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BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Project No.

SUPPLYER HEADER PROJECT : PF15-5-000

ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE PROJECT : PF15-6-000

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Stuarts Draft High School Auditorium
1028 Augusta Farms Road
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Thursday, March 19, 2015

The above-entitled matter came on for technical
conference, pursuant to notice, at 7:00 p.m., Kevin Bowman,
the moderator.

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

2 7:02 p.m.

3 MR. BOWMAN: Good evening. On behalf of the
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also known as the
5 FERC, I'd like to welcome all of you here tonight for our
6 public scoping meeting for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and
7 Supply Center projects. Let the record show that the public
8 scoping meeting in Stuarts Draft, Virginia on March 19th
9 began at 7:02 p.m.

10 My name is Kevin Bowman and I'm an environmental
11 scientist with the FERC's Office of Energy Projects. Also
12 with me tonight representing FERC at the table is Jeff
13 Mackenthun, and outside at the sign-in tables who you may
14 have already met tonight representing FERC is David Hanobic,
15 Kristin Leir, Melissa Dellwo and Rich McGuire.

16 So we are here tonight to provide some
17 information on the federal process as it relates to the
18 Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Center projects.
19 Fundamentally, the purpose of tonight's meeting is to
20 provide each of you with an opportunity to give us your
21 comments and tell us what additional environmental issues
22 you think we should address in our analysis of these
23 proposed projects.

24 We've already received numerous comments
25 concerning the projects, including alternatives, which is

1 one of the areas we are hoping to seek input from you
2 tonight. All of your comments will help us to determine
3 what we studied as we prepare an Environmental Impact
4 Statement or EIS. FERC is the lead federal agency
5 responsible for the National Environmental Policy Act review
6 or NEPA of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Center
7 projects, and is the lead agency for the preparation of the
8 EIS.

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

14 In addition to the FERC, the United States Forest
15 Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Dismal Swamp
16 National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
17 and the Bureau of Land Management are currently cooperating
18 agencies in a review of these projects. Additional federal,
19 state and local agencies with special expertise are welcome
20 to cooperate in our review as well.

21 I'd like to clarify that the proposed project is
22 not conceived by and is not promoted by the FERC or the
23 cooperating agencies. FERC reviews applications for the
24 authority to build and operate interstate natural gas
25 pipelines, and Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and Dominion

1 Transmission Incorporated are in the process of preparing
2 applications to submit to FERC. Once an application is
3 submitted, our obligation is to review that application and
4 prepare an analysis of its environmental impacts.

5 So tonight's meeting is not a public hearing, and
6 we're not here to debate the proposal or make any
7 determinations on its fate tonight. We are simply here to
8 listen to your comments and concerns, so that we can
9 consider them in our analysis. Pipeline proposals often
10 encounter objections. Some are general in nature and some
11 are based on potential environmental impacts.

12 Both are important to FERC, but are addressed in
13 different ways. General objections are considered during
14 the Commission's public convenience and necessity review,
15 whereas environmental and safety impacts are addressed by
16 FERC and environmental staff in the Environmental Impact
17 Statement.

18 So on February 27th of this year, the FERC issued
19 a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact
20 Statement for these projects. It also announced the
21 locations of tonight's meeting, how to file comments, and
22 the deadlines for getting those to us. We included affected
23 landowners on this mailing list, as well as landowners
24 affected by potential alternatives and other general
25 stakeholders.

1 In this notice, we asked you to submit comments
2 to FERC by April 28th, 2015. However, this deadline is not
3 the end of the scoping or public involvement, nor will it be
4 the only public input opportunity for the projects. FERC
5 will continue to accept comments after the deadline during
6 the pre-filing review of this project. However, for us to
7 adequately address your issues, your comments, analyze them
8 and research them, we do ask that you try to submit those
9 comments to us by the 28th of April.

10 Now the Atlantic Coast and Supply Center projects
11 are currently and will be called a pre-filing review. That
12 is, an application has not yet been filed with FERC. We
13 consider the pre-filing process to be, amongst other things,
14 an extension of our scoping process. The scoping process
15 for FERC is a learning process. It is where we educate
16 ourselves about the project and the potential issues and
17 environmental impacts.

18 So during the scoping period, we are gathering
19 information. The four general sources that we solicit
20 information from are one, information from the applicant,
21 input from other federal, state and local agencies, our own
22 field work and research on different issues, and information
23 from the public in form of comments.

24 Once we gather the information developed during
25 scoping in an application formally filed by an applicant, we

1 will analyze it and prepare a draft Environmental Impact
2 Statement. We will distribute this draft Environmental
3 Impact Statement to the public for comment.

4 This will include an examination of the proposed
5 facility locations, as well as alternative sites. We'll
6 assess the project's effects on water bodies and wetlands,
7 vegetation and wildlife, endangered species, cultural
8 resources, soils, land use, air quality, safety and
9 socioeconomics.

10 We will mail the EIS to our mailing list. So if
11 you didn't receive our Notice of Intent in the mail, do make
12 sure you give us your mailing list, so we can include you in
13 this mailing. In addition, the draft EIS will be in the
14 form of a CD. So if you prefer a hard copy, please let the
15 FERC staff outside at the table know.

16 Now after the draft Environmental Impact
17 Statement is mailed out, there will be a public comment
18 period, for you to give us comments on the draft EIS.
19 During the hearing, we'll hold more public comment meetings
20 similar to this one, and we'll ask for you to provide
21 feedback on our draft Environmental Impact Statement.

22 At the end of that public comment period, we will
23 begin organizing all the information gathered to do to
24 prepare a final Environmental Impact Statement addressing
25 all the comments we received thus far. Once we have issued

1 a final Environmental Impact Statement, it is forwarded to
2 the Commissioners at FERC for their consideration.

3 Now the EIS is not a decision-making document.
4 It is merely our analysis of the potential impacts of the
5 project and its alternatives. Our five Commissioners at the
6 FERC will use that document, as well as other information,
7 to make a determination on whether or not to grant an
8 authorization for the project.

9 Now on December 12th, 2014, Atlantic Coast
10 Pipeline and Dominion filed preliminary information with
11 FERC about their projects. According to those filings,
12 Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Dominion are proposed two
13 jointly related projects to deliver 1.5 million cubic feet
14 of natural gas per day to markets in West Virginia, Virginia
15 and North Carolina.

16 Dominion and Atlantic Coast Pipeline
17 representatives are outside in the hallways, with maps and
18 additional information about their projects if you have
19 questions for them.

20 So just a few things before we start taking
21 speakers. This meeting is being recorded by a transcription
22 service, so all of your comments will be accurately
23 transcribed and placed into the public record. Please do
24 speak directly into the microphone to my left, so that you
25 can be clearly heard by the reporter, the panel and the

1 audience.

2 In addition to verbal comments provided tonight,
3 we will accept your written comments. If you have comments
4 but don't wish to speak tonight, you may provide written
5 comments on the comment forms at the back table. You can
6 certainly drop those off with us tonight or mail them in at
7 a later date.

8 Also, due to the number of speakers that we have
9 signed up, we will have to limit every speaker to three
10 minutes, so that everyone has an opportunity to provide
11 comments. You'll see on the table in front of me a laptop
12 that has a timer for the benefit of the speaker. When your
13 time has ended, please conclude your comments and I'll call
14 the next speaker.

15 We do not want to limit anyone's comments, but to
16 get through everyone who has signed up tonight, we will have
17 to enforce a time limit. I will be strictly enforcing a
18 three minute time limit, and I will not hesitate to cut off
19 a speaker if they are mid-sentence. In addition, if you
20 have previously submitted comments to the FERC, even prior
21 to the initiation of this comment period, you do not need to
22 restate the information in those comments.

23 In addition, I will be calling three speakers at
24 a time, and we have two chairs set up to the left of the
25 lectern. To your right, and I encourage those two speakers

1 after the first speaker to come and sit at those chairs to
2 expedite our speakers in a more timely manner. Also, I
3 would like to remind you to turn off your cell phones if you
4 haven't done that already.

5 So our first speaker tonight is Mike Schull,
6 followed by Nancy Sorrells, followed by John Geary.

7 (Off mic comment.)

8 MR. BOWMAN: Sir, in order to get through an
9 appropriate amount of speakers tonight --

10 MP Are they going to be given a chance to speak,
11 or are we going to listen to Dominion speakers for the next
12 hour?

13 MR. BOWMAN: Sir, I believe I would like to get
14 through the number of speakers on the speakers list. So I
15 appreciate your concerns, and we will try to get through as
16 many people as we can tonight. Thank you.

17 MR. SCHULL: Members of FERC, I'm Michael Schull,
18 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County. The
19 Atlantic Coast Pipeline proposed to be installed for Augusta
20 County is obviously a significant issue, sparking a number
21 of concerns for citizens and county leaders.

22 The pipeline is concerning both in terms of the
23 short term and long terms that the proposed pipeline may
24 have on current residents as well as future generations, and
25 we appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the

1 environmental review process.

2 To better understand the potential impacts of the
3 pipeline, the Augusta County Board of Supervisors embarked
4 on an extensive study process, seeking the input from staff,
5 citizens and experts to evaluate the potential impacts of
6 the pipeline. The board held a public hearing and received
7 comments, both pro and con on the pipeline, which was
8 attended by nearly 300 people.

9 Through this process, the County has identified
10 concerns that can be grouped in six general areas. Head
11 waters. Augusta County is uniquely situated as a head water
12 zone, providing water not only for county residents and
13 businesses, but also for cities and counties downstream from
14 Augusta County. The impacts on the county water supplies
15 from the pipeline, both during construction and in the event
16 of a leak failure after it becomes operational are critical
17 concerns.

18 Augusta County commissioned a study by Sullivan
19 International Group to quantify the annual water volume
20 being contributed from Augusta County to adjoining counties,
21 and conduct an assessment of risk associated with the
22 construction of the proposed Atlantic Coast line. Based on
23 the results of their study, Sullivan estimates between 174
24 million gallons per year and 272 million gallons per year
25 contribute to the adjoining counties on an annual basis via

1 groundwater and stream flow from Augusta County.

2 Karst. Second, Augusta County is underlined with
3 karst geology. The Service Authority will be providing
4 additional information on this topic in their comments.
5 Third is land use. The impacts to the future land use in
6 the county are extensive, due to the size and the impacted
7 area. Taxpayers have invested millions of dollars in
8 infrastructure and planning in our growth areas of this
9 investment needs, to be taken into consideration.

10 Specifically, the Board has asked the pipeline to
11 be installed away from developed areas, both existing and
12 proposed. Schools and future economic development sites.
13 In addition, the county recommends the pipeline to be routed
14 to minimize the impacts of individual parcels by using
15 property lines and not going through the centers of parcels.

16 Blasting. The concerns regarding the impact of
17 blasting includes the potential and adversely impacts the
18 integrity of fraud control structures, the water quality and
19 decrease in yield in public and private wells and springs.

20 MR. BOWMAN: Your time has expired. Thank you
21 very much.

22 MR. SCHULL: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. BOWMAN: Number two is Nancy Sorrells,
25 followed by John Geary, followed by Judy Armstrong.

1 MS. SORRELLS: Thank you. My name is Nancy
2 Sorrells. I'm co-chair of the Augusta County Alliance. I
3 served eight years on the Augusta County Board of
4 Supervisors and four on the Service Authority. Now I'm a
5 recovering supervisor, and I can devote all my efforts to
6 making sure that this pipeline does not ruin one of the best
7 places to live on this earth, which is Augusta County.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. SORRELLS: The district I represented on this
10 board is the Riverheads District, where the head waters of
11 the James and the Shenandoah Rivers arise. In fact, no
12 water flows into Augusta County; it all flows out, billions
13 and billions of gallons. It flows to your faucet in
14 Washington, D.C., to the governor's mansion in Richmond, to
15 the Chesapeake Bay.

16 Your scoping notice requests that our comments be
17 specific, but we ought to love the wonderful reports that
18 the Supervisors and Service Authority put together, to give
19 you all the specifics about a ride in our cars. It is so
20 specific that it should scare the heck out of anyone
21 planning to put a pipeline here.

22 Bottom line, our water, public and private, is
23 too valuable, too vulnerable to gamble with. Our homes, our
24 farms that feed the nation, our businesses is everything to
25 us. It is everything to you, it is everything to Virginia.

1 You ask that we speak to reasonable alternatives.

2 Absolutely. For Virginia's communities, the proposed route
3 of this pipeline is all pain, no gain. We get nothing out
4 of it, while we lost a lot.

5 In the end, if this FERC process is determined
6 that there's a public need for this natural gas, then the
7 pipeline has to be placed on an alternate, responsible
8 route, responsible being the key word here, because we all
9 know that Dominion can come up with alternate routes. At
10 last count, there are 12 in Augusta County alone. However,
11 the bottom line is that the current proposed route, in all
12 its variations, is 100 percent in the wrong place, 90
13 percent private lands and the rest on special public lands.

14 If our pipeline goes in, we must protect private
15 property, our natural resources, our communities, our
16 schools, our cultural and historical resources. This can be
17 done if Dominion locates on existing utility corridors,
18 especially pipelines. Dominion says it's committed to
19 safety in communities and ethics and the environment, yet
20 they are fined a lot. Their projects have experienced
21 pipeline welding problems, slope failures, water
22 contamination, explosions, fires and deaths.

23 Recently they were fined for devastating
24 environmental violations on a pipeline project in West
25 Virginia. Right now they have leaking coal ash pits on the

1 Virginia River. They have safety violations at two of their
2 nuclear plants, and in Augusta County, anyone near their
3 electrical transmission line upgrades knows what a good
4 neighbor they are. Slope failures, rock slides, destroyed
5 roads, silt fences down.

6 Let's put it this way. A savvy courtroom lawyer
7 once said, when building his legal defense, when the clock
8 strikes 13, you must question everything. Actions really do
9 speak louder than words. For the Atlantic Coast pipeline
10 and its proposed route, the clock has struck 13.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 3 is John Geary,
13 followed by Judy Armstrong, followed by H. Bruce Rinker.
14 And I would ask that you guys hold any show of agreement
15 during the speakers' time frames, so that you do not take
16 away from their time. Thank you.

17 MR. GEARY: Hello FERC. My name is John Geary.
18 I happen to be one of the individuals that will be affected
19 by this pipeline. It's going through my property that I
20 have purchased, about to pay off and I guess Dominion's
21 about to take from me. This my dream, and apparently it's
22 Dominion dream to take my property to pad their corporate
23 pockets.

