

1 (Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.)

2 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening everyone. Can
3 everyone hear me?

4 THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Great. Before we get
6 started, I am sure everyone was here for a while, but
7 the restrooms are on the opposite side of the
8 cafeteria, and the water fountain is on the left side
9 of the men's restroom.

10 On behalf of the Federal Energy
11 Regulatory Commission or the FERC or the F-E-R-C, I
12 would like to welcome all of you tonight for a public
13 scoping meeting for the Atlantic Coast and Supply
14 Header Project.

15 Let the record show that the public
16 scoping meeting in Chesapeake, Virginia began at
17 7:03 p.m. on March 12th, 2015.

18 My name is Gertrude Johnson, and I am an
19 environmental project manager with the FERC's Office of
20 Energy Projects. Here with me tonight representing
21 FERC is: Kevin Bowman, Jeff Mackenthun, and Zeke Rice.

22 Before we get started, if you would
23 please turn off or silence your cell phones. Thank
24 you.

25 We're here tonight to provide some

1 information on the federal process in relation to the
2 proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Header
3 Project, and to hear your comments and concerns about
4 these projects. Fundamentally, the purpose of
5 tonight's meeting is to provide each of you with an
6 opportunity to give us your comments, and to tell us
7 what additional environmental issues you think we
8 should address in our analysis of the proposed project.
9 We've already received numerous comments concerning the
10 project, including alternatives, which is one of the
11 areas that we're seeking input from you-all tonight.

12 We included affected landowners for each
13 of these alternatives on our mailing list for the
14 Notice of Intent. And when I refer to the Notice of
15 Intent, I am speaking of something you should have
16 received in the mail. It's got a card stock front and
17 back. It's maybe 10 or 11 pages. And so it's that
18 Notice of Intent in which we're requesting comments and
19 announced tonight's meeting.

20 All of your comments will help us
21 determine what to study as we prepare an Environmental
22 Impact Statement or EIS. The FERC is the lead federal
23 agency responsible for the National Environmental
24 Policy Act or NEPA. The NEPA review of the Atlantic
25 Coast Pipeline Supply Header Project and the lead

1 agency for the preparation of the environmental impact
2 statement or EIS. NEPA requires FERC to analyze the
3 environmental impact, consider alternatives, and
4 identify appropriate mitigation measures, where
5 necessary a proposal before it makes any decision on
6 whether to approve or deny the project. The U.S.
7 Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Great
8 Dismal Swamp, National Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S.
9 Army Corps of Engineers are currently cooperating
10 agencies in preparation of the EIS. Additional federal
11 state or local agencies with special expertise are
12 welcome to cooperate as well.

13 I would like to clarify that the proposed
14 project was not conceived by and is not promoted by the
15 FERC or the cooperating agencies. FERC reviews these
16 applications for the authority to build and operate
17 interstate natural gas pipelines.

18 And the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and
19 Dominion Transmission, Incorporated are in the process
20 of preparing applications to submit to FERC. Once
21 these applications are submitted, our obligation is to
22 review that application and prepare an analysis of the
23 environmental impact.

24 Tonight's meeting is not a public
25 hearing. We're not really hear to debate the proposal

1 or to make any determinations on its face. We're here
2 to listen to your concerns so that we can consider them
3 in our analysis.

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

13 On February 26th, 2015, the FERC issued a
14 Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for these projects,
15 which also announced the location of all of the
16 meetings along the proposed pipeline routes, and it
17 announced how to file comments and deadlines for
18 getting this to us. In the notice, we ask that you
19 submit comments to FERC by April 28th, 2015. However,
20 the end of the scoping period is not the end of public
21 involvement, nor will it be the only public opportunity
22 for the project. We'll continue to accept comments
23 after the deadline and throughout our review of the
24 project. But for us to adequately address your
25 comments, analyze them, and research these issues, we

1 ask that you try to get these comments to us as soon as
2 possible.

3 The Atlantic Coast and Supply Header
4 Projects are currently in our pre-filing process; that
5 is an application has not yet been filed with the FERC.
6 We consider the pre-filing process to be, amongst other
7 things, an extension of our scoping process.

8 The scoping process is more so a learning
9 process. It's where we educate ourselves about the
10 project and the potential issues and environmental
11 impacts. During the scoping process we're gathering
12 information. The four general sources that we're using
13 right now are information provided by the applicants,
14 input from other federal, state, and local agencies,
15 our own field work and research of different issues,
16 and information from the public. Once we gather the
17 information developed during the scoping process and
18 the application is formally filed by the applicants,
19 we'll analyze it, and then we'll prepare a draft,
20 environmental impact statement or draft EIS or DEIS,
21 and we'll distribute them for public comments. This
22 will include an examination of the proposed facility
23 locations as well as alternative sites. It will
24 address the project's effects on water bodies and
25 wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, endangered species,

1 cultural resources, soil land use, air quality, noise,
2 safety, and cumulative impacts.

3 We'll mail the EIS to our mailing list.
4 So if you didn't receive our notice in the mail, make
5 sure that you give us your address so we can include
6 you. And we've got forms at the entrance tables so
7 that you can include your address, and one of our staff
8 will take them and put you on our mailing list. The
9 mailed version of the draft EIS will be a CD. But if
10 you prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you, please
11 indicate so on the return mailer, either the return
12 mailer that was on the back of the Notice of Intent, or
13 let the FERC staff at the back table know. There is
14 also on that comment form -- or the add me to the
15 mailing list form that we have at the entrance table,
16 there is a box that you can check at the bottom that
17 says I would rather prefer to have a hard copy mailed
18 to me.

19 After the draft EIS is mailed out, there
20 will be a public comment period for you to give us
21 comments on the draft EIS. During that period we'll
22 hold another public meeting similar in format to this
23 one. We'll probably come back here to this same
24 facility, if it's available, and ask you to comment on
25 the information that we provided in the draft EIS.

1 At the end of that public comment period
2 we'll begin organizing all of the information gathered
3 to date and prepare the final EIS, addressing all of
4 the comments that we received on the draft EIS. And I
5 might add that the draft EIS also addresses all of the
6 comments received during the scoping period, this
7 period between February and April, and we'll have a
8 general table that summarizes the comments that we
9 receive during the scoping period, and you'll see where
10 we address those comments in the documents.

11 Once we've issued the final EIS, it's
12 forwarded to our commissioners for their consideration.
13 I would like to remind everyone that the EIS is not a
14 decision making document. It's merely our analysis of
15 the potential environmental impact of the project and
16 the alternatives. Our five Commissioners at the
17 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will use that
18 document as well as other information to make a
19 determination on whether or not to grant an
20 authorization for these projects. The five
21 Commissioners are appointed by the President and
22 confirmed by Congress. Additional information about
23 the Commissioners can be found on our website at
24 www.ferc.gov.

25 On December 12th, 2014, Atlantic Coast

1 Pipeline and Dominion filed preliminary information
2 with the FERC about their projects. According to the
3 filings, Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Dominion are
4 proposing two jointly related projects to deliver
5 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day to market
6 in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. The
7 Atlantic Coast Pipeline facilities would consist of
8 about 554 miles of pipeline, ranging between 16 and
9 42 inches in diameter from Harrison County, West
10 Virginia to Robison County, North Carolina. The
11 project would have smaller diameter pipeline laterals
12 extending from the mainline, which would terminate in
13 Chesapeake and Brunswick County, Virginia. It would
14 also include three new compressor stations: Lewis
15 County, West Virginia, Buckingham County, Virginia, and
16 Northampton County, North Carolina. The related Supply
17 Header Project would involve construction of 39 miles
18 of 30 and 36-inch diameter pipeline in Pennsylvania and
19 West Virginia. In addition to these facilities,
20 Dominion would seek to modify four existing compressor
21 stations in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

22 As you-all probably saw, Dominion is here
23 with their site specific maps, so you can ask them
24 specific questions about your property and whether it's
25 impacted by the pipeline. They will also be here after

1 the meeting.

2 Just a few things before we start taking
3 speakers. This meeting is being recorded by a
4 transcription service, so all of your comments will be
5 transcribed and placed into the public record. For the
6 benefit of all in attendance and for accuracy of the
7 transcript, when your name is called, please step up to
8 the podium which is on my right, and clearly state your
9 name and affiliation, if any. You might spell your
10 name to the court reporter to ensure accuracy if
11 misspelling is likely. Also, please speak directly
12 into the microphone, which is on, so that you can
13 clearly be heard by the reporter, the panel, and the
14 audience.

15 In addition to verbal comments provided
16 tonight, we will also accept your written comments. If
17 you have comments, but don't wish to speak tonight, you
18 may provide written comments on the comment form at the
19 entrance table. You may drop those off with us or mail
20 them at a later date. Be sure to include the project
21 docket number, P as in Paul, F as in Frank, 15-6, and P
22 as in Paul, F as in Frank, 15-5. Also, I'll note that
23 the comment forms that are at the entrance table
24 already have those numbers on there, and you can just
25 check the box there.

1 Also, due to the number of speakers that
2 we have signed up, we'll have to limit each speaker to
3 five minutes so everyone has an opportunity to provide
4 comments. You'll see a screen on the laptop here that
5 will provide the timer for you, just so that you can
6 keep track of the time. And when your time is ended,
7 please conclude your comments so we can call the next
8 speaker. We don't want to limit anyone's comments, but
9 to get through all of the speakers that we have
10 tonight, we have to set a time frame. If you have
11 detailed comments, you could summarize the comments at
12 the podium tonight and give us the full written
13 comments at the table where you came in at the entrance
14 table. Also, if you're a speaker, and you feel that
15 your comments were previously expressed, you can simply
16 state your name and your endorsement of those previous
17 comments.

18 I also want to make sure that we conduct
19 this meeting in a professional manner. So we're here
20 to take your comments. Please respect each speaker and
21 refrain from any interruptions, whether you agree with
22 them or not.

23 So the first speaker that we have here is
24 Major Stephen Long.

25 MR. LONG: Testing: One, two. Is that

1 on?

2 Good evening, my name is Major Stephen
3 Long. I am the area commander for the Salvation Army
4 in the Hampton Roads area. We've had a long-standing
5 relationship with Dominion and Virginia Natural Gas,
6 and they're helping us to help others.

7 I am speaking tonight in favor of the
8 Atlantic Coast Pipeline. We use a great deal of gas,
9 and again we're advocating with our family assistance
10 and the people that we serve in this community. The
11 Salvation Army of Hampton Roads Command serves families
12 in need all across our area. We have substance abuse
13 treatment centers, youth enrichment opportunities,
14 spiritual care, emergency and disaster services. We
15 feed the hungry, and our purpose is to help the poor.
16 And we also provide youth enrichment opportunities,
17 spiritual care, and worship services.

18 And through the Energy Share Program that
19 we've established with Virginia Natural Gas and
20 Dominion, we're able to help senior citizens on fixed
21 income pay their winter heating bills.

22 The Salvation Army of Hampton Roads
23 relies on natural gas. We use gas for all of the meals
24 that we prepare. We cooked and prepared and fed
25 150,000 meals last year in three commercial kitchens.

1 Some of our family stores use gas for heat. And I
2 recently paid a \$9,000 gas bill at our Ray and Joan
3 Kroc Corps Community Center. I think I ought to get a
4 rebate for some of that.

