 for many of our citizens? With people -- so many
20 people on well water, we cannot have another problem
21 such as Pennsylvania. I don't know if you've ever
22 seen -- if any of you have seen the documentary on
23 fracking, but none of the water is drinkable because
24 of leakage from gas lines. And I also have heard
25 here -- in the very beginning you mentioned your

1 residential use. I was told outside that that was
2 not an issue at all, it is strictly providing gas
3 for other gas companies' customers. I'd like to
4 find out if that is true. Thank you.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. The next
6 speaker is Linda Fisher.

7 MS. LINDA FISHER: I've been to several
8 open houses with Dominion and talked with several of
9 their representatives. And I'm concerned about the
10 pipeline leaks. I feel that that company needs more
11 respect for creeks, wetlands, streams, and standing
12 contracts.

13 Swift Creek in Nash County has a high
14 water quality designation. It has federally --
15 several federally endangered species, including the
16 Tar River spiny mussels. The only place they live
17 in the world is in Swift Creek and Fishing Creek. I
18 was shocked when the Department of Water Quality
19 representative told me that they were not planning
20 to bore under that creek, but rather to dig and bank
21 up a dam on both sides, with a flume down the middle
22 to let the water go through. What keeps these
23 mussels alive is that water is so pure primarily
24 from sedimentation that they can live. And that
25 would cause a lot of sedimentation to disturb the

1 banks of that creek. I pointed out to a
2 representative at the open house meeting with
3 Dominion that this was -- there's a cluster of those
4 mussels that live right in the area where they're
5 going to cross. The response was, well, we can just
6 relocate some to another location so they won't go
7 extinct.

8 I have studied the route in my area,
9 the course that the pipeline follows, streaming
10 forces, and wetlands. I know you have to cross
11 streams and wetlands, but going right along the
12 stream, that seems wrong to me. My response that I
13 got from the Dominion representative was, we can
14 just move the stream. Well, I'm a farmer and
15 farmers can't tamper with the streams. We can't
16 tamper with the wetlands. We'll be fined tens of
17 thousands of dollars.

18 Loggers? They can't cut trees along
19 the stream bank. They have to leave a buffer zone
20 so sediment can't get into those streams or creeks.
21 We're controlled by the Department of Natural
22 Environmental Resources in North Carolina and by the
23 Army Corp of Engineers. And I'm afraid that
24 Dominion is taking a lot of liberties. I have a
25 permanent conversation easement on my farm. When

1 the -- when I was first contacted by Dominion on the
2 phone to tell me that they were coming to inspect my
3 land, not to ask me, but to tell me, I said that --
4 I told them about this easement. He said, who's it
5 with. I said, the United States government. He
6 said, well, we've got a team of lawyers for that.

7 Actually, this easement, it would be
8 easy enough to go around. They make a 90 degree
9 turn and come through it rather than going in a
10 straight line.

11 I feel that Dominion may feel that it's
12 above the law. I ask my federal and state
13 government to hold them accountable to the standards
14 of other citizens and the standards of other
15 companies. Dominion and Duke Energy, their partner,
16 and Piedmont Energy I believe, they have plenty of
17 money, so hold them to the highest standards.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Our next
19 speaker is Joe Barrett.

20 MR. JOE BARRETT: My name is Joe
21 Barrett -- B-A-R-R-E-T-T. I'm a Northampton County
22 commissioner and I come to provide you the
23 resolution that Northampton County voted on in
24 support of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project.

25 "Whereas, Dominion and Duke Energy and

1 Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources recently
2 formed a dual partnership to build the Atlantic
3 Coast Pipeline, a 550 mile natural gas transmission
4 line extending from Harrison County, West Virginia,
5 to Robeson County, North Carolina.

6 "And whereas, much of the pipeline's
7 550 miles will run through North Carolina, entering
8 the state along Interstate 95 corridor in
9 Northampton County.

10 "And whereas, homes and businesses and
11 industries and utilities in Northampton County and
12 throughout North Carolina are in need of this
13 improved availability for environmental benefit by
14 supporting a new power station and operating as
15 clean fuel and allow an existing power source for
16 natural gas.

17 "And whereas, the Atlantic Coast
18 Pipeline will make the abundant supply of natural
19 gas now being produced in the Appalachian Shale
20 Basin, including Marcellus and Utica formations,
21 much more available to North Carolina.

