



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

2 MR. BOWMAN: So, on behalf of the Federal Energy  
3 Regulatory Commission, or the FERC, I'd like to welcome you  
4 all for coming here tonight for our public scoping meeting  
5 for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Headers Project.

6 Let the record show that the public scoping  
7 meeting in Elkins, Virginia began at 7:04 p.m. on March 23.  
8 My name is Kevin Bowman, and I'm environmental scientist  
9 with the FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

10 Here with me tonight representing FERC at the  
11 table tonight is Alison Getty and at the sign-in table, who  
12 you may have met already tonight is Jeff Makenthun and Jim  
13 Glaze. Also, before we get started, just a friendly  
14 reminder to put your cell phones on vibrate or turn them  
15 off.

16 So, we're here tonight to provide some  
17 information on the federal process as it relates to the  
18 Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Headers Project, and to  
19 hear your comments and concerns about these projects.

20 Fundamentally, the purpose of tonight's meeting  
21 is provide each of you with an opportunity to us your  
22 comments and tell us what additional environmental issues  
23 you think we should address in our analysis of the proposed  
24 projects. We've already received numerous comments  
25 concerning the projects, including alternatives, which is

1 one of the areas we're hoping to get input from you tonight.  
2 All of your comments will help us to determine what we study  
3 as we prepare and Environmental Impact Statement or EIS.

4           The FERC is the lead federal agency responsible  
5 for the National Environmental Policy Act review of the  
6 Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Headers Projects and is  
7 the lead agency for the preparation of the EIS.

8           The National Environmental Policy Act requires  
9 FERC to analyze the environmental impacts, consider  
10 alternatives, and identify appropriate mitigation measures  
11 where necessary on any proposal before it makes any decision  
12 on whether to approve or deny a project.

13           In addition to the FERC, the United States Forest  
14 Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Great  
15 Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Army Corps  
16 of Engineers, and the Bureau of Land Management are  
17 currently cooperating agencies in our review. Additional  
18 federal, state, and local agencies are welcome to  
19 participate with the FERC in our review of the project.

20           I would like to clarify that the proposed  
21 projects are not conceived by and are not promoted by the  
22 FERC or the cooperating agencies. The FERC reviews  
23 applications for the authority to build and operate  
24 interstate natural gas pipelines, and Atlantic Coast and  
25 Dominion Transmission are in the process of preparing

1 applications to submit to FERC. Once an application is  
2 submitted, it is our obligation to review that application  
3 and prepare an analysis of the environmental impacts.

4           So, tonight's meeting is not a public hearing.  
5 We're not here to debate the proposals or make any  
6 determinations on its fate at this time, but we are here to  
7 listen to your concerns so that we can consider them in our  
8 analysis.

9           Pipeline proposals often encounter objections.  
10 Some are general in nature and some are based on potential  
11 environmental impacts. Both these categories are important  
12 to FERC, but they are addressed in different ways. General  
13 objections to the project are considered by the FERC and  
14 during the Commission's public convenience and assessing  
15 review, whereas environmental and safety impacts are  
16 addressed by FERC environmental staff in the Environmental  
17 Impact Statement.

18           So, on February 27, 2015, the FERC issued a  
19 Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact  
20 Statement for these projects. It also announced the  
21 location of tonight's meeting, how to file comments for the  
22 deadlines for getting those comments to us. We included  
23 affected landowners in our mailing list for the Notice of  
24 Intent as well as landowners affected by potential  
25 alternatives.

1           In the Notice, we asked that you submit your  
2 comments to us by April 28, 2015. However, the end of the  
3 scoping period is not the end of public involvement nor will  
4 it be the only opportunity for public input on these  
5 projects. I would like to note that we will continue to  
6 accept comments after that April 28 deadline throughout our  
7 pre-filing review of the projects; but for us to adequately  
8 address your comments and analyze them, we do ask that you  
9 try to get those comments to us by April 28.

10           Now, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply  
11 Headers Projects are currently, as I mentioned, are in the  
12 pre-file and review process. That means an application has  
13 not yet been submitted to the FERC. We consider the  
14 pre-filing process to be, amongst other things, an extension  
15 of our scoping process. The scoping process for FERC is a  
16 learning process. It is where we educate ourselves about  
17 the project, potential issues, and the environmental  
18 impacts.

19           Now, during the scoping process we are gathering  
20 information. The four general sources that we use to obtain  
21 information are first the applicant, input from federal,  
22 state, and local agencies, our own field work and research  
23 of different issues, and of course, information from the  
24 public in the form of comments.

25           So, once we gather the information developed

1 during the scoping process and the application formally  
2 filed by an applicant, we will analyze it, prepare a Draft  
3 Environmental Impact Statement or a Draft EIS, and we will  
4 distribute that Draft EIS for public comment. The Draft EIS  
5 will include an examination of proposed facility locations  
6 as well as alternative sites. We will assess the project's  
7 effects on water bodies and wetlands, vegetation and  
8 wildlife, endangered species, cultural resources, land use,  
9 soils, air quality, safety and socioeconomic impacts.

10           We will mail the Draft EIS to our mailing list.  
11 So, if you didn't receive our Notice of Intent, make sure  
12 you give us your name and address so we can include you in  
13 that mailing. The mail version of the DEIS will also be a  
14 CD, so if you prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you,  
15 please do indicate that choice to the FERC on the return  
16 mailing that was included in the Notice of Intent. If you  
17 didn't receive those or you'd like to get on our mailing  
18 list, please do let the FERC staff at the sign-in table  
19 outside the auditorium know that information.

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

1 feedback on the information in the Draft Environmental  
2 Impact Statement.

3           At the end of that public comment period, we'll  
4 begin organizing all of the information gathered to date and  
5 prepare our final Environmental Impact Statement addressing  
6 all the comments received on the Draft EIS and throughout  
7 our pre-filing review. Now, once we've issued the Final  
8 Environmental Impact Statement, it is forwarded to the  
9 Commissioners for their consideration.

10           Now, the EIS itself is not a decision-making  
11 document. It is merely our analysis of the potential  
12 impacts for the project and the project's alternatives. The  
13 five Commissioners at the Federal Energy Regulatory  
14 Commission will use that document, as well as other  
15 information, to make a determination on whether or not to  
16 grant an authorization for the projects. The five  
17 Commissioners at FERC are appointed by the President and  
18 confirmed by Congress. I'll mention that additional  
19 information about the Commissioners at FERC are available on  
20 the FERC website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov).

21           Now, on December 12, 2014, Atlantic Coast  
22 Pipeline and Dominion filed preliminary information with  
23 FERC about their projects. According to the December 12  
24 filings, Atlantic Cost Pipeline and Dominion are proposing  
25 two jointly related projects to deliver 1.5 billion cubic

1 feet of natural gas per day to markets in West Virginia,  
2 Virginia, and North Carolina.

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

13           The Supply Header Project would involve the  
14 construction of 39 miles of 30- and 36-inch diameter  
15 pipeline in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. In addition to  
16 those pipeline facilities, Dominion would seek to modify  
17 four existing compressor stations in Pennsylvania and  
18 Virginia.

19           So, now that I've got that stuff out of the way,  
20 we will start taking our speakers tonight. So, I will  
21 mention that this meeting is being recorded by a  
22 transcription service so that all of your comments will be  
23 accurately recorded and placed into the public record.

24           For the benefit of all in attendance and the  
25 accuracy of that transcript, when your name is called please

1 step up to the lectern to the right of the stage and speak  
2 into the microphone, stating your name first so that  
3 everyone can hear you.

4 In addition to verbal comments provided tonight,  
5 we will also accept your written comments. So, if you have  
6 comments, but don't wish to speak tonight, you can provide  
7 written comments on the comment forms at the sign-in table.  
8 You can drop those up with us tonight if you have the time,  
9 or you can mail them in at a later date. Do be sure to  
10 include on any submissions to the Commission the project  
11 docket numbers for these two projects, which for the  
12 Atlantic Coast Pipeline are PF-15-6 and for Supply Header  
13 Project, PF-15-5. That's PF, P as in Paul, F as in Frank.

14 So, due to the number of speakers that we have  
15 tonight, we will have to limit speakers to five minutes  
16 tonight so that everyone has an opportunity to provide  
17 comments. We do have a laptop set up here on the table that  
18 has a timer for your benefit so you can keep track of your  
19 time set. I won't need to interrupt you while you're making  
20 your comments tonight.

21 When your time has ended, I will make a mention  
22 that the five minutes have expired and I'll ask to call the  
23 next speaker at that time.

24 If you do have detailed comments tonight that you  
25 cannot fit into five minutes, you could summarize those

1 comments tonight at the lectern and submit the remainder of  
2 the comments to us tonight in written form. In addition, if  
3 you are a speaker and you feel that your comments have been  
4 previously expressed by another speaker you can simply state  
5 your name and your endorsement of that previous speaker's  
6 comments.

7           Also, if you have additional comments that you've  
8 already filed at FERC prior to the scoping meeting tonight  
9 or prior to the initiation of the scoping period, you do not  
10 need to submit those comments or say those again tonight.

11           So with that -- I also mentioned we do have two  
12 chairs set up to the right of the lectern, so I'll call a  
13 couple of speakers at once, and if you're the second and  
14 third speakers you need to go ahead and sit down so we can  
15 move things along tonight without too much delays.

16           So, the first three speakers are Richard Laska,  
17 Chad Earl, and Autumn Bryson.

18           MR. LASKA: Thank you very much for being here  
19 and listening to our concerns. I've heard good things about  
20 the work of the FERC environmental crew.

21           My family farm abuts the Camp Alleghany Civil War  
22 Battlefield above Bartow. Both my farm and the battlefield  
23 overlook the proposed pipeline route. As of now, there are  
24 places on that battlefield, specifically, the area where  
25 most of the Civil War soldiers died from which you can see a

1 360-degree view without one example of human impact. I  
2 assume that will all change when the pipeline comes through.

3           Increased natural gas production may justify a  
4 new pipeline; however, given the requirements of the  
5 pipeline and a public convenience and necessity and that the  
6 location be environmentally sensible I question Dominion's  
7 proposed routes.

8           For many of us, the pipeline will be more of a  
9 nuisance than of a -- of a public nuisance than of a public  
10 convenience. We lose our land. We endure pipeline  
11 construction, and we have no hope of getting the cheap,  
12 natural gas flowing through our backyards and by our  
13 businesses. Because the pipeline will not serve West  
14 Virginia public convenience would seem to demand that the  
15 pipeline exit the state via the least disruptive route.

16           Several such routes exist. The most obvious  
17 being the existing, dedicated utility corridor through the  
18 Monongahela National Forest. Engineering and environmental  
19 studies have already been done. As members of the FERC  
20 should be aware, the pro-pipeline propaganda uninhibited by  
21 veracity is responsible for much of what has been presented  
22 as public support for the pipeline. Thus far, there has  
23 been no way for the people to get objective information on  
24 key aspects of the pipeline.

25           Legitimate public support only comes from

1 citizens who understand and can pursue their own best  
2 interest, but what is in our interest? Will the pipeline  
3 bring us cheap, natural gas, cheaper electricity, lower  
4 property taxes, good jobs, and will our forests and streams  
5 be protected from harm? We have no trustworthy information  
6 on any of these issues. How can we give intelligent,  
7 informed consent without such information?

8           At least one of your prior meetings ended with  
9 dozens of people having no time to speak, and that meeting  
10 is being used by Dominion as an example of how extensive  
11 support for their pipeline is. That is not correct. The  
12 high-level public interest, combined with surprising number  
13 of written comments, and a large dose of information,  
14 pervasive confusion on the part of the public would seem to  
15 build a solid case for some sort of formal, public hearing  
16 before we go much further.

17           I would like to ask if there is any way FERC can  
18 hold such a public hearing to shed some clear light on the  
19 subject before the close of the comment period. Personally,  
20 I have a grave concern that the pipeline construction will  
21 harm economically insecure Pocahontas County. Tourism is  
22 our largest source of jobs and income. Our pristine  
23 environment, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation are  
24 our only durable resource.

25           As part owner of a shop in Green Bank, I am

1 concerned that there are only four roads into my part of the  
2 county. Pipeline work could disrupt traffic on three of  
3 them. We can't afford to lose those customers.

4 Thank you for considering the interest of the  
5 people who live here and work here.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BOWMAN: The next speakers are Chad Earl,  
8 Autumn Bryson, and Allen Johnson.

9 MR. EARL: Hello. My name is Chad Earl, and I  
10 guess this is what they train you in speech class for. That  
11 you all for having -- letting come up here and speak with  
12 you all today.

13 Yeah, I'm very much in favor of this project and  
14 others like it, and very excited about the opportunities  
15 that it brings for the State of West Virginia.