24 How will this affect me? I have a well on my
25 property. When you come blasting through rock, you fracture

1 the rock. I have animals on my property. The droppings
2 will get into the well water. That's not too hard to
3 understand. I cannot use my property that Dominion takes
4 after they come bulldozing 125 to 200 foot wide swath in my
5 property.

6 Mixing the soil, putting clay on top and rocks,
7 you cannot grow stuff on that for most likely a decade
8 before you get anywhere near normal production capacity. I
9 will also have a massive pipeline in my backyard that may
10 explode. The odds of that happening are probably about the
11 same as me winning the lottery. I still don't want that in
12 my backyard.

13 This is a significant property rights issue. I
14 bought this property. I paid for this property. I paid for
15 the taxes on this property. I thought I owned this
16 property, but apparently if you bribe the politicians, you
17 can own my property too, and Dominion has a lot of money to
18 bribe politicians. \$40 billion I guess is their net worth,
19 and they had an estimated profit margin last year twice that
20 of British Petroleum.

21 Of course, they're a government-sanctioned
22 monopoly and they're given the right to take people's
23 property at will. I realize some of you here are here to
24 support this pipeline. I don't necessarily oppose the
25 pipeline. I oppose stealing people's property at bottom

1 dollar cost, to drag them into federal court, so you don't
2 get a jury of your peers. You get some judge who's being
3 disassociated with the situation, to take someone else's
4 property that they have worked their life for.

5 It's going to destroy my parents' property. Now
6 I find that to be disgusting. Dominion's a large
7 corporation who's merely abusing the citizens of Augusta
8 County, to pad their corporate profits and to subsidize this
9 pipeline by taking others' property and others' rights.

10 I also find it somewhat disheartening to find my
11 neighbors and fellow Americans coming here outside of the
12 community, to suppress the voices of those who are about to
13 have their property lost. I thank you for your time, and
14 what will happen will happen. I will fight this until the
15 end, and have a good day, thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. The next speaker is Judy
18 Armstrong, followed by H. Bruce Rinker, followed by Chris
19 Saxman.

20 MS. ARMSTRONG: Friends and neighbors, I'm Judy
21 Armstrong. I was an associate real estate broker for 36
22 years. I sold a lot of property during that time including
23 farms and part of our beautiful county. During that time, I
24 represented a buyer who is very interested in a farm. The
25 buyer was ready, willing and able.

1 He loved his farm, and as his representative in
2 the purchase, I was determined to find out all the facts
3 about the farm, so I could tell him. I searched the facts
4 and found there was a gas line running through the farm near
5 the front of the property, and I was a friend of Tom
6 Alhizer's (ph), asked him for information about that
7 pipeline. He sent me diagrams and he had been president of
8 the gas company here, and I knew he could fill me in.

9 Well, I showed that to my potential purchaser and
10 he said no way would I buy a farm with a gas line on it. I
11 said well, it's not running through the middle. It's kind
12 of here in the beginning of the farm. He said they're very
13 dangerous. I don't want the risk of an explosion. I will
14 not buy this property. Now Dominion will tell you that once
15 the gas is replaced and you can't see that pipeline,
16 everything's fine.

17 Don't believe it. That destroyed a sale, a very
18 significant sale, and people know that land is tainted and
19 they won't buy it. So I'm here to echo my friends' concern
20 about property rights. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you very much. The next
23 speaker is H. Bruce Rinker, followed by Chris Saxman,
24 followed by David Amerine.

25 MR. RINKER: Good evening. My name is Bruce

1 Rinker. I'm the director of the Valley Conservation Council
2 based on Stanton. It's a member-based land trust with over
3 1,000 members from all over the Shenandoah Valley region and
4 beyond. I would like to read into the record a policy
5 statement about the Atlantic Coast pipeline.

6 "Gravely concerned about the proposed routes of
7 the Atlantic Coast pipeline, the board of directors of the
8 Valley Conservation Council opposes any pipeline pathway
9 through areas of conservation easement and locations
10 designated by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation as special
11 project areas.

12 "The Board encourages the natural gas pipeline
13 companies to consider alternative routes that may co-locate
14 the pipeline with already existing rights-of-way, including
15 those owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation and
16 the U.S. Department of Transportation.

17 "The Board also recommends that the Atlantic
18 Coast pipeline companies and the Federal Energy Regulatory
19 Commission establish a mitigation fund that would protect
20 regional natural resources, similar to those that may be
21 disturbed or destroyed by the pipeline's infrastructure and
22 rights-of-way, and assist with clean-up and/or damages
23 resulting from construction mishaps and pipeline failures.

24 "Further, the Board wishes to express its
25 willingness to serve in an advisory capacity, in choosing

1 new and viable routes for the Atlantic Coast pipeline. On a
2 personal note, I am a forest ecologist by training, having
3 spent decades conducting research on tropical and temperate
4 systems. I am gravely concerned about the incumbent impacts
5 of forest fragmentation on their overall health and
6 integrity.

7 "According to the American Petroleum Institute
8 and the Association of Oil Pipelines, America depends on a
9 network of more than two million miles of pipelines for
10 petroleum and gas, to fuel our nation's economic engine.
11 That's enough pipeline to circle the earth over 80 times.
12 Imagine the fragmentation of forests and other ecosystems
13 caused by this infrastructure. Forests on both public and
14 private lands, forests that provide us economic benefit,
15 ecosystem services and aesthetic value.

16 "Here in our region, there are alternatives
17 available, including the co-location of pipelines with other
18 utility lines already in place. Our forests are our
19 heritage. Our forests are recognized widely as points of
20 pride for the greater Shenandoah Valley region. They are
21 not the exclusive domain of a for-profit company invested in
22 fossil fuels. Thank you."

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 6 is Chris Saxman,
25 followed by David Amerine, followed by Lisa Coles.

1 MR. SAXMAN: Thank you. My name's Chris Saxman.
2 For eight years, I've served this area in the General
3 Assembly and the House of Delegates, and still a landowner
4 in Stanton and Highland Counties. Speaking tonight, it's
5 come to me in talking to a lot of folks, friends, neighbors
6 (inaudible), that I wish to leave with the FERC.

7 Over time, trust in our government has eroded
8 significantly. Know one trusts you. It saddens me. But
9 people here of goodwill recognize the need we have in our
10 energy sector to supply our economy, to fuel our future, to
11 pay taxes, to fund teachers, cops, fire, to protect
12 ourselves, to grow our economy, to be powerful in the world.
13 That's what America has been doing.

14 But we have been changing our energy policy so
15 much. But we have lost sight of what is innately human
16 within all of us, is to respect each other in this very
17 important process that you're undertaking. I genuinely
18 appreciate the process you're going through, because it's so
19 important to make sure that the people in this room who are
20 going to be adversely affected are provided for, are fairly
21 compensated, and their environmental quality of life is not
22 degraded.

23 That is an essential part of this process, that
24 our democracy is founded to protect the very people. We
25 have fought in the General Assembly to restrict the rights

1 of eminent domain, but to not also stop economic growth,
2 which is so important for our future. Right now, as we
3 transition from coal-based energy, electric energy to
4 cleaner-burning natural gas, we have to provide the way from
5 the source to the supply, from the supply to where it needs
6 to be burned in the economy.

7 We need reliable, affordable, secure,
8 cleaner-burning energy to also mitigate the impact to the
9 environment globally. However, we cannot abrogate the fact
10 that our responsibility, that with an \$18 trillion debt and
11 over \$100 trillion in unfunded actuarial liabilities this
12 country faces, that my children and grandchildren will have
13 to pay off.

14 If they don't have the jobs and the technology
15 and the economic growth to pay those off, it will never get
16 paid off. That means Medicaid, Medicare and Social
17 Security, which is an absolute essential in our social
18 safety net. That cannot be lost in any of this
19 conversation. It's going to be a very long process. But I
20 need the federal government to understand one thing. The
21 people in this room deserve honesty, they deserve
22 transparency and they deserve protection at all costs, and
23 this process is so very important to them, and their land
24 and their homes and their families and their future, just as
25 it is for the economy.

1 It's a difficult balance, I give you that. But I
2 also give you the opportunity to look at our democracy and
3 restore the trust that we have in each other, as we go
4 forward in this process. But we do need to get the gas that
5 is coming out of the ground to the markets and our global
6 supply. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. Speaker No. 7 is David
9 Amerine, followed by Lisa Coles, followed by Shannon
10 Stanley.

11 MR. AMERINE: Thank you. My name is David
12 Amerine, and I'm a resident of Mount Solon in West Augusta.
13 From the back porch of my house, I have an unobstructed view
14 of the mountains in West Virginia through the valley, all
15 the way to the Blue Ridge Mountains. It's a view that
16 encompasses the proposed underground route of the Atlantic
17 Coast pipeline.

18 My wife and I both strongly support the proposed
19 pipeline, because we believe it will safely provide clean
20 fuel to a region that needs it to support economic
21 development, that will in turn provide and support good
22 jobs. Economic development in Virginia, and the entire
23 region that will be served by the ACP, require an abundant,
24 reliable source of energy.

25 Unlike communities in California, the region to

1 be served by the ACP currently does not suffer from periodic
2 rolling brownouts or blackouts caused when electricity
3 demand exceeds supply. Due to the new EPA emission limits,
4 utility companies across the country have closed older
5 coal-fired electric plants, rather than pay the enormous
6 cost of retrofitting these facilities to meet the new
7 emission rules.

8 Because of the energy storage difficulties and
9 certainly with energy from solar or wind generation, these
10 alternative sources simply do not provide an economic supply
11 of electricity to meet current demand, much less future
12 demand. Transportation of natural gas via an interstate
13 pipeline is implicitly far safer than reliance on railroad
14 cars for transport of oil.

15 The Commission need only ask the citizens of
16 Lynchburg, Virginia or Charleston, West Virginia, both of
17 which have recently experienced oil train car derailments
18 about property damage and economic losses. Consideration of
19 all of the data and empirical evidence gathered during your
20 evaluation of the proposal should compel the Commission to
21 approve this proposal. Thank you very much.

22 (Appause.)

23 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 7, excuse me 8, is Lisa
24 Coles, followed by Shannon Stanley, followed by Charles
25 Leach.

1 MS. COLES: Prior to 1891, everything east of the
2 Great Plains was private land. In 1891, the Congress and
3 the President signed into law the Land Revision Act of 1891.
4 That created our national forests. The greater plan there
5 was that they'd be used for conservation resources,
6 recreation, roads and utility easements.

7 September 11th of 1935, President Roosevelt
8 commissioned construction of a major project. It
9 encompassed 469 miles in Virginia and North Carolina. We
10 affectionately call that the Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline
11 Drive. That also was commissioned under the Land Revision
12 Act of 1891. It allows for utility easements.

13 There's been a lot of talk about the economy, the
14 ecology. I've done some research. George Washington
15 National Forest comprises 1.8 million acres. The pipeline
16 is going to affect about 300. Let's keep in mind that Lake
17 Numoff is 2,538 acres. It would across the mountain and go
18 to Lake Anna. That's another Dominion project. That
19 project took 18,000 acres, created a 13,000 acre lake that
20 everybody loves to go to.

21 Not all projects are bad, whether they're energy
22 or whatever. I see that we need this project. I have
23 children, I have grandchildren. I want them to have the
24 ability to have electric bills they can afford, to be able
25 to heat their homes in the winter time. I trust in parts of

1 our government, like the EPA and the DEQ that I know will be
2 on top of this.

3 I worked in an industry where the DEQ and the EPA
4 is on top of it. Trust me, they are there. That's about
5 all I have to say on this. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. Speaker No. 9 is Shannon
8 Stanley, followed by Charles Leach, followed by Bob Nutt.

9 MR. STANLEY: I've heard a lot of concerns here
10 tonight, anticipated concerns that you have, and I actually
11 have heard all this stuff before and I've experienced it
12 before, because I'm from West Virginia originally. We still
13 have a farm there, and there's oil wells on the farm, and
14 they're presented putting a new oil well in Kracken.

15 I can tell you that they take special care with
16 the property, and the employment there is just unbelievable
17 right now. It's just exploding. You can't get enough
18 people to work, and the people who are working are working
19 12 hours a day by putting in new pipelines, putting in new
20 well, cask wells and so forth.

21 And this also expands into other areas. For
22 instance, I'm from a town called Parkersburg, West Virginia.
23 There, GE had a big plant. They closed it down. But a
24 group of investors have come in now and reopened the plant,
25 and they're tooling it up to process this gas and make it

1 into other products like propane and so forth.

2 This all has to be distributed somehow. So
3 there's -- you can't get a hotel room in and around the farm
4 where I'm from, which is called -- where our farm is. I'm
5 not from there. I'm actually from Parkersburg, but the farm
6 is in West Virginia, which is in Doddridge County, and all
7 that area there in Clarksburg, Fairmont is just exploding
8 right now with new (inaudible) coming in.

9 But Parkersburg is where I'm from, and they're
10 building this plant and now there's a lot of people who got
11 jobs who didn't have jobs, and they will eventually have an
12 additional 125 permanent jobs there as a result of this.
13 But I can speak from experience that they take special care
14 of building roads, laying the pipeline. When they leave,
15 your property when they finish will be just like it was when
16 they started, except it will have a --

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. STANLEY: So I'm here to tell you, and I'm
19 sure Dominion has done -- is going to do the environmental
20 studies.

21 MR. BOWMAN: Please cease the disruptions.

22 MP We ask you not to pad it --

23 MR. BOWMAN: Excuse me. Please take your seats.
24 Someone is speaking and you're interrupting. Sir, please
25 take your seat. You're interrupting.

1 MP Sir, sit down now please. Thank you.

2 MR. BOWMAN: You have six more seconds.

3 MR. STANLEY: So okay. I'm sure to say that
4 Dominion is going to do the environmental studies necessary
5 for this project.

6 MR. BOWMAN: Your time has expired. Thank you.

7 MR. STANLEY: The only thing you'll notice when
8 they leave is your gas bills are going to be lower.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker will be Charles
11 Leach, followed by Bob Nutt, followed by Kenneth Hartzog,
12 and I hope that we can continue without interruptions,
13 whether you agree or disagree with the speaker.