5 But the Kroc Center is a 92,000-square
6 foot facility, and we opened up the Kroc Center off of
7 Ballentine Boulevard, and we've been operating it for
8 ten months now, and we have a fitness and aquatics
9 class. We have after school summer camp and worship
10 opportunities there. Much of the gas that is used at
11 the Kroc Center is for our aquatics center. And I have
12 agreed with the city to teach every second grader in
13 the elementary school next to us on how to swim. So
14 they come over during their gym class and learn how to
15 swim. And right now the temperature of the pool is
16 85 degrees. Next month it will be 85 degrees, and it
17 takes gas to keep it at that temperature.

18 I recently read about the study and saw
19 that Virginia consumers could save millions of dollars
20 on their natural gas and electric bills, and we're very
21 much interested in helping our members in the community
22 to save money, seeing as how when I come to the office
23 many times at 7:30 in the morning, I've got people
24 lined up at my door with needs by the hundreds, and
25 we're able to help them out because of our

1 partnerships.

2 The pipeline will help create jobs and
3 offer jobs, especially important for families that we
4 serve, and it will help them to save energy costs, and
5 we're all about energy cost savings. We're grateful to
6 the individuals and businesses that support us.

7 The Salvation Army, we're called to be a
8 good steward of our funds, and the Atlantic Coast
9 Pipeline promises to help us to help others in days to
10 come, as we have together. We've been working together
11 to meet the needs of the less fortunate.

12 We thank you for your support, and again
13 we pray God's blessings upon all of our families.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Major Long.

15 The second speaker we have tonight is
16 Dean McClain.

17 MR. MCCLAIN: Good evening. My name is
18 Dean McClain, and I am here on behalf of the Hampton
19 Roads Chamber of Commerce, and we're a strong supporter
20 of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project. I ask the
21 commission to approve it.

22 Simply put, we need more natural gas here
23 in Hampton Roads. Virtually all of our natural gas
24 supplies at present come from the Gulf Coast. All of
25 our eggs are in that basket. Virginia Natural Gas and

1 Columbia Natural Gas do an excellent job of meeting
2 current needs for more than 280,000 customers, but our
3 lack of access to new supplies of gas can be
4 problematic when we try to attract new business to our
5 area or convince existing ones to expand. This is an
6 ongoing issue that can be especially significant when
7 there is bad weather in the Gulf. When drilling is
8 hampered or curtailed, customers must compete for
9 reduced supply at higher prices. Plus, the existing
10 pipeline system is subject to log jams and backups,
11 especially when the demand is high like it was during
12 the 2014 polar vortex. These issues will be addressed
13 by bringing Appalachian gas here through the Atlantic
14 Coast Pipeline, a new path to the shale fields to our
15 north.

16 A lateral extension into Hampton Roads is
17 more than a pipeline. It's a lifeline for reliable
18 supplies of natural gas, lower energy prices, and
19 economic growth for generations to come. Natural gas
20 is the fuel of choice for many manufacturing processes.
21 Gas must be available for their production lines to
22 run. If the availability of gas is in question, the
23 jobs and economic activity associated with those
24 production lines go elsewhere. But the Atlantic Coast
25 Pipeline will be our future field of dreams. Build it

1 and they will come.

2 Natural gas is also increasing as a
3 preferred fuel for generating electricity. Here in
4 Hampton Roads, the Chesapeake Energy Center has already
5 been closed in light of stringent federal air emission
6 regulations. We heard during the 2015 session of the
7 Virginia General Assembly that some other coal fired
8 units supplying Virginians with power are at risk. New
9 gas fired combined cycled generating units are the best
10 options available for replacing coal power and
11 maintaining a reliable electric system here in Virginia
12 and throughout the southeast. The need to be fed with
13 natural gas in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will help
14 bring a reliable supply of fuel.

15 The studies have projected the positive
16 economic impact of bringing the pipeline in terms of
17 lower energy prices, additional jobs, and, of course,
18 additional tax revenue to all municipal cities among
19 its route. The benefits are numerous and clear.

20 We at the Hampton Roads Chamber of
21 Commerce are confident that under the commission's
22 guidance the pipeline will be built, maintained, and
23 operated safely and properly for the benefit of the
24 Commonwealth and the Hampton Roads region. The project
25 deserves to go forward, and we ask you to approve it.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Our next speaker is Robert
3 Duvall.

4 MR. DUVALL: Good evening. My name is
5 Robert DuVall, and I am President of Virginia Natural
6 Gas, a subsidiary of AGL Resources.

7 Our company started in 1850, when we
8 first illuminated gas lights for the City of Norfolk.
9 Today Virginia Natural Gas or VNG serves more than
10 285,000 residential, commercial, and industrial
11 customers in 15 localities in coastal Virginia.

12 The Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project
13 includes a lateral that originates in Emporia, Virginia
14 and connects to the B & G system here in Chesapeake,
15 Virginia. This lateral brings a much needed natural
16 gas supply to meet the needs of current and future
17 customers, as existing pipelines serving the area are
18 at their maximum capacity. That puts our region at a
19 critical juncture for the following reasons.

20 First, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is
21 needed to serve the two percent annual incremental
22 growth on the B & G system.

23 Second, the Virginia natural gas system
24 has experienced 13 historically high usage days in the
25 last two years. All existing pipeline assets are fully

1 used on these high use days. During these periods
2 supply pipeline capacity constraints often results in
3 restrictions being placed on manufacturing and
4 industrial customers. These restrictions disrupt
5 customer operations and require users to switch to
6 alternative fuels that are more expensive.

7 Third, our region has been unable to
8 attract or secure economic development prospects that
9 could bring new jobs to the area simply because
10 sufficient upstream capacity to deliver natural gas is
11 not available. However, since the Atlantic Coast
12 Pipeline Project was announced, we've experienced
13 continuous interest from industries considering the
14 region for locating their businesses. The Atlantic
15 Coast Pipeline will address all of these issues
16 outlined by providing a new source of natural gas into
17 the area while connecting to low cost production
18 sources. In addition, the project enhances price
19 stability for end users through supply diversity and
20 augments system reliability.

21 The last major pipeline constructed to
22 connect this region to additional natural gas supplies
23 was built in the early 1990s. Before that the region
24 was served by pipelines built in the 1940s. These
25 facilities are simply at maximum capacity. Therefore,

1 I ask that you approve the Atlantic Coast Pipeline,
2 because access to clean burning natural gas will help
3 coastal Virginia meet the growing demand for this
4 American abundant and affordable energy.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Our fourth speaker tonight
7 is Amanda Jarratt.

8 MS. JARRATT: Good evening and thank you
9 for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am Amanda
10 Jarratt, President and CEO of Franklin Southampton
11 Economic Development, Incorporated, and I am here
12 tonight to express my organization's strong support for
13 the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

14 Our office promotes the growth and
15 development of both the City of Franklin and
16 Southampton County, two localities with a combined
17 population of approximately 26,000, covering 600 square
18 miles.

19 When recruiting new businesses, we can
20 point to many advantages: Our strategic location on
21 the western edge of Hampton Roads; our excellent
22 transportation corridors; our skilled and motivated
23 workforce; and our abundant land available for
24 development. One thing we need, however, is better
25 access to reliable reasonably priced supplies of

1 natural gas.

2 As we noted in a letter to the commission
3 last September, our ability to recruit new businesses,
4 especially in the manufacturing sector, has been
5 severely handicapped by a lack of access to this fuel.
6 All of that will change, we believe, with the
7 construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The
8 project will provide a new direct link for our region
9 to the abundant gas supply from the Marcellus and Utica
10 gas production areas. The lateral running from the
11 main pipeline to Hampton Roads will pass directly
12 through Southampton County. This greatly improved
13 access to natural gas will put us in a much better
14 position to compete successfully on a national and even
15 global scale. And as any economic developer knows
16 these days, reliable, secure, and affordable supply of
17 the sufficient and environmentally friendly fuel are a
18 basic requirement for modern industry and a critical
19 factor in siting decisions. Attracting new businesses
20 to our localities is important, but so is promoting a
21 secure energy future for our existing businesses and
22 the residents who already call Franklin and Southampton
23 home. The pipeline will help all of them by keeping
24 down energy prices and ensuring natural gas service is
25 there when they need it.

1 Thank you again for the opportunity to
2 speak tonight. And Franklin Southampton Economic
3 Development respectfully asks the commission to approve
4 the project.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Our fifth speaker tonight
7 is Tom Elder.

8 MR. ELDER: Good evening. My name is Tom
9 Elder, and I am the Executive Vice-President of the
10 Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance. We
11 strongly support the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline,
12 and ask the commission to approve the project.

13 My organization represents 15 cities and
14 counties in the growing dynamic region. We work hard
15 to develop new economic opportunities for our
16 communities and their hard-working citizens, and we're
17 proud of our efforts to bring new businesses to Hampton
18 Roads.

19 As we've worked to develop the Hampton
20 Roads economy, we've learned a clear lesson. Natural
21 gas has become the fuel of choice for many industries.
22 In the site selection process, access to reliable and
23 reasonably priced supplies of the fuel is a key
24 decision point. But our opportunities to recruit new
25 business ventures, especially manufacturing operations,

1 are often handicapped by our region's lack of access to
2 the fuel. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline has the
3 potential to change this situation and change it in a
4 big way. An important part of the project will be the
5 70-mile extension carrying gas from the main pipeline
6 to the Hampton Roads area. This new pathway will have
7 tremendous benefits for our region. It will provide
8 new direct access to impressive and growing gas
9 supplies now being produced in the Appalachian region's
10 Marcellus and Utica Shale basins.

11 In many areas of the country the new
12 abundance of gas from these formations is supporting
13 renewed manufacturing growth and good paying job
14 opportunities. With greatly improved access to
15 Marcellus and Utica gas, the cities and counties of
16 Hampton Roads will be in a much stronger position to
17 claim some of these benefits, and those benefits won't
18 be limited to our ability to attract new development
19 opportunities. The new pathway will help the
20 homeowners and businesses who already call Hampton
21 Roads home by promoting reasonable and stable energy
22 prices. This, of course, includes natural gas, but it
23 also includes electricity. Natural gas is increasingly
24 being used in the generation of electricity now and
25 into the future, thereby holding electric prices down

1 for the citizens of Hampton Roads. And I think some of
2 the best evidence of these benefits was provided by the
3 recent ICF International study of the project. ICF
4 found that between 2019 and 2038 the pipeline will
5 produce energy cost savings for Virginia consumers of
6 about \$243,000,000 a year on average.

7 Finally, let me say that the alliance has
8 great confidence in the partnership that has come
9 together to build the pipeline. Two of these leading
10 energy companies are quite familiar to the people and
11 businesses of Hampton Roads; Dominion, which supplies
12 electricity to much of the region; and AGL resources,
13 which serves more than 284,000 customers in our area
14 through Virginia Natural Gas. In such good hands we
15 have no doubt the project will be operated in an
16 efficient and safe way.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to
18 you tonight. The Alliance respectfully asks that the
19 commission approve the project and help pave the way
20 for a bright and economic future in the Hampton Roads
21 area.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Our sixth speaker tonight
23 is Steve Romine.