16 You know I work for my own Construction Company.  
17 We're a 50-year old West Virginia company. You know employs  
18 predominately all West Virginians. Because of the influx of  
19 the natural gas industry here lately we were able to hire  
20 last year alone about 70 people. That's 70 union jobs that  
21 we brought -- that was brought here to the state that we  
22 were able to have because of the energy sector. For that  
23 we're very lucky and very fortunate.

24 You know I know that the 500 plus people that's  
25 going to be required for this project may be temporary, but

1 with the slowing down of the highway market, other utility  
2 markets softening, those jobs will be very important.

3           The people that will be constructing this  
4 pipeline will be very well vetted individuals. It's not  
5 just any contractor who's going to come out and build them  
6 to start with. There's a rigorous process that contractors  
7 have to go through to even have the opportunity to bid this  
8 type of work. I'm, like I said, from Calhoun County where  
9 our major export is pipeliners. I think there's three major  
10 pipeline construction companies in that county that work all  
11 over the state, and those will be the type of people that  
12 will be working on large portions of this project.

13           You know safety I know is a very big concern for  
14 everyone. You know there's redundancies not only built in  
15 the materials, but in the equipment used and to the testing  
16 that not only the line goes through, but the people that are  
17 working on it have to be. They're vetted and verified  
18 construction professionals that build this type of project.  
19 So, not just any contractor will be working on it. They'll  
20 all be skilled tradesmen.

21           And companies like mine that work in this  
22 industry you know we want to be good neighbors to the people  
23 that have issues and concerns and work with them. You know  
24 we're the guys that's out coaching little league and you  
25 know the ones that also enjoy the hunting and fishing and

1 things like that, so it's very important to us to make sure  
2 that we do what's right for the environment for us as well.

3           So, with that, I'll close and thank you very much  
4 for your time.

5           (Applause.)

6           MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number three is Autumn  
7 Brison followed by Allen Johnson and Kathryn Parker.

8           MS. BRYSON: Good evening. Thank you for coming  
9 here. My name is Autumn Bryson. I'm an environmental  
10 scientist and a board member of the Greenbrier River  
11 Watershed Association. And I just want to raise several  
12 issues that I would like you to evaluate within the  
13 Environmental Impact Statement for the ACP.

14           All of the alternatives need to be evaluated. As  
15 far as I know, there's one route being surveyed, and it  
16 would be FERC's duty to fully assess all of the alternatives  
17 in addition to the preferred route to lessen or avoid  
18 environmental impacts, and that would include review of  
19 alternatives using existing pipeline routes and existing  
20 corridors.

21           The pipeline impacts need to be evaluated during  
22 all phases of the project from the construction phase  
23 through the completion. Please evaluate the impacts during  
24 construction including the potential use of fly ash for  
25 backfill and as well as the cumulative impacts following the

1 completion of the pipeline, such as increased fracking.  
2 Evaluate whether this is a public necessity to use eminent  
3 domain to build an additional pipeline when there are  
4 already existing pipelines and corridors in place.

5           The Monongahela National Forest is a sensitive  
6 ecosystem. Please evaluate whether there are alternatives  
7 that would avoid impacting this sensitive area. For the  
8 geology and soils, West Virginia contains many unique  
9 geological features, including an extensive underground cave  
10 system that is an important part of West Virginia tourism,  
11 and it's important to evaluate how the pipeline would impact  
12 the underground systems in this area as well as evaluating  
13 the impacts of increased sedimentation from runoff and loss  
14 of topsoil during construction.

15           For land use, West Virginia is known for its  
16 outdoor recreational opportunities. Please evaluate how the  
17 pipeline would impact outdoor recreation and tourism. And  
18 constructing a pipeline will increase forest fragmentation,  
19 so please evaluate how many acres of forest would be  
20 fragmented and the impact that will have on the local  
21 wildlife.

22           For water resources, fisheries, and wetlands the  
23 pipeline will have to cross numerous streams, rivers, and  
24 wetlands. Please evaluate how many crossings will occur,  
25 the acres of wetlands to be disturbed, and how the pipeline

1 would impact springs and drinking water sources. Impacts to  
2 fresh water streams will also affect the fisheries, which is  
3 an important part of the State's ecology and tourism.  
4 Please evaluate how the pipeline will affect the water  
5 quality and impact fish species.

6           With impacts to the hydrology, there could also  
7 be cumulative impacts, such as flooding. Please evaluate  
8 how the construction impacts from disturbing streams and  
9 wetlands will impact flood events.

10           West Virginia contains many cultural resources,  
11 such as Native American and Civil War artifacts. Please  
12 evaluate how the pipeline's construction will impact these  
13 cultural resources.

14           For vegetation and wildlife, the Appalachian  
15 Mountains contain very diverse vegetation that provide a lot  
16 of economic benefits, such as the ginseng and several tree  
17 species, such as Red -- that are already in decline. Please  
18 evaluate how the pipeline will impact these and other  
19 vegetation species.

20           West Virginia also has diverse wildlife  
21 populations from large mammals to small salamanders that  
22 play an important role in the ecosystem. Please evaluate  
23 how the construction will impact West Virginia's wildlife  
24 species, including breeding and nesting grounds, migration  
25 routes, and increased ferdation from proposed pipeline

1 corridor.

2           For air quality and noise, compression stations  
3 and construction will diminish air quality and have  
4 increased noise levels. Please evaluate the proximity of  
5 the compressor stations and pipeline to communities and  
6 nearby residences and how to mitigate those adverse impacts.

7           West Virginia contains many threatened and  
8 endangered species. Please evaluate how the pipeline will  
9 impact all the threatened and endangered species due to  
10 disturbance, habitat loss, breeding, and how the negative  
11 impacts will be mitigated or avoided.

12           The pipeline would negatively impact property  
13 values, tourism. Please evaluate the economic benefits of  
14 the pipeline versus the cost of decreased property values  
15 and economic loss of tourism. Evaluate the approximate  
16 number of jobs and tax revenue and the cost to communities  
17 if there was an explosion a breach in the pipeline. Because  
18 of the flammability of natural gas the pipeline would be at  
19 a risk of explosion, so please evaluate the blast radius  
20 should such an explosion occur. Thank you.

21           MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

22           (Appause.)

23           MR. BOWMAN: Our next speaker is Allen Johnson,  
24 followed by Kathryn Parker and Greg Hefner.

25           MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. My name is Allen

1 Johnson. I have an undergraduate degree in Biology with  
2 emphasis on ecology and a Masters degree in theology with an  
3 emphasis on public policy.

4 Thank you. I'm co-founder of Christians for the  
5 Mountains and also president of the Council Base of our  
6 County where I resided and worked professionally for 40  
7 years, including six years for Dominion, and an county to  
8 which my wife and I moved because of its stunning beauty,  
9 remarkable unspoiled ecology, and here raised a family.

10 Dunbar is my address, which is also where  
11 Dominion's late-announced alternative route proposal crosses  
12 through. And I should add that West Virginia, a national  
13 energy scarified state that according to eight straight  
14 years of Gallup Polls has the worst health in the nation,  
15 along with other low-quality of life rankings.

16 The ACP Pipeline will not, not generate any  
17 direct revenue or services whatsoever to Pocahontas County.  
18 Even Dominion's touted \$1 million in property tax will only  
19 bequeath about 40 percent or \$400,000 since the state  
20 school-aid formula pools the rest. This would not even  
21 begin to offset the economic loss for our beautiful county  
22 through decrease property resale values and subsequent  
23 property tax loss, compromised tourism value, which is our  
24 greatest industry, and decrease desirability to live in our  
25 county.

1           Hurt economic impact studies, or the ACP are too  
2 cumulative and aggregated in scope to be taken seriously by  
3 individual pass-through rural counties. FERC must not  
4 proceed with a pipeline authorization without a  
5 county-by-county economic study that takes into account the  
6 negative externalities that this pipeline would impose.

7           Pocahontas County would get no gas, no permanent  
8 jobs, a pittance of actualized property tax revenue offset  
9 disproportionately through real property devaluation and a  
10 sloth, piercing pristine mountain forests and scouring its  
11 crystalline nationally valuable headwaters streams. It  
12 would be immoral and irresponsible for FERC to permit  
13 Dominion to victimize through eminent domain challenged,  
14 struggling rural communities, which will realize no direct  
15 economic benefits, only lose of lifestyle quality in order  
16 to supply outside markets -- outside markets with cheap  
17 energy as well as to aggrandize the profits of Dominion  
18 investors. Once again, we're being asked to be an energy  
19 sacrifice zone. We're to suffer so that other outside might  
20 gain. It's way pass time to stop exploitation.

21           There are already pipeline corridors west to  
22 east, such as that of Columbia Gas. If FERC's role is to  
23 get energy supplied to market demand, then these corridors  
24 must be independently studied for co-share use. Although  
25 Dominion investors might not like the prospect of sharing

1 profits, FERC cannot maximize investment profits by forcing  
2 eminent domain upon unwilling landowners.

3           These points and many others I'll detail in the  
4 forthcoming letter to FERC. For now, I'll just recapitulate  
5 two points, one, impartial economic studies on externalities  
6 that would affect communities, such as Pocahontas County,  
7 must be made, county-by-county studies, not just aggregated  
8 studies, okay. And second, existing pipeline right-of-way  
9 corridors must be impartially analyzed for the sole purpose  
10 of supply-to-market, not maximize investment profit,  
11 especially in light of forcing eminent domain. Thank you.

12           (Applause.)

13           MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number five is Kathryn  
14 Parker, followed by Greg Hefner and Robin Mutsheller.

15           MS. PARKER: Good evening. I'm Kathryn Parker.  
16 For many years, my husband and I, our family and friends  
17 have been privileged to enjoy the beauty, seclusion,  
18 recreational activities, and extraordinary splendor of the  
19 Monongahela National Forest, first, as guest at the historic  
20 Cheat Mountain Club, and more recently as homeowners in a  
21 small community on Cheat Mountain that is surrounded by the  
22 forest.

23           Over the years, our appreciation for the unique  
24 and fragile high Allegheny ecosystem has grown as we have  
25 had the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with the

1 Forest Service and the Nature Conservancy in support of the  
2 restoration of the Spruce Forest on Cheat Mountain.

3 I'm deeply concerned that the Atlantic Coast  
4 Pipeline's preferred route crosses 17 miles of the  
5 Monongahela National Forest through some of the most intact,  
6 late successional forests, critical habitat, and the largest  
7 and one of the most biologically diverse high elevation  
8 ecosystems in the eastern United States.

9 One of the route variations that I understood  
10 from Dominion was no longer under consideration would  
11 completely compromise the historic Cheat Mountain Club  
12 property, dating from 1887, as well as the Upper Shavers  
13 Fork Reserves, the Nature Conservancy's anchor property for  
14 the protection and education about the red spruce ecosystem  
15 on Cheat Mountain.

16 It is quite obvious that Dominion directed its  
17 engineers to find the most direct route from the Marcellus  
18 Shale fields to Duke Energy and fork cities of Hampton Roads  
19 and Lumberton, South Carolina without regard to the fact  
20 that this route traverses two national forests and crosses  
21 140 perennial water bodies. It is incredulous to me that a  
22 company that prides itself in being a good corporate citizen  
23 would even consider such a route when alternate routes  
24 outside public lands are either already available and in  
25 place or corridors available for their location.

1           Just today I read a statement from Dominion's Jim  
2 Norvelle stating that the pipeline would be virtually  
3 invisible. Really? Obviously, he hasn't driven U.S. 250  
4 West over the high ridges of Seven Mountains. Does he  
5 really believe a permanent 75-foot swath through the High  
6 Allegheny Mountains can be invisible? The pipeline  
7 construction and maintenance will have a profound and  
8 irreversible impact on the unique and fragile ecosystem on  
9 Cheat Mountain, a bio-diversity hot spot in the central  
10 Appalachians.

11           It will compromise years of restoration work of  
12 the spruce ecosystem in the Monongahela National Forest. It  
13 has the potential to cause widespread environmental damage  
14 to streams, rivers, wildlife, and plant life in the path of  
15 its construction and operation over time. It will increase  
16 forest fragmentation, impacting wildlife and affecting  
17 resilience to climate change. It will impact outdoor  
18 recreation and tourism.

19           It will cross numerous streams, rivers, and  
20 wetlands, affecting fisheries resources, threatening  
21 drinking water sources, disturbing complex hydrology  
22 systems, and increase the risk of sedimentation in streams  
23 and rivers.

24           While I understand the impetus to move gas from  
25 the Marcellus and Utica shale fields to customers in the

1 East and the importance of reducing carbon emissions, I  
2 believe it is FERC's responsibility to take a broad,  
3 longitudinal view, considering not just the short-term  
4 implications of pipeline proliferation, but the longer term  
5 impacts on the public lands that are not owned by utilities,  
6 but by the American people.