14 MR. LEACH: My name is Charles Leach, and I live
15 in the Verona area. I'm interested in affordable
16 electricity for our residential customers, for our
17 commercial customers and for industries that we have. I'm a
18 native of Augusta County and graduated from Welch Memorial
19 High School with Dr. John Wise. Although I live in a
20 different part of the county, I can appreciate Dr. Wise's
21 position as the proposed pipeline goes near his veterinarian
22 business.

23 In my lifetime, I have benefitted with reasonable
24 electric rates by electric generation with nuclear and coal
25 fuels as baseload generation. However, now the government

1 and environment tell us we should reduce the use of coal for
2 baseload generation. Wind and solar are not the answer at
3 this time. One of our neighbors has a wind-powered
4 generator at his home.

5 When I drive near John's house, I check to see if
6 the blades are turning. Sometimes they are, sometimes they
7 are not. A couple of week ago on my way to church, one of
8 our neighbors has a sizeable solar panel installation in his
9 field to support his poultry installation. They were
10 covered with snow, thus no electric generation.

11 What is the answer for our baseload electric
12 generation? The experts tell us it is clean-burning natural
13 gas for the foreseeable future. But at what cost? Dominion
14 needs natural gas to connect -- to convert coal-burning
15 generation stations, one near Farmville, near their proposed
16 pipeline, and one in South side, Virginia under
17 construction, near their proposed new tap line going toward
18 Norfolk.

19 This line would also provide natural gas to
20 convert the Yorktown coal plant to natural gas. The people
21 in that area opposed to the new transmission line near
22 Jamestown. Our beef cattle farm has nearly a mile of Middle
23 River on its boundary. We practice conservation, no till.
24 Conservation trees along the river. The cattle fenced off
25 from the river by the White Scholars program.

1 When we built our home 20 years ago, we installed
2 a geothermal heat pump. We have dead trees on the farm and
3 have a wood stove in our living room. But we still need
4 affordable electricity. Apparently we need natural gas for
5 electric base load generation, to hold electric bills that
6 you and I can afford. Therefore, my wife and I support the
7 pipeline for the economic health of Virginia. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 5 is Bob Nutt, followed
10 by Kenneth Hartzog, followed by Dennis Avery.

11 MR. NUTT: I wrote a contributing letter to the
12 Stanton News-Leader not long ago, and I sent a copy to my
13 daughter. She said "Daddy, don't you dare send that letter
14 to the paper. People might not buy any more feed from your
15 feed store." Well I hope that we're not vindictive here,
16 but I do have some very strong feelings.

17 First, why are they trying to put that damn
18 pipeline through Augusta County? This is not hard to figure
19 out. The gas is there in West Virginia. The gas is needed
20 around Chesapeake. All you need to do is take a ruler and
21 go from one point to the other point, and it goes right
22 through Augusta County. The route that is planned does not
23 vary by more than a few miles, with a couple of exceptions
24 where it has to wiggle over the mountains.

25 I feel real strongly about this for a couple of

1 reasons, and I'm not worried as much about the pollution
2 because my understanding is that natural gas is lighter than
3 air, and if there's a rupture in the pipe, gas rises. It
4 doesn't sink into the ground to pollute the ground water.
5 Bringing it home to Augusta County, and please know that
6 Augusta County is not an island surrounded by water.

7 We are affected by the counties around it and our
8 state, and by the states around our state. Now this
9 pipeline is scheduled to go down to Chesapeake. As I
10 understand, there are four power plants that use coal, and
11 they have to be banked in the not distant future. The only
12 way to do that and continue providing the electricity needed
13 is through natural gas generation.

14 A big part of this is cleaner air. That's not
15 going to hurt us. It will affect us. Cleaner air down in
16 Eastern Virginia is a benefit to us in Augusta County,
17 because we're not an island. The economics are more than
18 considerable. I have natural gas in my house. My bill for
19 the last 30 days was \$312. If I had propane, it would have
20 been a little over \$850 in one month, by virtue of having
21 natural gas.

22 Not only do I not have a tank in my yard, not
23 only do I not have trucks pounding up and down the road to
24 fill that tank, but I saved \$550 in one month. Over a
25 year's time, I will have saved close to 2,000. This is not

1 insignificant. This pipeline has many benefits, and I might
2 mention that in North Dakota, they're flaring over \$100
3 million worth of natural gas every month, because they have
4 to dispose of it in order to extract the oil.

5 MR. BOWMAN: Your time has expired. Thank you.
6 The 12th speaker is Kenneth Hartzog, followed by Dennis
7 Avery, followed by Scott Seaton.

8 MR. HARTZOG: Gentlemen, thank you for allowing
9 me and my wife to support and express my support for the
10 pipeline. The pipeline will be of great economic value, not
11 only for Virginia but for the great states of West Virginia
12 and North Carolina.

13 Now for some fun facts. You need a good
14 infrastructure to run a country, city or town.
15 Infrastructure. That's a fun word. According to Webster's
16 dictionary, infrastructure is basic, (inaudible) the
17 equipment and services need for growth and functioning of a
18 country, community or state.

19 Now roads and bridges. That's a great
20 infrastructure. We all got here on a road or bridge
21 tonight, I assume. I didn't see no horses tied up outside.
22 They take up a lot of real estate. Other needs for
23 infrastructure are you need factories to build a lot of
24 things. Cupcakes, cares, medical facilities plus many other
25 infrastructures. Canals and boats. Power plants for

1 electricity. Power lines for electricity. Cell towers for
2 cell phones. Water lines for water. Grocery stores for
3 food, department stores for clothing, schools for education,
4 hospitals for the sick.

5 Some of us has to give up a little real estate,
6 just a little of them now, to help these infrastructures.
7 We cannot survive without these basic infrastructures. And
8 least, but not important, pipelines for gas are a major need
9 for this infrastructure to support our hospitals, to support
10 our schools, to burn in our school buses to keep kids from
11 breathing diesel fuel and many other options in this thing.

12 I want to thank you for letting me making these
13 comments. Have a good night.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 13 is Dennis Avery,
16 followed by Scott Seaton, followed by Joanne Switcher.

17 MR. AVERY: Thank you. I've lived in Swoope for
18 25 years. Recently, I took a trip down south and I spent
19 the night in a little town called Cleveland, Tennessee, and
20 I looked at the half dozen motels at the interchange, and
21 almost all empty. I said to the lady at the desk it looks
22 like a bad weekend for you. She said we don't care. We've
23 got 6,000 construction workers all week building a \$2
24 billion plant to make chemicals for a German company, and it
25 will provide 650 permanent jobs.

1 We've been grouching for decades about American
2 jobs flowing overseas. Fracking is one of the major
3 technical advances of our century, and we're to date the
4 only country that's willing to use it. The Europeans are
5 more green than we are, and the German company over in
6 Germany has to pay three times as much for their gas, and
7 they have to buy it from Vladimir Putin in Russia. It's no
8 wonder that the flow has reversed.

9 This gas will be used. I shudder to think of
10 trying to cram all of the people and all of the jobs into
11 Parkersburg, West Virginia and the steep environs around it.
12 I think we need to keep that very much in mind in the
13 environmental impact evaluation. Thank you very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. Speaker 14 is Scott
16 Seaton, followed by Joanne Switcher, followed by Don Henke.
17 Thank you for being here.

18 MR. SEATON: I've lived in this area for about
19 15-16 years now. I live in a neighborhood. Across the
20 street is a gas line, a major gas line that's been here for
21 over 50 years. Bought a piece of property down in
22 Greenville. The back edge of it has a pipeline going across
23 that. It joins just about a quarter of a mile of the
24 pipeline that goes across the street from my neighborhood.

25 So I live around pipelines. I can tell you the

1 price of the real estate I don't think has been affected in
2 our neighborhood by this pipeline being there. So coal
3 plants are being shut down. It's not about corporate greed.
4 These are being shut down. We need a pipeline. Without the
5 pipeline, the prices are going to go up.

6 Without the pipeline with the high prices, our
7 schools, our governments, our businesses and our households
8 are going to have higher energy prices. Now I'll be able to
9 afford it. Most of the people in here will probably be able
10 to afford it. But I take care of a whole lot of patients.
11 I'm a physician. A lot of my patients don't have much
12 money.

13 I was amazed at that when I came to this area.
14 There's a lot of people who live in small, small homes who
15 can barely afford their electricity and gas right now.
16 Without this, they're not going to be able to make up.
17 They're going to have to move away. The economically
18 disadvantaged will have a problem, because in schools, if
19 our schools are paying more money for gas and heating,
20 they're not going to be able to support the teachers and
21 support the students who need it.

22 Our governments are going to have less money to
23 help those who are in need. They won't be able to afford
24 the energy. Jobs won't be there for these economically
25 disadvantaged people, and they'll have to leave the area.

1 Without the pipeline, we're telling them we don't need you
2 here. Jobs will come to our area. Now it's not the
3 temporary jobs that will be getting with the pipeline. It
4 will be long-term jobs. Because of cheaper energy, we're
5 going to have more businesses coming to our area. That will
6 be able to improve our schools.

7 The taxes that we're getting for the pipeline we
8 could dedicate to our schools, or we could dedicate towards
9 wiring our rural Augusta County with Internet, so that all
10 of our children can have access to the Internet. Without
11 the pipeline, we're telling our children you need to go find
12 a job elsewhere, because we're not going to have enough jobs
13 for you.

14 The pipeline construction can be done safely,
15 sensitive to environment, habitats and historical sites
16 along its route. I hope those will be looked at and changed
17 if necessary. Natural gas pipelines are the safest method
18 to transport natural gas. Already in the country, we have
19 gas pipelines. I haven't seen them exploding near us, and I
20 don't think any of us are worried about that. Coming here
21 for this visit is probably the most dangerous thing you do.
22 I appreciate your time. Thank you.

23 (Appause.)

24 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 15 is Joanne Switcher,
25 followed by Don Henke, followed by Robert Whites Carver.

1 Joanne Switcher? No hands. Okay. The next up will be Don
2 Henke. Don?

3 MR. CARVER: I'm not Don.

4 MR. BOWMAN: You must be Robert Whites Carver
5 then. All right. Michael Godfrey and Willis Cutchin will
6 follow Mr. Robert Whites Carver.

7 MR. CARVER: My name is Robert Whites Carver. I
8 live at 120 Tremble's Mill Road, Swoope, Virginia. I live
9 here in Augusta County. Thank you for being here. I'm a
10 retired district conservationist for the U.S. Department of
11 Agriculture, with the Natural Resources Conservation
12 Service. I spent the last 27 years of my career helping
13 people improve the resources on their land and streams right
14 here in Augusta County.

15 I've been on practically every farm in this
16 county. I know the soils, the streams and the rivers, and I
17 know about our karst geology, with the sink holes, caves,
18 caverns and solution channels. I can tell you that just
19 about every farm in the county has a sink hole, if not
20 multiple sink holes. Augusta County, you could say, is the
21 mother lode of karst topography in Virginia, because it is
22 the widest here and it is the most active.

23 Sink holes open up frequently, and I've been on
24 one farm. A sink hole opened up that could swallow an 18
25 wheeler. I've seen foundations of homes fractured because

1 of sink hole subsidence. Roads, including Interstate 81,
2 have been closed because of the sink hole collapses.
3 According to Virginia's Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2013,
4 "Pipeline infrastructure underlain by karst terrain can be
5 damaged by collapse in the supporting soil."

6 Now Dominion informs us that they can build in
7 karst with the proper engineering and construction, that it
8 will be safe. Well we've heard that a lot, from a lot of
9 industry. I've heard these claims before. They're lofty
10 promises not reflected in truth. According to the U.S.
11 Department of Transportation there were 80 natural gas
12 pipeline explosions in 2012 alone.

13 Now granted, these may not have been attributed
14 to sink hole collapses, but it does show clearly that even
15 when we use the best technology and the best engineering,
16 accidents happen. Even NASA, with as much technology and
17 engineering and safeguards as they have, had the Space
18 Shuttle Challenger disaster.

19 Talk is cheap folks. With this being the widest
20 karst formation in Virginia and the area of most subsidence,
21 why go through a high risk area when there are other
22 alternative routes through karst where karst is narrow, such
23 as near Buena Vista, or why not skip the karst formation
24 altogether? That can be done. This is the wrong place for
25 the ACP.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 18 is Michael Godfrey,
3 followed by Willis Cutchin, followed by Jimmy Taylor.

4 MR. GODFREY: Good evening. Thank you very much
5 for being here and hearing our concerns. There have been
6 comments earlier by persons who feel that there will be no
7 adverse economic effect, adverse financial effect on the
8 value of the land affected by this pipeline. We can think
9 of a couple of words for that viewpoint.

10 It's -- I have a personal experience that bears
11 upon it, and enables me to offer a precedent that I think we
12 should all take into account. It's a socioeconomic issue
13 more than an environmental one. It very greatly affects the
14 farms in Augusta County.

15 I owned a small farm in Orange County, North
16 Carolina. In the mid-1990's, a group of investors forced a
17 pipeline, a gas transmission pipeline of 12 inches diameter
18 across that farm. I sold the farm subsequently, several
19 years later, and I received approximately half, perhaps 40
20 percent of the fair market value of surrounding lands.

21 No one wants to buy a farm with a 12 inch gas
22 pipeline under it. Who would want to buy a farm with a
23 42-inch gas pipeline under it? That's the largest pipeline
24 that I'm aware of in North America. For reference, the
25 Keystone Excel pipeline proposed is 36 inches at its maximum

1 diameter, less than that some way.

2 Now when the pipeline is installed, we are
3 informed, the land will be more or less as it was prior to
4 the installation of the pipeline. Life will be more or less
5 as it was. It will go on. That's incorrect. The pipeline
6 people will be there frequently. They'll leave your gates
7 open, they'll have your cattle in the road. They'll rut
8 your pasture, and sooner or later they'll be back with
9 another pipeline and another after that.

10 The farm that I sold in North Carolina is now
11 getting its third gas transmission pipeline. This one is 20
12 inches. So we have to bear in mind that there is a severe
13 impact on the land owner. Many of these farms are financed,
14 with a financial structure that is based on the fair market
15 value of those farms. If that fair market value goes to
16 half, the banker says sorry, I've got to call half your
17 loan, or some variant thereof.

18 There will be very significant financial impacts
19 on the farm-owning families, yeomanry of this county if this
20 pipeline is allowed to be built. Thank you.