22 "And whereas, this improves
23 availability, it will also have significant
24 environmental benefits by supporting new power
25 stations that operate as clean fuel and allowing

1 existing power facilities to convert to natural gas.
2 And whereas, construction of the pipeline's ongoing
3 operations will provide substantial economic
4 benefits in providing better access to natural gas
5 to aid North Carolina in the growing needs of
6 standard industry operation and lead to the creation
7 of new employment opportunities for area residents.

8 "and therefore, be it resolved that
9 Northampton County Board of Commissioners, North
10 Carolina, does hereby offer our support for the
11 Northampton County local government for the
12 construction of Atlantic Coast Pipeline, noting the
13 significant benefits of this project for our safety,
14 improved utilities and industry and continued
15 economic growth and development."

16 This was signed by Robert Carter, our
17 chairman.

18 The resolution speaks on behalf of the
19 board of commissions, but I would be remiss if I
20 didn't say tonight to you that I have concerns
21 similar to Judge Manning -- Commissioner Manning and
22 others that have spoken with respect to environment
23 issues. Tap ons, the placement and the right of way
24 issues need to be forthrightly addressed. I think
25 also that the timber use and, or the lack thereof in

1 the future for people who have timberland and not
2 having any financial support for long-term for the
3 loss of that timber industry. And these are just a
4 few, but these are issues that are important to
5 individuals. Thank you.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. I don't have
7 anyone else signed up to speak. If anyone would
8 still like to speak feel free to come on up. But
9 before anyone comes up I would like to say that it
10 is our sincere intent to mail out the Notices of
11 Intent and the notices of these public meetings in
12 ample time for people to plan to come to these
13 meetings. We understand that that has not happened
14 this time. We would encourage those that did come
15 out to the meetings to take those comment forms are
16 at the entrance table and give them to your
17 neighbors so they can mail in comments. Verbal
18 comments and written comments are treated equally
19 and the same. All the comments are addressed by the
20 environment impact committee.

21 So if your neighbors or you know
22 someone who was not able to come out to the meeting
23 I would encourage you to hand them the written
24 comment form. It has the address on the form
25 already and they can just mail it in.

1 Is there anyone else who would like to
2 come up and speak tonight?

3 MR. CHRIS JOHNSON: Good evening. I'm
4 Chris Johnson. I'm the director of economic
5 development for Johnston County. I spoke Monday
6 night, but I was born and raised in Jackson, a
7 Northampton County graduate at Northampton County
8 East, class of 1984. So I wanted to come here and
9 eat at Second Street Lunch and get a taste of home,
10 but to also echo my support again for this project.

11 First of all, I'd like to mention that
12 I don't know how things are done in Washington, but
13 on Wednesday night if you're down in the south it's
14 church night. So I would hope that in the future if
15 you ever do anything like this I'd advise not to
16 have it on Wednesday night if you'd like more people
17 here.

18 Again, I'd like to go on record in
19 support of the project, but also state that I hope
20 that Dominion and Duke and Piedmont Natural Gas does
21 everything in their power to make sure that they
22 address the concerns that have been mentioned by
23 some of the farmers and the property owners or -- or
24 mentioned or have been mentioned addressed.

25 I want to talk about the facts and --

1 because I'm one of the ones that have -- that was
2 fortunate enough to grow up in Northampton County,
3 but had to move away because of jobs. As I
4 mentioned the other night, when you Google
5 persistent poverty ten Eastern North Carolina
6 counties are ranked in that. And surprising or not
7 surprising, Halifax and Northampton County are two
8 of those. It's limited economic opportunity.

9 A lot of my classmates had to move away
10 to find jobs. It limits job opportunity. But just
11 for the gas line itself, it's going to provide a
12 financial windfall for both Northampton and Halifax
13 County.

14 And we talk about safety and
15 environmentally safe. Mr. Chaffee talked about the
16 coal fired plants and the removing of those, and I
17 think that the natural gas capability to do that
18 will make our environment more safe. It's a step in
19 the right direction.

20 But my son caught the train to go to DC
21 on Sunday. This is the same train that ran into a
22 transfer trailer here in Halifax County. And I'm
23 just -- I shudder to think had that been a
24 locomotive full of fuel, chemicals, or if the
25 tractor trailer had been full of fuel or chemicals,

1 what type of impact it would have on our community
2 then. This is the safest way to transport large
3 quantities of gas and resources for our community.