7           As our population grows, the importance of our  
8 national forests as places of refuge, recreation, and  
9 restoration gain even more importance in value. I question  
10 Dominion's assertion that it is not feasible to avoid  
11 crossing the Monongahela and GW National Forests. This  
12 assertion is undercut by routes proposed by other companies  
13 that avoid the national forests.

14           Simply having a customer ready at the other end  
15 should not be justification for allowing a private  
16 enterprise to route a pipeline through our national forests  
17 when alternative routes could be used. I urge you to look  
18 to the future and consider a U.S. Department of Energy  
19 recent study that predicts that the need for additional  
20 natural gas infrastructure will decline over the next 15  
21 years and that better use of existing natural gas  
22 infrastructure would reduce the need for new pipelines.

23           If our generation does not steadfastly and  
24 courageous defend our forest, who will, and what is the  
25 legacy we leave to future generations? Forests that are no

1 longer places of refuge, instead little more than super  
2 highways for gas pipelines eventually abandoned in place and  
3 relics to remind our great grandchildren and their children  
4 about what was lost and how poorly our generation valued and  
5 protected these precious resources.

6 In the words of Former U.S. President James  
7 Madison, "Man has defined a place within the symmetry of  
8 nature without destroying it." Words that are as profound  
9 today as when he spoke them in 1818. Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Greg Hefner,  
12 followed by Robin Mutsheller and Carla Beaudet.

13 MR. HEFNER: Thank you all very much for being  
14 here this evening. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for  
15 coming out to discuss this important issue. My name is Greg  
16 Hefner. I represent First Energy and also the board of  
17 directors at the Harrison County Economic Development  
18 Corporation.

19 The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a four and a half  
20 to five billion dollar project that will run 550 miles from  
21 Harrison County, West Virginia down to North Carolina. This  
22 pipeline will provide a new route for the abundant supply of  
23 natural gas that exists within the Marcellus Shale formation  
24 here in West Virginia. This project will have a significant  
25 economic impact on the State of West Virginia and the local

1 area, \$479 million in economic activity, 3100 jobs, 25  
2 million in annual property taxes, which will improve roads,  
3 schools, housing, while creating a viable workforce that  
4 would drive growth and prosperity to the local area into the  
5 future.

6 West Virginia has long played an important role  
7 in providing the energy that powers our nation's economy.  
8 This state is blessed to have significant gas and coal  
9 reserves and the continued development of these resources is  
10 essential as we move into the future and reduce our  
11 country's dependence on foreign energy.

12 Dominion is a good corporate neighbor. They have  
13 been for many years. They have a long history and an  
14 excellent reputation for doing things the right way and in a  
15 responsible manner. It is without hesitation that I support  
16 this project.

17 I would also like to note that the Harrison  
18 County Economic Development Corporation has passed a  
19 resolution in support of this project. Again, thank you for  
20 the opportunity to speak this evening.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker seven is Robin Mutsheller,  
23 followed by Carla Beaudet and Mickey Deike.

24 MS. MUTSHELLER: Thank you. My name is Robin  
25 Mutsheller. I am a resident of Pocahontas County, a

1 longtime resident of Pocahontas County. And I'm here today  
2 with my husband. We drove here in support of the pipeline  
3 project, and we did that because we believe that the  
4 pipeline can be installed safely without harming the  
5 environment.

6 We think it's important not only to our county  
7 and our state, but the entire country. And many of the  
8 other things I was going to say Mr. Hefner said eloquently.  
9 So, I will say that I support what he said. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number eight is Carla  
12 Beaudet, followed by Mickey Deike and George Deike.

13 MS. CARLA BEAUDET: Carla Beaudet, citizen of  
14 Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

15 I object to all the proposed routes of the  
16 Atlantic Coast Pipeline on the grounds that use of existing  
17 right-of-ways has not been considered. In Pocahontas County  
18 the original proposal cut through unspoiled national  
19 forests. And when some resistance to that route was voiced,  
20 a second, and worse, in my opinion, proposal was made that  
21 would cut through the private properties of many small-time  
22 landowners.

23 The application of eminent domain to private  
24 citizen for the purpose of corporate profit is wrong,  
25 socially, morally wrong. That's a style of government we

1 American cringe about when it happens in China. Has the  
2 U.S. Government fallen so far? We can do better than that  
3 with a little planning to keep the majority of the  
4 infrastructure located in the same corridors.

5 I imagine the reason Dominion has not considered  
6 this option seriously is the holders of right-of-ways for  
7 existing gas and electric can afford better lawyers than the  
8 private landowners, nor would competitors be inclined to  
9 share. And that's where FERC needs to step up and make them  
10 cooperate.

11 The net impact of rabbit competition between  
12 industry giants is the carving up and wasteful misuse of the  
13 land. If FERC purports itself to defend the national  
14 interest, it will force industry giants to share utility  
15 corridors.

16 Myriad environmental reasons for minimizing  
17 damage to the land have been listed in great detail in some  
18 excellent comments to FERC that I've read, but it seems  
19 appropriate to list of the more obvious ones here. Anytime  
20 land is cleared but not cultivated aggressive plants like  
21 multiflora rose displace natives that rely on forest  
22 habitat, for example, lily slipper, trillium, trout lily,  
23 that is, all the delicate wildflowers that rely on shade and  
24 undisturbed forest. As a landowner in West Virginia, I have  
25 first-hand experience in the never-ending battle against the

1 multiflora rose.

2           At an open house meeting this past fall, when I  
3 asked the Dominion representative how they intended to keep  
4 the right-of-way open, I was told it would be mowed. Many  
5 of the mountainsides will be too steep to mow unless they  
6 plan to do it from helicopter. No, the real plan, no doubt,  
7 will be aerial spraying of herbicide, a permanent,  
8 repetitive application of poison to the headwaters of eight  
9 rivers.

10           (Applause.)

11           MS. BEAUDET: Eight rivers tributaries of which  
12 would be silted up, not just in the construction phase, but  
13 any time a heavy rain causes soil to wash out of the  
14 pipeline trench. These mountains are particularly steep,  
15 car-certain, and challenging territory in which to construct  
16 a 42-inch pipeline. I would suggest that some of the less  
17 challenging routes already have pipeline, electrical  
18 transmission line, or a highway, and it only makes sense to  
19 require new construction to follow the same corridors.  
20 Thank you.

21           (Applause.)

22           MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number nine is Mickey Deike,  
23 followed by George Deike and Blaise Hollot (phonetic)

24           MS. DEIKE: Thank you. My name is Mickey Deike.  
25 I own a thousand acres in Pocahontas County and I run an

1 equestrian retreat. I entertain guests, obviously tourism,  
2 eight months of the year to ride horses or just relax.

3 I have daughters in Louisa County, Virginia and  
4 in Richmond, Virginia. I've studied the pros and cons of  
5 the pipeline. And one thing I agree with -- I'd like to say  
6 first on, I agree with most of the people who spoke here  
7 tonight about a terrible idea to put this pipeline in, but I  
8 have a few figures I'd like to share with you.

9 A friend of mine, Kirk Bowers, who is a  
10 professional engineer for the pipeline committee chair he  
11 wrote me and he said, "Natural gas pipelines often leak and  
12 explode." Now, these are the figures that I have. Since  
13 1986, 7,940 incidents have happened, explosions; 512  
14 fatalities, 200 -- 359 injuries and incurred \$6.8 billion in  
15 property damage.

16 Now, due to these explosions in the United  
17 States, the blast radius is 1100 feet. Now, I would say  
18 that we should think seriously about the health of our  
19 planet, of our people. This is a very bad idea, folks.  
20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 10 is George Deike,  
23 followed by Blaise Hollot, followed by Don Nestor.

24 MR. DEIKE: Good evening. I'm glad to be able to  
25 talk to you here today. I'm George Deike. We've lived in

1 Pocahontas County for 45 years now, and I have a Ph.D. in  
2 Geology and squandered much of my life working in carse in  
3 caves. So, I'd just like to address one aspect of the  
4 problem facing the pipeline, and that is building through  
5 carse topography. Now, carse topography is where limestone  
6 is a bedrock. It's soluble. Both rainwater, the water in  
7 streams finds the limestone, descends into the limestone,  
8 dissolves, caves. It then proceeds to follow the rocks  
9 through those caves to springs feeding people's wells and so  
10 on, on the way, and it's very difficult to predict where  
11 it's going to go.

12           For instance, it isn't unusual over on our side  
13 of Cheat Mountain here for the water to go into the ground  
14 and the river is only a half a mile away in a straight line,  
15 and yet the water follows the rocks. And it'll go a mile or  
16 two to the north or south before it can find an outlet, a  
17 spring. This would be all well and good if we had it all  
18 mapped it would certainly help a great deal, but many of  
19 these things there are no known entrances of the caves.

20           To the south of the caves over there there's  
21 another big system which has not been mapped because the  
22 landowner has not been happy about having cave explorers on  
23 his property. In any event, the water is slowing in caves  
24 in pipes, in effect. It's not filtered like groundwater is  
25 and other kinds of routes. So, if you throw something in

1 it, it comes back out in your well or in the spring.

2           Now, how extensive is the problem? Well, there's  
3 carse topography high on the mountains on both sides of the  
4 valley, a type of (0:46:41:9) valley. There's carse on the  
5 other side of Cheat Mountain or from Back Allegheny  
6 Mountain. There are two cave systems with more than five  
7 miles of passage known close to each other. One of these  
8 contains a passage which is 40-feet wide and 90-feet high  
9 running parallel to the mountain. Would not be a friendly  
10 thing to build over the top of. How many more things like  
11 that are there over there? Well, if we knew all the caves  
12 over there perhaps we could tell them that, but we can't.

13           On the other side of the state line in Virginia,  
14 on the other side of Jack Mountain, for instance, people  
15 have been trying very hard to define all of the caves and  
16 drainage. There's an area there were there are tens are  
17 miles of cave passage found at the foot of the mountain over  
18 there.

19           And again, much of that mountain no openings have  
20 been found, but you can bet there's more caves very much  
21 like those all along that side of the mountain. You disturb  
22 this it's impossible to tell, especially without any mapping  
23 or anything, whose water will be affected, whose well will  
24 dry out or silted up, what spring will be affected. It's  
25 very difficult territory to deal with and I don't know how

1 to tell you, but I don't recommend tackling it.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 11 is Blaise Hollot,  
4 followed by Don Nestor and Randall Rogers.

5 MR. HOLLOT: My name's Blaise Hollot and I'm a  
6 native West Virginian, grew up in Clarksburg, received my  
7 chemical engineering degree at WBU and earned my  
8 professional engineer license while working at one of the  
9 larger chemical plants in Charleston, West Virginia.

10 Since '93, I've owned about three acres along  
11 Shavers Fork at the Cheat River on which sits two home and  
12 several out buildings, whom flooding has occurred a dozen  
13 times during extreme weather events. Based on my personal  
14 experience and knowledge of flash flooding within the  
15 Shavers Fork watershed, I attended the January open house to  
16 better educate myself on proposed ACP project.

17 And I spoke with the pipeline construction people  
18 present who were just plain ignorant of the flash flooding  
19 potential and damage, which I personally witnessed and  
20 cleaned up on Shavers Fork. I remain very skeptical of  
21 Dominion's plans to mitigate severe water quality  
22 degradation on Shavers Fork, not to mention other  
23 high-quality feeder streams, Tiger River watershed, the  
24 Greenbrier watershed, the Elk River's watershed. Dominion  
25 -- I have a suggestion. Dominion and their contractors must

1 provide adequate modeling of expected stream flows and have  
2 adequate contingencies backed by escrow amounts to  
3 compensate public and private parties, to be held  
4 accountable, before the first shovel of dirt or else the  
5 work permit should be denied.

6           Following are specific concerns backed up by  
7 historical water data and personal witness. Shavers Fork is  
8 a nationally-recognized, high-quality waterway, which would  
9 be degraded by streambed blasting, trenching, and siltation  
10 from steep terrain pipeline construction and heavy  
11 earth-moving equipment. It is impossible to economically  
12 prevent erosion, given this watershed's history of flash  
13 flooding and the steep terrain that will be disturbed.

14           Unpredictable and historical high water events  
15 can occur in a matter of hours based on the USGS gauge. I  
16 witnessed water flow increase from less than 100 cubic feet  
17 a second to greater than 27,000 cubic feet in less than 24  
18 hours. And when did this occur? It occurred on August 29,  
19 2013, typically a time of low stream flow. Why? Because  
20 Shavers Fork at Cheat is a natural, wild river out of the  
21 control of man. It is not economically feasible to design  
22 the appropriate flood mitigation controls for such extremes.  
23 If Dominion claims otherwise, then they need to publicly  
24 disclose their calculations before construction can occur  
25 and an escrow amount to cover damages.

