BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:                      :  Project No.
SUPPLY HEADER PROJECT                   :  PF15-5-000
ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE PROJECT         :  PF15-6-000

Elkins High School Auditorium
100 Kennedy Drive
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Monday, March 23, 2015

The above-entitled matter came on for technical conference, pursuant to notice, at 7:00 p.m., Kevin Bowman, the moderator.
MR. BOWMAN: So, on behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or the FERC, I'd like to welcome you all for coming here tonight for our public scoping meeting for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Headers Project.

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

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

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

Fundamentally, the purpose of tonight's meeting is provide each of you with an opportunity to us your comments and tell us what additional environmental issues you think we should address in our analysis of the proposed projects. We've already received numerous comments concerning the projects, including alternatives, which is
one of the areas we're hoping to get input from you tonight. All of your comments will help us to determine what we study as we prepare and Environmental Impact Statement or EIS.

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

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

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

I would like to clarify that the proposed projects are not conceived by and are not promoted by the FERC or the cooperating agencies. The FERC reviews applications for the authority to build and operate interstate natural gas pipelines, and Atlantic Coast and Dominion Transmission are in the process of preparing
applications to submit to FERC. Once an application is submitted, it is our obligation to review that application and prepare an analysis of the environmental impacts.

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

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

So, on February 27, 2015, the FERC issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for these projects. It also announced the location of tonight's meeting, how to file comments for the deadlines for getting those comments to us. We included affected landowners in our mailing list for the Notice of Intent as well as landowners affected by potential alternatives.
In the Notice, we asked that you submit your comments to us by April 28, 2015. However, the end of the scoping period is not the end of public involvement nor will it be the only opportunity for public input on these projects. I would like to note that we will continue to accept comments after that April 28 deadline throughout our pre-filing review of the projects; but for us to adequately address your comments and analyze them, we do ask that you try to get those comments to us by April 28.

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

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

So, once we gather the information developed
during the scoping process and the application formally
filed by an applicant, we will analyze it, prepare a Draft
Environmental Impact Statement or a Draft EIS, and we will
distribute that Draft EIS for public comment. The Draft EIS
will include an examination of proposed facility locations
as well as alternative sites. We will access the project's
affects on water bodies and wetlands, vegetation and
wildlife, endangered species, cultural resources, land use,
soils, air quality, safety and socioeconomic impacts.

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

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

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

Now, the EIS itself is not a decision-making document. It is merely our analysis of the potential impacts for the project and the project's alternatives. The five Commissioners at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will use that document, as well as other information, to make a determination on whether or not to grant an authorization for the projects. The five Commissioners at FERC are appointed by the President and confirmed by Congress. I'll mention that additional information about the Commissioners at FERC are available on the FERC website at www.ferc.gov.

Now, on December 12, 2014, Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Dominion filed preliminary information with FERC about their projects. According to the December 12 filings, Atlantic Cost Pipeline and Dominion are proposing two jointly related projects to deliver 1.5 billion cubic
feet of natural gas per day to markets in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina.

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

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

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

For the benefit of all in attendance and the accuracy of that transcript, when your name is called please
step up to the lectern to the right of the stage and speak
into the microphone, stating your name first so that
everyone can hear you.

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

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

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

If you do have detailed comments tonight that you
cannot fit into five minutes, you could summarize those
comments tonight at the lectern and submit the remainder of
the comments to us tonight in written form. In addition, if
you are a speaker and you feel that your comments have been
previously expressed by another speaker you can simply state
your name and your endorsement of that previous speaker's
comments.

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

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

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

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

My family farm abuts the Camp Alleghany Civil War
Battlefield above Bartow. Both my farm and the battlefield
overlook the proposed pipeline route. As of now, there are
places on that battlefield, specifically, the area where
most of the Civil War soldiers died from which you can see a
360-degree view without one example of human impact. I assume that will all change when the pipeline comes through. Increased natural gas production may justify a new pipeline; however, given the requirements of the pipeline and a public convenience and necessity and that the location be environmentally sensible I question Dominion's proposed routes.

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

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

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

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

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

As part owner of a shop in Green Bank, I am
concerned that there are only four roads into my part of the county. Pipeline work could disrupt traffic on three of them. We can't afford to lose those customers.

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

(Applause.)