4 Now, Gary and Cathy and John talked
5 about economic impact, and I don't want to talk
6 about what -- the number of jobs that will be
7 created during construction. But I can tell you,
8 and they can probably attest, that more and more
9 industries, more and more manufacturers when they're
10 looking at North Carolina, when they're looking at
11 Eastern North Carolina, at Johnson County, Halifax,
12 Nash, Wilson, Northampton, more and more of them are
13 asking for natural gas as a requirement. And the
14 site consultants try to eliminate the project sites
15 they're looking for reasons why they shouldn't
16 choose this area of Eastern North Carolina. So for
17 that alone we're being eliminated without us even
18 being notified about it.

19 So I hope this project continues on and
20 I just want to show my support for it. Thank you
21 very much.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Anyone else
23 who would like to speak tonight?

24 MR. LINWOOD PARKER: I'm Linwood
25 Parker. I am from Four Oaks, North Carolina. And I

1 came here tonight to find out had the shad started
2 running yet. And I saw the water was so high that
3 probably I couldn't go fishing so I would come to
4 the meeting. So really I did come for that reason
5 as well to speak to this project.

6 I have spent a great amount of my time
7 in the last several months reviewing, meeting, and
8 talking to people about the project. The reason for
9 that is I serve as mayor of my little community.

10 Now, before you decide that I'm just a
11 rich politician, I want you to know that I get \$900
12 a year and they have to take my water bill out once
13 in a while because I can't pay it. So I'm not a
14 rich politician. But I do believe that service to
15 our community through elected office is an important
16 office, and it's an important position. The Lord
17 created earth and He believed that we ought to have
18 good leaders. The Bible tells us that where there's
19 no vision the people suffer.

20 Now, I was moved last night by one of
21 the previous speakers, a young man who talked about
22 the gas line going through his yard. I'm human and
23 you all are all human and we're all neighbors.
24 We're Eastern North Carolina neighbors. Not only
25 that, we were all put on this earth by nature.

1 That's makes us all neighbors, and I mean that
2 sincerely.

3 I went home and my wife won't let me
4 smoke my cigar in the house so I sat outside.
5 Thankfully it was a warm night and I could smoke my
6 cigar and thought about what I'd heard both in
7 meetings that transpired, those meetings I've
8 attended in the last several months.

9 First of all, I thought about his
10 problem as it related to his yard. And as I sit in
11 my yard I thought, you know, I probably wouldn't
12 want that either.

13 As a young child -- and I'm going to
14 tell you all a little bit about being a politician
15 and about the facts that have been proven. I have a
16 twin brother. We were raised in a town not far from
17 my grandfather's farm. We had a dirt street. It
18 was on a hill and when you went down the hill when
19 it was raining you got stuck. We had a tree in the
20 front yard and one day they decided that it was time
21 to pave our street, so they came by and cut down the
22 tree. When my mother came home from work she was in
23 tears. Being six years old -- you know how children
24 love their mothers because they look after them when
25 they're sick and prepare supper -- my brother and I

1 were upset. My father explained to her it was
2 probably for the better good so he wouldn't get
3 stuck going to work tomorrow if it rained. The next
4 day when the bulldozer came back my brother and
5 myself decided that we were going to stop this
6 situation, so we got us some dirt clods that had
7 been throwed up as they prepared the road and we
8 throwed it at the road scraper. The man -- the road
9 scraper man knew my father and made him aware of
10 what we'd done. And that night after we were not
11 beat, but disciplined, I guess is a good word --
12 anyway after the whipping my father carried me aside
13 and said, son, those people were trying to help us
14 and sometimes things happen that you don't want to
15 happen for the better good.

16 I grew on and went off to East
17 Carolina, got married to a girl from Greenville,
18 came back home and made my life. I'm an accountant
19 by profession and I own a chain of barbecue
20 restaurants. Both east and west. We came here to
21 talk about gas lines. We talk about which is the
22 best. I think mine's the best, but I had some of
23 Ralph's tonight and it was pretty good as well.

24 I decided to run for office as a county
25 commissioner in 1976. My desire to run was based on

1 the fact that we weren't going anywhere in our small
2 town and that we didn't have sewer. Now, I want
3 everybody to understand and visualize where we're
4 at, and compare it to what I'm going to tell you.