1           Thirdly, West Virginia DEP has a pretty lousy  
2 track record of enforcing the laws on the books. In other  
3 words, Dominion can say that they will do the right thing,  
4 but when they do not, as recently documented in northern  
5 central West Virginia, on the G150 Pipeline Project, damage  
6 was done and the public was left to pick up the pieces.

7           Number four, alternative piping routing away from  
8 high-quality flora and fauna and waterways has not been  
9 adequately vetted nor discussed publicly; therefore, before  
10 considering the pipeline construction Dominion needs to  
11 publicly show sound engineering design based upon worst-case  
12 flooding, develop contingencies for historic events such as  
13 1985, three floods which occurred in '96, and the 2013 flood  
14 which I mentioned and provide monetary bonds to assist river  
15 residents recover should mother nature just be mother nature  
16 and let hurricane reminisce hang out on the top of Cheat  
17 Mountain for a few days.

18           Finally, the proposed ACP is a blatant slap in  
19 the face to many of the people who have dedicated long hours  
20 to stream and forest restoration in the Mon Forest. Let's  
21 call it what it is, a land grab. The proposed ACP  
22 inappropriately by-steps one of the largest continuous  
23 eastern forest public lands, deals with the fewest number of  
24 landowners, which, of course, results in lower acquisition  
25 costs at the expense of public land, clean water,

1 uninterrupted source and the lives of people who have chosen  
2 to live here for the very reason of enjoying the land.

3 Please ask Dominion, no force Dominion to seek  
4 alternative routes along with the company to deal with their  
5 own kind, other gas, oil, coal, energy companies to seek  
6 profit over residents' families and their quality of life.  
7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 12, is Ron Nestor,  
10 followed by Randall Rogers and Alan Balogh.

11 MR. NESTOR: Thank you. My name is Don Nestor  
12 and I'm here tonight to speak in favor of FERC approval of  
13 the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. And I do appreciate this  
14 opportunity to express my feelings on this.

15 I'm a member of the Independent Oil and Gas  
16 Association of West Virginia, and chairman of its tax  
17 committee. I'm also chairman of the tax committee of the  
18 Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association and also the  
19 Independent Petroleum Association of America. I'm a past  
20 president of the West Virginia Society of CPAs and also of  
21 the West Virginia Board of Council.

22 I'm a CPA and partner of the CPA firm of Arnett,  
23 Carbis, Toothman, which has over 260 employees in West  
24 Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and I work in the West  
25 Virginia office, which is just near here in Elkins. I'm

1 also a lifelong resident of West Virginia and a proud  
2 graduate of Pickens High School right here in Randolph  
3 County in the graduating class of '11.

4           My reasons for supporting the Atlantic Coast  
5 Pipeline Project are many, including the following. First  
6 of all, construction of this pipeline is about maintaining  
7 and increasing the good-paying jobs with benefits for both  
8 young and more experienced people who want to stay in West  
9 Virginia and to raise their families here.

10           When I was going to college at West Virginia  
11 University, I worked picking rock from a crusher to stacking  
12 lumber at a lumber mill, repairing gravel roads for the  
13 Department of Highways in the summer. There are not as many  
14 of these jobs around now and not everyone's meant for those  
15 types of jobs.

16           Jobs for the construction of this pipeline, for  
17 the drilling of the wells to develop the natural gas to fill  
18 the pipeline and for the operation and maintenance of the  
19 pipeline and wells are critical to our entire state. The  
20 variety of jobs is extremely important to the folks who live  
21 here and want to stay here.

22           I'd like to add that also about the jobs for  
23 those who work with these workers, whether it's in hotels,  
24 motels, restaurants, general stores, whatever it might be  
25 that support the work here, so it's not just about the

1 direct workers. It's those who support that and need those  
2 same jobs. And you can see the revenue that increases in  
3 areas where this work is going on.

4           The tax revenues generated from the companies and  
5 workers doing work directly and indirectly during  
6 construction of the pipeline and drilling the wells and for  
7 years later will allow counties involved to meet budget  
8 needs that cannot be met, other than by increasing property  
9 and other taxes on retired and lower income residents or are  
10 just services. We're facing here in West Virginia a  
11 reduction in severance tax revenues and property taxes  
12 because of the decline in the coal industry and other  
13 industries are just no growing and the money has to come  
14 from somewhere to keep the basic needs in our county.

15           I've lived most of my life in Randolph County and  
16 in Upshur County, and the estimated property taxes on the  
17 value of this pipeline alone for each of those two counties  
18 in the year 2020, the beginning of that year nearly \$2  
19 million per year, which helps not only to meet those needs,  
20 but also will cover education needs.

21           Finally, as a CPA working with many companies,  
22 but also with numerous individuals who receive fees from  
23 rights-of-way or from the construction of the pipelines on  
24 their lands or some instrumental owners who receive oil and  
25 gas royalty income it's extremely important to them. I've

1 seen many cases of this additional income making things  
2 possible for those individuals who may have limited sources  
3 of income for themselves and their families.

4           Growing up in a small town here in West Virginia,  
5 I've seen times when our land and water resources have been  
6 carefully managed and developed, and that's great to see.  
7 There's also been times when they have not been managed or  
8 have been abused. We have rules that must be followed in  
9 all types of development, such as the Atlantic Coast  
10 Pipeline, and we have state and federal agencies charged  
11 with enforcing those rules. I feel we can work together to  
12 both protect our environment and grow our jobs for the  
13 economic welfare of everyone in our region.

14           In conclusion, I encourage FERC -- FERC's support  
15 and approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project. Thank  
16 you.

17           (Applause.)

18           MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 13 is Randall Rogers,  
19 followed by Alan Balogh and Stanley Masoner.

20           MR. ROGERS: Good evening and thank you. My name  
21 is Randall Rogers. Unlike the previous speaker, I grew up  
22 in West Virginia, but I had to leave and was gone from West  
23 Virginia with my family for 20 years. And that whole 20  
24 years I was trying to get home, get my kids close to their  
25 grandparents. It wasn't until the natural gas business

1 started expanding and really growing that I was able to do  
2 that. I was able to bring my kids back so that they grow up  
3 and be around their grandparents, and it's very important to  
4 us.

5           And as a nation and as a region, it is important  
6 that our energy infrastructure be developed so resources can  
7 be transported safely and efficiently. The safe production  
8 and transportation of natural gas can lead to increased  
9 employment opportunities, price stability, and energy  
10 independence. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is necessary  
11 infrastructure to transport energy from the nearby supply in  
12 the Appalachian Basin to areas of demand in the southeastern  
13 United States.

14           Not only will it mean new jobs, new tax revenue,  
15 opportunities for economic growth, but also using domestic  
16 energy suppliers and transporting that energy to areas of  
17 need will enhance our economic and fiscal security as a  
18 nation.

19           Atlantic Coast Pipeline can be and should be  
20 constructed in a manner that limits environmental effects  
21 and preserves the cultural identity of the areas which it  
22 crosses. The NEPA review conducted by FERC should be  
23 thorough and fully evaluate alternative routes for  
24 environmental safety, constructability, and safety. The  
25 preferred pipeline routed through the Monongahela National

1 Forest and particularly cross Cheat Mountain not only  
2 maximizes the use of the existing roadway corridors and  
3 formerly strip mined areas, areas that are fragmented by  
4 roads, existing utilities, and past mining operations, but  
5 provides a shorter route that reduces the overall footprint  
6 of the project.

7 I'm honored to speak in favor of this important  
8 project and the potential benefits it will bring to the  
9 region and also urge FERC to continue to work with the  
10 stakeholders, including local residents, state officials,  
11 and the companies involved to complete the review in favor  
12 of this project. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 14 is Alan Balogh,  
15 followed by Stanley Masoner and Charlie Burd.

16 MR. BALOGH: My name is Alan Balogh, and I have  
17 lived and pay taxes in Pocahontas County for over 25 years.  
18 I moved here from eastern Pennsylvania with my wife and son  
19 because of the wild, unspoiled beauty of Pocahontas County  
20 and the surrounding area.

21 Working as an over-the-road truck driver for more  
22 than 20 years, allowed me to spend time in 48 states, 6  
23 Canadian provinces, and northern Mexico. That experience  
24 only increased my realization of how special Pocahontas  
25 County is and left me with no desire to live anywhere else.

1 If I or the tourists who visit here and spend their money  
2 here want to see pipelines, we could go to New Jersey or  
3 Texas.

4           Some claim the proposed pipeline would have  
5 economic benefits. The question is whose economy would  
6 benefit. It will not benefit the numerous businesses who  
7 cater to tourist who come here to hike, bike, camp, fish,  
8 and hunt because none of those tourists will want to spend  
9 their vacations at or around an ugly construction site that  
10 wildlife has long since abandoned. Why would they want to  
11 hike or camp near a scarred national forest laced with  
12 herbicides used to keep a pipeline clear of brush or eat any  
13 fish still living in tainted, silt-filled streams?

14           It may benefit the union welders from Tulsa,  
15 Oklahoma who would come here to build it for a while. It  
16 won't have any lasting benefit to the few local people who  
17 may get jobs because they would be low-paying and temporary.  
18 Dominion has even misrepresented and exaggerated potential  
19 tax revenue to Pocahontas County by 60 percent. The only  
20 real benefit would go to out-of-state gas and oil  
21 speculators who would be chuckling about how dumb we were to  
22 sacrifice our clean water and beautiful mountains for cheap,  
23 lying promises of a few jobs.

24           If there is any county in the eastern United  
25 States that should not be industrialized it is Pocahontas

1 County. This is where people come with their families to  
2 escape industrialization, development, pollution, and  
3 ugliness. This is where eight rivers begin, contributing to  
4 the drinking water of people and wildlife all the way to the  
5 Gulf of Mexico.

6           One could argue that almost anything could have  
7 economic benefits, a casino, a commercial pig farm, or a  
8 nuclear waste dump somebody would make money from it. You  
9 have to weigh wealth creation on the one hand against what  
10 was destroyed to create it on the other. A new pipeline  
11 through Pocahontas County will not benefit the common good.

12           And I know that this is a narrowly-focused  
13 discussion here, but I have to say two things, one, an  
14 underlying thing here is the whole fracking thing, which is  
15 more and more talk about how bad it is. We don't even know  
16 what that's doing. There's earthquakes in Oklahoma where  
17 there wasn't. I mean fracking itself many would argue  
18 shouldn't be done at all. And the other thing is I have --  
19 you know I believe this is kind of a rigged system because  
20 the people who are going to decide whether it is allowed or  
21 not have a boss, and that boss is appointed by the  
22 President, who received lots of money from gas and oil  
23 people to get elected.

24           And it's not just this President, but all  
25 presidents. So, I feel like the system's rigged. I'm hope

1 I'm proven wrong, but I'll end by just asking if there isn't  
2 any political will among government officials to stop this  
3 thing the least they can do is -- why can't they force  
4 Dominion to share an existing east/west right-of-way with  
5 Columbia Gas that already has a pipeline laid? Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 15 is Stanley Masoner,  
8 followed by Charlie Burd and Jane Birdsong.

9 MR. MASONER: Hello. My name is Stanley Masoner.  
10 I'm co-owner of Petroleum Resources, Inc., an independent,  
11 but conventional production -- oil and gas production  
12 company in Louis County.

13 We operate over 300 wells in central West  
14 Virginia, and I'm here to speak in support of the  
15 Appalachian Coastal Pipeline for an often forgotten industry  
16 in our state, and that's the conventional drillers. We're  
17 not the Marcellus drillers. We're the people that's been  
18 around here for years drilling vertical wells and producing  
19 gas for many years.

20 Petroleum Resources was incorporated in the  
21 mid-sixties, re-organized in 1980, and since then average  
22 drilling about 20 to 25 wells a year until late 1990s into  
23 2000 and still drilled wells up until six years and we  
24 haven't drilled a well since. The reason why is is because  
25 of the suppression in our price in the marketing.

1                   We, historically, market our gas to the  
2 Northeast. As a conventional driller, we don't have the  
3 capital to build pipelines. We rely on other companies to  
4 use their pipelines, starting with the gathering line going  
5 through into transmission into the market.

6                   Because there is so much gas into the Northeast  
7 that's where our pricing has become so depressed. We are  
8 actually receiving net price now that is about what was  
9 receiving in the late sixties. We employed -- averaged  
10 about 20 employees. Now, we're down to seven employees.  
11 Having a really, really hard time just making ends meet. If  
12 we hadn't had some reserve capital we probably couldn't.  
13 This pipeline is critical for the conventional driller  
14 because it's one of the first pipelines that's been proposed  
15 that actually takes gas to a completely new market.

16                   This pipeline most of the capacity is being  
17 bought by LDCs and utilities. This is a new market that we  
18 don't have now. And everybody talks about, well, you got  
19 gas going east now. You got gas going south now. We don't  
20 any gas going southeast, and these new markets are the only  
21 thing that we can look forward to and to getting prices  
22 recovered enough so we can go back about our business and  
23 start making a dollar, hiring people, and drilling wells.  
24 So, we are very, very much supportive of that.