24 MR. ROMINE: Good evening. Thank you for
25 the opportunity to speak to you tonight. My name is

1 Steve Romine. I am the 2015 Governmental Affairs Chair
2 for the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, and I would
3 like to state the Chamber's strong support for the
4 proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. We ask that the
5 commission approve it.

6 In the 20 years I've been a member of the
7 chamber, I've often thought how fortunate we are to
8 promote such a wonderful region in which we live and
9 work. It's about to get even better. In Hampton Roads
10 we're the proud host of so much of the U.S. military.
11 The arrival of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be as
12 welcome as basing another aircraft carrier here; it's
13 that good.

14 When we're promoting economic development
15 in our great area, we want all of the tools we can
16 muster. The pipeline will be a tremendous addition to
17 our toolbox. When businesses make their expansion and
18 location decisions, they examine whether they have
19 access to reliable and adequate supplies of energy at
20 affordable prices. The lateral extension of the
21 Atlantic Coast Pipeline will bring additional supplies
22 of natural gas to Hampton Roads. This will be a big
23 plus in helping us attract new manufacturing and other
24 commercial enterprises, and getting the ones already
25 located here to expand.

1 At present our supplies of natural gas
2 come from the south. We are not yet able to receive or
3 benefit from the ample supplies of gas from the
4 Marcellus and Utica Shale basins not all that far to
5 our north.

6 We learned a year ago, during the very
7 cold weather associated with the polar vortex, that
8 pipeline constraints can cause natural gas supplies to
9 slow and commodity prices to spike. The Atlantic Coast
10 Pipeline will go far toward alleviating these
11 constraints.

12 As mentioned earlier, the highly
13 respected research firm of ICF International recently
14 determined that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will help
15 lower energy costs not only for natural gas, but also
16 for gas generated electricity. ICF estimated the
17 customers and businesses in the Commonwealth could save
18 an estimated \$243,000,000 a year in lower energy costs,
19 giving consumers more money to spend and businesses
20 more capital to grow, and that's on top of the economic
21 benefits and job creation we will see from the pipeline
22 construction itself. Just talking about all of these
23 benefits from the pipeline makes me think I see a
24 second additional aircraft carrier on the horizon just
25 about to be based here.

1 In conclusion, the Atlantic Coast
2 Pipeline will fuel lower energy prices and economic
3 growth. It will alleviate pipeline constraints. The
4 pipeline is necessary and indeed vital for Virginia in
5 general and Hampton Roads in particular. The Hampton
6 Roads Chamber of Commerce strongly endorses the
7 Atlantic Coast Pipeline, and encourages the commission
8 to approve it.

9 I thank you for your time.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Our seventh speaker tonight
11 is Frank Wagner.

12 MR. WAGNER: Thank you very much for this
13 opportunity to speak. My name is Frank Wagner, and I
14 am a Senator in the Senate of Virginia.

15 I am here tonight in support of the
16 Atlantic Coast Pipeline, and I ask you to consider the
17 environmental consideration. Consider not just those
18 with the pipeline, but consider those being proposed
19 currently by the EPA, those regulations scheduled to be
20 effective this summer. It will require a substantial
21 reduction in the carbon footprint for the Commonwealth
22 of Virginia. In order for Virginia to obtain those
23 goals, four out five of the operating coal plants in
24 Virginia will be forced to shut down. The regulations
25 are front-end loaded, so this is a relatively early

1 shut down that would be required of Virginia in order
2 to meet the carbon output currently being set by the
3 EPA.

4 I will point out that this last January
5 and during the polar vortex that you've heard
6 referenced before, the natural gas pipelines currently
7 feeding Virginia were operating at full capacity.
8 Virginia Natural Gas has 108 customers with curtailment
9 contracts that can be curtailed during these times of
10 peak usage. All 108 of those customers were curtailed,
11 including Norfolk Naval Base. Also, at the same time
12 that that was happening, simultaneous Dominion reached
13 their peak megawatt production that they've ever
14 experienced on their entire grid. So literally the
15 energy structure within Virginia, and particularly here
16 in Hampton Roads, was at maximum capacity.

17 In order for us in Virginia to be able to
18 make this transition -- and four out of five coal
19 plants represents nearly 1/3rd of the entire generating
20 capacity for Dominion resources -- we will need to
21 replace those with natural gas plants. If we're
22 already operating at capacity here in Virginia, the
23 question then arises: Where is this natural gas going
24 to come from to replace that which is currently being
25 coal fired power plants? That reason alone I would

1 think would be sufficient enough to support the
2 Atlantic Coast Pipeline. This could be a real crisis
3 that we face as we try to transition from currently a
4 generating capacity that's roughly 1/3rd nuclear, 1/3rd
5 coal, and 1/3rd natural gas to what will essentially
6 become 1/3rd plus, if a new nuclear power plant, maybe
7 slightly more than 1/3rd nuclear, the remainder being
8 natural gas. With the current supplies, knowing that
9 the times when we most need it, which is the extreme
10 heat in the summer, extreme cold in the winter, that we
11 need full generating capacity and full natural gas
12 supply in order just to meet the needs of our citizens,
13 that the last experience that we just had with the
14 existing system with all five coal plants operating has
15 led to really a slow down in our economy with all 108
16 curtailed customers being curtailed.

17 And obviously the economic benefits of
18 what will come from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline I think
19 has been clearly delineated by previous speakers, but I
20 do ask you to consider other regulations being
21 proposed, being put forward, and actually be finalized
22 by this summer, particularly those out of the EPA, and
23 understanding the importance and the need to have this
24 pipeline in order to just supply the raw material and
25 the raw fuels that we will need in order to change our

1 generating base here in Virginia to meet the needs of
2 those new regulations and requirements of those new
3 regulations.

4 Again, I thank you very, very much for
5 this time and this opportunity to speak. Thank you.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Our eighth speaker is
7 Vincent O'Brien.

8 MR. O'BRIEN: I have a letter for you.
9 Thank you.

10 My name is Vincent O'Brien. I was born
11 in Portsmouth, raised in Norfolk, moved to Chesapeake
12 for high school years, and my parents are still living
13 in Chesapeake. I graduated from Old Dominion, got
14 drafted, went in the Navy, and I was stationed in
15 Oceana, and am now living in Virginia Beach.

16 I am here today to represent the
17 Qualified Gas Contractors of Virginia. We have
18 approximately 140 members and a 30-year history. We as
19 a group respectfully ask that FERC approve this
20 proposal for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

21 My company has converted well over 100
22 oil conversions that converted oil to natural gas. The
23 most recent was this week. We have found that the
24 average bill for a homeowner drops 2,000 to \$5,000.
25 The highest we have seen at any home was \$9,000, and

1 that was in Norfolk at a historical home that had at
2 that time two boilers originally, and their bill was
3 just outrageous. Churches, apartments, and condos even
4 see better than that, 4,000 to 14,000 per year.

5 The demand for gas is steadily rising and
6 will continue. Areas that are now getting gas are
7 seeing immediate growth. Right here in Chesapeake the
8 Dominion Bridge connecting to North Carolina will be a
9 significant growth area. There are big plans already
10 approved in North Carolina that will open up jobs to
11 Virginia and North Carolina and add to the demand for
12 natural gas. When you add to this the many vehicles
13 that are being converted to natural gas, this pipeline
14 is a definite plus and should be approved.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Our next speaker is Amy
17 Ring.

18 MS. RING: Good evening. My name is Amy
19 Ring, and I am the Interim Director and Business
20 Development Manager for Isle of Wight County Economic
21 Development.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to speak
23 tonight and express my county's strong support for the
24 proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Isle of Wight
25 believes that the commission should approve the

1 proposed pipeline based on several compelling reasons.

2 The first reason is the pipeline will
3 secure a competitive advantage for our region for
4 future economic growth. I represent one of the
5 region's dynamic fast-growing communities in the
6 western part of the Hampton Roads area. Like many
7 localities in our region, Isle of Wight County offers
8 many advantages for existing and prospective
9 businesses, including access to a superior
10 transportation network, proximity to one of the world's
11 leading ports, and the availability of a highly skilled
12 highly dedicated workforce. In order to capitalize on
13 all of these advantages, Isle of Wight established a
14 world class intermodal industrial park ready to welcome
15 and do business. But despite all of these advantages,
16 we are held back. In fact, we are severely handicapped
17 by the lack of access to natural gas.

18 In fact, Isle of Wight County recently
19 lost a major prospect that would have brought more than
20 2000 jobs and at least \$2 billion in capital investment
21 due primarily to the lack of gas capacity. So we are
22 elated by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project,
23 particularly the 70-mile extension that will run
24 eastward from the main pipeline into the heart of the
25 Hampton Roads area. The proposed corridor for this

1 extension lies just to the south of Isle of Wight. We
2 have every expectation that it will greatly improve the
3 availability of gas in our county, and in the process
4 greatly improve our availability to attract future
5 businesses and job opportunities.

6 It is common knowledge that modern
7 industry requires and, in fact, demands access to
8 reliable, affordable, sufficient supply of natural gas.
9 Natural gas has become the fuel of choice for many
10 industries due to its low emissions and comparatively
11 low supply cost. If a locality can't provide access to
12 natural gas, it is placed at a competitive disadvantage
13 to those areas with abundant natural gas supplies. The
14 proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline stands to remedy the
15 situation for the whole Hampton Roads region. The
16 proposed pipeline represents a huge improvement over
17 the existing pipeline system. Through our economic
18 development efforts we have learned that the existing
19 interstate pipeline network is simply not adequate to
20 serve the Hampton Roads region. Even where gas is
21 available, it can be subject to supply bottlenecks and
22 restrictions due to a lack of capacity.

23 Another compelling reason to support the
24 proposed pipeline is that it would give Hampton Roads,
25 including Isle of Wight, new direct access to some of

1 the most abundant and affordable supplies of natural
2 gas in the east, the Marcellus and Utica shale fields
3 in the Appalachian region. These fields produce
4 billions of cubic feet of gas per day at affordable
5 prices that are sometimes even lower than Gulf Coast
6 gas. The pipeline will help keep the price of gas
7 reasonable and affordable in our area. Abundant
8 supplies usually mean low, reasonable prices. High
9 prices, as we learned in economics class, go hand in
10 hand with scarcity. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will
11 provide a pathway for rich fuel supplies of gas to
12 reach our region, and in the process help keep prices
13 down for both businesses and homeowners.

14 It's for all of these reasons that Isle
15 of Wight County supports the approval of the Atlantic
16 Coast Pipeline Project. The approval of this project
17 will mean a brighter future for the hard working people
18 in Isle of Wight County and for everyone in the Hampton
19 Roads region.

20 Thank you again for the opportunity to
21 speak to you tonight.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Our 10th speaker is Steven
23 Wright.

24 MR. WRIGHT: Good evening. My name is
25 Steven Wright, and I am the Director of Economic

1 Development for the City of Chesapeake.

2 Tonight I am here to ask the commission
3 to approve the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, and I would
4 like to take just a few minutes to discuss some of the
5 benefits that this project will have for Chesapeake.