21 (Appause.)

22 (Appause.)

23 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 19 is Willis Cutchin,
24 followed by Jimmy Taylor and Ron Adcock.

25 MR. CUTCHIN: My name is Willis Cutchin. I live

1 in Churchville in western Augusta County. I'm a full
2 supporter of the Atlantic Coast pipeline, which will be like
3 500 yards behind my house in a natural forest. My reason
4 for supporting the pipeline is it will provide work for
5 local companies and extra income for local business during
6 the construction and tax income for local municipalities.
7 It will also provide energy to the residents of Virginia and
8 ensure power to 77 military bases in Eastern Virginia and
9 North Carolina, and 12 civilian support facilities like
10 shipyards and cybersecurity.

11 As far as environmental reasons, it's cleaner
12 than oil and coal. It's safer than oil and gases being
13 trucked across the Shenandoah Valley. As for water
14 pollution, science states that gas evaporate your water,
15 without creating pollution, and this pipeline will go
16 through bedrock under the water and not in it.

17 Every day, truck and rail cars carry lethal
18 cargoes of radioactive materials, toxic chemicals and highly
19 explosive gases that travel by railroads and air space,
20 which should be obvious by recent accidents and more
21 dangerous than natural gas pipelines. The Supreme Court
22 ruled last year against the EPA, that natural materials like
23 rock, dirt, trees, etcetera, that wash into or cross water
24 sources are not environmentally harmful.

25 I believe this also applies to the construction

1 of the pipeline, because it is removing and replacing the
2 same type of materials. Pipeline construction will not hurt
3 the forest. It will actually help wildlife, creating new
4 forest resources just like (inaudible) do now all over the
5 United States. For 30 years, I lived one mile from a
6 nuclear power plant and 200 yards from a natural gas
7 pipeline that went to the same location for 17 years.

8 The soil is sandy over limestone, over the
9 largest fresh water aquifer on the east coast, and more
10 likely to have sink holes. There was never an incident in
11 all those years that created safety hazards or pollution.
12 There are 200 plus miles of gas pipeline that come up the
13 Valley from southern West Virginia for the last 80 years, to
14 supply the Shenandoah Valley, without any major safety or
15 environmental issues. Most people never knew the pipeline
16 was there.

17 I've heard a lot of people say open houses, we
18 should change to solar or wind power. But to supply the
19 needs of housing only in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia,
20 current needs would take 884 million solar panels in just 28
21 square miles, or 800 wind turbines, and they both have their
22 own problems. Killing wildlife, dangers to shipping,
23 airplanes, destruction of environmental issues, ocean tops
24 and mountains, plus maintenance.

25 All of this is available from our government

1 websites and from actual solar and wind sites in California.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 20 is Jimmy Taylor,

5 followed by Ron Adcock, followed by Diane Korte. Mr.

6 Taylor? Ron Adcock?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. BOWMAN: Diane Korte. Ms. Korte will be

9 followed Don Cogar, followed by Scott Schomo.

10 MS. KORTE: Ready?

11 MR. BOWMAN: Go ahead.

12 MS. KORTE: Thank you. My name is Diane Korte.

13 I live in Churchville, Virginia. As a former land use

14 planner for the Taurean Environmental Studies in Geology, I

15 was shocked by the proposed pipeline route. First because

16 there was disregard for the contours and geology of the

17 terrain it crosses, and second because it's disregard for

18 our sensitive and valuable and man-made communities.

19 Even if this pipeline could meet the engineering

20 thresholds for safety, it would be a disastrously poor plan.

21 The assessment should be strong on alternatives to all other

22 proposed routes because of the hydrogeology of Augusta

23 County. The scientifically proven regional karst formation

24 makes this area uniquely fragile, unpredictable and

25 hazardous for pipeline construction and maintenance.

1 Engineering practices and other mitigation
2 measures cannot adequately lower the hazard of leaks and
3 failure of the pipeline. In addition, the karst
4 hydrogeology makes the head water aquifer underlying Augusta
5 County unique vulnerable to irreparable impacts during both
6 construction and the life of the pipeline. Tonight, I asked
7 FERC on what historical and factual basis you have approved
8 other pipelines through karst and other states.

9 We have asked Dominion to give us specific
10 examples to calm our fears about pipeline safety in karst,
11 and they have not responded. After investigating historic
12 databases of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
13 Administration, PHMSA, I have to wonder how can any of you
14 offer assurances. My research has revealed that PHMSA and
15 our Virginia pipeline safety inspectors have no geologists
16 or karst experts of any type working for them as part of the
17 post-construction inspection teams or those responding to
18 incidents.

19 When a pipeline exposed by a washout, an engineer
20 following federal guidelines that do not address sink holes
21 or karst specifically, comes out and uses the
22 performance-based engineering standards to evaluate. So
23 there is no evaluation of whether this exposed pipeline is
24 caused by a forming sink hole. Natural hazard-caused
25 pipeline failures are categorized by the analysis of the

1 metallurgic lab, not earth sciences.

2 In contrast, the VDOT Stanton District Office has
3 a full-time geologist on staff, because they know how hard
4 it is to maintain infrastructure in karst topography.
5 Despite their constant vigilance and care, they still
6 experience huge sink holes opening up under roadways.

7 Environmental assessments require analysis of
8 long-term impacts. How can you agree that this geologic
9 hazard can be mitigated if you know that the federal agency
10 responsible for ensuring the safety of the pipeline after
11 your approval does not have the mandate or the professional
12 staff to deal with something as volatile and requiring
13 immediate response like karst?

14 I question FERC's ability to determine that their
15 environmental mitigation engineering practices can produce a
16 relatively safe pipeline in a sink hole-laden karst
17 topography. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 23 is Don Cogar,
21 followed by Scott Schomo, followed by Bob Nutt.

22 MR. COGAR: My name is Don Cogar and I live right
23 here in the community of Stuarts Draft, down on Draft
24 Avenue. I support this pipeline for a number of reasons.
25 One, they have a great supply of it and we need to get it to

1 where it can be used. I think that it will be installed in
2 a safety way that will be overseeing the many government
3 agencies and state agencies.

4 One thing that we all have to remember is every
5 one of us that has a public utility in our house, whether it
6 be electric, telephone and gas, sewer, water, somebody gave
7 it easement to get to your house. I realize it would be an
8 inconvenience for those that it crosses, and I kind of feel
9 sorry for you for that. But you've just got to realize you
10 can't stop progress or the economy.

11 Now right now we won't see too many jobs from
12 this in Augusta County probably, but later on I think we
13 will. But the rest of the state, the economy will grow. We
14 need to get the gas down in the Carolinas, and some of it
15 will be shipped north, I understand, because they do run low
16 on gas in extreme cold weather.

17 The other thing that concerns me is electric
18 bills. Coal is gone, friends. It's just gone, and we need
19 to get a cleaner burning fuel, and we need it to generate
20 electricity so our bills will stay so we can afford them. I
21 think that's about all I need to say, but I do support it.
22 I think we need it, and I think it will be installed safely.
23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. BOWMAN: Scott Schomo, Bob Nutt, Howard
2 Wilson, Jr.

3 MR. SCHOMO: I'm coming from a whole different
4 perspective tonight, my farm. For a living, or family farms
5 for a living. I walked in tonight, just like everyone did,
6 under the American flag. There's one sitting here, and I
7 can't believe I'm standing here trying to beg for them not
8 to bulldoze across our farm. This is America, the red,
9 white and blue, a lot of people have died for, and yet
10 Dominion gives us the notice, the pipeline's coming across
11 you.

12 Really? What pipeline decides to go across your
13 farm. Well, my dad's 83 years old, continues to farm with
14 my son and I, my wife, and dad goes because he's old school
15 and maybe I am too, no. Dominion didn't do a blasted thing
16 for me when I bought the farm with my blood, sweat and
17 tears. Financially, physically I have given my all, built
18 this for the family to take over, which we have, and now
19 Dominion says, huh, come right on through your farm. This
20 is the projected path.

21 Now I will say on Dominion's behalf, I asked them
22 to come out. We tried to be rationale people, and they did.
23 Two of their folks met with us, promised us four months ago
24 they'd be back, because when we stood in our driveway to
25 where they are projecting it to go through, two Dominion

1 people said this doesn't make sense. Right between two
2 homes, two wells.

3 We've got a breeding farm, we've got a breeding
4 operation for Holstein heifers that we raise for another
5 man. He's very concerned about what's going to happen. We
6 have a veterinarian group that is on board now, that is
7 documenting any changes that will happen on the farm with
8 the blasting, which the rock where they want to go through
9 is the hardest rock pile that we have.

10 I think, I think what is so upsetting, we all
11 understand that we need the infrastructure. We all
12 understand that. I think what's so upsetting is that they
13 can say this is where we're going, but they can stand there
14 and say this wasn't a good situation. This was not smart,
15 but they won't come back and talk to us. They're not
16 welcome, documented. We don't want them. You all are more
17 than welcome. We thank you for coming. You can come talk
18 to us. Dominion, stay off of our farm.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 26 is Howard Wilson,
21 Jr., followed by Jim Fauber, followed by Jason Bibeau.

22 MR. WILSON: I'm Howard Wilson, Jr. I live at
23 1430 Moss Creek Road in Augusta County. I'm in favor of the
24 construction of the pipeline. I have full confidence that
25 Dominion and its consultants will select the best route when

1 they get to the end. I have one major reason for supporting
2 the pipeline, and that is the reduction in global warming
3 that will come from the natural gas replacement coal in the
4 generation of electricity. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 27 is Jim Fauber,
7 followed by Jason Bibeau, followed by Alan Baragona. Mr.
8 Fauber. Our next speaker will be Jason Bibeau.

9 MR. BIBEAU: Good evening ladies and gentlemen,
10 members of FERC. Thank you very much for your time. My
11 name is Jason Bibeau, as stated by the gentleman up front.
12 I live in this community. I've served in this community as
13 a law enforcement officer, and I've owned two small
14 businesses in this community. I'm not a farmer, I won't
15 pretend to be one, but I'm not going to pretend to
16 understand what they go through on a daily basis.

17 But I am here to support this. My wife supports
18 this. I'd like to mention a few things. Already in
19 Virginia, there is two and a half times the mileage of
20 pipeline than interstate highway, two and a half times. Yet
21 every single day, our representatives from the Virginia
22 State Police could tell you this, but I'm sure they wouldn't
23 answer my question, for professional reasons.

24 But every day on 64, 81 and the other interstates
25 throughout Virginia, there are motor vehicle crashes. Most

1 of the time no one's harmed, but unfortunately sometimes
2 people are harmed, and occasionally vehicles carrying hazmat
3 materials are damaged, and that causes all kinds of
4 problems. Those problems aren't happening in the pipelines,
5 or at least not to the degree in which they are happening on
6 our highway and interstate systems.

7 Previously tonight, another speaker stated that
8 there were two million miles of pipeline in the United
9 States, two million miles. That's a lot, more than I would
10 have guessed. That came from a pretty good speaker. Once
11 again I will compare that on the roads and highways and
12 train tracks and various other modes of transport throughout
13 the United States, every day there are motor vehicle
14 accidents, train accidents. People are harmed,
15 infrastructure is damaged, hazmat materials are leaked,
16 caught on fire, exploded, so on and so forth.

17 The Department of Energy, obviously a group that
18 would know a thing or two about this sort of thing, or at
19 least we would hope, has stated the pipelines are without a
20 doubt the safest way to transport this particular product.
21 The safest. Not close to, not one of, it is the safest.
22 That's their statement, not mine.

23 Also, this natural gas is going to get from Point
24 A to Point B. It is going to happen, folks. No matter how
25 man people in here say they don't like it, it's going to

1 happen. Now whether or not it happens through a safe and
2 effective means, i.e. a pipeline or on trains, planes and
3 other methods, okay, we do have a little bit of a say in
4 that.

5 When a train crashes and it's carrying hazmat
6 materials, that affects local infrastructure, it affects
7 local watershed, it affects animals, human life, everything.
8 When it goes to the pipelines, has there ever been a
9 pipeline incident? Yes. Will there be pipeline incidents
10 in the future? Almost definitely. But they're
11 infinitesimally less likely to occur than if the same
12 product is transported by trucks or trains.

13 Also, there's been much ado speaking about the
14 economic development that this will or will not generate.
15 Now there are a lot of mixed opinions on this, and I'm
16 running short so I'm going to be brief. Those of you who
17 remember the loss of an automotive production plant in
18 Augusta County know we haven't always made the best
19 decisions on economic development. I am in support of this
20 pipeline. Thank you for your time.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 29 is Alan Baragona,
23 followed by Clyde Henkel, followed by Barbara Snead.

24 MR. BARAGONA: I'm Alan Baragona from Stanton,
25 Virginia. As of today, representatives of Dominion

1 Transmission, speaking on behalf of their partners, Duke
2 Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, Dominion Resources and AGL
3 Resources, have failed to make convincing arguments for
4 building their pipeline in the Shenandoah Valley. Their
5 representatives have refused to act on the recommendations
6 of those most knowledgeable about the terrain, geology,
7 history, economic drivers and people of the region.

8 As we've already heard tonight, Virginia's Hazard
9 Mitigation Plan states that karst terrain can cause
10 catastrophic failure of pipelines, and should be avoided
11 where possible. If the line of the proposed pipeline and
12 its contents -- sorry. The proposed pipeline crosses
13 Augusta County at exactly the area of greatest karst
14 presence, endangering the pipeline and its contents, as well
15 as the water supply of most of the county.

16 It then proceeds to an area known for sink holes.
17 Also, the location of a complex of schools and areas
18 protected by our local water authority. When local
19 officials requested that Dominion route the pipeline further
20 away from the schools, Dominion refused.

21 Our county is primarily agricultural, with a
22 thriving tourist trade and as such is doubly dependent on
23 clean water for residents, crops and livestock. The carrot
24 of abundant natural gas and the energy and jobs it's
25 supposed to attract is not so tempting when you know that

1 property, water supply, life and livelihood are to be put at
2 risk.

3 Because the Valley supplies water for much of the
4 rest of the state as well as Washington, D.C., this pipeline
5 represents a risk that is far too great than the tradeoff in
6 energy. The unique topography and geology of the Valley
7 with its steep slopes, areas of long karst, sink holes,
8 underground caves and caverns and history of catastrophic
9 landslides, such as occurred in Nelson County in 1969, make
10 it among the inhospitable of locations for this type of
11 infrastructure.