25                   On the second note, this pipeline goes through my

1 wife's -- it's proposed to go through my wife's home farm.  
2 And we understand what it takes to get it and we're still in  
3 support of it. And thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 16 is Charlie Burd, followed  
6 by Jane Birdsong and Marion Harless.

7 MR. BURD: Good evening. Yes, my name is Charlie  
8 Burd, and for the last 13 years it's been my privilege to be  
9 the executive director of the Independent Oil and Gas  
10 Association of West Virginia based in Charleston. Ours is a  
11 statewide, non-profit trade association that represents over  
12 750-member companies engaged in the extraction and  
13 production of natural gas and oil in West Virginia, and then  
14 those companies that support those extraction and production  
15 activities.

16 IOGA's been here since 1959. And we formed to  
17 preserve and protect the independent natural gas and oil  
18 producing industry in West Virginia as well as the natural  
19 environment of our state. We take that obligation very  
20 seriously.

21 All of the West Virginians members have a  
22 long-standing tradition of working with all federal and  
23 state agencies in matters of importance to West Virginia,  
24 its citizens, and to the oil and natural gas industry. IOGA  
25 is very pleased to support and endorse the successful

1 approval and completion of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline  
2 Project.

3           This \$4.5 billion project is a joint venture by  
4 four of our nation's most successful and recognized energy  
5 leaders, Dominion, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, and  
6 Atlanta Gasoline. Upon completion, the natural gas supply  
7 to this pipeline will help meet the ever-growing needs of  
8 Virginia and North Carolina. Through this 550-mile project  
9 an estimated 1.5 bcs of natural gas produced in West  
10 Virginia every day will be safely transported south, as far  
11 south as eastern North Carolina, and this will be done every  
12 day.

13           In addition to constructing the 42-inch main gas  
14 pipeline, the project also includes the construction of  
15 three new compressor stations. Ass we previously mentioned  
16 one each in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina, and  
17 a 20-inch connection serving Hampton Road, Virginia.

18           This reliable supply of domestically-produced  
19 natural gas will be used for electrical power generation to  
20 heat thousands of homes and for a wide variety of uses in  
21 commercial and industrial process applications. Moreover,  
22 this project will create thousands of construction jobs,  
23 thousands of permanent jobs, contribute millions of dollars  
24 to the local and state economies, and will enrich and  
25 enhance the lives of millions of people.

1           The Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project is a positive  
2 step forward in bringing low price, clean-burning natural  
3 gas to homes, businesses, manufacturers, and power  
4 generators. IOGA, its 750 members, and its thousands of  
5 employees are proud to give this project its fullest and  
6 absolute support.

7           On a personal note, I'm a parent. I have two,  
8 one 37, he doesn't live in the state because in his  
9 profession as a consultant in the restaurant industry it was  
10 just not the right time. So, he lives in New York City.

11           My youngest son is 16, and brilliant in math.  
12 His brother and he speak six languages. When I look at his  
13 math paper, it really looks like hen scratching to me, but  
14 he understands it all. He wants to be an engineer. Made  
15 that decision a long time ago when he met Dr. Samuel Merritt  
16 (phonetic), WD, solidified by the fact that last year he was  
17 accepted and was able to attend. He wants to be an  
18 engineer, so I'm very proud of that and I want him to have a  
19 job in West Virginia just like you want your children to  
20 have jobs. Thank you.

21           (Applause.)

22           MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 17 is Jane Birdsong,  
23 followed by Marion Harless and Ed Phares.

24           MS. BIRDSONG: My name is Jane Birdsong. I live  
25 in a property along the Tygart River in Randolph County.

1 I'm a member of the Laurel Mountain Preservation Association  
2 and the Wildness Coalition.

3           And first of all, some of you, at least at the  
4 meeting earlier today seem to think only landowners on whose  
5 acreage Dominion will bury this pipeline are among others,  
6 as well as affected landowners, but assure that every  
7 resident of this state will be affected if this enormous,  
8 42-inch pipeline is approved and built.

9           Many residents who are unfortunate enough to live  
10 in counties like Barbour, Lewis, Harrison, Doddridge, and  
11 Tyler, among others, already have lost property values due  
12 to nearby horizontal drilling for shale gas. Some of them  
13 have had to deal with water contamination in their wells or  
14 underground aquifers from the fracking fluids used in  
15 drilling for natural gas.

16           Approval of this pipeline will encourage even  
17 more drilling. So, I'm against it. I do not agree that  
18 natural gas is a greener energy solution in a whole. I have  
19 here a working paper, which I'm going to give to the  
20 committee. It is from the Physicians, Scientists, and  
21 Engineers Healthy Energy Group, and it is called a Working  
22 Paper toward the Understanding of the Environmental and  
23 Public Health Impacts of Shale Gas Development.

24           It's an analysis of peer reviewed, scientific  
25 literature and the bibliography alone is longer than the

1 paper, so anyone -- I'd encourage someone on your Commission  
2 to read this report. You can check out all the bibliography  
3 that has the actual studies done. Okay. So, I want to hand  
4 that to you.

5           It's high time to make a transition to cleaner  
6 energy sources, solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric  
7 tidal. Why should we invest the billions of dollars that  
8 these pipelines will cost when natural gas as an energy  
9 source is going to be outdated in the very near future?  
10 Companies like Dominion and Duke Energy should be thinking  
11 farther ahead than the profits they'll reap 5 to 10 years  
12 from now.

13           Our state has been trampled enough by the fossil  
14 fuel industries who care nothing for our residents who must  
15 put up with their trampling the pollution of our streams and  
16 rivers, their disregard to the future of our children and  
17 grandchildren who must live with the ruins that these  
18 industries create.

19           I think it's time to change to clean energy. We  
20 don't need more pipelines. We don't need any more  
21 mountaintops destroyed. We don't need streams covered in  
22 sedimentation from big machinery.

23           I also have here -- I heard another speaker  
24 previously mention the pipeline incidents and accidents. I  
25 think that was countrywide. I have one just about the West

1 Virginia pipeline incidents. And in between 2003 and 2014  
2 there've been 19 incidents which lead to 5 fatalities, 9  
3 injuries, over 11,000 barrels of spilled hazardous liquids.  
4 Just imagine a 42-inch pipeline, leaks, explosions, and the  
5 damages that would occur.

6 I believe this may be the first 42-inch that  
7 Dominion is proposing to build. I know they've built  
8 others, but I think it might be the first 42-inch. So, the  
9 various elevations and type of terrain down here in West  
10 Virginia do not lend themselves to this type of intrusion.  
11 Some has already spoken about the elevation here in West  
12 Virginia and the carse topography. Please don't destroy any  
13 more new corridors through our mountains and forests.

14 If you must ship gas to the coast use existing  
15 corridors. I hope FERC does more than just be giving a list  
16 to the gas companies and approving everything that they  
17 would like to do. I don't think that's okay. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 18 is Marion Hollis,  
20 followed by Ed Ferris and David Spigelmyer.

21 MS. HARLESS: Marion Harless, comparative  
22 psychologist, biologist, naturalist, organic grower.

23 FERC already has five minutes of comments before  
24 the Randolph County Commission on Water and five minutes on  
25 Dominion and Dole Land and other land companies. I hope

1 everyone has watched The Gas Land, the movie, and Gas Land  
2 II documentaries and lots of the other documentaries that  
3 are out there, along with Hollywood-produced, Promise Land,  
4 filmed just across the state line up in Pennsylvania.

5           Nearly ever newspaper and magazine in the country  
6 has featured in depth articles or entire issues on water and  
7 many have discussed the problems with oil and gas and its  
8 affects on water. One magazine called Yes Magazine has  
9 always offered positive solutions and has done so on water  
10 and energy for years.

11           With thousands of books, magazines, journals,  
12 films, and websites to learn from it is incredible that some  
13 people know or care little about water and energy issues.  
14 The USDA/Forest Service research bulletins are invaluable.  
15 Check some of those out, especially on the Mon. Government  
16 agencies and institutions of every sort weigh in on water  
17 and energy. The magazine In these Times April issue has an  
18 article -- I'm trying to shorten this -- has an article on  
19 FERC which will be available online on March 29.

20           One Commissioner stated before the National Press  
21 Club, "These groups are active in every FERC docket, as they  
22 should be, as well as in my email inbox seven days a week  
23 and my twitter feed, at our open meetings demanding to be  
24 heard and literally at our door. We have a situation here."  
25 I thought it was interesting she said "demanding to be

1 heard." We are expected to be heard, but unfortunately, not  
2 enough people are.

3           One group she referred to as CCAN, the Chesapeake  
4 Climate Action Network, which opposes the Dominion Resources  
5 proposed expansion of the Chesapeake Natural Gas Export  
6 Facility in Maryland. The group protested at FERC offices  
7 last summer and fall. This was news to me. I never saw  
8 this mentioned anywhere.

9           Many believe that the gas that would be  
10 transported in this proposed Dominion Pipeline through our  
11 mountains to the coast would be exported. Dominion denies  
12 this at all of the other Dominion meetings up to seven  
13 people at each one denied this and there was an APA report  
14 -- not an APA, Associated Press -- AP report with a Dominion  
15 spokeswoman saying "It would be disingenuous of us to say  
16 that," meaning that it might be exported.

17           FERC is currently looking at 14 proposed liquid  
18 natural gas terminals. They've already approved four and  
19 they're in their proceedings right now. FERC seems to  
20 believe that if other countries purchase our gas that it's  
21 okay for gas companies and oil companies here to destroy our  
22 country. FERC seems to be concerned only that there is a  
23 buyer at the other end.

24           What about water? In Washington, D.C., 75  
25 percent of the water comes from the Potomac which then flows

1 into the Chesapeake Bay. And where does the Potomac come  
2 from? As we all know, right here in West Virginia, western  
3 Maryland, southwestern Pennsylvania. Any kind of  
4 transmission corridor across the Allegheny front results in  
5 effects on the Potomac watershed. Those on this side affect  
6 the Ohio and Mississippi watershed. And as someone else  
7 pointed out this provides water all the way to the Gulf of  
8 Mexico.

9           This afternoon Dominion made available a proposed  
10 alternative route that is a compromise to avoid certain  
11 parts of the Mon. This morning I heard a story about Blue  
12 Rock Farm and the organic maple sugar operation near where  
13 this pipeline would go through. This afternoon I found out  
14 that the pipeline is scheduled to go through there on this  
15 new alternative route. I wish everyone could go over to it  
16 and just imagine what destruction the pipeline would cause.

17           We need our mountains. We don't need more gas.  
18 As far as I'm concerned, fracking should be recognized.  
19 Thank you very much.

20           (Applause.)

21           MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 19 is Ed Phares, followed by  
22 David Spigelmyer and Richard Shafer.

23           MR. PHARES: Good evening. My name is Ed Phares.  
24 I work for J.F. Allen Company as the chief engineer. We  
25 have operations in Elkins, and Bridgeport. We employ 300

1 fellow West Virginians and we've been in business since 1946  
2 and just celebrated our 60th birthday. I serve on the board  
3 of the Randolph County Development Authority and I'm also  
4 chairman of the Asphalt Pavement Association in West  
5 Virginia. I live in Elkins, and I will be speaking tonight  
6 in support of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

7           This gas will provide a clean, low-priced,  
8 domestic energy source to fuel power plants, generate  
9 electricity, heat homes, and fuel factories and industries.  
10 We are very fortunate in West Virginia to have the  
11 opportunity to produce, process, extract, and transfer  
12 natural gas. And I can see the immediate and long-term  
13 benefits of the pipeline.

14           It is about economic development for West  
15 Virginia. I think about the thousands of jobs created  
16 during design and construction, additional jobs associated  
17 with the manufacture of American-made materials. It's the  
18 steel pipe used for the pipeline of geo-textiles, aggregate  
19 Nassau that might be placed on the access roads. And the  
20 erosion control products that will be incorporated  
21 throughout the project and indirect economic activity in  
22 motels, gas stations, restaurants, and recreation areas.

23           Pipeline construction will generate an estimated  
24 \$479 million in economic activity in the state during the  
25 activity in the state during the five-year design and

1 construction phase. In post-completion the pipeline would  
2 generate \$15.6 million per year in economic activity,  
3 support full-time jobs, and provide additional greatly  
4 needed tax revenues for the State of West Virginia. The  
5 pipeline will be constructed by professional and  
6 environmentally-responsible contractors using American-made  
7 materials.

8 In closing, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would  
9 provide more stable electricity and home heating prices,  
10 additional opportunities, recruit manufacturing jobs, and  
11 other economic development due to greater availability of  
12 natural gas infrastructure. And lastly, the significant air  
13 quality benefits from switching power generation to more  
14 modern designs and cleaner burning fuel.