5 In 1935 during the Roosevelt
6 Administration when they were doing the public works
7 project they came to town and told our political
8 leaders that for \$5,000 they would put sewer in the
9 town, but they chose not to do it. Forty-two years
10 later we spent a half a million dollars to put it
11 in. But to do that we had to have right of ways.
12 And that fall when I ran for election before we put
13 it in I had a great -- my great grandfather farmed
14 the land and my great uncle had part of it and my
15 grandfather had the rest. And, but also Main Street
16 ran right by the property. So my Uncle Clay
17 supported him and it helped him get elected and my
18 grandfather was glad. After the election the
19 surveyors came by and my Uncle Clay said, I don't
20 want it. The mayor came to me and said, you got to
21 go see your grandfather. I said, why I got to go
22 see my grandfather. He said, he won't let the
23 surveyors on the property. And I said, well, I
24 don't know if you need to send me, but he's -- he's
25 my grandfather so I'll go see him.

1 So I went to town and I said, grand-
2 daddy, what in the world are you doing. He said,
3 well, they come out to survey my property and I
4 don't want them to do it. I don't know what's going
5 on. And I explained it to him. I said, what did
6 you tell these surveyors. He said, I told them to
7 go back and tell the mayor that if he had any
8 property out here that needed surveying for him to
9 come survey it. So I went back and told the mayor
10 the same thing. After that I talked with my
11 grandfather, explained what they were going to do
12 and he never did. My Uncle Clay let them go back,
13 but he never spoke any longer. He actually went to
14 his grave mad at me, and I hate that to this day.

15 But because that line went through his
16 farm -- and I'm not an internet person, but
17 whoever's doing the Googling, you can go and look at
18 Creekside in Four Oaks and you'll find 56 homes
19 because his children were able to sell that farm and
20 they built houses. So what I'm trying to tell you
21 is that there's a lot of problems in change. After
22 we got the sewer line in we had to get the
23 government to finance it. And part of the agreement
24 with the government was everybody that it went by
25 had to hook on.

1 Well, my father told me all my life
2 after that point that if it kept on the government
3 would be able to tell us where we went to the
4 bathroom. Well, it's true. So we had the meeting
5 that night and we had to do it. And you know, we
6 had to. The ordinances said if the sewer line come
7 by you had to hook on. So I went home. My father
8 was waiting. He said, son, what did you do tonight.
9 I said, I'm ashamed to tell you, Daddy. He said,
10 what happened. I said, you know what you always
11 said about the government telling us where we're
12 going to the bathroom. He said, yeah. I said, I
13 did it tonight, Daddy.

14 Life, folks, is full of those
15 challenges. And these people -- I been meeting with
16 the people from Dominion and got to know him, I met
17 him, I like him. I know people with Duke Energy.
18 They're supportive of our community. But I know
19 this, they're trying to put this project together.
20 And the lines that you see are lines that have been
21 drawn from a GPS and they've been drawn from
22 helicopters flying over with surveyors. And these
23 lines I think are drawn based on 300, 400 foot.
24 They look and they'll change when they do the
25 survey. This -- I also know this, that they're in

1 business and businessmen don't like to make people
2 mad. They certainly don't want to make these people
3 mad by doing the wrong thing. So they're going to
4 do everything they can to satisfy the people as best
5 they can and to do the least harm they can do.

6 I've heard a lot of comments in the
7 last two nights. As I said last night in Wilson, a
8 smart lady told me one time that a hoe cake -- a
9 pancake for people that may not know -- has two
10 sides. One of them might just be browner than the
11 other.

12 So I'm not here to disagree with
13 anybody or say they're wrong. All I want to tell
14 you is that as the mayor of my town and an
15 individual that has loved Eastern North Carolina all
16 his life -- and my wife says, we ought to go
17 somewhere and visit or go out and travel and see
18 something. I said, there are streams that I have
19 not fished yet in Eastern North Carolina. And I
20 have no need or no desire to go anywhere besides
21 Eastern North Carolina. I don't even like to go
22 west of Raleigh.