12 To insist, as Dominion has done, that such a
13 route should not be altered regardless of evidence to the
14 contrary is not only foolish, it's dangerous. Assurances of
15 safe engineering and even the safety records of pipelines
16 that are only 10 or even 20 inches across are irrelevant to
17 the risks posed by a 42 inch pipeline laid by a company that
18 has never done it before, in a place where the damage done
19 by an explosion or in a leak cannot be undone. It can have
20 widespread repercussions well beyond our backyards.

21 Alternate routes may be more costly or
22 inconvenient for Dominion, but that is outweighed by the
23 environmental damage the pipe will do in its construction,
24 and could do in its operation. In sum, there's no
25 justification for allowing the Atlantic Coast pipeline route

1 to stand. It's wrong for the Shenandoah Valley, the George
2 Washington National Forest, crucially wrong for the water
3 resources located there that serve so many and will
4 eventually find their way into the Chesapeake.

5 This is an unreasonable risk of immeasurable and
6 irremediable loss, negating any definition of public
7 convenience or good. Please follow your mandate and deny
8 Dominion's request. Thank you.

9 MR. BOWMAN: Time has expired.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Clyde Henkel,
12 followed by Barbara Snead, followed by William Monroe.

13 MR. HENKEL: Hi. My name's Clyde Henkel. I'm a
14 retired Coast Guard officer born and raised in Williamsburg,
15 Virginia. My family's lived where we live on 617 Maple
16 Avenue, Williamsburg since 1964. My mother paid \$11,000 for
17 that house when my dad had a nervous breakdown and lost his
18 job. I've been here since 1996. I moved back up here on
19 January 31st, 1996. I've lived here ever since then.

20 I strongly support the Atlantic Coast pipeline.
21 It would be safer than rail. As we know recently down in
22 Lynchburg and over in West Virginia, it minimally affects
23 the land. It's 75 foot across, it's buried, it's two to
24 three feet deep. It's not going to destroy any farmer in
25 this country or in this state. I'm sure of that.

1 They have got a lot more money than I do. I have
2 a small house up there. It's a two level house. It's 105
3 years old, and I think we'll all get along with it. We have
4 to stop being so selfish and think about the rest of our
5 community, like Dr. Seaton said. He's my doctor. I'm not
6 one of the poor people, because I've got retirement pay from
7 the Coast Guard and Social Security. I'm on a fixed income,
8 but I'm not nearly as bad as shape as some people who are
9 his patients.

10 But we have to think about everybody in our
11 community, not just myself and say well, I've got a good
12 case. I don't have to worry about it. I had a leak at my
13 house, by the way, a gas leak a few years ago and they
14 safely had me back away from the house. They checked it
15 out. It didn't blow up or anything like that. They took
16 care of the gas leak. It was no big deal. But things like
17 that can happen. We can't have failsafe life.

18 I would like to say here that we each have an
19 opportunity to express our views and to have them
20 considered, and I would ask this group to not be standing up
21 and trying to shut up other people, and clapping or
22 applauding for one group, and trying to shut up another
23 group. That's not right and that's not the American way to
24 do things, okay.

25 The pipeline is going to create jobs, many of

1 them, 8,800 it says. From the information that I got from
2 Dominion, it will support many permanent jobs, about 1,400
3 it says in the information I got. We know that the Keystone
4 pipeline, it would have helped our independence from these
5 Middle Eastern fanatics over there that hate us and hate
6 Jews, and I would like for us to just stand up for this
7 country and do what's right for this country, and not worry
8 about all these little things that the snail darter or these
9 remote environmental impacts.

10 But worry about our people and our country and
11 our viability and the economic life of our community. So
12 let's think about that and be realistic.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 31 is Barbara Snead,
15 followed by William Monroe, followed by Marvin Ingram.

16 MS. SNEAD: I want to ask the audience a
17 question. How many of you are on the Columbia gas line? I
18 am. How many of your families were on it, are on it? I
19 want to thank those people for having the foresight to put
20 in that gas line, that me and my husband could build on the
21 property. The land is right in front of my house, and we've
22 enjoyed the convenience of natural gas for 46 years.

23 Now it sounds like the concern here is the route.
24 So I would appeal to Dominion to seriously reconsider the
25 route, and to the Commission seriously, I know you'll take

1 your jobs seriously. The government will see that you do
2 oversee the legalities of all this pipeline. But other
3 people will benefit eventually from it.

4 Now when the Columbia gas went through, I don't
5 know how many disgruntled farmers there were. I don't know
6 how many hiking trails were eliminated. I don't know how
7 many pristine views were eliminated. I don't know any about
8 that. But I do know I have enjoyed the reality of the
9 decisions you made more than 46 years ago.

10 I've not had an explosion. I haven't heard of an
11 explosion. I don't even know where the main pipeline is. I
12 don't know how big it is, and it sounds to me if Augusta
13 County is so bad with such soil and karst or whatever that
14 is, I'm not smart enough to know what that is, we'd better
15 pack up and leave.

16 We should not be sitting on a sink hole probably.
17 Maybe we should stop building anything in Augusta County,
18 drilling. Don't buy a property that has to drill a well.
19 Heaven forbid, something might leak into it. Now if it's
20 the route, I'm all for that. Consider the route. What
21 state should it go through if it ain't going through
22 Virginia?

23 Will the Buena Vista people have the same
24 concerns you do? Of course. All these issues you've
25 expressed tonight were confronted by Columbia Gas too, and

1 the same citizens, be they here today or they've gone,
2 passed on, they were concerned too. But think about it.
3 There's still plenty of places to hide, still plenty of
4 beautiful mountains, except maybe if you want to think about
5 Wintergreen, all tore up with houses and buildings and ski
6 slopes and Massanutten too.

7 Probably the people at the bottom of that
8 mountain were concerned about a mud slide one of these days,
9 because of all the trees tore down. Listen people. I know
10 I'm in the minority here but --

11 MR. BOWMAN: Your time has expired.

12 MS. SNEAD: Okay.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 32 is William Monroe,
15 followed by Marvin Ingram and Otis Bilkins.

16 MR. MONROE: Thank you. My name is William
17 Monroe. I'm the Director of Engineering for the Augusta
18 County Service Authority, and I'm here this evening
19 representing the Authority and its board of directors. The
20 Service Authority is responsible for providing public water
21 and sewer service for the citizens of Augusta County.

22 A little background. The Service Authority is a
23 little bit unique. We cover a pretty broad area, a pretty
24 broad area, and we've got 12 separate water systems. To
25 cover that area, we don't have all that many water customers

1 to pay for that. We only have about 15,000 water customers.
2 So the point here is that the Service Authority can't be put
3 in the position of carrying the risk for issues that could
4 come up during this project.

5 We can't afford a lot of out of pocket expenses
6 and lengthy legal battles to address critical infrastructure
7 issues that could arise quickly. For our water resources,
8 they consist of 17 wells, two springs and a reservoir. We
9 also rely on the City of Stanton, who one of their sources
10 is also impacted by the route.

11 Surface contamination of ground water does happen
12 in the karst areas of Augusta County. We've installed seven
13 microfiltration systems already to address groundwater
14 quality issues. We've also spent over \$1 million on source
15 water protection, to establish scientifically delineated
16 protection areas. In 2011, we were honored by the EPA for
17 the work that we've done in developing an excellent source
18 water protection program.

19 For the ACP project, we commissioned a study by
20 Garrett Consultants that we used for more than 20 years on
21 this type of issue. A key recommendation from them were to
22 avoid pipeline installation near source recharge and
23 protection areas; develop legally binding construction
24 management and blasting plans with financial surety; develop
25 legally binding operating and mitigation plans with

1 financial surety; and include an effective ground water
2 monitoring plan.

3 Most of our concern centers around the route
4 selection and construction, potential for disruption of
5 ground water flow, contamination from blasting materials and
6 opening new pathways for surface water contamination. The
7 Service Authority has shared information with Dominion and
8 its consultants.

9 However, since that time, Dominion has developed
10 a new alternate route that couldn't be much worse in regard
11 to one of our largest public water supplies in the county.
12 This source currently requires no filtration, and has a
13 yield of approximately 1,400 gallons per minute. The route
14 cuts into the recharge area for this water supply, appears
15 to conflict with no sink holes inside the recharge area, and
16 could disturb documented sources of serious potential
17 contamination.

18 I have a map that I'd like to leave with you if
19 that's possible, that shows those areas. The time line on
20 this project is very short, and we'd like to point out that
21 a karst consultant in 12 months cannot replace decades of
22 ground water development and source water protection
23 performed by the Service Authority.

24 In summary, I'd like to emphasize that we have
25 critical and vulnerable ground water resources in Augusta

1 County. We've spent millions of dollars developing and
2 protecting this resource and have been recognized by the
3 U.S. EPA for our efforts.

4 MR. BOWMAN: Time has expired.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 33 is Marvin Ingram,
7 followed by Otis Bilkins, followed by Roland Micklem.

8 Marvin Ingram?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. BOWMAN: Otis Bilkins.

11 MR. BILKINS: I'm Otis Bilkins, Director of the
12 Head Water Soil and Water Conservation District, and I am
13 also the chairman of the District's Dam Safety and
14 Maintenance Committee. The district owns 11 flood control
15 dams and looks after five others in Augusta County. This
16 past December, we sent you a letter, you being FERC,
17 outlining the requirements for activities in the vicinity of
18 flood control dams.

19 Copies of this letter were also sent to the
20 Atlantic Coast pipeline, Augusta County Supervisors and the
21 Council members of the cities of Stanton and Waynesboro.
22 Engineers at the appropriate agencies at both the state and
23 federal levels reviewed and approved of the requirements
24 listed in that letter.

25 Included in those requirements is a prohibition

1 on blasting within three quarters of a mile of a dam, and a
2 monitoring plan for distances between three quarter and one
3 and a quarter miles. The latest maps that we have show that
4 the northern route takes the pipeline within approximately
5 1,500 feet of the Robinson Hollow dam and approximately
6 3,000 feet of the Happy Hollow dam. Each branch dam is
7 within one mile.

8 The more southern route comes within
9 approximately 960 feet of the Waynesboro Nursery's dam, and
10 approximately 3,000 feet of the Tom's Branch dam. All of
11 these distances, except for the Inch Branch dams are less
12 than three quarters of a mile and are in the prohibited
13 area.

14 I would emphasize that any damages to the dams
15 may not become evident for 10, 15, 20 years, or in other
16 words, when they have to function as designed during a
17 probable maximum flood event. A dam failure during one of
18 these events would incur both loss of life and major
19 property damage.

20 Another concern that recently emerged at the
21 Robinson Hollow dam is since the pipeline runs so close to
22 the existing pool, there could be a possibility of piping or
23 the water from the pool following the pipe and draining or
24 lowering the pool. From our standpoint, that's not a bad
25 thing. But for the landowners around there, they would not

1 be pleased by the loss of the lake, and the pipeline owner
2 would experience unwanted maintenance where none was
3 expected. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 35 is Roland Micklem,
6 followed by Jennifer Lewis and Nellie Ramirez.

7 MR. MICKLEM: Is this -- am I loud enough? Can
8 people hear me pretty well?

9 MR. BOWMAN: Yes.

10 MR. MICKLEM: Great. I take issue with FERC over
11 the environmental impact of the natural gas industry.
12 FERC's claim that natural gas is less polluting than coal
13 may be true. But considering the extraction practices
14 necessary to capture it, this claim is doubtful.

15 On the natural gas extraction site, considerable
16 amounts of methane escapes into the atmosphere, despite
17 measures to contain it. Depending on the authority, methane
18 is said to be 34 to 120 times more potent of greenhouse gas
19 than carbon dioxide. During the fracking operation, an
20 estimated one to nine percent of the gas escapes into the
21 atmosphere, and according to the Union of Concerned
22 Scientists, this is the equivalent of global warming
23 emission of from 34 to 314 coal-fired power plants.

24 The recovery of gas from underlying shield
25 deposits is an energy intensive operation. It requires the

1 use of heavy equipment, bulldozers, drills, trucks and
2 truck-mounted blenders to mix the sand, water and chemicals
3 used to access the gas and channel it to surface. This
4 equipment running on diesel fuel from fuel 24-7 until most
5 of the gas is recovered, it sending its share of greenhouse
6 emissions in the wild blue yonder.

7 Over 38 million gallons of diesel fuel were used
8 by the fracking industry from 2005 to 2009. The fracking
9 well itself covers about an acre of ground, and it may
10 require as much as five million gallons of water to frack a
11 single well. To my knowledge, no municipal sewage treatment
12 plant has the technology to remove the toxic chemicals used
13 in the fracking fluid, and the frackers either reuse it or
14 sequester it in large container pools, which over time may
15 leak and contaminate the local drinking water supply.

16 The drilling process brings to surface
17 radioactive rock debris, with few provisions made for proper
18 disposal. The environmental downside consequences of the
19 use of natural gas outweighs its desirability as a cleaner
20 burning fossil fuel. The global ecosystem is directly
21 threatened by climate change --

22 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. Micklem, your time is expired.

23 (Appause.)

24 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 36 is Jennifer Lewis,
25 followed by Nellie Ramirez, followed by Rick Webb.

1 MS. LEWIS: I'm actually Jennifer Lewis with
2 (inaudible) of Augusta, and I'm giving my time to Tracy
3 Pyles.

4 MR. BOWMAN: Could you state and spell your name
5 for the record sir?

6 MR. PYLES: Yes. My name is T-R-A-C-Y, Pyles,
7 P-Y-L-E-S. I'm No. 68 on your hit parade there. I'm
8 presently in my 20th year on the Board of Supervisors. I'm
9 presently chairman of Augusta Civil Authority, two important
10 groups that you cut off tonight. You stopped the chairman
11 from him speaking out. You stopped the Director from
12 Engineering from speaking out. It's not a good process when
13 you limit the people responsible for the well-being of this
14 community to an artificial time line.

15 This is not a good process. You have questions
16 come in about the American way here, that Mr. Schomo talked
17 about. Then we had another speaker who said well, he fought
18 against eminent domain, when he in fact voted for
19 (inaudible) go on Mr. Schomo's property. That's not right.