15 Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel. I  
16 believe that Dominion, Duke Energy, AG Resources, and  
17 Piedmont Natural Gas should be commended for having the  
18 vision to move this project forward. I would like to thank  
19 the FERC for providing me the opportunity to speak tonight.  
20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 20 is David  
23 Spigelmyer, followed by Richard Shafer and Dennis Xander.

24 MR. SPIGELMYER: Good evening. My name is Dave  
25 Spigelmyer. I'm president of Marcellus Shale Coalition

1 representing 250 producers, pipeline companies, and supply  
2 chain members active in both the Marcellus and Utica shale  
3 place. I stand before you this evening to speak in support  
4 of a vital infrastructure project, the Atlantic Coast  
5 Project, being proposed by Dominion, Duke Energy, Piedmont  
6 Natural Gas, and AGL Resources.

7           This vital infrastructure project will serve to  
8 clean our air by using more natural gas in our electric  
9 power generation sector in the entire Mid-Atlantic region.  
10 As reported by EPA, CO2 emissions have dropped to a 20-year  
11 low due to heightened use of natural gas in our power  
12 generation sector. This project will also employ thousands  
13 of our skilled labor workforce during construction and will  
14 create hundreds if not thousands of family wage-sustaining  
15 jobs long term.

16           Bolstering natural gas supply along this route  
17 will also serve to keep consumer energy costs down even  
18 during some of the coldest winter months and during some of  
19 the warmest periods of the year. I would remind folks that  
20 natural gas prices remain below 2008 levels here six years  
21 later.

22           For the past 30 years, we've been continuing to  
23 write the obituary for manufacturing in the Northeast and  
24 Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. However, today  
25 through affordable and abundant natural gas supply we can

1 create a renaissance in manufacturing not thought possible  
2 just a few years ago. Make no mistake; a project of this  
3 magnitude will deliver extraordinary economic opportunities  
4 for communities up and down the right-of-way, from hotels  
5 and motels to restaurants and convenience stores to quarries  
6 and aggregates to gas station, the construction trades, the  
7 earth-moving workers for reclamation and much, much more.

8           Few realize in nearly every single consumer  
9 product that we touch today is manufactured through the use  
10 of natural gas. Think of your own lives. All steel, glass,  
11 plastics, chemicals, fertilizers, metals, and  
12 life-sustaining pharmaceutical medications are manufactured  
13 through the use of natural gas.

14           Some who would tout greater use of renewables  
15 fail to realize that both the wind turbine and solar panels  
16 are manufactured through the use natural gas. Furthermore,  
17 gas is a base-load fuel that's required for reliable power  
18 supplies and a central element for any renewable power  
19 application.

20           Today natural gas and natural gas liquids  
21 development through shale development have been responsible  
22 for lessening our dependence on foreign sources of oil and  
23 has dropped our dependence from 60 percent dependence just  
24 six short years ago to under 40 percent today. We are  
25 witnessing those benefits today at the gas pump. I would

1 also say we're trading a helmet abroad for a hardhat at  
2 home.

3           This project is a huge opportunity to bring more  
4 gas into the Mid-Atlantic region, bolstering natural gas  
5 supplies in growing population centers along this route and  
6 Virginia and North Carolina. This project can help unlock  
7 the many economic energy security and environmental  
8 opportunities being provided by this clean, all American  
9 energy.

10           I want to thank FERC for the opportunity to  
11 speak. I will submit my formal comments to the docket in  
12 support of this project. Thank you very much.

13           (Applause.)

14           MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 21 is Richard Shafer,  
15 followed by Dennis Xander and Tolly Peuleche. Richard  
16 Shafer? No? Mr. Xander.

17           MR. XANDER: Thank you, sir. My name is Dennis  
18 Xander. I'm a small, independent producer in Upshur County,  
19 West Virginia. And much like my friend, Mr. Masoner, I'm a  
20 conventional driller. I've been in the business for over 40  
21 years. And like Mr. Masoner we too are struggling because  
22 we primarily deliver gas to Dominion's pipeline and  
23 Dominion's pipeline really has no new markets today, and  
24 therefore our prices net under a dollar today.

25           But I want to look back in time a little bit and

1 talk about President Jimmy Carter from 1977. I think we  
2 forget we're about history and we tend to make mistakes.  
3 But let me tell you what Jimmy Carter said in his speech in  
4 1977. "We must face the fact that energy shortage is  
5 permanent. That the oil and gas industry we rely on for 75  
6 percent of our energy are simply running out. World oil  
7 production can probably keep up for another six or eight  
8 years, but sometime in eighties it can't go up any more.  
9 Demand will overtake production. We have no choice about  
10 that."

11           So, what did Jimmy Carter do? He passed the Fuel  
12 Use Act of 1978, making it illegal to burn natural gas or  
13 oil to generate electricity. Instead, his plan was to burn  
14 more coal. Now, fast forward today to 2015 and what are we  
15 doing? We've got a government that says whatever you do  
16 don't burn coal. Burn more natural gas. Well, the problem  
17 is we are situated in a state that's blessed with an  
18 abundance of natural gas, but without the infrastructure to  
19 get it to the market it really has very little value.

20           The discovery of gas, oil, and shale and how to  
21 produce it has lead to staggering production, which has  
22 driven our prices down. Now, for Mr. Masoner and I that's  
23 devastating, but for the rest of you in this room who are  
24 consumers of not energy, but also, as Mr. Spigelmyer pointed  
25 out, products that are made from natural gas that's a great

1 thing. I don't think any of you minded tonight when you  
2 filled your car up for \$2.39 instead of \$4.00 you were  
3 paying previously.

4 Marcellus/Utica's production combined it now  
5 exceeds 18 bcf of gas a day. That may not mean much to you,  
6 but in terms of oil equivalent that's the same as three  
7 million barrels of oil a day. But the sale of natural gas  
8 requires pipelines with available capacity and access to  
9 markets with new demand. Production generates tax revenues.  
10 And despite what you've heard here tonight, all 55 counties  
11 get severance taxes. Everything we produce in the State of  
12 West Virginia 5 percent off the top goes to severance taxes.

13 In addition, states -- counties gets taxes based  
14 on property in the state. I've learned that just like you  
15 pay on your tracker or on your farm. These are significant  
16 numbers. \$600 million in the last three years, and that's  
17 at today's production levels. When we build some pipelines  
18 and increase production that'll be even greater.

19 Why do we need this Atlantic Coast Pipeline?  
20 I've heard a lot of you say let's just use the existing  
21 pipeline right-of-ways. The problem is they don't go to the  
22 market. They don't get us to where we need to be to sell  
23 gas. Gas traditionally moves from West Virginia to the  
24 Northeast. All production we had could be easily sold.  
25 West Virginia producers, in fact, received a premium for our

1 products because we were closer to the end market than folks  
2 say in the Gulf Coast.

3 But today that's all reversed. Today we are  
4 penalized. The price of gas today is about three bucks.  
5 We're netting much less than a 1.75 on Dominion. And after  
6 you pay their transmission costs, it's under a dollar. So,  
7 we can't use existing right-of-ways. We need to get to new  
8 markets and the best spot that we've identified has been the  
9 Southeast, so we need a pipeline to get us there.

10 Our traditional markets are 100 percent  
11 saturated. Supply and demand has forced prices down to  
12 lows. We've actually reversed the course of a lot of our  
13 pipelines. A lot of the pipelines that previously ran from  
14 the South to the Northeast and West Virginia to New York now  
15 are going south. Those lines are full. We have no outlet  
16 for our gas.

17 Gas must be delivered to emerging markets,  
18 whether that be export or whether that be other states, and  
19 we're working hard on that. And why is this relevant?  
20 Well, we need the jobs. The natural gas business is the  
21 only bright spot in our economy ^^^^ it certainly isn't coal  
22 -- and to do this we need a pipeline to get the gas out of  
23 here.

24 So, I'm asking you tonight FERC to give this  
25 consideration. This is an industry that's 150 years old.

1 We have a great safety record and we have a great  
2 environmental record and we'd very much like you to approve  
3 this pipeline to give us access to new markets. Thank you  
4 very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 23 is Tolly Peuleche,  
7 followed by Lauran Ragland and Tom Shipley.

8 MR. PEULECH: Okay, my name is Tolly Peuleche,  
9 and I'm not directly on the line as proposed by Alternative  
10 5, but that was what I mostly wanted to talk about.  
11 However, having sat here and listened to 22 other comments,  
12 I feel like I'm in two different meetings. The people who  
13 are opposed to it are mostly landowners or people who  
14 recreate, live here, don't have anything to do with the  
15 natural gas or oil industries. And the people in favor of  
16 it are all industry people. Somewhere there has to be  
17 middle ground. I don't know where it is, but I just feel  
18 like -- I don't think Dominion wants to go out there and do  
19 a really bad job. I really don't.

20 And I think there's probably some truths to  
21 everything that the people in the industry side are saying,  
22 but it doesn't make the people who are opposed to it wrong  
23 either. The issue is it's going through the worst possible  
24 terrain you can imagine. I live about a thousand, two  
25 thousand feet from where this Alternative 5 is proposed and

1 I just you know sort of want to summarize what is on the  
2 road I live on.

3           In the first place, it's about one lane. And  
4 since the pipeline has to have people getting to and from it  
5 and it can't all be going up and down the right-of-way as  
6 its created, they're going to clog our roads and these roads  
7 flood every time there's rain. It's not just when there's a  
8 big flood event. In fact, just this winter my driveway  
9 washed out twice and that water is coming from pristine  
10 national forestland. It's beautifully clear water, but  
11 there's a lot of it. That we have intense storms and we  
12 have a lot of them, so there's flooding, flash flooding,  
13 access issues. There's caves everywhere. In fact, within  
14 walking distance of my house are five completely mapped,  
15 large caves that are very popular and gone in by cavers all  
16 the time.

17           The issue of springs is important. There's  
18 springs all over the place. It is absolutely insane to try  
19 to get a well drilled in the particular area I'm speaking  
20 about. Well drillers tell you it looks like Swiss cheese  
21 underground. It's almost impossible to drill a well because  
22 there -- it's not just simple carse. It's just -- there are  
23 sinkholes in my fields. There's sinkholes all over these  
24 mountains and I don't know where they're going to get cover  
25 for these pipes because it's all rock.

1           And I asked today that question of Dominion and  
2 they said, well, we bring in machinery that crunches up the  
3 rock and then we put that down over top of the pipes with  
4 some protection between the two. But once you've crunched  
5 up the rock, it doesn't take up as much space so where is  
6 all the rest of this dirt coming from if the land has to be  
7 restored to its original contours?

8           Another thing that I think is really difficult in  
9 this whole situation is it's just pitting one community  
10 against another. Alternative 5 isn't any good and what they  
11 -- the main alternative isn't any good either. I think  
12 there are so many environmental issues in this area. The  
13 tourism industry is a major part of where I live. The Elk  
14 River is a fly fishing destination from all over the East  
15 Coast.

16           It's not something you say, well, you know it'll  
17 be all right because you can't guarantee to anybody that  
18 it's going to be all right when you have that first flash  
19 flood when you're in the middle of taking apart a 150-foot  
20 wide swath on a 60-degree slope. I don't see how that's  
21 going to happen.

22           Anyway, that's just it from my perspective as a  
23 local landowner who doesn't have it going over their  
24 property, but it's really, really close and I just think  
25 that there's way too many technical issues that haven't been

1 adequately addressed to be at this point and say, oh, let's  
2 run with Alternative 5 or run with Alternative 1. There's a  
3 long way to go yet. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker number 23 is Lauran Ragland,  
6 followed by Tom Shipley and Pamela Dodds.

7 MS. RAGLAND: My name is Lauran Ragland. I live  
8 in Southern West Virginia at the corners of Randolph,  
9 Pocahontas and Webster. I have been working for nine months  
10 and one week as the founder of West Virginia Wilderness  
11 Lovers and now the Western part, so over 100,000, many of  
12 you in this room who have learned the facts about pipeline  
13 transmission development.

14 Before I get into all this serious stuff, I just  
15 want to say a little personal stuff. My name is Lauran  
16 Ragland. I'm from New York and Massachusetts. I'm kissing  
17 60. I've lived half my life here in Virginia and West  
18 Virginia wilderness. I live two miles from the road. One  
19 of the 90 percent of the people in this state -- I use water  
20 from the ground, spring water. I'm one of 90 percent of the  
21 people in the state. I'm not that special. I'm one of  
22 many, many people.

23 But before I get started on the serious stuff, I  
24 want to share something with you. Are my Bobs here, one and  
25 two, from Dominion? This song's for you.

1 (Sings a song.)