6 Chesapeake is a vibrant community. It's
7 a growing community of more than 230,000 people,
8 located in the heart of Hampton Roads. When we're out
9 recruiting businesses to our city, as well as the new
10 job opportunities for our citizens, we have several
11 advantages: World class transportation facilities, one
12 of the nation's best deep water ports, a skilled and
13 motivated workforce, many of whom were trained at the
14 U.S. Armed Forces bases right here in Hampton Roads.
15 Now despite all of these powerful forces working in our
16 favor, we still have a very significant challenge; a
17 challenge that is growing more important with each
18 passing year. If the city, this region, and this
19 country is going to be able to compete for business at
20 a nationwide and a global level, we must have better
21 access to our nation's rich affordable gas supply, very
22 much the fuel of choice for modern industry,
23 particularly with manufacturing.

24 As other speakers have noted tonight, the
25 availability of affordable and reliable gas supplies is

1 critical in the siting decisions that are made by a
2 variety of different businesses and industries.
3 Chesapeake and the entire Hampton Roads region is
4 handicapped by the lack of pipeline capacity feeding
5 gas into our region, as well as by the current
6 configuration of the existing pipelines. These
7 existing pipelines are set up to bring Gulf Coast gas
8 to Virginia and other southeastern states. The
9 burgeoning production in the Appalachian region and
10 shale field merely a hundred miles away is virtually in
11 accessible. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will
12 dramatically change that situation. It's been
13 described as transformational, and I don't think that's
14 overstating the benefits.

15 A 70-mile extension running east from the
16 main pipeline will carry gas directly to Chesapeake.
17 This will provide us with tremendously improved access
18 to the low cost and abundant production from the
19 Marcellus and Utica formations. The project will also
20 greatly reduce the risk of supply constraints and
21 pipeline bottlenecks, which can plague the existing
22 system during periods of high demand, like the winter
23 that we just finished experiencing. At least I hope
24 we're finished with the winter.

25 Studies have shown that the increased

1 supply will hold down energy prices throughout
2 Virginia. This, of course, will help us attract new
3 businesses, but it will also tremendously be helpful
4 for the families and businesses that are already a part
5 of our community. I would also like to note that the
6 pipeline will help maintain a reliable electrical
7 system as well here in Virginia and throughout the
8 southeast. Given the ever tightening Federal Air
9 Quality Regulations, including carbon standards, we can
10 reasonably expect that many of the coal fired plants in
11 our region will be closed in the coming years. In
12 fact, we have already seen one closed just a few miles
13 away from here, the Chesapeake Energy Center. To
14 replace this capacity, power generators are turning to
15 natural gas, a clean burning environmentally friendly
16 fuel. To keep these plants operating, utilities need
17 to be assured that adequate supplies of reasonably
18 priced gas will be there when they need it. The
19 pipeline will go a long way towards ensuring those
20 supplies are available to keep power flowing in our
21 region.

22 For all of these reasons we believe the
23 Atlantic Coast Pipeline will have huge benefits for
24 Chesapeake and additional opportunities for economic
25 development, more affordable energy for our homes and

1 businesses, a greater assurance that we will have
2 reliable supplies of energy, both electricity and gas
3 in the future.

4 I appreciate the opportunity to speak to
5 you tonight, and I again respectfully ask the
6 commission to approve this project.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Our 11th speaker is Andrew
9 Sinclair.

10 MR. SINCLAIR: Good evening. My name is
11 Andrew Sinclair, and I represent the Port of Virginia.

12 We operate the fifth largest container
13 port complex in the United States, and the third
14 largest and fastest growing on the East Coast,
15 including four major deep water facilities throughout
16 the Hampton Roads area. I am here tonight to voice the
17 Port's support for the proposed Atlantic Coast
18 Pipeline. And on behalf of the Port, I respectfully
19 ask the commission to approve it.

20 The Port of Virginia is a gateway to
21 global trade and an economic engine for the
22 Commonwealth. On an annual basis, port-related
23 businesses provide more than 374,000 jobs, 17.5 billion
24 dollars in payroll compensation, and 1.4 billion
25 dollars in state and local tax revenue.

1 A growing port requires reliable and
2 affordable supplies of energy. We believe the Atlantic
3 Coast Pipeline will be a major step forward in ensuring
4 that the Port of Virginia and our customers will have
5 the secure, reasonably priced energy supplies needed in
6 future years to keep expanding and thriving. We are
7 particularly pleased that a 70-mile extension running
8 east from the main pipeline will carry gas directly to
9 the Hampton Roads area. This will give our region an
10 important new link to the impressive production of
11 natural gas in the Appalachian region's shale
12 formations. Although much of this supply is just one
13 state away in West Virginia, our access to it is
14 extremely limited.

15 Currently the interstate pipeline system
16 in the southeast is set up primarily to haul supplies
17 of gas from south to north, not bring Marcellus and
18 Utica supplies southward to Virginia. It is my
19 understanding that the existing pipeline capacity in
20 our region is not adequate. The bottlenecks and supply
21 difficulties seen during the winter of 2014 are
22 evidence of that problem. With the Atlantic Coast
23 Pipeline in operation, the possibility of those
24 bottlenecks and log jams will be much more remote. We
25 also believe the new supplies of natural gas that the

1 project will bring to the southeast will play a vital
2 role in maintaining the reliability of our electrical
3 system.

4 There is no question that the new EPA
5 regulations on carbon emissions will reshape the way
6 power is generated here in Virginia and elsewhere.
7 Most observers expect many coal fired stations will be
8 retired. At the moment the most cost effective
9 reasonable means of replacing this power seems to be
10 natural gas. If we are to maintain electric
11 reliability in our region, I believe improved access to
12 affordable abundant supplies of gas is essential.

13 The Port of Virginia is an energy
14 intensive operation. Reliable, reasonably priced
15 sources of energy are absolutely essential to our
16 success and our ability to compete for business with
17 other ports. We believe the Atlantic Coast Pipeline
18 will be a huge step forward in ensuring reliable energy
19 supplies the for Hampton Roads area for years to come,
20 and we respectfully ask the commission to approve it.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

23 Our 12th speaker is Mark Wawner.

24 MR. WAWNER: Good evening, I am Mark
25 Wawner, W-A-W-N-E-R, and I am the Project Development

1 Coordinator for the Department of Economic Development
2 in the City of Virginia Beach. I've been asked to read
3 the comments from our mayor into the record, so if you
4 please, our Mayor, William D. Sessoms.

5 As Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach, I
6 would like to express our wholehearted support for the
7 construction of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

8 Virginia Beach has previously gone on
9 record as supporting the development of natural gas as
10 a bridge fuel until alternative energy sources can be
11 developed. Utilization of natural gas produced in
12 America is very important to meeting the Commonwealth's
13 future energy needs. The proposed pipeline will
14 provide Hampton Roads with direct access to the
15 expanding natural gas production in the Marcellus and
16 Utica shale formations. This will provide the region
17 with greater diversity in its energy supply, and a much
18 more vigorous supply than is currently available.

19 Virginia Beach is one of the largest
20 customers of Virginia Natural Gas, and an adequate
21 continuous supply of natural gas is important to our
22 economy. Certainly other industries in Hampton Roads
23 as well as the numerous military installations are also
24 relying upon the supply of natural gas, not only in
25 volume, but also at an economical price. Natural gas

1 is considerably cleaner in emissions than coal, and
2 produces no mercury emissions and virtually no
3 particulates or sulfur dioxides. It is one of the
4 cleanest of the conditional sources of fuel, and a
5 great utilization will help the Commonwealth comply
6 with the current proposed emission requirements
7 proposed by the EPA.

8 I join with Governor McAullife in his
9 statement that the construction of the pipeline should
10 also include the provision of high speed internet
11 capabilities. This capability would do much to improve
12 the economies to the underserved communities in the
13 western part of our state.

14 We respectfully request the commission to
15 approve the project as expeditiously as possible.

16 As an economic developer, I would also
17 like to add that the City of Virginia Beach and the
18 Hampton Roads region will benefit greatly from the
19 Atlantic Pipeline. As companies go through the site
20 selection process, those of us involved in economic
21 development strive to help them address their concerns.
22 The chief among them is the assurance of affordable
23 energy that will be available when they need it; that
24 includes natural gas and electricity. The Atlantic
25 Coast Pipeline will provide us with a new direct path

1 that, you know, my family and other families and
2 neighbors and the way that the community is, its rural
3 culture. And it's going to destroy the culture of the
4 neighborhood with a pipeline coming through the middle
5 of the neighborhood.

6 And so, you know, in reviewing several
7 documents on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
8 FERC website, we found references also as to how
9 wetlands and agricultural sites are treated. In the
10 document entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility
11 on My Land, What Do I Need to Know?", on page 26 it
12 states, in part: What if my property contains
13 endangered species, wetlands or archeological site?
14 And in case of wetlands, if proper crossing procedures
15 are used and no alternatives are available, they may be
16 used for pipeline right-of-way. If an archeological or
17 historical site is eligible for the listing in the
18 National Registry of Historical Places, the impact to
19 it must be minimized. It either will be excavated and
20 studied or the pipeline will be rerouted to avoid it.

21 Our community is on the National Registry
22 of Historical Places, you know. The DHR file number is
23 131-5325. Based on the approved information, this
24 pipeline should be rerouted outside of our
25 neighborhood.

1 You know, I did receive -- as one of the
2 few people I've heard tonight, I did receive a Notice
3 For Intent for this project. And on my street, on
4 Truitt Road, we don't have gas. We don't have access
5 to it, you know. There is no gas in our neighborhood,
6 well on our side of the neighborhood.

7 We're not asking that the pipeline go
8 through Lake Drummond, but we're asking to skirt it
9 along our neighborhood. You know, it's coming through
10 the middle of our neighborhood. We're not asking it to
11 go through Lake Drummond, but to skirt it so that the
12 impact has a positive one. It's only 50 feet wide, and
13 that creates fire roads, fire accesses, access for the
14 City of Chesapeake to maybe do some drainage cleaning.

15 All right. The property of the Dismal
16 Swamp was set aside for preservation by donations or
17 purchased with our tax dollars, you know, and it's
18 locked our community in from the south there. It's
19 more or less from the state line all the way up to our
20 community. A portion or part of the Dismal Swamp is
21 off limits to the general public, and will never be
22 used for the general public. You know, nobody lives
23 there, so it wouldn't affect anybody if it can go
24 through there. There is no old forest in the Dismal
25 Swamp that skirts our property. It's already been

1 cut through the heart of the Sunray Historic District,
2 including approximately 1,000 feet of the small farm
3 that my family lives on. I do not understand why the
4 lower risk and less impactful plan advertised by
5 Dominion through October of 2014 that avoids the Sunray
6 community was abandoned. I would like to comment on
7 that significantly less impactful plan that put the
8 line to the south of Sunray.

9 I will be referring to comments via
10 letter to Ms. Kim D. Bose, Secretary FERC, dated 15
11 February 2015 from Michael A. Zydron.

12 If you take a look at Exhibit 1 of the
13 map, you can see the community of Sunray in the center
14 just south of the Bowers Hill intersection. Jolliff
15 Middle School, where we are here tonight, is located
16 less than a half a mile to the north. The green line
17 shows the initial proposed routing that Dominion was
18 planning. Many of us in Sunray thought that was the
19 intended route until we started receiving certified
20 mail from Dominion to survey an alternate plan through
21 our farms. It is the shortest and the most direct
22 route, and avoids neighborhoods and businesses to the
23 maximum extent, and results in virtually no current and
24 future land use impact.