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

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

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

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

You know I know that the 500 plus people that's going to be required for this project may be temporary, but
with the slowing down of the highway market, other utility markets softening, those jobs will be very important.

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

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

And companies like mine that work in this industry you know we want to be good neighbors to the people that have issues and concerns and work with them. You know we're the guys that's out coaching little league and you know the ones that also enjoy the hunting and fishing and
things like that, so it's very important to us to make sure that we do what's right for the environment for us as well. So, with that, I'll close and thank you very much for your time.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

The pipeline impacts need to be evaluated during all phases of the project from the construction phase through the completion. Please evaluate the impacts during construction including the potential use of fly ash for backfill and as well as the cumulative impacts following the
completion of the pipeline, such as increased fracking. Evaluate whether this is a public necessity to use eminent domain to build an additional pipeline when there are already existing pipelines and corridors in place.

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

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

For water resources, fisheries, and wetlands the pipeline will have to cross numerous streams, rivers, and wetlands. Please evaluate how many crossings will occur, the acres of wetlands to be disturbed, and how the pipeline
would impact springs and drinking water sources. Impacts to fresh water streams will also affect the fisheries, which is an important part of the State's ecology and tourism. Please evaluate how the pipeline will affect the water quality and impact fish species.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. My name is Allen
Johnson. I have an undergraduate degree in Biology with emphasis on ecology and a Masters degree in theology with an emphasis on public policy.

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

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

The ACP Pipeline will not, not generate any direct revenue or services whatsoever to Pocahontas County. Even Dominion's touted $1 million in property tax will only bequeath about 40 percent or $400,000 since the state school-aid formula pools the rest. This would not even begin to offset the economic loss for our beautiful county through decrease property resale values and subsequent property tax loss, compromised tourism value, which is our greatest industry, and decrease desirability to live in our county.
Hurt economic impact studies, or the ACP are too cumulative and aggregated in scope to be taken seriously by individual pass-through rural counties. FERC must not proceed with a pipeline authorization without a county-by-county economic study that takes into account the negative externalities that this pipeline would impose.

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

There are already pipeline corridors west to east, such as that of Columbia Gas. If FERC's role is to get energy supplied to market demand, then these corridors must be independently studied for co-share use. Although Dominion investors might not like the prospect of sharing
profits, FERC cannot maximize investment profits by forcing eminent domain upon unwilling landowners.

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

(Applause.)

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

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

Over the years, our appreciation for the unique and fragile high Allegheny ecosystem has grown as we have had the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with the
Forest Service and the Nature Conservancy in support of the
restoration of the Spruce Forest on Cheat Mountain.

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

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

It is quite obvious that Dominion directed its
engineers to find the most direct route from the Marcellus
Shale fields to Duke Energy and fork cities of Hampton Roads
and Lumberton, South Carolina without regard to the fact
that this route traverses two national forests and crosses
140 perennial water bodies. It is incredulous to me that a
company that prides itself in being a good corporate citizen
would even consider such a route when alternate routes
outside public lands are either already available and in
place or corridors available for their location.
Just today I read a statement from Dominion's Jim Norvelle stating that the pipeline would be virtually invisible. Really? Obviously, he hasn't driven U.S. 250 West over the high ridges of Seven Mountains. Does he really believe a permanent 75-foot swath through the High Allegheny Mountains can be invisible? The pipeline construction and maintenance will have a profound and irreversible impact on the unique and fragile ecosystem on Cheat Mountain, a bio-diversity hot spot in the central Appalachians.

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

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

While I understand the impetus to move gas from the Marcellus and Utica shale fields to customers in the
East and the importance of reducing carbon emissions, I believe it is FERC's responsibility to take a broad, longitudinal view, considering not just the short-term implications of pipeline proliferation, but the longer term impacts on the public lands that are not owned by utilities, but by the American people.

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

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

If our generation does not steadfastly and courageous defend our forest, who will, and what is the legacy we leave to future generations? Forests that are no
longer places of refuge, instead little more than super
highways for gas pipelines eventually abandoned in place and
relics to remind our great grandchildren and their children
about what was lost and how poorly our generation valued and
protected these precious resources.

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

(Applause.)