2 MS. RAGLAND: West Virginia matters you guys.  
3 This is not a local issue. Do you know how many states get  
4 water from Pocahontas, anybody, 12, 12, Alabama, Arkansas,  
5 Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky,  
6 Mississippi, and Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee get water from  
7 Pocahontas. This pipeline I believe -- excuse me FERC -- I  
8 hope that this is the first time that you do say no because  
9 this is not about money. It's not about methane. This is  
10 about water. Water.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. RAGLAND: I know that you've gone from the  
13 first route, but the Cheat serves 10 counties. And you know  
14 what it forms 44 watersheds and you know where it goes  
15 Sarasota, Sarasota, Florida, Mobile, Alabama, and New  
16 Orleans and Obama drink our water. This is not local. This  
17 is serious. This is a huge issue you guys. And for nine  
18 months and one week I've been teaching our state and you --  
19 I have 2,000 people on the email list. You know what's  
20 going on. These are facts, not my opinion.

21 Methane is dangerous. How many -- we all think  
22 we know about what's going on. Okay, how many streams are  
23 in the Greenbrier watershed, the big Greenbrier? I will  
24 tell you because I spent three weeks printing this out.  
25 There are actually 245 streams in the Greenbrier watershed,

1 1,322 miles. This took a week of work because it's not  
2 easily accessible. And guess what, four lakes covering 342  
3 acres. Then there's 42 watersheds that go all the way down  
4 to Sarasota, Florida.

5           Guys this is not a local issue. This is about  
6 water. And you know what, as most of you have seen, I've  
7 gone to the top from Obama to Mike Taylor here in Randolph  
8 County. It's the law you guys. This project you know  
9 cannot go through because it violates federal law for air  
10 and water. You know it. I know it. We know it.

11           Well, it's really, really true, but it even gets  
12 down to something more simple. West Virginia has been the  
13 leaders since 1948 for water quality, West Virginia.  
14 Everyone else -- about West Virginia. Guess what, before it  
15 was a federal law our state was involved with Ohio and is  
16 was a leader since '83 with the Chesapeake Bay Program and  
17 now with Mississippi. Guess what, excuse me, but you can't  
18 do this because it will violate the programs that the State  
19 of West Virginia is a part of because our water goes through  
20 the White House. It goes to Pittsburgh. It goes to New  
21 Orleans.

22           And Gus, I used to commute to Alabama. Two weeks  
23 ago I realized that here I've been saving the watershed for  
24 America and I realized that I was drinking this water for  
25 five years. It was really quite touching. And the story is

1 there are federal laws that must be -- look on their website  
2 -- the FERC website, the federal programs that must be  
3 covered. They must be covered.

4 We have 36 watersheds in the state and 55  
5 counties, and the idea of putting a 42-inch, which is bigger  
6 than -- you all know it's bigger than Keystone. Keystone is  
7 38-inches. Forty-two is bigger than Keystone; a 14.5 hole  
8 in the ground will affect the watersheds. So, I have  
9 reached out on behalf of West Virginia.

10 MR. BOWMAN: Your five minutes.

11 MS. RAGLAND: Okay.

12 MR. BOWMAN: I'd like to go ahead and --

13 MS. RAGLAND: I will just say please go on West  
14 Virginia Matters.com, just like a thousand other people go.  
15 This is serious you guys. It's not local. This is about  
16 water for people in 12 states. We know this is your job.  
17 You know that. You've read it. I'm not even going to go  
18 into it, but --

19 MR. BOWMAN: Ma'am.

20 MS. RAGLAND: Okay. West Virginia Matters.com  
21 everything you need to know is on there.

22 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

23 MS. RAGLAND: God bless you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 25 is Tom Shipley, followed

1 by Pamela Dodds and Arthur Dodds.

2 MR. SHIPLEY: Hello. Thank you for allowing me  
3 to speak. We have the Atlantic Coastal Pipeline, the  
4 Mountain Valley Pipeline, and I understand that Specter  
5 Energy is going to or is proposing a 427-mile pipeline from  
6 Pennsylvania through West Virginia down to North Carolina.  
7 And that's the map that I got from a website.

8 My point being that if you're an agency like a  
9 public service commission dealing with utilities you're  
10 looking for, one would hope, efficiency. And I understand  
11 the desire for a company to put a project in for profit, but  
12 since you all are probably entrusted with looking after the  
13 public good and you don't want a spaghetti web of pipes and  
14 wires across our state that you would encourage these  
15 individual pipelines to get together. I'm sure they could  
16 still make their money and provide their good service to the  
17 people by hooking up together. And it seems to me, just as  
18 a layperson, this is -- they're all going to essentially the  
19 same place. And why wouldn't they just go directly -- from  
20 the fracking fields in West Virginia go direct east and hook  
21 up with this proposed Specter Pipeline and then they all go  
22 down exactly to the same place that they have to go a little  
23 bit over, maybe to Virginia. And why gouge out three  
24 trenches through unspoiled, historical and cherished  
25 countryside if it is not absolutely necessary?

1           I have a family farm and business just south of  
2 the proposed Alternate Number 5, and I don't claim to know  
3 all the details. I'm not endorsing or opposing other  
4 routes. I can only tell you what I know and I believe  
5 that's the purpose of these meetings is to inform you and  
6 Dominion.

7           And along Route 219 it's a five-mile stretch from  
8 Mount Airy down to where the Big Stream Fork of Elk goes  
9 into the Elk River. It's hosted by this thing called  
10 Sharp's Cave. It happens to be named after one of the  
11 members of my distant family, and it is over four and a half  
12 miles long. It parallels Route 219. It's two stories tall.  
13 It was tentatively explored by a man named Doug Megfield  
14 (phonetic), who was a major carse expert.

15           And this cave also host the underground fork of  
16 the Upper Elk River, which cedes into a -- it comes out at  
17 the bottom of my farm right next to the Elk River, and you  
18 know glorious cold water spring, one of the largest in West  
19 Virginia. And I don't know how you all are going to get  
20 through that without spoiling my ecotourism business and the  
21 Upper Elk River.

22           Right south of that is the last remaining place  
23 on the eastern United States I'm told by fishermen where  
24 there are naturally reproducing brook, our state fish, brown  
25 and rainbow trout. People come and register at my store and

1 stay in local businesses from Scotland. They come over here  
2 every year to fish that river.

3           And I'm concerned that when someone took a magic  
4 marker and a blurry map from Google and put some lines down  
5 through the state that they didn't have the knowledge to do  
6 such a thing. And if they were going to do that then maybe  
7 they should've gotten a little more information before they  
8 submitted their preliminary application.

9           I gave up my home and my business to come back to  
10 West Virginia and carry on our family heritage business and  
11 look at our farm and cemetery. That was a big sacrifice.  
12 Other have worked all their lives to create ecotourism based  
13 businesses and still others have stayed all of their lives  
14 and packed up and moved here, spending major bucks to build  
15 retirement or vacation homes, investing huge sums of money.

16           If our area becomes just like everywhere else,  
17 our families will suffer. I'm all for oil companies and gas  
18 companies and businesses making their money and supporting  
19 their families, but I'm just asking if we can find an  
20 appropriate route perhaps you wouldn't have to ruin the  
21 lives and the hopes and dreams of those of us already there.  
22 Thank you.

23           (Appause.)

24           MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 26 is Pamela Dodds, followed  
25 by Arnold Dodds, followed by Khristina Croston.

1 MS. DODDS: I'm Pamela Dodds and have a doctoral  
2 degree in geology. I'm a registered professional geologist.  
3 I'm a member and officer of the Laurel Mountain Preservation  
4 Association and I serve as the geologist and hydrogeologist  
5 for that group. Also, I'm a board member of the Water  
6 Resources Committee of Highland, Highland Responsible  
7 Development in Highland County, Virginia. I'm a lifetime  
8 member of the National Speleological Society and a caver.

9 My comments today concern cumulative impacts to  
10 areas where the pipeline construction is proposed. The  
11 President's Council on the Environment is the regulatory  
12 authority for implementing NEPA. Their regulations describe  
13 cumulative impacts as those resulting from incremental  
14 impacts added to impacts of the past, present, and  
15 reasonably in the future.

16 Cumulative impacts also include connected impacts  
17 described as interdependent parts of a larger action. We  
18 are especially concerned with the cumulative impacts to our  
19 watersheds, habitat fragmentation and radon exposure. Our  
20 forested ridges when we have any kind of construction on the  
21 watersheds on our forested ridges and it's in combination  
22 with other construction it can exceed the limit placed by  
23 the Environmental Protection Agency of being equivalent to a  
24 10 percent impervious cover.

25 When that is exceeded, when that storm water

1 discharge amount is exceeded, it results in decreased  
2 groundwater recharge and increased storm water discharge  
3 downstream that causes stream bank erosion and thus  
4 sedimentation within those downstream areas. There's also  
5 destruction of the headwater areas that serve as the base of  
6 the food chain for downstream aquatic organisms, including  
7 trout. The additional sediments in the downstream areas  
8 destroy aquatic habitats for numerous aquatic organisms.

9           The second cumulative impact of concern is  
10 habitat fragmentation for bats and birds. The third  
11 cumulative impact of concern is radon. Radioactive elements  
12 are naturally present in the Marcellus shale. Radon gas is  
13 released during the fracking process and has been measured  
14 at the well head at 37 pico curies per liter. It is this  
15 amount of radon gas that travels through the pipeline  
16 wherever there is venting of the gas of the pipeline the  
17 radon gas is vented also.

18           The EPA cautions that if radon testing in a house  
19 is four pico curie per liter then a protective action should  
20 be taken. The connection action of the pipeline  
21 installation that's part of the cumulative actions is that  
22 more Marcellus fracking sites will be constructed. The  
23 workers at the site of the well head have no protection  
24 against the radon and don't have decimeters to know their  
25 exposure. The workers at the compressor stations are

1 exposed in the same manner. The workers and the environment  
2 and the people near the venting areas, every 20 miles, are  
3 exposed in this same manner. The end user of the gas is  
4 exposed in the same manner, and radon gas does not combust.

5 The cumulative impact of radon exposure is death  
6 of our citizens by lung cancer. It is critical that FERC's  
7 NEPA process focus on these cumulative negative impacts to  
8 protect the health and safety of our citizens and our  
9 environment. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 27 is Arthur Dodds, followed  
12 by Khristina Croston and Dave Arbaugh.

13 MR. DODDS: Good evening. Thank you for letting  
14 us speak. I am Arthur Dodds. I'm president of the Laurel  
15 Mountain Preservation Association. And what I'd like to  
16 draw your attention is that on January 2, 2015 Department of  
17 Transportation affirmed that there were 2.5 million miles of  
18 transmission lines in the United States. This seems like a  
19 large number, but there's also another six million miles of  
20 end user uses of pipelines.

21 The biggest difficulty that we have at this point  
22 is that everyone who speaks in favor of the pipeline does  
23 not speak of the environmental disaster that would result.  
24 The people who oppose it speak of the environmental  
25 disaster. It would be best if the routes to be followed

1 would be directed towards existing routes, and I believe  
2 someone else mentioned that there were highways, electrical  
3 transmission lines, and existing pipelines that you could  
4 follow.

5           In addition to that, it was noted that there were  
6 no pipelines heading south. If you look at the pipeline  
7 maps, which are available through the Department of  
8 Transportation, you'll note that there is a very large  
9 number of transmission lines heading south, also east and  
10 also north.

11           I would like to point out that as we speak and as  
12 the gentleman before me spoke there is another pipeline that  
13 I hadn't heard of yet, but there are three other pipelines  
14 that are currently on your docket. One heads north from the  
15 area of western West Virginia and that parallels an existing  
16 pipeline to Canada that has already been reversed. There  
17 are two more pipelines that for all practical purposes start  
18 in western and proceed south, all of comparative size of  
19 about 42-inches none of which are following the same route.  
20 Each of them are choosing to find their own way.

21           You are charged to determine the cumulative  
22 impact of each of these projects so that if you look at  
23 Dominion as one project without considering the other four  
24 projects that are traveling in the same direction this would  
25 be a tremendous disservice. And the other problem that

1 other people have noted is very simple. If you have four --  
2 rather three pipelines heading south and one pipeline  
3 heading north, you can't possibly supply those pipelines  
4 with the current volume of natural gas being produced in  
5 West Virginia. This, of course, will lead to a tremendous  
6 amount of increase fracking in West Virginia.

7           Also, as the pipeline goes in, one pipeline, the  
8 Dominion Pipeline will require approximately 300 million  
9 gallons of water to do the hydrostatic testing. That's  
10 enough for approximately 1,000 horizontal fracking wells.  
11 We are really concerned about water, as you've heard before.  
12 The concept of the water used for fracking, the water used  
13 for hydrostatic testing are unbelievable waste because this  
14 water is, in the case of the hydraulic testing it is simply  
15 wasted out into the river.