25 The yellow and red lines show the current

1 revised route in order to detour around the northern
2 edge of the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
3 and other privately owned contiguous property, and cuts
4 through the center of the Sunray community. The
5 current proposed route represents significantly
6 increased public safety risks and impact to private
7 property and city right-of-ways and utilities. Due to
8 the nature of the pipeline, it can also represent an
9 even higher risk to the City and its citizens in the
10 years to come without careful thought on its routing.

11 Safety to the public should be paramount
12 and take priority over perceived impact to the Dismal
13 Swamp. Pipeline routing that poses an increased risk
14 to public safety should not be considered over
15 significantly lower risk options. Safety risks in
16 this case can be characterized by: A, the likelihood
17 of an accident; and B, the corresponding consequences
18 of an accident. Simply put, the likelihood of an
19 incident or explosion increases dramatically with the
20 current proposed route when the pipeline is threaded
21 between homes, undeveloped land, across numerous roads
22 and right-of-ways, and in such close proximity to other
23 major utilities. Similarly, consequences of an
24 accident significantly increase since the relocated red
25 route through the center of Sunray also puts people and

1 property clearly within the blast zone in the event of
2 an explosion. The combination of the increased
3 likelihood and increased consequences severity make
4 this current proposed route high risk compared to the
5 swamp route to the south.

6 In speaking with representatives from
7 Dominion, FERC, and the wildlife refuge manager during
8 the open house held here in January, I concluded, but
9 have not received response to letters yet, that the
10 less impactful green route on your map was vacated in
11 order to avoid the Dismal Swamp.

12 I would like to point out again,
13 referring to the map, a few observations. Before the
14 current proposed route takes a hard left into Sunray,
15 it has already traveled through the Dismal Swamp along
16 the northern edge for several miles. Secondly, to
17 avoid direct impact to Sunray, less than two additional
18 miles along the northern edge of the swamp is required
19 to support the previously advertised route. When
20 considering the permanent 75-foot wide right-of-way
21 area, this would equate to less than .01 percent impact
22 to the total national wildlife refuge acres.

23 The green line also impacts Sunray
24 landowners who voted for this route as the lesser of
25 the two evils for the Sunray Community during a Sunray

1 Farmers' Association Meeting. The impacted northern
2 corridor of the swamp already has three other parallel
3 transmission right-of-ways proven not to be detrimental
4 to the swamp, that provides additional benefits to
5 wildlife forging and habitat, including fire breaks in
6 the event of a significant fire.

7 Although I and others have had several
8 discussions and have sent correspondence to Dominion,
9 including comment forms submitted during the January
10 open house here, there have been no compelling reasons
11 given that resulted in the realigned proposal from the
12 green low risk original route to the current high risk
13 and significant impactful route. Since the green route
14 does not appear to be recognized as an alternative
15 route by Dominion, my concern is that it may not even
16 be considered by the commission.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Zydron, I don't mean to
18 limit your comments, but in order to get everyone's
19 comments --

20 MR. ZYDRON: Yes, ma'am. I'm sorry for
21 going over.

22 MS. JOHNSON: No, that's okay.

23 MR. ZYDRON: Representatives of the
24 commission, I ask that you inquire about the original
25 green route or similar routing through the unpopulated

1 area south of Sunray. The result will be significantly
2 less safety risks to the people and property, and
3 significantly less current and future land use impact
4 to Sunray, the surrounding communities, and to the City
5 of Chesapeake.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

8 Our 15th speaker is Corey Ivy.

9 MR. IVY: Good evening. My name is Corey
10 Ivy. I am representing Nucor Steel. I am a proud
11 resident of Chesapeake, Virginia.

12 Nucor Steel is located just across the
13 state line of North Carolina. We employ close to 500
14 team members as well as over 200 onsite contractors.
15 Nucor Steel is the largest recycler of steel. We
16 produce steel, which we sell as commodity product for
17 construction, bridges, barges, power transmission
18 towers, wind turbine towers, other goods and other
19 projects.

20 Nucor was also affected by the polar
21 vortex of 2014, and so far this year we have operated
22 under different circumstances, because each day we use
23 over 8,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

24 And for those reasons Nucor supports the
25 construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, because

1 more natural gas in this region means more clean
2 industry and better jobs.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Our 16th speaker is Brad
5 Simmons.

6 MR. SIMMONS: Good evening. My name is
7 Brad Simmons. I am the Director of Business
8 Development for TFC Recycling.

9 We're one of the region's largest
10 recycling companies providing service to
11 municipalities, businesses, and other customers here in
12 Hampton Roads and through much of North Carolina. We
13 have two recycling facilities, one here in Chesapeake
14 and another in Newport News. We take great pride in
15 that we do what we can to protect natural resources.
16 So we enthusiastically support another venture that we
17 feel like will help safeguard our environment, and
18 protect the quality of the air we breathe. That
19 project is the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

20 We respectfully ask the commission to
21 approve it, with good reason. Natural gas is the fuel
22 of choice today for heating, for industrial operations,
23 for power generation. It's extremely efficient. It
24 can be transported safely over thousands of miles of
25 pipeline. And with domestic production growing, it is

1 one of the more affordable, selling at prices much
2 lower than they were just a few years ago. But another
3 big reason for this fuel of choice status is natural
4 gas's superior environmental profile. Quite simply
5 it's the cleanest burning fossil fuel available. When
6 it's burned, it produces less than half of the carbon
7 dioxide of coal, but with benefits that don't stop
8 there. It releases no mercury into the atmosphere and
9 produces extremely low levels of emissions like
10 particulates of sulfur oxide. That's the number one
11 reason we are in the process and have made the
12 commitment to converting our entire fleet to compressed
13 natural gas. We've already converted 25 trucks, have
14 our own fueling station, and it is a vital part of our
15 future.

16 TFC cares about the environment, and
17 that's a big reason why we're an enthusiastic supporter
18 of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and ask that you approve
19 it.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Our 17th speaker is Bruce
22 McDaniel.

23 MR. MCDANIEL: My name is Bruce McDaniel,
24 and I reside at 4713 Sunray Avenue in Chesapeake, in
25 the historical neighborhood of Sunray.

1 I would like to thank speaker number 13
2 for pointing out the fact that this is a National
3 Historic District, this area, and it's very clearly
4 covered under the FERC regulations as far as the
5 environmental impact, which 14 speakers have not
6 addressed up to this point in dealing with this issue.

7 The original proposed route around the
8 neighborhood that Danny Zydron told you in his
9 explanation was changed with no explanation. We still
10 don't have an answer as to why that was changed. We
11 support and understand that this pipeline is needed in
12 this area. We understand, because we've been through
13 this situation before with Columbia Gas several years
14 ago. We understand the need for expansion on that.
15 However, the problem that I have with this, and despite
16 the requests from Dominion Transmission for explanation
17 as to why this route was changed, I am very discouraged
18 that public safety is the last of the criteria that
19 appears on the list that FERC sent out in their
20 information. Everything up to that -- there is nine, I
21 believe nine items on that list, and public safety is
22 last. And I've got to ask anybody sitting in here, is
23 it worth anybody dying for to have more natural gas in
24 this area?

25 In 2012 there was more than 80 natural

1 gas explosions and fires according to the Pipeline
2 Hazardous Material Safety Administration, PHMSA. As a
3 construction worker, it is disturbing that the
4 Government through OSHA prioritizes the reduction of
5 death and injury at the expense of production on any
6 job site. Yet, the National Wildlife Refuge can deny
7 pipeline routes through a part of the refuge that would
8 jeopardize the safety of our neighborhood. You're
9 talking about 400 people, okay. Divide 80 into
10 365 days in the year. How many times a week is there a
11 gas explosion?

12 Simply put, if the refuge refuses the
13 route -- if the refuge refuses the route through the
14 refuge, then FERC, according to the last meeting that I
15 came to in January, would issue a permit for the
16 pipeline to come through our neighborhood. And
17 everybody in this room has to understand that once that
18 permit is issued, the old story of eminent domain takes
19 place. You will not have a choice. You will have to
20 deal with that as a property owner.

21 We currently have the technology to place
22 gas pipelines into environmentally sensitive areas that
23 will not impact these areas. Common sense and
24 prioritizing public safety over conflicting government
25 regulation needs to make a come back in our society. I

1 urge all citizens in the City of Chesapeake to contact
2 FERC before April the 28th and make their concerns
3 known, because once this permit is issued, if you live
4 in the way of this pipeline, you will be dealing with
5 eminent domain in the State of Virginia. Due to the
6 federal level of this situation, everyone -- I'm sorry
7 I lost my place.

8 A secondary issue that impacts our
9 neighborhood is the current effort to improve our
10 drainage. Poor drainage has been a problem in Sunray
11 for a long time, and a gas line right-of-way would
12 impact our ability to improve the drainage in our
13 neighborhood. I've been living in that neighborhood
14 for 25 years, and we are still fighting the drainage
15 situation out there, and it doesn't appear like it's
16 going to go away very quickly.

17 So, again, you need to contact your
18 representatives and senators at the federal level, and
19 make them aware of this potential problem. And I
20 apologize for the 14 speakers that got up and had
21 nothing to say but economic impact instead of
22 environmental impact, as this forum was supposed to
23 deal with.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Our next speaker is Tommy
25 Benn.

1 MR. BENN: Good evening. Thank you for
2 the opportunity to be here tonight to comment on this.
3 My name Tommy Benn. I am the Operations Manager of the
4 Hampton Roads Executive Airport just a mile and-a-half
5 up the road here.

6 The Hampton Roads Executive Airport will
7 be providing a written response, potentially in
8 opposition, once we have received more details
9 regarding the proposed easements across or adjacent to
10 the airport property and after having consulted with
11 the Federal Aviation Administration and the Virginia
12 Department of Aviation.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Our 19th speaker is Mary
15 Hensley.

16 MS. HENSLEY: Good evening. My name is
17 Mary Hensley, and I am here tonight representing my
18 firm, Enspire Energy, which is a natural gas marketing
19 company based here in Virginia and actually in
20 Chesapeake, Virginia.

21 Thank you tonight for the opportunity to
22 voice my strong support for the proposed Atlantic Coast
23 Pipeline. My firm represents and advises commercial
24 and industrial customers in their efforts to save money
25 on their energy costs through managing their usage and

1 obtaining the most economical supplies of natural gas
2 available.

3 It's been said many times tonight that
4 natural gas is the fuel of choice for modern industry,
5 and that's true for many reasons. Gas is an efficient
6 and environmentally friendly source of energy. It's
7 also very economical with prices far below the levels
8 even imagined just a few years ago. But here in
9 Virginia, and especially in the Hampton Roads area, we
10 are having trouble sharing in the lower pricing
11 produced by what many have called the gas revolution.
12 The network of interstate pipelines bringing gas to the
13 Commonwealth is, simply put, inadequate. It has
14 capacity problems, and we have seen curtailments during
15 periods of heavy demands. It's set up primarily to
16 bring gas from the Gulf Coast to the southeast, and it
17 provides virtually no access to the abundant economical
18 production now underway in the Marcellus and Utica
19 shale fields located just a few hundred miles to our
20 north.