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

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

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a four and a half
to five billion dollar project that will run 550 miles from
Harrison County, West Virginia down to North Carolina. This
pipeline will provide a new route for the abundant supply of
natural gas that exists within the Marcellus Shale formation
here in West Virginia. This project will have a significant
economic impact on the State of West Virginia and the local
area, $479 million in economic activity, 3100 jobs, 25 million in annual property taxes, which will improve roads, schools, housing, while creating a viable workforce that would drive growth and prosperity to the local area into the future.

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

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

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

(Applause.)

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

MS. MUTSHELLE: Thank you. My name is Robin Mutsheller. I am a resident of Pocahontas County, a
longtime resident of Pocahontas County. And I'm here today with my husband. We drove here in support of the pipeline project, and we did that because we believe that the pipeline can be installed safely without harming the environment.

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

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

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

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

The application of eminent domain to private citizen for the purpose of corporate profit is wrong, socially, morally wrong. That's a style of government we
American cringe about when it happens in China. Has the U.S. Government fallen so far? We can do better than that with a little planning to keep the majority of the infrastructure located in the same corridors.

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

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

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

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

(Appause.)

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

Thank you.

(Appause.)

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

MS. DEIKE: Thank you. My name is Mickey Deike.

I own a thousand acres in Pocahontas County and I run an
equestrian retreat. I entertain guests, obviously tourism, eight months of the year to ride horses or just relax.

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

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

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

(Appause.)

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

MR. DEIKE: Good evening. I'm glad to be able to talk to you here today. I'm George Deike. We've lived in
Pocahontas County for 45 years now, and I have a Ph.D. in Geology and squandered much of my life working in carse in caves. So, I'd just like to address one aspect of the problem facing the pipeline, and that is building through carse topography. Now, carse topography is where limestone is a bedrock. It's soluble. Both rainwater, the water in streams finds the limestone, descends into the limestone, dissolves, caves. It then proceeds to follow the rocks through those caves to springs feeding people's wells and so on, on the way, and it's very difficult to predict where it's going to go.

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

To the south of the caves over there there's another big system which has not been mapped because the landowner has not been happy about having cave explorers on his property. In any event, the water is slowing in caves in pipes, in effect. It's not filtered like groundwater is and other kinds of routes. So, if you throw something in
it, it comes back out in your well or in the spring.

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

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

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

(Applause.)

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

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

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

And I spoke with the pipeline construction people present who were just plain ignorant of the flash flooding potential and damage, which I personally witnessed and cleaned up on Shavers Fork. I remain very skeptical of Dominion's plans to mitigate severe water quality degradation on Shavers Fork, not to mention other high-quality feeder streams, Tiger River watershed, the Greenbrier watershed, the Elk River's watershed. Dominion -- I have a suggestion. Dominion and their contractors must
provide adequate modeling of expected stream flows and have adequate contingencies backed by escrow amounts to compensate public and private parties, to be held accountable, before the first shovel of dirt or else the work permit should be denied.

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

Unpredictable and historical high water events can occur in a matter of hours based on the USGS gauge. I witnessed water flow increase from less than 100 cubic feet a second to greater than 27,000 cubic feet in less than 24 hours. And when did this occur? It occurred on August 29, 2013, typically a time of low stream flow. Why? Because Shavers Fork at Cheat is a natural, wild river out of the control of man. It is not economically feasible to design the appropriate flood mitigation controls for such extremes. If Dominion claims otherwise, then they need to publicly disclose their calculations before construction can occur and an escrow amount to cover damages.
Thirdly, West Virginia DEP has a pretty lousy track record of enforcing the laws on the books. In other words, Dominion can say that they will do the right thing, but when they do not, as recently documented in northern central West Virginia, on the G150 Pipeline Project, damage was done and the public was left to pick up the pieces.

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

Finally, the proposed ACP is a blatant slap in the face to many of the people who have dedicated long hours to stream and forest restoration in the Mon Forest. Let's call it what it is, a land grab. The proposed ACP inappropriately by-steps one of the largest continuous eastern forest public lands, deals with the fewest number of landowners, which, of course, results in lower acquisition costs at the expense of public land, clean water,
uninterrupted source and the lives of people who have chosen to live here for the very reason of enjoying the land.

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

Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

I'm a CPA and partner of the CPA firm of Arnett, Carbis, Toothman, which has over 260 employees in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and I work in the West Virginia office, which is just near here in Elkins. I'm
also a lifelong resident of West Virginia and a proud graduate of Pickens High School right here in Randolph County in the graduating class of '11.