20 We've come here and we've got hospitality tables,
21 and a hospitality room for the Dominion supporters, and
22 water and placeholders in line. And the other thing -- and
23 we've just got to get in line and get along. That's not
24 fair, sir. That's not fair what they were doing. They take
25 our money and use it against us in our own room.

1 But what you're interested in here is
2 environment. We've been stuck. If you look at the Sullivan
3 study you'll find out that we provide a quarter of a
4 trillion gallons of water a year, emanating in Augusta
5 County, heading down to Washington, going to all the other
6 counties. A gentleman talked about brownouts in California.
7 They're a year away from not having water.

8 Wait until you don't have water; then you'll find
9 out where the problem is. We've got -- that's what we're
10 here to protect. We have this major aquifer. I want you to
11 look at the map when you go out tomorrow morning over to the
12 west. That is not just -- just not trees. That's a giant
13 aquifer.

14 It's many Hoover dams holding back billions of
15 gallons of water, in a system that God created centuries
16 ago, long ago, that collects water from thousands of acres
17 of land, filtrated, comes down into caverns and fissures and
18 holds this water for a steady release that's gone on for
19 centuries and centuries, and you want to disturb that.

20 You want to bring those pipelines over five
21 miles, from Highland County to here, blasting their way
22 through, through karst, which is not meant to be tampered
23 with. Every time you have -- we asked them about blastings.
24 They said well, we use a low level blast. I'm afraid our
25 rocks aren't low level. They're going to a blasting and

1 when they do, they're going to shiver the timbers of all
2 that water. When it's messed up, when it's degraded, when
3 it's rerouted, when it can't come down as it has been, who's
4 going to fix it?

5 You guys will be gone. Nobody will be here. The
6 taxpayer will pay for it or we won't have the water. We
7 supply water for millions of people. You want to talk about
8 environment? You look at (inaudible). You protect it.

9 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. Pyles, your time has expired.

10 MR. PYLES: That's right, and who is going to
11 protect it?

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 37 is Nellie Ramirez,
14 followed by Rick Webb, followed by Brenda Nycum. Nellie
15 Ramirez.

16 (No response.)

17 MP This Brenda.

18 MR. BOWMAN: Okay. Go ahead Mr. Webb.

19 MR. WEBB: So my name is Rick Webb. I'm the
20 coordinator of a group called the Dominion Pipeline
21 Monitoring Coalition. It's formed from 12 different
22 original conservation groups. We came together to oppose
23 the pipeline. We believe it's bad for the environment. We
24 have asked FERC to delay this scoping process, and to
25 reinstate it once we have a clear idea of which routes are

1 under consideration.

2 We don't have detailed maps that let us evaluate
3 the environmental impacts of this project. I understand
4 we're here to address environmental impacts and concerns,
5 and we don't have the information needed to allow us to do a
6 meaningful job of that task. We seek to provide detailed
7 information about environmental concerns, and we can't do
8 it. We don't have the information.

9 We want to analyze the impact of the potential
10 project routes on a number of different environmental
11 factors, including erosion and sediment control problems,
12 storm water management, slope failures, and we've heard
13 about Dominion's problems with slope failures, forest
14 impacts. We're going to tear up miles of forest that are
15 currently continuous, unfragmented forest and damaging
16 wildlife habitat in the process.

17 We want to address the issues of stream
18 crossings. We don't know where the pipeline will cross the
19 stream crossings. How can we give you meaningful
20 information without knowing where these crossings are going
21 to be? We want to evaluate the impact on water supplies,
22 public water supply recharge areas, private springs, wells
23 and the problems related with karst. We don't have the
24 information.

25 We feel like we're being sort of subjected to

1 something like a shell game here. A number of us have spent
2 a lot of time evaluating part of the proposed preferred
3 previous route, the route that the Forest Service asked for
4 comments on, and surprisingly on the day that comments were
5 due to the Monongahela National Forest, Dominion announces
6 additional routes.

7 Two weeks later, FERC published its notice for
8 the scoping period. That included a mix of routes. It
9 included the additional -- the original preferred route; it
10 included some of the routes that Dominion had earlier
11 dismissed that were included in its resource report
12 submitted to FERC, and they dismissed it in no uncertain --
13 they dismissed those routes in no uncertain terms, and now
14 they're putting them back on the table.

15 It included in -- the FERC scoping notice
16 included routes that no one had even seen before. So we
17 don't know what we're dealing with here. So FERC --

18 MR. BOWMAN: Your time has expired, Mr. Webb.
19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 39 is Brenda Nycum,
22 followed by Becky Harmon, followed by William Delong.

23 MS. NYCUM: My name is Brenda Nycum, and I live
24 in Swoope, which is in Augusta County, and the proposed
25 pipeline is coming onto my property in front of my home, and

1 I have several concerns. The first one is my well, based on
2 a past experience. In 1994, the state highway department
3 widened the road near our home. They put in a turning lane,
4 and this required blasting.

5 The very next day, our well went muddy and it
6 never cleared up. We had to drill a new well at our
7 expense. This proposed pipeline is coming closer to my well
8 than what that road project was, which was a fourth of a
9 mile away. If blasting is required to put the pipeline
10 through Augusta County, it has the potential of damaging
11 wells all along the route.

12 Read the Sullivan report that our Board of
13 Supervisors requests. It lays out the potential risk to the
14 water resources in our county if this construction takes
15 place. Another concern I have is the safety if there would
16 be a gas leakage or explosion on my property, and putting a
17 pipeline in front of my home will devalue the property.

18 Another concern I have is how some of the route
19 goes so close to our schools. That's not putting our
20 children's safety first in Augusta County. Last month, the
21 U.S. Department of Energy put out a report questioning even
22 the need for another gas pipeline on the east coast.

23 It stated that if we would use the existing
24 pipelines that have been existent from 2000 -- been built
25 from 2007 to now and change the gas flows into those

1 existing pipelines and use them to their fully capacity,
2 that we would have enough gas and it would meet our energy
3 needs on the east coast.

4 Now if you don't agree with that report, then at
5 least please consider moving the pipeline onto public
6 easements that have already been taken, rather than eminent
7 domain to take our personal rights. I'm asking you to deny
8 Dominion this request to put the pipeline through Augusta
9 County.

10 I know you are in a difficult position, knowing
11 that Dominion and other companies, including pipeline
12 companies, contribute to your budget. But please don't let
13 that factor keep you from doing what's best for the citizens
14 in Augusta County. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 40 is Becky Harmon,
17 followed by William Delong and Tom Long.

18 MS. HARMON: My name is Becky Harmon. My husband
19 and I live on Morrisville Road in Swoope. He's back there a
20 little scared, because he doesn't know what's going to come
21 out of my mouth, and you're laughing and it's your cousin.
22 We have one acre of land. A 42 inch pipeline, a 75 foot
23 permanent easement, 125 foot or more construction easement
24 is going to completely destroy our little one acre of land.

25 As an Augusta County native, it is incumbent on

1 us to study our environment, to learn about it, to protect
2 it, to preserve it and to respect it. We've recently
3 learned and we've kind of suspected that FERC officials are
4 funded by Dominion and other public utilities. So what I
5 have to say to FERC tonight is while you're out there
6 kissing Dominion's ass, let them know, let your buddies know
7 that their construction is going to come through our septic,
8 our drain field, and it's going to cost them 30 to 40
9 thousand dollars for an alternative waste system, because we
10 don't have public sewer. We don't have that option, and
11 that's just the beginning. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 41 is William Delong,
14 followed by Tom Long and Laura Neal.

15 MR. DELONG: I'm William Delong. I live in
16 Augusta County. My co-workers are Wayne (inaudible), and we
17 feel like you can run the pipeline through our front yards
18 if you'd like to. I'm here to support it. That's all I've
19 got to say.

20 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 42 is Tom Long, followed by
21 Laura Neal and Larry Korte.

22 MR. LONG: I'm Tom Long. I live in Mount Solon,
23 Virginia here in Augusta County. What lies beneath, a
24 horror movie of about 15 years ago. The horror of
25 Dominion's pipeline proposal is about what lies beneath the

1 Valley, karst. Like this Swiss cheese, it's good stuff,
2 Swiss cheese. Like this Swiss cheese, karst is solid but
3 it's riddled with crevices and holes, both large and small,
4 caverns, caves and sink holes.

5 With every rainfall, with every shifting of the
6 earth, these holes grow unseen, until one day there is a
7 cave-in, creating a sink hole and bringing down what man has
8 built above, be it a road, be it a house, or be it a huge
9 high pressure gas pipeline. It might not happen this year
10 or next, but the life span of this pipeline is measured in
11 decades.

12 Karst fracturing of the pipeline, the dangers of
13 karst fracturing this pipeline are great, and it would
14 devastating to humans, to water quality and to the entire
15 environment.

16 What lies Dominion tells. Without giving any
17 specifics about safety, environmental protection and other
18 construction issues, Dominion says don't worry, trust us.
19 Even if they and their subcontractors use the very -- every
20 best practice, this pipeline threatens water quality.
21 Blasting chemicals will get into ground water, poisoning
22 local wells and impacting water miles from the pipeline
23 route.

24 Blasting can cause fractures that can collapse
25 underground seams, threatening the water table and flow to

1 private wells. Blasting and excavating across steep terrain
2 and across dozens of wetlands, rivers and streams, water
3 resources and aquatic habitat will be degraded with
4 sedimentation, changed runoff patterns and groundwater flow.

5 Did I say Dominion used best practices? Well,
6 their record in West Virginia indicates their adherence to
7 best practices is questionable. There, where they're
8 building a much smaller pipeline, the West Virginia
9 Department of Environmental Protection fined Dominion for
10 unlawful pollution and failure to comply with regulations
11 and best practices that were designed to ensure public
12 safety and protection of the natural environment.

13 What lies beneath and what lies they tell. Two
14 reasons FERC should deny Dominion's application. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 43 is Laura Neal,
17 followed by Larry Korte and Carter Douglas.

18 MS. NEAL: Well hello. My name is Laura Neal. I
19 live in Rockbridge County. First, I would like to read the
20 FERC mission statement and make a brief comment. "FERC's
21 mission, reliable, efficient and sustainable energy for
22 customers; assist consumers in obtaining reliable, efficient
23 and sustainable energy services at a reasonable cost through
24 appropriate regulatory and market means."

25 I am concerned that our government agency is

1 taking the easy path of following the lead of energy
2 developers of fossil fuels, rather than taking a leadership
3 role. If FERC was following its own guidelines, it would be
4 looking at number one, applications that create
5 infrastructure at the community level for renewable energy,
6 and two, creating policy guidelines and investment
7 recommendations for promoting energy conservation through
8 regulatory and market means.

9 My specific concerns about the negative impacts
10 of the proposed Atlantic Coast pipeline are extensive.
11 Tonight, I address one concern only. My concerns is not a
12 potential environmental impact, but rather a 100 percent,
13 definite negative environmental impact. Construction and
14 maintenance of 125 foot wide corridor through the George
15 Washington and Monongahela National Forests would create a
16 permanent open slash across the forest.

17 Number one, forest is destroyed for the length
18 and width of the corridor. Each and every acre of forest
19 gone to the construction of utility corridor is gone
20 forever. Number two, forest fragmentation of the largest
21 contiguous roadless areas of the forest of the Central
22 Appalachians would cause 100 percent negative impacts to all
23 wildlife dependent upon these large unfragmented forests.

24 A swath cut through the forest provides ideal
25 habitat for forest edge predators, who (inaudible) nests of

1 threatened neotropical bird species, such as the shrilling
2 warbler, blue hiberia, arcadian fly catcher and much beloved
3 wood thrush, each of whom depend upon intact interior forest
4 conditions for nesting success.

5 Other wildlife species negatively impacted
6 include amphibians like salamanders and frogs, who may not
7 be able to cross an 125 foot desert and exchange genetic
8 material. Macroinvertebrates unable to fly over some of the
9 same fractured habitat, with loss of opportunity to exchange
10 genetic material, and the soil biota will be destroyed.
11 Creation of this corridor provides a vector for invasive
12 plant species and further deleterious effects on plants and
13 animals.

14 I oppose the construction of the Atlantic Coast
15 pipeline across the national forests. FERC is studying what
16 I understand are ten pipeline applications across the --

17 MR. BOWMAN: Your time has expired.

18 (Appause.)

19 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 44 is Larry Korte,
20 followed by Carter Douglas and Lynn Cameron.

21 MR. KORTE: Hi. My name is Larry Korte from
22 Churchville, Virginia, and I have an engineering background.
23 Augusta County is too dangerous and sensitive for a high
24 pressure 42-inch pipeline. This is a high consequence area.
25 At the first public meeting, the Dominion project engineer

1 stood up and made a statement on the record that Dominion
2 would avoid karst in Augusta County.

3 I'm confused. The proposed pipeline route seems
4 to wander up and down along this path through karst in
5 Augusta County, at the expense of adding miles to the line.
6 Why not cross at the narrow point, or why not at all?
7 Dominion says not to cross karst, yet they do. Why the
8 contradiction? Why play with fire when you don't have to,
9 and there are all the historic and sensitive areas. It's
10 like driving a semi through a china shop with a breakable
11 floor. Why do it when you don't have to?

12 It's well-documented that methane, once
13 underground, can flow for miles in karst. Pippa's new
14 February 2015 report has mitigation planning practices for
15 land use planning and development near pipelines, seems to
16 agree that methane can travel underground with the pipeline
17 brick. Check what happened in Kansas.

18 I believe a study is required to determine the
19 risk of methane in area tourist caves and caverns, when 1.5
20 billion cubic feet of methane is forced underground during a
21 pipeline break in karst. Financial impact and death should
22 be included in any risk study.

23 For ten years, it's been strange living with
24 karst in Augusta County. The county and state has special
25 rules we follow. I have sink hole and earthquake insurance.

1 In 2013, I drove across a crack in the pavement on Route 250
2 near Stanton on a proposed pipeline route. When I returned
3 in two hours, there was a ten foot deep hole about 30 feet
4 across, and a line of dump trucks and equipment repairing
5 the damage. Thanks VDOT for their quick response.

6 The same year, another sink hole took out half of
7 ID-1 just south of Stanton. Everyone has a sink hole story
8 in Augusta County, ruined wells, cars falling in, \$28,000
9 wells, livestock lost. Scientists and engineers from around
10 the world study our quirky karst formations and warn of
11 hazards. Even the Virginia DMME warns against pipelines in
12 Augusta County, as the 2013 Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan.