21 Let's talk real numbers here. In
22 February, we had a pretty cold second half of February
23 here. My kids were out of school for several days.
24 And natural gas prices literally went from about 3 to
25 \$4 a dekatherm of natural gas to as high as \$40. And

1 of doing business these days. Access to affordable
2 reliable energy, including natural gas, is essential to
3 business success and to the overall health of our
4 economy. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be very good
5 news indeed for the businesses in the Hampton Roads
6 area that rely on this fuel. It will also be good for
7 their employees, and it will be very good news for the
8 entire Hampton Roads community.

9 I respectfully ask the commission to
10 approve this transformational pipeline, and I thank you
11 all tonight for your time.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Our 20th speaker is Julie
13 Hashagen.

14 MS. HASHAGEN: Good evening. I am here
15 representing the natural gas marketing company of
16 Enspire Energy.

17 My colleague, Mary Hensley, has already
18 expressed our firm's strong support of the Atlantic
19 Coast Pipeline. I thank you for giving us the
20 opportunity to ask the commission to approve it.

21 I would like to briefly share with you
22 some additional thoughts on why the pipeline is so
23 important to industries and other businesses. I don't
24 think I am overstating the situation when I say that
25 energy prices are a prime concern for every single

1 business operating today; so is energy reliability. A
2 fuel can be attractive for a variety reasons: Price,
3 environmental characteristics, and efficiency. If you
4 don't have reliable access, none of those things
5 matter. They're meaningless. As far as natural gas is
6 concerned, access is a big problem throughout Virginia,
7 and particularly in the Hampton Roads area. Simply
8 put, we are underserved, underserved by the interstate
9 pipeline system. The capacity is inadequate. The
10 configuration is outdated, since it is set up primarily
11 to bring gas a thousand miles from the Gulf Coast to
12 Virginia, and it doesn't provide much access, as many
13 have said tonight, from the production of the
14 Appalachian shale field. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline
15 will change all of those situations quickly and help
16 ensure that reliable supplies of gas are here whenever
17 customers need it.

18 Beyond gas supply, the pipeline will
19 bring a big boost to another form of energy
20 reliability, a secure efficient electrical system.
21 Power generation in the southeast and indeed throughout
22 the country is undergoing a transformation; much of
23 this due to the coming federal regulation of power
24 station carbon dioxide emissions. The rules are
25 expected to force the closure of thousands of megawatts

1 of coal powered electric generation throughout the
2 region. Something must be done to replace this
3 capacity. The most efficient cost effective method of
4 doing this is building more natural gas powered
5 generating units. Natural gas has a much lower
6 emissions profile than coal, and in fact it has half of
7 the carbon emission. But this increased reliance on
8 natural gas can't happen without better access. We
9 believe that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will help
10 power generators obtain the gas they need at reasonable
11 prices to keep these new plants operating and maintain
12 a reliable affordable supply of power in Hampton Roads,
13 across Virginia, and throughout the southeast. For
14 businesses energy costs are a critical concern, but so
15 is energy reliability. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline
16 will go a long way toward easing both of those concerns
17 in Hampton Roads and throughout Virginia, and I
18 respectfully urge the commission to approve it.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Our speaker 21 will be
21 Charles Decuir.

22 MR. DECUIR: Good evening everyone.
23 First and foremost, thank you for having me here this
24 evening to voice my support for the Atlantic Coast
25 Pipeline. As mentioned, my name is Chuck Decuir, and I

1 am proud to say that I am a huge part of the effort to
2 bring offshore wind to the Hampton Roads area and the
3 Commonwealth of Virginia.

4 My company, NovaVis, which is a supply
5 chain technology company is created to sustain this new
6 industry. I am also chairman and executive of the
7 executive committee of the Virginia Offshore Wind
8 Coalition, which I must say is going quite well now
9 that we're kind of up and rolling.

10 The businesses in the coalition are
11 dedicated to build an advancing offshore wind energy
12 along Virginia's coast. But even as offshore wind
13 industry matures, the Commonwealth will still require
14 other forms of energy, forms that reduce emissions and
15 protect the environment. For offshore wind to reach
16 its potential, we must have a strong health economy in
17 Hampton Roads. This economy can then support
18 businesses and infrastructure needed to develop this
19 new renewable resource.

20 There are two important reasons why I am
21 endorsing the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. In order to
22 meet modern day society's around the clock energy
23 needs, we will need electric generation to back up
24 offshore wind and other renewable resources. Natural
25 gas can fill this role in a cost effective and

1 environmentally friendly way, not to mention natural
2 gas has fewer emissions, as mentioned earlier, than
3 other forms of fossil fuel. For example, burning
4 natural gas produces only about half the carbon of
5 coal.

6 All of the states in the southeast are
7 looking for ways to reduce carbon output to comply with
8 the EPA's proposed standards, which you're all aware
9 of. The pipeline will give our region's electric power
10 producers an important new option for cleaner
11 generation and fewer emissions. The pipeline will also
12 boost the coastal Hampton Roads economy, and in fact
13 the state, the entire state economy. Strong evidence
14 of this can be found in the recently mentioned ICF
15 report. ICF found that the pipeline will produce
16 yearly energy savings for consumers here in Virginia of
17 up to nearly a quarter billion dollars, or at an annual
18 average of 136 million to the gross state product, and
19 supporting about 1300 jobs.

20 My background is maritime construction
21 and offshore energy. My years of experience in the
22 maritime industry have shown me that Hampton Roads has
23 what it takes to be the leader in the development of
24 offshore wind infrastructure. We have the
25 manufacturing skills. We have the deep water access.

1 And most importantly we have the trained workforce
2 needed to make Hampton Roads a pace setter in this
3 effort.

4 A strong growing economy will make it far
5 easier for our region to assume the leadership role and
6 launch the new venture and new production needed for
7 offshore wind to emerge.

8 Thank you once again for your time, and I
9 ask that the commission approve the pipeline. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 Our speaker 22 is Joe Biernot.

13 MR. BIERNOT: I am Joe Biernot. I live
14 on 348 Biernot Avenue. My grandfather -- my
15 grandfather and a lot of these people in the community,
16 my cousins, you know, I don't see no need for going
17 through the community, the Sunray community.

18 The gas, I am all for the gas coming into
19 the locality, but not through the community. I don't
20 see why it can't run through the Dismal Swamp or out of
21 areas of the community. It makes no sense to me, but I
22 can't say nothing no more.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

25 Our speaker 23 is Jay Houk.

1 MR. HOUK: Good evening. My name is Jay
2 Houk. I live at 696 Colony Manor Road.

3 I do not object to natural gas. I heat
4 my home with it. I do not object to gas pipelines. I
5 have three of them on my property. I have a gas
6 distribution station on my property. I don't mind
7 electricity either. Guess what? I have a 500,000-volt
8 transmission line crossing the other side of my
9 property. I don't object to gas lines.

10 What I object to is this gas line coming
11 through the only bit of property I have left. When I
12 sat down and I started looking at this -- Mr. Zydron
13 provided you with a map of the original routing that
14 went around all of this neighborhood. Had that
15 original plot been in place, this probably would be a
16 mostly empty room. All of the other folks in here from
17 business can shake each other's hands, pat each other
18 on the back, and make each other feel good. All of
19 these people from Sunray wouldn't be here.

20 If you look at the map, you have the map.
21 If you go from mile 59 to mile 71 on your map, it's a
22 straight line. It goes straight parallel to the
23 existing railroad tracks. Now there is a corridor
24 between those railroad tracks and the existing 500 KV
25 line that sits just south of that.

1 No one from Dominion, not in the January
2 meeting, not tonight, has been able to provide a good
3 explanation other than the Dismal Swamp Refuge Manager
4 says no, that's not good enough. That swamp can't be
5 more valuable than all of the land all of these people
6 and generations of their families fought for and toiled
7 for to own that land. It's impossible for that swamp
8 to be that valuable.

9 So I am told it can't be done. Title 50,
10 Chapter 1, Subchapter C, Part 29, Subpart B of the
11 Title Federal Regulations is the procedures required to
12 be followed by Dominion to apply for a permit to put
13 gas transmission pipelines across that wildlife refuge.
14 A very similar procedure has already been done by them
15 per Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations,
16 Chapter 11, Part 251, Subpart B to go across the George
17 Washington National Forest and also to cross the
18 Monongahela National Forest. So if that process can
19 take place in the mountains, I would sure like to know
20 why that can't take place here.

21 There are no thousand year old Cypress
22 trees in this area. I bet you half of the people in
23 here have been exactly through every inch of that swamp
24 back there, myself included. There are scrub maples,
25 little maples eight feet tall, and it's mucky. That

1 railroad track that you see that goes between mile 59
2 and 71, when you look at it on Google Earth, it's a
3 line. When you stand on it, it's the Great Wall of
4 China. It's probably ten feet elevated above the
5 swamp. When my son was little, we used to go sit back
6 and watch the coal trains that come up and down that
7 all day long, and the cloud of coal dust -- I bet there
8 is a hundred tons of coal laying in that swamp from
9 that track. To put that gas line between that railroad
10 track and that existing 500-KV line to the south of
11 that would go in unnoticed, unharmed, nobody would
12 care. All of us people would go home, and you would
13 never hear from us again. That's all I got to say.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Speaker 24 is Josh Clark.

15 MR. CLARK: Good evening. I am Josh
16 Clark, Staff Vice-President of Builders Services for
17 the Tidewater Builders Association. I am here to state
18 the association's strong support for building the
19 Atlantic Coast Pipeline and particularly the lateral
20 extension that comes through our region.

21 The Tidewater Builders Association is a
22 non-profit organization. We represent more than 500
23 companies that serve the shelter industry in south
24 Hampton Roads and also the Eastern Shore. Our members
25 employ more than 30,000 people who provide products and

1 services. They go into the design, construct,
2 purchase, and renovation of homes. Our membership also
3 includes the owners and managers of more than 30,000
4 apartment units throughout the region. They also have
5 a lot of supporting companies that help their
6 businesses.

7 The houses and apartments use various
8 types of systems and appliances for heating, cooling,
9 water heating, and cooking, including natural gas. The
10 Atlantic Coast Pipeline will provide assurance to
11 residents choosing natural gas that they will have an
12 adequate supply of fuel all day everyday to meet their
13 needs.

14 As our region grows, so too does the
15 demand for natural gas. It's plentiful. And the U.S.
16 Energy Information Association says natural gas
17 production in the United States is actually at a record
18 high level and that prices have been falling. The
19 trick is basically transporting the natural gas to
20 where it's needed, and that's pretty much what our
21 problem is here in Hampton Roads. Tidewater residents
22 are basically handicapped by having pipeline gas come
23 to us only from the south. If there is a bottleneck, a
24 production problem in the Gulf Coast, we're pretty much
25 stuck. We're not able to receive Appalachian gas by

1 pipeline right now, but the Atlantic Coast Pipeline
2 will actually solve this problem for the region. It's
3 basically a pragmatic answer to a pressing problem we
4 have.