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

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

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

I'd like to add that also about the jobs for those who work with these workers, whether it's in hotels, motels, restaurants, general stores, whatever it might be that support the work here, so it's not just about the
direct workers. It's those who support that and need those
same jobs. And you can see the revenue that increases in
areas where this work is going on.

The tax revenues generated from the companies and
workers doing work directly and indirectly during
construction of the pipeline and drilling the wells and for
years later will allow counties involved to meet budget
needs that cannot be met, other than by increasing property
and other taxes on retired and lower income residents or are
just services. We're facing here in West Virginia a

reduction in severance tax revenues and property taxes
because of the decline in the coal industry and other
industries are just no growing and the money has to come
from somewhere to keep the basic needs in our county.

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

Finally, as a CPA working with many companies,
but also with numerous individuals who receive fees from
rights-of-way or from the construction of the pipelines on
their lands or some instrumental owners who receive oil and
gas royalty income it's extremely important to them. I've
seen many cases of this additional income making things possible for those individuals who may have limited sources of income for themselves and their families.

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

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

(Appause.)

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

MR. ROGERS: Good evening and thank you. My name is Randall Rogers. Unlike the previous speaker, I grew up in West Virginia, but I had to leave and was gone from West Virginia with my family for 20 years. And that whole 20 years I was trying to get home, get my kids close to their grandparents. It wasn't until the natural gas business
started expanding and really growing that I was able to do that. I was able to bring my kids back so that they grow up and be around their grandparents, and it's very important to us.

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

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

Atlantic Coast Pipeline can be and should be constructed in a manner that limits environmental effects and preserves the cultural identity of the areas which it crosses. The NEPA review conducted by FERC should be thorough and fully evaluate alternative routes for environmental safety, constructability, and safety. The preferred pipeline routed through the Monongahela National
Forest and particularly cross Cheat Mountain not only maximizes the use of the existing roadway corridors and formerly strip mined areas, areas that are fragmented by roads, existing utilities, and past mining operations, but provides a shorter route that reduces the overall footprint of the project.

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

(Applause.)

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

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

Working as an over-the-road truck driver for more than 20 years, allowed me to spend time in 48 states, 6 Canadian provinces, and northern Mexico. That experience only increased my realization of how special Pocahontas County is and left me with no desire to live anywhere else.
If I or the tourists who visit here and spend their money here want to see pipelines, we could go to New Jersey or Texas.

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

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

If there is any county in the eastern United States that should not be industrialized it is Pocahontas
County. This is where people come with their families to escape industrialization, development, pollution, and ugliness. This is where eight rivers begin, contributing to the drinking water of people and wildlife all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

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

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

And it's not just this President, but all presidents. So, I feel like the system's rigged. I'm hope
I'm proven wrong, but I'll end by just asking if there isn't any political will among government officials to stop this thing the least they can do is -- why can't they force Dominion to share an existing east/west right-of-way with Columbia Gas that already has a pipeline laid? Thank you.

(Appause.)

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

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

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

Petroleum Resources was incorporated in the mid-sixties, re-organized in 1980, and since then average drilling about 20 to 25 wells a year until late 1990s into 2000 and still drilled wells up until six years and we haven't drilled a well since. The reason why is is because of the suppression in our price in the marketing.
We, historically, market our gas to the Northeast. As a conventional driller, we don't have the capital to build pipelines. We rely on other companies to use their pipelines, starting with the gathering line going through into transmission into the market.

Because there is so much gas into the Northeast that's where our pricing has become so depressed. We are actually receiving net price now that is about what was receiving in the late sixties. We employed -- averaged about 20 employees. Now, we're down to seven employees. Having a really, really hard time just making ends meet. If we hadn't had some reserve capital we probably couldn't.

This pipeline is critical for the conventional driller because it's one of the first pipelines that's been proposed that actually takes gas to a completely new market.

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

So, we are very, very much supportive of that.