13 Search the VDOT online database for sink holes in
14 Augusta County, and about 65 show up during a four year
15 period, just for major roads. How would a pipeline handle
16 65 breaks in a four-year period? The VDOT has a team of
17 engineers and geologists focusing on just sink hole problems
18 in this area.

19 Will PHMSA and Dominion have a team of engineers
20 and geologists focusing all only on this county like VDOT?
21 How does a pipeline operator stop flow and repair a pipeline
22 when a sink hole drops the pipe 20 feet and 30 feet long in
23 a couple of hours?

24 By the way, methane is odorless, so you won't
25 know if it's in your house. That's the situation with

1 transmission pipes. You won't smell it when it comes in.
2 Oh also, I have solar electric installed and geothermal
3 heating. It works great. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Carter Douglas,
6 followed by Lynn Cameron and Malcolm Cameron.

7 MS. DOUGLAS: I'm Carter Moffett Douglas. The
8 facts that I hate to speak in public and that I missed a
9 special event to be here should tell you how important this
10 issue is to me. I was concerned about the impacts when it
11 was on the other side of Augusta County, and very relieved
12 when that route was abandoned, only to find the new line on
13 the farm adjacent to ours, just across the fence.

14 I'm the seventh generation to live on the family
15 farm. The house is on the National Register and under
16 historic easement. The farm is under conservation easement,
17 totally in an effort to protect and preserve it, since the
18 easement was obtained several years before there were
19 financial incentives.

20 Fifty years ago, our farm was the victim of
21 Dominion's predecessor, when the power towers were
22 installed. My father alerted them that they were blasting
23 in close proximity to the spring that had always provided
24 good water. VEPCO set off the dynamite anyway and destroyed
25 the spring. Much later, on a visit to VEPCO's offices in

1 Richmond, a family friend overheard a conversation about
2 they had escaped a devastating lawsuit because my father's
3 lawyer had failed to follow through.

4 We were now reminded daily of that episode, with
5 Dominion seeming to have moved in for the duration with
6 their pallets and equipment, as they replaced the old towers
7 with much larger and more unsightly ones. 200 years of work
8 and love, sacrifice and stewardship poured into this farm,
9 all to have it jeopardized by corporate greed. Do these
10 people not have children or grandchildren, or an
11 appreciation of mountains, fields, streams, trees, good
12 water?

13 The talk of jobs and tax benefits to our county
14 all contain words like "could" or "may." Even if the
15 financial rewards were true, they would not offset the risk.
16 This short-sighted plan is the high cost of cheap gas. I'm
17 so tired of hearing that there's nothing we can do, that
18 it's a done deal, that our state and federal politicians
19 have been bought, even the Democrats, and that the FERC team
20 running the issues may well be in Dominion's pocket.

21 When the Bible says man is to have dominion,
22 meaning responsibility, over the earth, I hardly think Tom
23 Ferrell is the man, or that this is the dominion the creator
24 had in mind.

25 (Appause.)

1 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 46, Lynn Cameron, followed
2 by Malcolm Cameron and Jana Walters.

3 MS. CAMERON: Good evening. I'm Lynn Cameron,
4 co-chair of Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, a coalition
5 working towards Congressional designation of the Shenandoah
6 Mountain National Scenic Area in the George Washington
7 National Forest. We are opposed to the pipeline slated to
8 cross Shenandoah Mountain. The Shenandoah Mountain area is
9 the best of the remaining wildlands in the eastern United
10 States, and it is the heart of the George Washington
11 National Forest. Shenandoah Mountain stands out in terms of
12 recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and water
13 resources.

14 With ten peaks above 4,000 feet, is one of the
15 highest and most rugged parts of Virginia, with head waters
16 of both the Potomac and James Rivers. It is the source of
17 drinking water for Stanton and Harrisonburg and many towns
18 and cities downstream. It is home to 250 species of birds,
19 rare salamanders and wildflowers, native brook trout, black
20 bear and much more.

21 They're area-wise within a biodiversity hotspot
22 identified by the Nature Conservancy, and it is an
23 outstanding ecological core identified by the Commonwealth
24 of Virginia. It's also a recreational hub for the whole
25 region. Its pristine streams, abundant wildlife and scenic

1 beauty draw hikers, mountain bikers, hunters, fishermen,
2 horseback riders, backpackers and naturalists from all
3 around.

4 Much collaboration has gone into a scenic area
5 proposal. It has been endorsed by over 220 local
6 organizations and businesses, and diverse forest
7 stakeholders. The new forest plan officially recommends
8 that Shenandoah Mountain be designated as a national scenic
9 area.

10 We're concerned that the pipeline really cuts
11 through the edge of the proposed national scenic area. It
12 crosses scenic Route 250, which is a major gateway for
13 visitors from Stanton, Charlottesville, Richmond and beyond.
14 It crosses the access road to Bailey Pond, one of the most
15 popular recreation areas in the National Forest. It crosses
16 Cow Pasture Road, the main access to Alcorn Lake, Stanton
17 dam, Todd Lake and the North River head waters, and it
18 crosses H
19 Hankey Mountain in an area actively managed for grass,
20 turkey and deer.

21 Shenandoah Mountain's scenic beauty and
22 recreational resources support our thriving local
23 tourism-based economy and its associated jobs. Visitor
24 spending is growing every year. In 2013, Stanton,
25 Waynesboro and Augusta brought in 200 million from visitor

1 spending. Given how special Shenandoah Mountain area is,
2 and the fact that it's been proposed by citizens and
3 recommended by the Forest Service as a National Scenic Area,
4 we don't think it's an appropriate location for the Atlantic
5 Coast pipeline.

6 A pipeline will leave a permanent scar through
7 this area, and destroy the national character of one of
8 Virginia's crown jewels. Shenandoah Mountain is like the
9 goose that keeps laying golden eggs. Please don't let
10 Dominion kill the goose.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 47 is Malcolm Cameron,
13 followed by Jana Walters and Mike Smith.

14 MR. CAMERON: Good evening. I'm Malcolm Cameron.
15 I live in Mount Crawford, Virginia. My background includes
16 a Bachelor's in Geology and 23 years of working as an
17 environmental engineer at VDOT. I oversaw compliance with
18 all environmental regulations for the Stanton district and
19 all highway construction in the Shenandoah Valley.

20 I'm currently engaged in analyzing studies of
21 slope failures and this potential along the Atlantic Coast
22 pipeline route. There is significant risk from building a
23 42-inch pipeline across at least 15 mountain ridges. I saw
24 several slides and closed roads including I-64 in my work.
25 Landslides and debris flows have occurred on nearly 10,000

1 documented sites in the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains,
2 within a 50-mile radius of Stanton since 1949.

3 Just the sites researched are included in this.
4 Few studies exist west of the Blue Ridge. We know the death
5 and devastation that Hurricane Camille's landslides and
6 debris flows in Nelson County in 1969. The nearly 3,800
7 slides and debris flows extended an average of 2,500 feet
8 down slope. This two-day storm event dumped 26 inches of
9 rain on most of Nelson County, most falling during the
10 night.

11 Saturated soils and weathered bedrock gave way,
12 carrying trees and everything beneath as swift-flowing
13 liquefied masses while people slept. Camille also caused
14 1,600 slides and debris flows in Greenbriar County, West
15 Virginia. The slopes at both Camille locations averaged 33
16 degrees, but on the sedimentary bedrock in Greenbriar
17 County, slopes flood at 17 degrees when forested land
18 failed.

19 Other events range from one-day cloud bursts on
20 the Shenandoah and North Fork Mountains in 1949, to isolated
21 thunderstorms in 1995 on the Blue Ridge in Madison and
22 Albemarle Counties. One debris flow in the '49 event
23 traveled one and a half miles. The '95 event in the Blue
24 Ridge caused 690 debris flows from rainfall totals and
25 intensities roughly one half as much as Camille.

1 The AC pipeline route has many miles of terrain
2 as steep, or even steeper, than those in the historic
3 events. Rock formations, soils, slope angles, hydrology and
4 elevations in slope are the same or very similar as those in
5 the historic events on the AC line. These factors --

6 MR. BOWMAN: Your time has expired.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 48 is Jana Walters, followed
9 by Mike Smith and Peter James McCarthy.

10 MS. WALTERS: Members of FERC, good evening and
11 thank you for being here. My name is Jana Walters, and I'm
12 here as a member of the Conservation Committee of the
13 Southern Shenandoah Valley chapter of the Potomac
14 Appalachian Trail Club. Our club would like to voice
15 concerns about the potential impact of the proposed Atlantic
16 Coast pipeline.

17 The undesirable consequences we'd like to
18 highlight include degradation of the experience and visual
19 impact on the Appalachian Trail and the National parklands
20 on the Blue Ridge. Additionally, we'd like to emphasize the
21 same impact, the degradation of the experience and the
22 visual impact on the Shenandoah Mountain area of the George
23 Washington National Forest.

24 During the fall season, our Club offered a series
25 of hikes that would be affected by the proposed pipeline

1 route. We concluded the areas that would be affected are
2 too special in many ways, geography, history, recreation,
3 ecology and scenic value to name a few.

4 Finally, at our annual meeting, the Club voted
5 unanimously to take an official position to approve the
6 project. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 49 is Mike Smith, followed
9 by Peter James McCarthy and Jim Hinton.

10 MR. SMITH: Members of FERC, my name is Mike
11 Smith and I live in Rockingham County, and I'm on the
12 Conservation Committee of the southern Shenandoah Potomac
13 Appalachian Trail Club. I'm also on the board of the
14 Virginia Native Plant Society, and I speak for both
15 organizations in objection to this pipeline, which we think
16 it's a bad route, and the reasons for that is the proposed
17 pipeline would forever scar the natural beauty of the Route
18 250 corridor west of Stanton.

19 The route is the main entrance to the George
20 Washington National Forest. Recreationers such as
21 fishermen, mountain bikers, hikers, campers, horseback
22 riders would all be affected negatively. Tourism would also
23 be harmed. (inaudible) in the national wild area would be
24 compromised now for future generations recreation area, such
25 as Burley pine and Ramsey Draft would be impacted.

1 In addition, the pipeline route would cut through
2 the Appalachian Trail near Humpback Rocks and the Blue Ridge
3 Parkway. The pipeline would damage the wild character of
4 that area, it will, and these are national treasures to be
5 protected (inaudible). The scenic Shenandoah Mountain area
6 has the largest tract of mostly unfragmented national forest
7 land in the United States.

8 Number two. The pipeline would harm the unique
9 ecology of George Washington National Forest, including the
10 Shenandoah Mountain and the Blue Ridge to the east. There's
11 a rare salamander called the Kalanob salamander that has
12 been found in the pipeline route. Wildlife habitat would be
13 fragmented by the pipeline, and basic plants would find
14 their way into the corridor.

15 Keeping the pipeline corridor clear would involve
16 spraying herbicides, which could poison streams and
17 organisms, including fish living in the creeks. The
18 pipeline would disturb the head waters of major water sheds
19 that provide high quality drinking water for much of
20 Virginia and the District of Columbia.

21 If an accident or a significant weather event
22 would occur, it could contaminate nearly all stands of water
23 supply. A worse case scenario, but it could happen. The
24 pipeline goes over fragile karst rock formations, and we all
25 know that sink holes eat pipelines.

1 Number three, the pipeline could be dangerous to
2 people and wildlife. Dominion is wanting to put in a
3 42-inch pipe that is 1,440 pounds per square inch of
4 pressure. Pipeline explosions do occur. It occurred at
5 Appomattox in 2008. They also corrode over time and they
6 also leak. If sensitive pipelines have been buried, it's
7 going to be rather difficult to maintain it. How would you
8 even know they were leaking, right? Think about it.

9 So the pipeline would endanger anyone living near
10 including the following schools: Right here, the one school
11 we're at right now. Everly Manor Middle School, Churchville
12 Elementary, Stuarts Draft High School, Stuarts Draft Middle
13 School, Stuarts Draft Elementary and Guy Stump Elementary
14 School. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 50 is Peter James McCarthy,
17 followed by Jim Hinton and Hugh Lamb.

18 MR. McCARTHY: Yes. I am Peter James McCarthy
19 and I represent Cabin Creekwood, which is located on the
20 alternate route called the Appalachian Trail South. This
21 pipeline would go right in front of one of our original
22 cabins that we rent out to the public, which has been around
23 for 40 years. Environmentally, the swath of trees that
24 would disappear along the mountain going up over Reed's Gap,
25 would just look like a scar, as other folks have said

1 before, which will then in turn socioeconomically change.
2 No one will like to rent a cabin in the woods when there's
3 no trees.

4 I am against this pipeline. An alternate route
5 other than Augusta County would suit me just fine. Thank
6 you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 51 is James Hinton, followed
9 by Hugh Lamb and Joe McCue.

10 MR. HINTON: Well, I'm glad we have the
11 opportunity to speak to this matter. Not everyone does it
12 in various countries or whatever, but I see that what I find
13 is that we have two point million miles of pipeline
14 criss-crossing the United States, two and a half million
15 miles. 20 state national pipeline systems operate in the
16 Northeast region.

17 Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, New
18 Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland,
19 Virginia and West Virginia. The transcontinental pipeline
20 system delivers 8.5 billion cubic feet per day systemwide,
21 which extends from Texas to New York. The Tennessee
22 pipeline is 6.7 billion a day. I don't know how in the
23 devil you put that in a truck or a train.

24 I don't think any of us likes to see our lands
25 destroyed, but when you talk about forest, I am fortunate

1 enough to have a piece of land in Highland County, and the
2 Cow Pasture River has gotten out of its banks several times
3 and I've spent probably \$20,000 trying to shore it up, and
4 lost huge trees and no one cared. You know, I have problem
5 with that, with losing the forest.

6 And also, I think we've had this same situation
7 about 50 years ago with interstate. Water was going to
8 destroy our streams, etcetera, etcetera, our wells. Well
9 you know, I don't know what you do with all these trucks
10 today, if we didn't have this interstate system. So I know
11 we have -- I know one person in particular that spoke
12 tonight, and I won't call the name.

13 But however, I don't know of anything he's done
14 that's been positive, been in any civic organizations,
15 etcetera, etcetera. But I hate to see someone that has
16 nothing to say about this country but something negative. I
17 don't know. I have to trust Dominion Power and you folks
18 too to get this job done right. Thank you.