5 So on behalf of the members of the
6 Tidewater Builders Association, I ask the Federal
7 Energy Regulatory Commission to approve its
8 construction.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

11 Our speaker 25 is Jay Tate.

12 MR. TATE: Yes. My name is Jay Tate.

13 I'm the Director of Development and Permits for the
14 City of Chesapeake.

15 The City of Chesapeake would like to take
16 this opportunity to welcome back the Federal Energy
17 Regulatory Commission to the City of Chesapeake. We
18 appreciate you taking the time to listen to the input
19 of the businesses and the citizens of the City of
20 Chesapeake.

21 Our economic development director spoke
22 earlier about the importance of natural gas to many of
23 our commercial users. We also appreciate the
24 difficulty with which there is to select a route that
25 balances the impacts on our infrastructure, both the

1 existing and the planned. We have the future widening
2 of I-64 impacts to the Sunray community, the city's
3 drinking water supplies, and other sensitive natural
4 resources to consider. We've been working with
5 Dominion for the last several months, and are waiting
6 for the latest alternate routes so that we can perform
7 a more detailed review and our final comments for the
8 commission.

9 I'll yield the balance of my time to the
10 gentleman from Sunray, Mr. Szymanski.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Our speaker 26 is Gary
12 Szymanski. We can bring the mic to you.

13 MR. SZYMANSKI: No. I am good. I just
14 need to get going.

15 Good evening. I would also like to
16 welcome the FERC group here to the City of Chesapeake,
17 and particularly to the Bowers Hill area.

18 My name is Gary Szymanski, that's
19 S-Z-Y-M-A-N-S-K-I. I am currently President of the
20 Sunray Farmers Association.

21 We are a small Polish community located
22 very close to this school that was settled at the turn
23 of the century by Polish immigrants. We are not only
24 on the National Registry of Historic Places, we are
25 also on the State Registry. We have worked very hard

1 to protect the cultural identity of our community. We
2 are an agricultural historic district. We are rural,
3 and we celebrate our rural characteristics. We value
4 our farm land.

5 You know the only thing more important
6 than energy is food, and if you lose your farm land,
7 you can have all of the gas in the world, but you will
8 not survive. Humans need food, air, and water, sort of
9 in that order.

10 But let me just say we are not here to be
11 against the pipeline. We are here because we see this
12 pipeline as something very unique. It operates at
13 1500 PSI. None of the gas lines coming into this area
14 operate at that pressure, nor are they of this
15 diameter. The explosion zone we think would be over a
16 thousand feet radius if this pipe ever burst. And we
17 see also that the risk to our community, not just for
18 the property owners where the pipeline is going, but
19 for people next door and that are within a thousand
20 feet of that pipeline. We don't think you can sleep
21 comfortably at night knowing that that pipeline goes
22 through our neighborhood.

23 The other thing is, what I see is the
24 last time the pipeline company came through our
25 community, they crushed all of the culverts. They tore

1 up our roads. They basically destroyed our
2 neighborhood, and we're still living with the effects
3 of that today.

4 So what we're asking you to do is to
5 consider rerouting this pipe around our community to
6 the south. And the gentleman that spoke about two
7 speakers earlier talked about the area between the
8 railroad tracks, the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks
9 and the existing Dominion power easement. That area
10 right there is a wetland bank. It is not a pristine
11 place. It has been clear cut before and forested
12 before. But our community worked hard with agencies
13 like the Corps of Engineers and the Fish and Wildlife
14 Service so that that land would be set aside as a
15 wetland bank. Now we're paying the price for our good
16 intentions on that, and we're asking you to consider
17 our community and the value of human life above other
18 things.

19 Now, there was an environmental study
20 done during the creation of the wetland bank. Several
21 environmentally protected species, primarily of flora
22 not fauna. There were several plant species that were
23 considered threatened and endangered. They were
24 actually located in the cleared area of the Virginia
25 Power easement, because that is an area of diversified

1 habitat from the existing Dismal Swamp, which is
2 basically all reeds and gum trees and maple trees. By
3 having an easement through this swamp, it will not be a
4 long-term negative impact on the swamp like it is on
5 our community.

6 So I have already sent a letter to FERC
7 on behalf of the Sunray Farmers Association. I have
8 also sent and have in my possession here now a letter
9 from the Norfolk County Historical Society in support
10 of rerouting this pipeline around our community.

11 I can assure you that if FERC approves
12 this line through our community, our next step will be
13 a filing of a complaint with the Department of Justice
14 that FERC has not complied with the Historic
15 Preservation Act, and has actually discriminated
16 against our community by putting this pipeline in here
17 thinking that we are worth less than swamp land.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 Our speaker 27 is Mike Kowalski.

21 MR. KOWALSKI: Good evening. Like
22 everybody else, I appreciate the opportunity to speak.
23 It's pretty daunting to come behind so many well
24 prepared speakers.

25 There are three parts of me. Like Gary,

1 I am very, very proud of the work our community has
2 done to support the wetlands bank. We're -- at heart I
3 am a bird and bunny guy. So if we were going to in any
4 way damage the wetlands or the watershed, we would be
5 fussing, okay. There is another part of me that's a
6 landowner. I also have a right-of-way running through
7 my property. I have nothing against the pipeline. I
8 live within a hundred yards of a pipeline. There is
9 another part of me that's the president of my union.
10 The people that build that pipeline, if it comes, when
11 it comes, would be people that I represent, work for,
12 and care about. I have no problem with the pipeline
13 coming, no opposition to it. But the way it's been
14 routed, not only does it not make sense, it looks
15 downright mean-spirited to me. So we're not here to
16 work against the wetlands. We're not here to work
17 against the Chamber of Commerce. We just want you to
18 do what's right environmentally.

19 There is evidence that the environment,
20 the right-of-ways can coexist. Less than a mile from
21 here, the frogs screaming last night down that
22 right-of-way was deafening. So I am not making that
23 up. Okay. I was walking my dogs back there.

24 Please do the right thing. Route it to
25 the south of us. Every reason has been stated why.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

3 Our speaker 28 is Glen Besa.

4 MR. BESA: Thank you for the opportunity
5 to speak. My name is Glen Besa. It's G-L-E-N B-E-S-A.
6 I am the Virginia Director of the Sierra Club, and we
7 are opposed to this pipeline.

8 There has been a lot of talk about
9 economic development. Gas is notoriously volatile in
10 terms of price. And while we are experiencing low
11 prices now, as someone just mentioned recently because
12 of weather, we had a high price spike. The low prices
13 right now are suppressing production, and so I think
14 reliance on gas as a steady low price supply of energy
15 is really quite foolhardy, based on the history of gas.
16 It's been a bust and boom cycle time and time again.

17 I think it's important to recognize that
18 the perceived benefits that were recited here tonight
19 come at the sacrificing of people who live in the areas
20 where gas would be fracked. So while I appreciate the
21 concerns of the folks in Sunray with regard to their
22 community, I am sure they can appreciate the fact that
23 there are people in West Virginia and Pennsylvania who
24 are fighting like hell to save their communities from
25 fracking.

1 I also would like to point out that as
2 the Sierra Club we appreciate and enjoy areas like the
3 George Washington and Monongahela National Forest. I
4 have also paddled in the Great Dismal Swamp, and we
5 don't want to see those areas sacrificed either. These
6 natural areas and this community, particularly of
7 Hampton Roads, are extremely susceptible to climate
8 change impacts, particularly in Hampton Roads, talking
9 about sea level rise. So I find it kind of foolhardy
10 that all of the economic people talk about relying on
11 more carbon sources, which will only accelerate the sea
12 level rise that is going to inundate, unfortunately,
13 much of Hampton Roads, and will only be lessened if we
14 actually make reductions in carbon pollution.

15 This gas pipeline in and of itself will
16 not only result in more fracking and more methane
17 released, but also the customary leaks of methane along
18 the pipeline. And then once the gas is actually
19 burned, it's a significant source of CO2 as well. So
20 there is some real serious problems with climate change
21 impacts of this pipeline, and obviously those impacts
22 relate to this community as well, Hampton Roads.

23 I want to address the issue of eminent
24 domain, which is a serious concern, and I note it is
25 actually mentioned in your guides document for this

1 evening. It's important to recognize that in Virginia
2 unfortunately we have a very punitive eminent domain
3 law that allows gas companies, only gas companies, not
4 electric companies, but gas companies to come on
5 people's property without their permission. So if you
6 withhold your permission, they can come on your
7 property anyway. A lot of citizens in other parts of
8 the pipeline are resisting that. They filed suit in
9 federal court to basically argue that that's
10 unconstitutional. I might add that the author of that
11 act, adopted in 2014, is Senator Wagner -- excuse me,
12 2004, is Senator Wagner. And that is a law that really
13 many people feel is unconstitutional.

14 Let me just add that I think that the
15 concerns expressed here from the folks at Sunray
16 represent a rather cynical divide and conquer approach
17 by Dominion Virginia Power, and I think the simple
18 answer is just not to build the pipeline.

19 Thank you so much.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 Our speaker 29 is Zach Jarjoura.

22 MR. JARJOURA: As everybody says, thank
23 you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. I
24 am Zach Jarjoura. I am also with the Sierra Club, but
25 even if I wasn't, I would be here anyways.

1 continues our use of fossil fuels and our dependence on
2 fossil fuels. We've got to start transitioning. You
3 know, I am 29 years old. I am not a spring chicken
4 anymore, but it's my generation, my children's
5 generation, my children's children's generation I am
6 worried about. It's real. Climate change is happening
7 now. This area here in a hundred years might not be
8 here if we don't actually start transitioning away from
9 fossil fuels.

10 Building this pipeline is just another
11 investment in dirty energy, in fossil fuels, in things
12 that contribute to climate change. It's not right for
13 Virginia. It profits a very few people at the expense
14 of a lot of people. I'll leave it at that.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

17 Our speaker number 30 is Mike Lane.

18 MR. LANE: Good evening. My name is Mike
19 Lane. I live in Suffolk, and I and my family members
20 have ownership interests. I and my family members have
21 ownership interests in several properties in Suffolk
22 that are potentially effected by this proposed
23 pipeline. We don't necessarily oppose the pipeline,
24 and overall can see some of the benefits from it. I've
25 been waiting for all of the strong proponents that came

1 up here so far to at least express some kind of concern
2 for property owners that are going to be affected, but
3 apparently we're good for paying taxes and hosting
4 pipelines and that's about it. My primary concerns
5 deal with minimizing the impacts to properties and
6 properly compensating the affected parties and fully
7 mitigating the impacts to the natural resources,
8 natural resources along the way that will be impacted.
9 My primary concern is the impacts to the property
10 owners and neighborhoods such as the Sunray community.
11 I think to the extent practical the alignment should
12 seek to minimize impacts to landowners, stay away from
13 homes, businesses or other places where people
14 congregate, and try to cross people's properties in
15 ways that minimize the impacts on those properties,
16 particularly any properties that may have any
17 development potential.

18 Another concern is impact to forest land.
19 Forestry is one of the biggest industries in Virginia
20 along with agriculture. And this facility would
21 require the conversion of forest, some forest land into
22 some other use. Agriculture is one thing, but a lot of
23 properties, basically they won't produce any income for
24 anyone anymore. They'll just be a net drain on people.
25 They'll have to continue paying tax on the property

1 that's converted to some other use, and that's a
2 concern.