On the second note, this pipeline goes through my
wife's -- it's proposed to go through my wife's home farm.
And we understand what it takes to get it and we're still in
support of it. And thank you.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

All of the West Virginians members have a
long-standing tradition of working with all federal and
state agencies in matters of importance to West Virginia,
its citizens, and to the oil and natural gas industry. IOGA
is very pleased to support and endorse the successful
approval and completion of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

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

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

This reliable supply of domestically-produced natural gas will be used for electrical power generation to heat thousands of homes and for a wide variety of uses in commercial and industrial process applications. Moreover, this project will create thousands of construction jobs, thousands of permanent jobs, contribute millions of dollars to the local and state economies, and will enrich and enhance the lives of millions of people.
The Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project is a positive step forward in bringing low price, clean-burning natural gas to homes, businesses, manufacturers, and power generators. IOGA, its 750 members, and its thousands of employees are proud to give this project its fullest and absolute support.

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

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

(Applause.)

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

MS. BIRDSONG: My name is Jane Birdsong. I live in a property along the Tygart River in Randolph County.
I'm a member of the Laurel Mountain Preservation Association
and the Wildness Coalition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I also have here -- I heard another speaker previously mention the pipeline incidents and accidents. I think that was countrywide. I have one just about the West
Virginia pipeline incidents. And in between 2003 and 2014 there've been 19 incidents which lead to 5 fatalities, 9 injuries, over 11,000 barrels of spilled hazardous liquids. Just imagine a 42-inch pipeline, leaks, explosions, and the damages that would occur.

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

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

(Appause.)

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

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

FERC already has five minutes of comments before the Randolph County Commission on Water and five minutes on Dominion and Dole Land and other land companies. I hope
everyone has watched The Gas Land, the movie, and Gas Land II documentaries and lots of the other documentaries that are out there, along with Hollywood-produced, Promise Land, filmed just across the state line up in Pennsylvania.

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

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

One Commissioner stated before the National Press Club, "These groups are active in every FERC docket, as they should be, as well as in my email inbox seven days a week and my twitter feed, at our open meetings demanding to be heard and literally at our door. We have a situation here."

I thought it was interesting she said "demanding to be
heard." We are expected to be heard, but unfortunately, not
enough people are.

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

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

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

What about water? In Washington, D.C., 75
percent of the water comes from the Potomac which then flows
into the Chesapeake Bay. And where does the Potomac come
from? As we all know, right here in West Virginia, western
Maryland, southwestern Pennsylvania. Any kind of
transmission corridor across the Allegheny front results in
effects on the Potomac watershed. Those on this side affect
the Ohio and Mississippi watershed. And as someone else
pointed out this provides water all the way to the Gulf of
Mexico.

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

We need our mountains. We don't need more gas.
As far as I'm concerned, fracking should be recognized.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

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

MR. PHARES: Good evening. My name is Ed Phares.
I work for J.F. Allen Company as the chief engineer. We
have operations in Elkins, and Bridgeport. We employ 300
fellow West Virginians and we've been in business since 1946
and just celebrated our 60th birthday. I serve on the board
of the Randolph County Development Authority and I'm also
chairman of the Asphalt Pavement Association in West
Virginia. I live in Elkins, and I will be speaking tonight
in support of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

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

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

Pipeline construction will generate an estimated
$479 million in economic activity in the state during the
activity in the state during the five-year design and
construction phase. In post-completion the pipeline would
generate $15.6 million per year in economic activity,
support full-time jobs, and provide additional greatly
needed tax revenues for the State of West Virginia. The
pipeline will be constructed by professional and
environmentally-responsible contractors using American-made
materials.

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

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

(Appause.)

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

MR. SPIGELMYER: Good evening. My name is Dave
Spigelmyer. I'm president of Marcellus Shale Coalition
representing 250 producers, pipeline companies, and supply chain members active in both the Marcellus and Utica shale place. I stand before you this evening to speak in support of a vital infrastructure project, the Atlantic Coast Project, being proposed by Dominion, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, and AGL Resources.

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

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

For the past 30 years, we've been continuing to write the obituary for manufacturing in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. However, today through affordable and abundant natural gas supply we can
create a renaissance in manufacturing not thought possible just a few years ago. Make no mistake; a project of this magnitude will deliver extraordinary economic opportunities for communities up and down the right-of-way, from hotels and motels to restaurants and convenience stores to quarries and aggregates to gas station, the construction trades, the earth-moving workers for reclamation and much, much more.