16           In the case of the hydraulic fracking in the  
17 wells it becomes an industrial waste, which -- a hazardous  
18 material that has to be dispensed of in the most unusual  
19 ways. And as they pointed out in Oklahoma, the -- injecting  
20 this water underneath the surface was the main cause for the  
21 earthquakes that are now resulting in Oklahoma.

22           Anyway, I would hope that you would consider  
23 saying no to this pipeline and/or ensuring that this  
24 pipeline is put together with the other people in spite of  
25 the economic loss that they would be faced with. Thank you

1 very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. BOWMAN: The 28th speaker is Khristina  
4 Croston, followed by Dave Arbaugh, followed by Rob Richard.  
5 Ms. Croston? Mr. Arbaugh?

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: They all left.

7 MR. BOWMAN: Rob Richard. Rob Richard will be  
8 followed by Kevin Campbell and April Keating.

9 MR. RICHARD: Thank you. My name's Rob Richards.  
10 I work with West Virginia Labor District Council. I'm a  
11 member of LIUNA, Labor International Union North America.  
12 I'm here to speak on behalf of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline  
13 and give my support of it.

14 I believe, and there's support here of it, you'll  
15 see a lot more jobs coming in the area, which we need,  
16 highly skilled, trained workforce with good wages, benefits.  
17 And again, it will promote more taxes for the counties, for  
18 your county fire departments, police department, schools,  
19 your county water, public service districts. So, then  
20 again, I'd like report the support of the pipeline due to  
21 the fact of all the other issues you have, your hotels, your  
22 grocery stores, your gas stations, your schooling that will  
23 all flourish from this.

24 I seen it up north from the Wheeling area. I  
25 seen it down in Harrison County, Tyler County, Dodds County,

1 Ohio County, even over in Ohio. The counties are  
2 flourishing. Business is booming. This is what West  
3 Virginia needs. We need to bring back ^^^^ the workforce  
4 back to West Virginia, not send our families out-of-state to  
5 go to work. We need to bring them back home and that's what  
6 I believe I'm in support of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.  
7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Kevin Campbell,  
10 followed by April Keating and Marion Willis.

11 MR. CAMPBELL: Good evening. My name's Kevin  
12 Campbell. I'm an EMT and firefighter from Adrian, West  
13 Virginia. I'm a board member and past president of the  
14 Upshur County Convention and Visitors Bureau, past board  
15 member of the Cannon Upshur Chamber of Commerce, and I  
16 represent the Southern Upshur Business Association on the  
17 board of the CDB.

18 I got involved in this discussion initially as a  
19 first responder when I realized that a 42-inch, 1440 psc  
20 pipeline has got the explosive potential of an atomic bomb.  
21 This pipeline will be a clearly visible target to everybody,  
22 including terrorist. It's 550 miles long and at places will  
23 only be three feet below the surface if they can keep it  
24 covered. There's plenty of pipelines in the state right now  
25 that they're failing to keep covered, including pipelines

1 along or crossing U.S. 50 out in Doddridge County.

2 I'm fairly concerned by the proximity to  
3 Buchanan Upshur High School. It is well within the blast  
4 radius of this pipe and the secondary explosion would create  
5 a fireball that's going to prevent first responders from  
6 getting within two miles of its epicenter. Through Upshur  
7 County this pipeline is planned go under Stony Run State  
8 Route 20, Sago Road, and the Buchanan River before it  
9 continues down over 10 Mile Democrat Ridge on its way to  
10 Queens. We've got very limited roads in Upshur County. We  
11 have one main north/south route, which are used by 50 some  
12 school buses a day. And east and west 10 Mile and Queens  
13 there's only one poorly paved road which will have to  
14 support all of this construction traffic.

15 I'm concerned from the standpoint of emergency  
16 response since I work in the south part of the county that  
17 if I need backup I will not be able to get it from  
18 Buchanan, Washington District or elsewhere because of the  
19 traffic congestion near 20 Sago Road and Stony Run.

20 As a member of the CDB and a director, I'm  
21 concerned with the effects that it will have on our tourism  
22 by putting a six-lane highway through 45 miles of our county  
23 that is going to be an eyesore forever and have a terrible  
24 impact on tourism, just the mud, the debris and the like are  
25 going to be devastating. And then when you look at what

1 they want to do to backfill this thing and the realistic  
2 expectation that it will take 1100 truckloads per mile to  
3 fill this trench with loose fill or sand this is ridiculous.  
4 They can't start the project of this magnitude without  
5 providing us with some sort of bypass so that traffic and  
6 life can go on as normal during the years of construction.  
7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 32 is April Keating,  
10 followed by Mary Willis and Jackie Burns.

11 MS. KEATING: Thank you for having this forum.  
12 My name is April Keating. I'm an Upshur County resident. I  
13 am a landowner, but my land is not near the pipeline;  
14 however, I consider myself affected by the prospect of these  
15 projects as I consider us all affected as water drinkers.

16 This morning on MPR I heard a report by a man  
17 named Don Olson who has a maple syrup farm in between and  
18 Mill Creek, and his land would be affected by the ACP. He  
19 had a letter from Dominion requesting a survey, which he  
20 refused. And he stated in this piece that the pipeline  
21 would go through. It was going to affect his business, his  
22 revenues, his retirement, and the ecotourism business that  
23 has invested himself in for many years.

24 A significant portion of his trees would be cut  
25 for this pipeline. I guess you know that there's 125-foot

1 construction easement planned and a 75-foot permanent  
2 easement planned for this. I believe that this pipeline  
3 going through West Virginia would also interrupt and disturb  
4 organic and sustainable farming, which Agricultural  
5 Commissioner Walt Helmick is devoting himself to developing  
6 right now as we speak.

7           Not to mention these factors, it is also going to  
8 interrupt a way of life in West Virginia that many people  
9 moved here from other places to realize. One question that  
10 has been raised in some of the open houses that I have  
11 attended is why do we need four separate and large pipelines  
12 to deliver gas? And the answer seems to be because the  
13 companies each want to have their own piece of the action.

14           They want to take gas out of West Virginia and  
15 ship it to other markets. This gas is not necessarily going  
16 to benefit West Virginia. A lot of people speak about jobs  
17 and they tout job figures, some of these job figures I  
18 believe are overblown. If you look at independent economic  
19 research those numbers are much lower than the ones  
20 projected by the companies that have an interest, a  
21 financial interest in this pipeline project -- these  
22 projects.

23           Mr. Xander spoke. His interest is in the  
24 industry. He talked about the prices going down and how  
25 they want to raise these prices. You can certainly see that

1 the reason they want to do this is to raise gas prices. My  
2 question is why should we do this for them? Why should our  
3 people give up our pristine forest, watersheds and other  
4 sheds for a short-term energy benefit when we have so much  
5 access to alternative sources of energy.

6           We have more sunlight than Germany and they're  
7 doing just fine with solar. Solar is up and coming, but  
8 it's been suppressed because of the large subsidies that  
9 have been given to the fossil fuel industry, and I mean all  
10 types of fossil fuel, not just gas, coal. And if these  
11 subsidies were equalized you would see faster and greater  
12 alternative energy development. And this is the direction  
13 that we're going to have to go, so we might as well start  
14 now.

15           This pipeline is integrally involved with  
16 fracking. There's no way around it. There will be more and  
17 more fracking. There are 300 new well pads planned for both  
18 Lewis and Upshur County if these pipelines go through.  
19 These pipeline projects, the large ones, are also  
20 facilitating the birth of intrastate gathering lines. Those  
21 pipelines are already laid out and ready to go and the large  
22 projects haven't even been approved yet. Ready to go.  
23 We've got to deliver this gas. We got to drill. We got to  
24 ship out. We got to make money.

25           What happens to our people who have been under

1 the grip of extracted industries for 152 years? It's  
2 business as usual. We need to look forward, not backward.  
3 Fracking is not clean. It burns clean, but extractively  
4 it's poisonous. It puts poisons into the water. It brings  
5 up poisons from under the earth, radioactivity. We don't  
6 have industrial landfills for this material. Right now  
7 we're putting it in municipal landfills that are not  
8 equipped to handle it. The runoff is making its way into  
9 our water systems. All you have to do is read the news.

10 I also want to say about rules. I know I'm done,  
11 but quickly, rules are only as good as their enforcement.  
12 West Virginia and the FERC need to get on board and make  
13 sure that there enough inspectors to deal with these issues  
14 properly. Right now we have 20 gas inspectors for 55  
15 counties and 5500 active wells. What's going to happen  
16 during and after the construction phase of the pipeline?

17 One more point.

18 MR. BOWMAN: I think that's enough time.

19 MS. KEATING: Okay.

20 MR. BOWMAN: Yes, I'm going to go ahead and move  
21 onto the next speaker.

22 MS. KEATING: Thank you.

23 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 33 is Marion Willis followed

1 by Jackie Burns.

2 MS. WILLIS: Hello. Thank you for having us  
3 speak here tonight. I'm from Pocahontas County. My husband  
4 and I run a business the county and have for 30 years based  
5 on outdoor recreation, tourism right on the headwaters of  
6 the Elk River. It's hard to read the map, so it's hard to  
7 say exactly where things are going to come through, but I  
8 don't think our property will be directly affected, but very  
9 close by. And I agree with the sentiments of my neighbor  
10 that spoke very thoroughly and eloquently about the Swing  
11 Fork area, but as well the whole national forest.

12 You know they're coming out with several  
13 alternatives. The first alternative was not acceptable.  
14 And you know two, three, four, and five don't look very  
15 promising either, but I would like to just say that you know  
16 tourism is a business in this state. I don't know why it  
17 doesn't seem to be enough people bringing this up that you  
18 know it's a big business. There's a lot of money -- even  
19 though it may not be as individually as big as some of these  
20 gas and oil companies, there's a lot of small businesses,  
21 medium-sized businesses that are integral parts of this  
22 state and a lot of small business equals big business.

23 So, that's really what I'd like to say and I'll  
24 follow with a letter.

25 (Applause.)

1                   MR. BOWMAN: Jackie Burns.

2                   MS. BURNS: Good evening. Thank you for the  
3 opportunity to speak. As I understand it, you're scoping  
4 here for your Environmental Impact Statement. Some things  
5 that I hope that you'll consider is the difficulty of the  
6 terrain, and that's been mentioned here before. Between the  
7 topography and the mountains this is difficult terrain to  
8 traverse with the pipeline and that leads to more  
9 complications.

10                   Pipelines going up and down slopes lead to  
11 problems with erosion and oftentimes we think of erosion  
12 with construction, but pipelines going up and down mountains  
13 move the forest cover that helps to keep the soil in place  
14 on the slopes. So, I think we need to be concerned about  
15 erosion of the slopes not only during construction, but also  
16 throughout the lifetime of the pipe.

17                   Another area of concern is air quality at the  
18 venting and compression stations. There's a place I go to  
19 in Virginia for a peaceful retreat and to learn about yoga  
20 and this is within range of one of your compression stations  
21 on this proposed pipeline, so there's concern there.

22                   I know that you all will be looking at impacts to  
23 endangered species and I hope you'll also be thinking about  
24 the importance of tourism in our area. And I hope you'll  
25 also think about the other pipelines that are proposed to

1 take oil from our fracking fields south and east. There are  
2 several that are on the books right now and I hope that  
3 you'll be thinking about the cumulative impacts and if  
4 there's ways to reduce those impacts by combining some of  
5 these projects and getting people to work together.

6           The last thing I'd like to say is we American we  
7 typically don't move oil without spilling some. We have  
8 multiple accidents. We have road accidents. We oil spills  
9 in the Gulf of Mexico and we have pipelines that leak. I  
10 don't know what the proposed life of this pipeline is, but  
11 we don't make things to last forever, so what happens when  
12 it's done and how is it cleaned out and prevented from  
13 leaking on down the road? Thank you.

14           (Applause.)

15           MR. BOWMAN: Okay, so at this time I don't have  
16 anyone else signed up to speak tonight. So, with that, I  
17 will go ahead and close tonight's meeting.

18           As I mentioned before, this meeting has been  
19 recorded by a transcription service and it will be placed on  
20 the public record for this project. If you would like an  
21 advanced copy of the transcript, you can make those  
22 arrangements with the court reporter tonight.

23           The public record is available on the FERC's  
24 website at [www.FERC.gov](http://www.FERC.gov). From that page, you can select the  
25 E-Library link and then put the docket numbers for these two

1 projects, PF-15-5 and PF-15-6, and you can use E-Library to  
2 access everything related to this project, whether it is  
3 issuances by the Commission, comments from other  
4 stakeholders, and filings by the applicants.

5           So, on behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory  
6 Commission, I want to thank you all for coming tonight. And  
7 thank you to Elkins High for letting us have this meeting  
8 here tonight. This meeting is adjourned.

9           (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at 9:22 p.m.)

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