23 But we are losing opportunities, as
24 Chris Johnson said. And I can tell you last week
25 our town was marked off a project simply because we

1 didn't have natural gas. We had a project that had
2 the largest distribution center based in our
3 business park. We lost it because right after we
4 completed that we had an opportunity to get a major
5 manufacturing company that was hiring 400 people,
6 but we lost it because we didn't have natural gas.
7 So I'm for Eastern North Carolina because we need
8 it. And I am proud to be in Halifax where the
9 Halifax Resolves happened.

10 So have you ever thought about and have
11 you ever wondered why it is that where it started in
12 Eastern North Carolina, Tidewater, Virginia, that we
13 end up being the poorest area and people that went
14 west ended up being the richest area. Now, there
15 was a time when we had more of a farm base and the
16 people with their political leaders had a lot of
17 power. I'm talking about at the state level and
18 also in the Washington and in Congress. But that
19 changed our population. It shrunk. Why has that
20 population shrunk? Everybody in here I guarantee
21 you've got family, whether it's a child, grandchild,
22 that's had to leave because we didn't have jobs to
23 keep them. Now we find that most of the power is in
24 the more metropolitan areas. Nobody is going to
25 come without the infrastructure.

1 Now, you may ask -- you may say, I like
2 what he's saying, but does he really believe that
3 natural gas is the be all, cure all for what we
4 need. The answer is no. So the truth is it is part
5 of the solution. Without infrastructure we will
6 never progress. We will not have this opportunity
7 that our children need. I'm 67 and I hope to live a
8 whole lot longer, but if I do it sure won't be as
9 long as I've been here. But my interest is in my
10 children and my grandchildren and the people in our
11 communities in Eastern North Carolina.

12 I'm an avid fisherman and I enjoy
13 hunting. And I've heard over the last couple nights
14 different things about what could happen to the
15 habitat, you know, with this pipeline. Anybody
16 that's ever been rabbit hunting, bird hunting knows
17 that if you get under a -- what used to be CP&L, but
18 a Duke Energy transmission line where you've got all
19 the growth and protection from their predators that
20 you can guarantee you can jump a rabbit or get up
21 some quail under one of those power lines. Same
22 thing's going to be true with these gas lines. It
23 will not be negative to the game in Eastern North
24 Carolina.

25 There's been a lot said about safety

1 and there's absolutely nothing safe. Tonight going
2 home all of us may be in an accident. I hope none
3 of us are, but we all could be. In my town, in your
4 town most of the time when you're call out for a
5 home fire it's because people can't afford high
6 quality energy . They either got to buy electric
7 heaters or whatever and that causes a short and it
8 causes a fire. In some cases they're actually
9 heating with charcoal, high in carbon monoxide.
10 Most everybody in this room, since we don't have
11 natural gas, has got a propane tank in their yard.
12 I have in my yard. I have electric heat, but I also
13 have gas logs. That could blow up at any time.
14 Anything can happen. As the speaker mentioned
15 before, a train, a car can hit us. So all the
16 community is not completely safe.

17 I don't know how many of you lost power
18 in this last storm. I noticed as I came today a lot
19 of trees broke, so I assume some did. In my
20 community when we lose power it's from lightning or
21 the snow or the wind. The first person they call is
22 the mayor and I don't mind. And I say, why did you
23 call that. And they say, we didn't know who else to
24 call. We didn't figure you could fix it, but we
25 thought we'd call you.

1 But I call Duke Energy because the
2 first thing people want to know is when is the power
3 coming on. Have you ever experienced that? Well,
4 if we don't get a clean energy source that will help
5 guarantee that we've got power there may be times
6 when you don't have power.

7 There was a speaker at one of the
8 hearings that said, you know, they really didn't
9 care about Dominion coming because they were having
10 too much fun with Duke Power about the coal ash.
11 But that's not a solution. All that's saying is
12 that we rather fight about it than to try to move on
13 to a better place.

14 Coal ash, I'm not an environmental
15 engineer, but I know that that's not as clean as
16 this energy source.

17 And I used to, and I don't know why
18 because they're not here, but you all know, I used
19 to come here every year -- I do come here every year
20 to go fishing, try to catch some shad, rock fish.
21 But I used to eat herring. What's the name of the
22 place? I was trying to think of that today. It's
23 down on the creek.

24 But anyway, my understanding for the
25 last two years is that you can't even harvest the

1 herring in the streams here. They have to bring
2 them in from outside. That tells you that if we
3 don't change and go to this clean energy then we'll
4 never going to be able to have what we had in
5 Eastern North Carolina.