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

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

Today natural gas and natural gas liquids development through shale development have been responsible for lessening our dependence on foreign sources of oil and has dropped our dependence from 60 percent dependence just six short years ago to under 40 percent today. We are witnessing those benefits today at the gas pump. I would
also say we're trading a helmet abroad for a hardhat at home.

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

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

(Applause.)

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

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

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

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

The discovery of gas, oil, and shale and how to produce it has lead to staggering production, which has driven our prices down. Now, for Mr. Masoner and I that's devastating, but for the rest of you in this room who are consumers of not energy, but also, as Mr. Spigelmyer pointed out, products that are made from natural gas that's a great
thing. I don't think any of you minded tonight when you
filled your car up for $2.39 instead of $4.00 you were
paying previously.

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

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

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

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

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

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

So, I'm asking you tonight FERC to give this consideration. This is an industry that's 150 years old.
We have a great safety record and we have a great environmental record and we'd very much like you to approve this pipeline to give us access to new markets. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

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

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

And I think there's probably some truths to everything that the people in the industry side are saying, but it doesn't make the people who are opposed to it wrong either. The issue is it's going through the worst possible terrain you can imagine. I live about a thousand, two thousand feet from where this Alternative 5 is proposed and
I just you know sort of want to summarize what is on the road I live on. In the first place, it's about one lane. And since the pipeline has to have people getting to and from it and it can't all be going up and down the right-of-way as it's created, they're going to clog our roads and these roads flood every time there's rain. It's not just when there's a big flood event. In fact, just this winter my driveway washed out twice and that water is coming from pristine national forestland. It's beautifully clear water, but there's a lot of it. That we have intense storms and we have a lot of them, so there's flooding, flash flooding, access issues. There's caves everywhere. In fact, within walking distance of my house are five completely mapped, large caves that are very popular and gone in by cavers all the time.

The issue of springs is important. There's springs all over the place. It is absolutely insane to try to get a well drilled in the particular area I'm speaking about. Well drillers tell you it looks like Swiss cheese underground. It's almost impossible to drill a well because there -- it's not just simple care. It's just -- there are sinkholes in my fields. There's sinkholes all over these mountains and I don't know where they're going to get cover for these pipes because it's all rock.
And I asked today that question of Dominion and they said, well, we bring in machinery that crunches up the rock and then we put that down over top of the pipes with some protection between the two. But once you've crunched up the rock, it doesn't take up as much space so where is all the rest of this dirt coming from if the land has to be restored to its original contours?

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

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

Anyway, that's just it from my perspective as a local landowner who doesn't have it going over their property, but it's really, really close and I just think that there's way too many technical issues that haven't been
adequately addressed to be at this point and say, oh, let's run with Alternative 5 or run with Alternative 1. There's a long way to go yet. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

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

MS. RAGLAND: West Virginia matters you guys.

This is not a local issue. Do you know how many states get water from Pocahonta, anybody, 12, 12, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee get water from Pocahontas. This pipeline I believe -- excuse me FERC -- I hope that this is the first time that you do say no because this is not about money. It's not about methane. This is about water. Water.

(Applause.)

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

Methane is dangerous. How many -- we all think we know about what's going on. Okay, how many streams are in the Greenbrier watershed, the big Greenbrier? I will tell you because I spent three weeks printing this out. There are actually 245 streams in the Greenbrier watershed,
1,322 miles. This took a week of work because it's not easily accessible. And guess what, four lakes covering 342 acres. Then there's 42 watersheds that go all the way down to Sarasota, Florida.

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

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

And Gus, I used to commute to Alabama. Two weeks ago I realized that here I've been saving the watershed for America and I realized that I was drinking this water for five years. It was really quite touching. And the story is
there are federal laws that must be -- look on their website
-- the FERC website, the federal programs that must be
covered. They must be covered.

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

MR. BOWMAN: Your five minutes.

MS. RAGLAND: Okay.

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

MS. RAGLAND: I will just say please go on West
Virginia Matters.com, just like a thousand other people go.
This is serious you guys. It's not local. This is about
water for people in 12 states. We know this is your job.

You know that. You've read it. I'm not even going to go
into it, but --

MR. BOWMAN: Ma'am.

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

MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

MS. RAGLAND: God bless you.

(Applause.)

MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 25 is Tom Shipley, followed
by Pamela Dodds and Arthur Dodds.