3 And I would like -- I would like for the
4 parties that have control here to consider sponsoring
5 some sort of program like the Virginia Department of
6 Forestry's Tomorrow Lands, Tomorrow Woods programs that
7 helps with expenses of putting conservation easements
8 on properties that are forested and other sensitive
9 lands.

10 I also do have some concerns about where
11 this pipeline might cross the National Forest, National
12 Refuge and so forth, and I think they should avoid
13 impacts where really it's feasible to, and where it's
14 not feasible to avoid the impacts to properly
15 compensate there as well. Perhaps look for willing
16 landowners in the area who might want to preserve their
17 properties, and purchase conservation easements and
18 development rights, whatever, on those and try work
19 with some sort of a net benefit for everybody involved.

20 And another concern I have are for
21 Historic seized areas and things like that. I have
22 other comments here. I turned in a copy of this to the
23 gentleman up front. I am not going to take up anymore
24 of y'all's time. But overall I think really the
25 process needs to adequately consider the people who are

1 hosting this project and adequately compensate them,
2 and avoid and try to minimize the impact to the extent
3 that you can.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

6 Our speaker 31 is Captain Linda Geddes.

7 MS. GEDDES: Hi. My name is Captain
8 Linda Geddes. I live in the Sunray Historical
9 District.

10 I oppose this pipeline for several
11 different reasons. One, you never hear anything about
12 the human life. Virginia is trying to put a Band-Aid
13 on a big sore. That's what we do. We have an
14 insufficient pipeline now. Well, where was the
15 engineer when they designed this one? Where is this
16 one going to be a hundred years from now? That's what
17 happens. We don't look in the future far enough. They
18 have alternate routes, as many of the other speakers
19 have spoken. Why they haven't gotten back to our
20 president of our Sunray Community Center? We do not
21 know.

22 But I can tell you this: You can Google
23 Earth it. You can look at all of the environment, and
24 all of the people talking about your aircraft carriers,
25 and all of your things. Well, let me tell you, that

1 actually, and I am married to David Nettles.

2 I'm a newcomer to Bowers Hill, and I am
3 here to speak against the pipeline coming through the
4 neighborhood of Bowers Hill. And my approach is to
5 help everyone here imagine what we're talking about as
6 safety. We've heard that the potential of a thousand
7 foot crater or a thousand foot area could be a
8 possibility, and we've also heard from another speaker
9 talking about the number 80 explosions in 2012.

10 But I am here to talk to you to give you
11 a little mental picture about what really has happened.
12 In 2010, in San Bruno, California a pipeline exploded.
13 Eight people were killed and 58 others were injured.
14 This was a 30-inch pipeline that was -- that held
15 natural gas. It went through the neighborhood of
16 Crestmoor near San Francisco.

17 The loud roar and shaking that people
18 heard from this led some residents and first responders
19 and news media to initially believe it was an
20 earthquake. It took crews nearly an hour to determine
21 it was a gas pipeline explosion. The magnitude
22 actually on the Richter scale indicated it was equal to
23 a 1.1 level earthquake. The fire quickly engulfed
24 nearby homes. Emergency responders from San Bruno and
25 nearby cities soon arrived at the scene and evacuated

1 surrounding neighborhoods. Strong winds fanned the
2 flames, hampering the firefighting. The blaze was fed
3 and ruptured the pipeline. Large clouds of smoke
4 soared into the sky. It took 60 to 90 minutes to shut
5 off the gas after the explosion. The resulting fire
6 leveled 35 houses and damaged many more. Three of the
7 damaged houses were deemed uninhabitable.

8 This earthquake -- I mean this fire, the
9 explosion evacuated an asymmetrical crater of 167 feet
10 long, 26 feet wide, and 40 feet deep. That is one
11 and-a-half football fields.

12 The fire continued to burn for hours.
13 Ironically there were two people from the Claremont
14 neighborhood that were named Jacqueline Greg, 44, and
15 her daughter Jenessa Greg, 13. Jacqueline worked at
16 California Public Utilities in a small unit that
17 advocates for consumer rights pertaining to natural gas
18 regulations. She had spent part of the summer that
19 summer before talking about proposals to replace the
20 outdated pipelines, but nothing was ever done.

21 I wanted to bring this up when we talk
22 about safety. It's not just a little spill here that
23 might hurt people. Andy Zydron talked about the
24 reasons and the questions of why this pipeline is
25 coming through a neighborhood where 400 people,

1 before about making money and keeping all of this
2 energy here and there, please raise their hand if it's
3 coming through their backyard. Everyone in the Sunray
4 community that's concerned about this coming through
5 their yard and close to their house, please stand up.

6 I rest my case. Thank y'all. Y'all have
7 a blessed night.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

9 Is there anyone else who would like to
10 speak tonight?

11 MR. GRAHAM: My name is Bob Graham. I am
12 here with a family friend, Shirley Buchanan, who needs
13 a little extra help to get over here tonight. And I
14 appreciate y'all letting an unannounced person have a
15 brief talk.

16 I am an oil and gas consultant from
17 Texas. I am also an oil and gas lawyer, and I sue
18 pipelines, generally because of defective pipelines
19 that have been in existence for 50, 100 years. You
20 talk about all of this gas that's coming up being very
21 expensive coming from the Gulf Coast. Well, if you're
22 from south Texas in the shale fields now, where I'm
23 from, you'll just see the night lit up with gas that's
24 just being flared because there is no place for it to
25 go.

1 And everywhere you read in the
2 newspapers, natural gas, we are, the United States is
3 the greatest producer, potential producer of natural
4 gas in the world probably for the next 50 to 100 years.
5 Prices are not going to go up. They're going to be
6 low, and they're going to be low for a long time. Now
7 I just said that because I listened to a lot of people
8 talking about, you know, the volatile market of natural
9 gas. That used to be that way. I used to make FERC
10 applications for Teton D gas pricing. Of course, that
11 was in the '70s. Of course, that's long gone now. We
12 don't get any of that type of money.

13 But what I would like to talk about is,
14 like, small landowners like Shirley here. I call it
15 small, because in Texas everything is big. But she has
16 got 68 acres, very sizeable here off of Joliff Road.
17 And what she's concerned about is if this pipeline
18 comes through the back, it's coming through what people
19 have told her for years -- and she's multiple
20 generations of this property. She's the benefactor of
21 this property from her parents. But it's been
22 considered wetlands. We don't know if it's wetlands or
23 not.

24 But we are concerned about two things
25 that I haven't heard many people talk about tonight.

1 One, we talked about the Army Corps of Engineers. It's
2 in your pamphlets, but we haven't talked about the EPA
3 and the VAEPA, which is the Virginia local EPA. Okay.
4 And they're charged with two things, clean air and
5 clean water. Nobody has talked about clean water
6 tonight. That's also a huge factor here in our area
7 for the simple reason that the EPA is looking very hard
8 -- and we know that all of this legislation is coming
9 up with the carbon footprints with EPA, but second to
10 that, they're going to be looking at any kind of water
11 damage. It's one of the things that we would love to
12 have FERC look at in our area as well. And so because
13 of that, we ask FERC not to just look at the standard
14 myopic portions of what you're tasked to do, but the
15 other stuff that affects each and everyone of these
16 property owners here, and maybe 100 years from now,
17 maybe 150 years from now, the next generations that are
18 tasked with taking care of this area.

19 We know we need pipelines. We know we
20 need natural gas to come down here, because it is
21 cheap. Fuel oil, even with the prices down
22 50 percent -- you know, \$50 a barrel, 46 when I looked
23 today, we can't afford that to heat our homes. Natural
24 gas is cheap. It will be cheap for a long time.

25 The process and what I thought we were

1 here tonight to talk about was: How it affects us
2 environmentally. Now I know we've talked about a lot
3 of things, how it affects us personally. And everybody
4 has the right to express that right now here today.
5 Wonderful forum. But that's not what they're here for
6 today. They're here to get ideas how to oversee the
7 pipeline people, and make sure they do a good job, and
8 do it the right way to protect all of us.

9 And that's all I have to say tonight. We
10 are looking for FERC to do their job, be myopic. Look
11 under every little pebble to see, make sure that if
12 this pipeline is going to come through here all of
13 these wonderful people here are protected.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 MR. HOUK: I thought of one other thing
17 you guys need to hear. My name Jay Houk.

18 One of the objections to running the
19 pipeline through the swamp that Dominion and the refuge
20 manager that we met with in January. We don't want it
21 in the swamp. And I know I've talked to practically
22 every Dominion person, every person from Doyle Land
23 that's involved in this. You guys are not from here.
24 You know nothing about this Dismal Swamp.

25 The Dismal Swamp was a tree farm for

1 300 years. Its last owner was Warehouse. They
2 donated it to the Federal Government. So when we're
3 talking about an environmental impact, we're talking
4 about a place that has had practically every decent
5 tree cut off of it 200 years ago. And I think people
6 lost fact of the sight that this refuge was used as a
7 source of timber nearly back to the time of George
8 Washington. So when you're talking about an
9 environmental impact, you're talking about a place that
10 has been cut over for centuries. There isn't anything
11 pristine left in this area that I referred to you on
12 the map in that corridor in that slot. It literally is
13 nothing but cut over scrub.

14 And I've had a person from Dominion, oh,
15 I've been back there. Well, I doubt that they've been
16 back there, because I know most of us guys who have
17 actually been back there. It's not an easy place to
18 get to, is it, folks? Because there is a lot of briers
19 and scrub. Okay. So we need to put that into context
20 that this Dismal Swamp has been harvested for its wood
21 since people lived here. So it's not going through the
22 national forest with old growth trees available. Those
23 are gone. The only trees left in the swamp that are
24 that old are right around Lake Drummond, and nobody is
25 getting into that. So I just needed to add this place

1 that we talked about that Dominion says they can't go
2 into is a tree farm donated to the Government.

3 That's all I needed to add.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 MS. POWELL: I am Dorothy Powell from
6 Suffolk, Virginia.

7 I have three farms that I have looked on
8 here, that this is going through my livelihood. That's
9 how I live. I have farmers that take care of my land,
10 and that's how I live. I am concerned as to what my
11 farm land is going to be like when they put this
12 through. Where am I going to get my money to pay taxes
13 to the City of Suffolk, which is very high? I have
14 400 acres. And on your map it goes through all three
15 of my farms, and that really concerns me. And nobody
16 has contacted me to tell me what is actually going to
17 be done, you know. What am I going to get paid? Or
18 what is this going to have on my property when you all
19 come cutting through everything? That concerns me very
20 much so.

21 I feel sorry for you people of Sunray.
22 I've been reading about you in the paper, and seeing
23 you on the news, and I wish you luck, because they're
24 going to take it no matter what we do.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

1 Is there anyone else who would like to
2 speak tonight? If not, as I mentioned before, this
3 meeting was recorded, and transcripts will be placed in
4 the public record. And the public record is available
5 on our website, again, at www.ferc.gov. From that page
6 you can select the E-library link and input the docket
7 number, as I mentioned, PF15-5 or PF15-6. You can use
8 E-library to access everything that's been put into the
9 record. They're from commenters or the applicants or
10 the commission.

11 On behalf of the Federal Energy
12 Regulatory Commission, I want to thank you for coming
13 tonight. And let the record show that the public
14 scoping meeting in Chesapeake, Virginia closed at
15 9:14 p.m.

16 Thank you.

17 (Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.)

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