6 A lot of people say we ought to have
7 solar. They quit trying to have solar I think last
8 week, or wind. He was in the planes where the wind
9 blows. When you have plenty of wind it's good. But
10 you know what the problem was? He had no
11 distribution line. He couldn't get it to the east
12 coast or the west coast because of no wind. We
13 don't get enough wind here to make it happen.

14 So what I want to say, and I'll finish
15 up, is this. I know you all have heard it all.
16 I've heard some of all of it. But the one think I
17 assume is this, and I don't know where you're from,
18 but you're probably going back to a town where you
19 got natural gas. I go to Washington from time to
20 time and I never worry about the hotel blowing up.
21 Now, it may, but I never worry about that. And I
22 know this, that what we need is some of the same
23 things that the larger areas have got. And I
24 guarantee you that Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte
25 have all got a strong dependable energy source.

1 That's what it's about. And with that is
2 opportunity. I had a chance to sit behind a lady
3 that spoke at a meeting the other night. Me and her
4 were on different sides of opinion. She said she
5 wanted to move home because it's peaceful.

6 But let me tell you that there's no
7 peace in poverty. There is no peace in unemployment
8 and there is no peace for children without a future.
9 And what we've got in Eastern North Carolina is some
10 of those issues.

11 I want to do one other thing just to
12 show you a little demonstration. I don't know how
13 many of you got one of these in your pocket. As I
14 came into town tonight because I was lost I stopped
15 at a gas station and I saw where it was going to
16 give away 117 million dollars in the lottery
17 tonight. I doubt I'm going to win, but I hope I do.
18 But let me tell you that we have won the lottery.
19 Those people sitting in the back from Dominion have
20 promised to spend 4 million dollars to bring us
21 energy, 4 billion dollars. Not only that, they've
22 promised to pay the county approximately 7 million
23 dollars a year for 30 years. That's how long they
24 have scheduled to work on the pipeline, as I
25 understand it. I may be off. 310 million dollars

1 that we'll have in our county. And each county
2 triples about what we have the money for. We're
3 going to need some money to send those lines to
4 communities. The speaker -- Judge made a good
5 point. We got to have the lines , not only for the
6 industry, but for the farmers. In my county tobacco
7 farmers are mad because they changed the way the
8 farmer handles tobacco products. Some half million,
9 million pounds of tobacco and their propane cost
10 them three times what natural gas. So we got to get
11 it to them.

12 So what I'd say to you tonight is I
13 appreciate you listening and I hope that everybody
14 understands we're in it together, and I feel for
15 anybody that it's going across their property and I
16 do believe that these people will treat you right.
17 If they don't the good thing to know is this, you
18 are part of our government and you have rights. And
19 we have -- they're required. So you're not going to
20 be left out and the people that are putting it in
21 don't intend to because their business is to
22 continue to do business. And you cannot do business
23 by running over people. But just be thankful that
24 somebody's willing to invest 4 billion dollars in
25 Eastern North Carolina.

1 Let me tell you this one other story
2 and I'm finished. I told you I own a barbecue
3 restaurant. I come from some family, but we won't
4 rich. And I got this twin brother. But on Sunday
5 we always had fried chicken at home. And see, my
6 brother, he got a chicken leg and I got a chicken
7 leg. So at a early age I decided that if I had all
8 the chicken legs I wanted I'd be the richest man in
9 the county. Well, my brother, he decided to be a
10 banker. He's rich, I got all the chicken legs I
11 want and that means tonight when I get home I got to
12 sweep up the restaurant, so please be careful what
13 you wish for. Thank you very much.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Is there
15 anyone else who would like to speak tonight?

16 If not, as I mentioned before, this
17 meeting is being recorded and transcripts will be
18 placed in the public record. And the public is
19 available on our website, which is www dot ferc --
20 F-E-R-C dot gov -- G-O-V. From that page you can
21 select the e-Library link and input the docket
22 number for these projects; PF 15 dash 5 and PF 15
23 dash 6. You can use e-Library to access everything
24 that the Commission does with this project, as well
25 as all of the filings by the public agencies or the

1 applicant.

2 On behalf of the Federal Energy
3 Regulatory Commission, I want to thank you for
4 coming tonight. And let the record show that the
5 public scoping meeting in Roanoke Rapids, North
6 Carolina closed at 9:14 p.m.

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