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

My point being that if you're an agency like a
public service commission dealing with utilities you're
looking for, one would hope, efficiency. And I understand
the desire for a company to put a project in for profit, but
since you all are probably entrusted with looking after the
public good and you don't want a spaghetti web of pipes and
wires across our state that you would encourage these
individual pipelines to get together. I'm sure they could
still make their money and provide their good service to the
people by hooking up together. And it seems to me, just as
a layperson, this is -- they're all going to essentially the
same place. And why wouldn't they just go directly -- from
the fracking fields in West Virginia go direct east and hook
up with this proposed Specter Pipeline and then they all go
down exactly to the same place that they have to go a little
bit over, maybe to Virginia. And why gouge out three
trenches through unspoiled, historical and cherished
countryside if it is not absolutely necessary?
I have a family farm and business just south of the proposed Alternate Number 5, and I don't claim to know all the details. I'm not endorsing or opposing other routes. I can only tell you what I know and I believe that's the purpose of these meetings is to inform you and Dominion.

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

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

Right south of that is the last remaining place on the eastern United States I'm told by fishermen where there are naturally reproducing brook, our state fish, brown and rainbow trout. People come and register at my store and
stay in local businesses from Scotland. They come over here every year to fish that river.

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

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

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

(Applause.)

MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 26 is Pamela Dodds, followed by Arnold Dodds, followed by Khristina Croston.
MS. DODDS: I'm Pamela Dodds and have a doctoral degree in geology. I'm a registered professional geologist. I'm a member and officer of the Laurel Mountain Preservation Association and I serve as the geologist and hydrogeologist for that group. Also, I'm a board member of the Water Resources Committee of Highland, Highland Responsible Development in Highland County, Virginia. I'm a lifetime member of the National Speleological Society and a caver.

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

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

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

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

The EPA cautions that if radon testing in a house
is four pico curie per liter then a protective action should
be taken. The connection action of the pipeline
installation that's part of the cumulative actions is that
more Marcellus fracking sites will be constructed. The
workers at the site of the well head have no protection
against the radon and don't have decimeters to know their
exposure. The workers at the compressor stations are
exposed in the same manner. The workers and the environment
and the people near the venting areas, every 20 miles, are
exposed in this same manner. The end user of the gas is
exposed in the same manner, and radon gas does not combust.
The cumulative impact of radon exposure is death
of our citizens by lung cancer. It is critical that FERC's
NEPA process focus on these cumulative negative impacts to
protect the health and safety of our citizens and our
environment. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

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

The biggest difficulty that we have at this point
is that everyone who speaks in favor of the pipeline does
not speak of the environmental disaster that would result.
The people who oppose it speak of the environmental
disaster. It would be best if the routes to be followed
would be directed towards existing routes, and I believe someone else mentioned that there were highways, electrical transmission lines, and existing pipelines that you could follow.

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

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

You are charged to determine the cumulative impact of each of these projects so that if you look at Dominion as one project without considering the other four projects that are traveling in the same direction this would be a tremendous disservice. And the other problem that
other people have noted is very simple. If you have four --
rather three pipelines heading south and one pipeline
heading north, you can't possibly supply those pipelines
with the current volume of natural gas being produced in
West Virginia. This, of course, will lead to a tremendous
amount of increase fracking in West Virginia.

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

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

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

(Applause.)

MR. BOWMAN: The 28th speaker is Khristina Croston, followed by Dave Arbaugh, followed by Rob Richard.

Ms. Croston? Mr. Arbaugh?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: They all left.

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

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

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

I seen it up north from the Wheeling area. I seen it down in Harrison County, Tyler County, Dodds County,
Ohio County, even over in Ohio. The counties are flourishing. Business is booming. This is what West Virginia needs. We need to bring back the workforce back to West Virginia, not send our families out-of-state to go to work. We need to bring them back home and that's what I believe I'm in support of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

Mr. Bowman: The next speaker is Kevin Campbell, followed by April Keating and Marion Willis.

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

I got involved in this discussion initially as a first responder when I realized that a 42-inch, 1440 psc pipeline has got the explosive potential of an atomic bomb. This pipeline will be a clearly visible target to everybody, including terrorist. It's 550 miles long and at places will only be three feet below the surface if they can keep it covered. There's plenty of pipelines in the state right now that they're failing to keep covered, including pipelines
along or crossing U.S. 50 out in Doddridge County.
I'm fairly concerned by the proximity to
Buchannan Upshur High School. It is well within the blast
radius of this pipe and the secondary explosion would create
a fireball that's going to prevent first responders from
getting within two miles of its epicenter. Through Upshur
County this pipeline is planned go under Stony Run State
Route 20, Sago Road, and the Buchannan River before it
continues down over 10 Mile Democrat Ridge on its way to
Queens. We've got very limited roads in Upshur County. We
have one main north/south route, which are used by 50 some
school busses a day. And east and west 10 Mile and Queens
there's only one poorly paved road which will have to
support all of this construction traffic.

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

As a member of the CDB and a director, I'm
concerned with the effects that it will have on our tourism
by putting a six-lane highway through 45 miles of our county
that is going to be an eyesore forever and have a terrible
impact on tourism, just the mud, the debris and the like are
going to be devastating. And then when you look at what
they want to do to backfill this thing and the realistic
expectation that it will take 1100 truckloads per mile to
fill this trench with loose fill or sand this is ridiculous.
They can't start the project of this magnitude without
providing us with some sort of bypass so that traffic and
life can go on as normal during the years of construction.
Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

MS. KEATING: Thank you for having this forum.

My name is April Keating. I'm an Upshur County resident. I
am a landowner, but my land is not near the pipeline;
however, I consider myself affected by the prospect of these
projects as I consider us all affected as water drinkers.

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

A significant portion of his trees would be cut
for this pipeline. I guess you know that there's 125-foot
construction easement planned and a 75-foot permanent easement planned for this. I believe that this pipeline going through West Virginia would also interrupt and disturb organic and sustainable farming, which Agricultural Commissioner Walt Helmick is devoting himself to developing right now as we speak.

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

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

Mr. Xander spoke. His interest is in the industry. He talked about the prices going down and how they want to raise these prices. You can certainly see that
the reason they want to do this is to raise gas prices. My question is why should we do this for them? Why should our people give up our pristine forest, watersheds and other sheds for a short-term energy benefit when we have so much access to alternative sources of energy.

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

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

What happens to our people who have been under
the grip of extracted industries for 152 years? It's business as usual. We need to look forward, not backward. Fracking is not clean. It burns clean, but extractively it's poisonous. It puts poisons into the water. It brings up poisons from under the earth, radioactivity. We don't have industrial landfills for this material. Right now we're putting it in municipal landfills that are not equipped to handle it. The runoff is making its way into our water systems. All you have to do is read the news. I also want to say about rules. I know I'm done, but quickly, rules are only as good as their enforcement. West Virginia and the FERC need to get on board and make sure that there are enough inspectors to deal with these issues properly. Right now we have 20 gas inspectors for 55 counties and 5500 active wells. What's going to happen during and after the construction phase of the pipeline? One more point.

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

MS. KEATING: Okay.

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

MS. KEATING: Thank you.

MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 33 is Marion Willis followed
MS. WILLIS: Hello. Thank you for having us speak here tonight. I'm from Pocahontas County. My husband and I run a business the county and have for 30 years based on outdoor recreation, tourism right on the headwaters of the Elk River. It's hard to read the map, so it's hard to say exactly where things are going to come through, but I don't think our property will be directly affected, but very close by. And I agree with the sentiments of my neighbor that spoke very thoroughly and eloquently about the Swing Fork area, but as well the whole national forest.

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

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

(Applause.)
MR. BOWMAN: Jackie Burns.

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

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

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

I know that you all will be looking at impacts to endangered species and I hope you'll also be thinking about the importance of tourism in our area. And I hope you'll also think about the other pipelines that are proposed to
take oil from our fracking fields south and east. There are
several that are on the books right now and I hope that
you'll be thinking about the cumulative impacts and if
there's ways to reduce those impacts by combining some of
these projects and getting people to work together.

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

(Appause.)

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

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

The public record is available on the FERC's
website at www.FERC.gov. From that page, you can select the
E-Library link and then put the docket numbers for these two
projects, PF-15-5 and PF-15-6, and you can use E-Library to
access everything related to this project, whether it is
issuances by the Commission, comments from other
stakeholders, and filings by the applicants.

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

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