19 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 52 is Hugh Lamb, followed by
20 Joe McCue and Rebecca Lamb.

21 MR. LAMB: Hi. Thank you for coming and thank
22 you for listening. I've seen you take lots of notes
23 tonight, and I certainly appreciate that, and I really
24 appreciate the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County. I
25 think they have done some very good work of providing you

1 with important information, and I hope that this is not a
2 done deal, and that you all will look at that information.

3 And if it really is good information, it will
4 tell you not to build it where they want to build it. So
5 with that said, I hope that when you're making your
6 recommendations up the chain, if you see it getting block,
7 not going the way you think it does, I pray that you will
8 blow the whistle and yell loudly to help us here in Augusta
9 County. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 53 is Joe McCue, followed by
12 Rebecca Lamb and Philip Khnopp.

13 MR. McCUE: Thank you. My name is Joe McCue and
14 I'm from Verona. In its 2013 annual report to stockholders,
15 Dominion boasted that part of its energy portfolio is 10,900
16 miles of natural gas transmission lines. The Atlantic Coast
17 pipeline would be transporting natural gas to some of
18 Dominion's partners, but not to Dominion's own power plants.

19 So my conclusion to that is that the Augusta --
20 the Atlantic Coast pipeline is simply an investment, adding
21 another 550 miles to Dominion's portfolio. Now the expected
22 rate of return has been calculated, and it's designed to
23 enhance stockholder dividends. I think it's safe to say
24 that Dominion would never build anything of this magnitude
25 or cost unless it were profitable.

1 There's a utilities profitability justification
2 for approving a pipeline. Now I'm not the least bit opposed
3 to Dominion making a profit. Utility companies have to make
4 a profit in order to pay above average dividends to attract
5 stockholders. However, I am opposed to Dominion's intention
6 to use eminent domain to force landowners along the route to
7 give up their property rights.

8 My opposition has nothing to do with any bias
9 against natural gas transmission. It has everything to do
10 with a large for-profit politically influential corporation
11 forcing people to give up their property rights, so that
12 that corporation can enhance its portfolio.

13 Those landowners would be forced to allow the
14 pipeline across their land. They'd be forced to give up
15 their right to use that land, and they still have to own the
16 land and it's pretty well devalued by now, and they have to
17 pay taxes on it. All of this, just so Dominion can make
18 more money.

19 Now they have chosen the route through our
20 community because it's the most profitable, and they're
21 counting on FERC to go along with it. So Dominion doesn't
22 really want to highlight this as part of their motivation.
23 All they have to say is this country needs energy
24 independence, and this is in the public good. Because
25 they're a utility company, they can gain access to your

1 property without your permission. Our Virginia legislature
2 has seen to that.

3 Now my question is has Dominion built a solid
4 case that supports their argument, that this project is
5 necessary for domestic energy needs, and that would meet
6 needs --

7 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. McCue, your time is expired.

8 MR. McCUE: Okay, thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 54 is Rebecca Lamb, followed
11 by Philip Khnopp and Hazel Palmer.

12 MS. LAMB: I'm Rebecca Lamb. I live in Stuarts
13 Draft, about half a mile from here where the pipeline is
14 potentially going to go through. I wanted to talk about
15 choices, and the choices that Dominion is making for us as a
16 community. The first route came right alongside areas set
17 aside for endangered species, very easily findable on a map
18 yet that was the route they identified.

19 The next route comes here through Stuarts Draft,
20 an area of high density population for Augusta County, and
21 also an area that the county has identified for its
22 potential growth, and where the county has invested in
23 infrastructure. Also this new route comes through multiple
24 historic properties. Our property, which has been in the
25 family for 215 years, has five structures on it that are in

1 the National Register.

2 Why is this the best place? Our elected
3 officials decided it wasn't the best place. They worked
4 hard to identify an alternate route that would have the
5 least amount of impact on the community, by going through
6 existing easements and Dominion wasn't interested in that.
7 They weren't interested in listening to what the community
8 knew about itself and about its plans for the future. But
9 somehow we're supposed to trust these choices that Dominion
10 is making for us.

11 I know there are people here tonight that believe
12 the pipeline is good for us. You're okay to have your own
13 opinion on that. But think about the route, and think about
14 how the route impacts the growth and the resources here in
15 the community, and I encourage you as you all are studying
16 what Dominion's doing, to look for the route that doesn't
17 have impact endangered species or historic resources, or the
18 economic growth for Augusta County.

19 There's got to be a way to do this, so that we
20 can all have the resources and enjoy the resources, and
21 enjoy the natural gas, without damaging what we love so much
22 here in Augusta County. Thank you.

23 (Appause.)

24 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 55 is Philip Khnopp,
25 followed by Hazel Palmer and Steve Johnson.

1 MR. KHNOPP: Good evening. My name is Phil
2 Khnopp. I'm a resident of Churchill. I wish to speak
3 tonight for my deep and passionate love for the county of
4 Augusta, for the state of Virginia, for the United States of
5 America and for planet Earth. I wish to call your attention
6 to the document, the Sullivan document entitled "Assessment
7 of Augusta County as a Head Water Zone and Associated Risk
8 posed by Pipeline Construction."

9 The previous referred document was recently
10 prepared for one Mr. William Monroe of the Augusta County
11 Service Authority in Augusta County by Sullivan
12 International Group, incorporated in Culpeper, Virginia.
13 This document clearly identifies Augusta County as a
14 uniquely located head waters, which serves as a watershed
15 that feeds numerous small streams which ultimately flow into
16 larger streams and rivers in Augusta County, and to the
17 majority regions of the state, downstream from Augusta, even
18 to the Atlantic Coast portions of our state.

19 The findings of this study highlight the quality
20 and value of the water resources originating in Augusta
21 County and identifies the potential risk of the county's
22 water resources associated with pipeline construction.
23 These findings are clearly addressed -- these findings
24 clearly address the real need for ground water protection
25 and planning in the event of pipeline construction in the

1 area. The findings from risk assessment portion of this
2 document are to be found in Sections 3 and 4 of the same
3 document.

4 In my humble assessment of this document and my
5 knowing of Augusta County as a resident and landowner for
6 more than 50 years, I arrive at the following conclusion.
7 The landscape and infrastructure of Augusta County is
8 entirely too fragile, precious, sensitive and unique to
9 allow Dominion Power of Virginia or any other corporate
10 entity to construct a massive pipeline structure such as ACP
11 upon the domain of this county.

12 It is simply a given fact that we the people will
13 not allow this to occur. We do live in a democracy.
14 Continued use of fossil fuel is the best use of technology
15 available to us, so we are told as Virginia Power,
16 Incorporated stands to reap enormous profits at the great
17 expense of the many.

18 This is predicated on a great mistruth, that
19 there is nothing better. Better than wind, solar and
20 geothermal technologies, which can be used to supply all of
21 our global technology needs. Such other technologies do
22 exist, but they are not being spoken of and continue to be
23 suppressed, as they have now for many years. Now is the
24 time for sweeping revolutionary changes to occur within our
25 planetary culture and technological applications, stronger

1 than armies.

2 It's an idea whose time has come (inaudible).

3 Heads up. Read my lips. Zero point energy technology.

4 Examine the evidence. We do have real alternatives as

5 citizens.

6 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. Khnopp, your time has expired.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. BOWMAN: I'd make a mention there's a white
10 Honda Accord with its lights on in the parking lot. The
11 first letters of the license tag are VDD. The next speakers
12 are Hazel Palmer, Steve Johnson and Misty Bose.

13 MS. PALMER: My name is Hazel Palmer. I own
14 property in Augusta County on the alternate route with
15 Atlantic pipeline. The property is on the west side of the
16 Blue Ridge Mountain, adjoining the Forest Service and Blue
17 Ridge Parkway. I am the fourth generation to own this
18 property, and each generation has taken pride to take care
19 of it.

20 I had it aerial sprayed when the gypsy moth came
21 in. This property is on the last leg of the pipeline before
22 they plan to drill through the mountain to Nelson County.
23 The terrain is steep and rocky, and cutting out the trees
24 for this pipeline will cause erosion and flooding when we
25 have thunderstorms or hard rain. There are four springs on

1 the property that run down to the creek that feed the back
2 creek, that feeds into the South River that runs eventually
3 into the Potomac River.

4 The land is growing in timber that I would lose
5 income from. There are several historical rock fences on
6 the property that I do not want destroyed. This property is
7 my home place, and I hate to see the land that I cherish
8 destroyed by a pipeline. This pipeline is not proposed to
9 go up along the edge of my property; it is proposed to go
10 diagonally across three tracts of my land that I will be
11 unable to sell, and the value will be decreased
12 tremendously.

13 My daughter has to build on this property and the
14 spring. I spoke to you last night from Nelson County High
15 School. When I got home, I had a letter in the mail that
16 said save the trees, go electronic. I am here to plead with
17 you to please save my trees, my springs and rock fences, and
18 don't let them take the income away from the timber that
19 they would destroy. Thank you.

20 (Appause.)

21 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 57 is Steve Johnson,
22 followed by Misty Bose and Spencer Phillips.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. My name is Steve
24 Johnson. I'm a conservation photographer and a college
25 teacher in next door Rockingham County. In conjunction with

1 my students, I've photographed John Geary's beautiful farm.
2 We've also photographed the incredible fragile natural areas
3 currently threatened by the pipeline route. One of those
4 natural areas is Signal Corps Knob, where this is one of the
5 homes of the endemic Kalanob salamander that Lynn Cameron
6 made mention of earlier.

7 This is an incredible creature. Sometimes we
8 hear about these things and we imagine, somebody mentioned
9 the snail darter, that they are these squiggly little
10 creatures that nobody cares about. But I studied them, I
11 watched them. They are beautiful amazing things. In 1994,
12 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the George Washington
13 National Forest entered into a conservation agreement to
14 keep this at-risk species from needing to be listed under
15 the Endangered Species Act.

16 This conservation agreement established the
17 Shenandoah Mountain Crest Conservation Area, with written
18 guidelines that protect habitat for the Kalanob salamander,
19 along with 28 other at-risk species of plants and animals.
20 According to that plan, this area is unsuitable for
21 designation of new utility corridors, unless there is an
22 overriding demonstrated public need or benefit.

23 No new roads may be constructed in Kalanob
24 salamander habitat, and if Kalanob salamanders are found in
25 areas outside the boundaries of the Shenandoah Mountain

1 Crest Management Area, those areas will be subject to the
2 same management measures. In addition to Signal Corps Knob,
3 we're right next door to Maple Flat, Maple Flat Farms.
4 Maybe some of you have fished there or hunted there or
5 looked for rare species there.

6 I go there as a photographer. The other night I
7 was there with the spring peepers and the wood frog chorus
8 going, and after three years of searching, I finally found
9 the state endangered tiger salamander, one of the most
10 amazing creatures I've ever seen, and it lives right here,
11 right next door, and also right next door to one of the
12 proposed pipeline routes.

13 We also have the big rebel salamander, an endemic
14 species. We are really in the heart of one of the most
15 amazing biodiverse regions in the world. You know, recently
16 I've heard reports that Dominion's been telling people that
17 because of concerns about avoiding sensitive environments,
18 they're going to have to go through more neighborhoods.

19 This is a textbook classic strategy for breaking
20 coalitions, by dividing conservationists and property rights
21 advocates. The reality is that we're all in this together.
22 No matter where the proposed pipeline route runs, it's going
23 to affect the forest and forest users, which is all of us,
24 and will affect landowners. So we're all in this together.
25 We live in an amazing place. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 58 is Misty Bose, followed
3 by Spencer Phillips and Elizabeth Briley (ph).

4 MS. BOSE: Hello. My name's Misty Bose. I am
5 the Director of Wild Virginia. We're Charlottesville-based
6 and I live in Charlottesville. We work in -- to protect the
7 national forests here in Virginia, and today I make comments
8 on behalf of Wild Virginia membership, which includes
9 hundreds of citizens seriously concerned about what the ACP
10 could mean for our national forests.

11 The George Washington National Forest, as just
12 mentioned, is not just a patch of land on the path of a
13 pipeline. It is a forest and it is profoundly important to
14 Virginians and to the environmental integrity of our state.
15 It's a stronghold for some of the largest and last
16 unfragmented wildlands in the eastern U.S., and millions of
17 Virginians count on this forest to provide clean drinking
18 water, recreation and tourism income.

19 Over one million visitors each year come to the
20 George Washington National Forest, and they don't come to
21 see industrial infrastructure or a clear cut pipeline right
22 away. Our public lands are no place for this pipeline, and
23 folks must consider the toll that will be taken on our
24 national forests, drinking watersheds and all lands the
25 pipeline will cross.

1 It will degrade and fragment our forests. It
2 will harm sensitive species, wildlife habitat and allow
3 invasive species to enter our forests. Sediment from
4 construction will pollute the water and impact our streams.
5 Most certainly the ACP will make the future industry in the
6 forest even more desirable.

7 Throughout this process, Dominion has failed to
8 consider a route that would maximize use of existing utility
9 corridors and easements, and just the week, the George
10 Washington National Forest approved a permit for Dominion to
11 survey across the George Washington National Forest and no
12 alternative routes using existing easements were considered.

13 We call on FERC to look at this project in its
14 full context, and undertake a complete environmental
15 assessment, documenting the full life cycle effects of the
16 frack gas it will transport, and consider the cumulative
17 effects of all the pipelines it will interact with. This
18 will include the Mountain Valley pipeline.

19 Lastly, we call on FERC to extend the scoping
20 period to a full 90 days. Neither the public nor the
21 responsible state agencies have had enough time to consider
22 and provide meaningful input on their recently released new
23 routes. Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 59 is Spencer Phillips,

1 followed by Elizabeth Briley and William Gage.

2 MR. PHILLIPS: Hi. I'm Spencer Phillips. I am a
3 natural resource economist. I live in Charlottesville. I
4 have been studying NEPA-related economic impacts for about
5 25 years, and I currently teach Environmental Economics as
6 well as Natural Resource Policy at UVA, and I really feel
7 for you guys. You've got a tough job to do here, but like
8 any good professor, it is my job to make a little bit
9 tougher.

10 We'll skip to -- try to stick to things that have
11 to do with the scoping of this study, rather than, you know,
12 anticipating what the outcomes are. First of all, the scope
13 of this EIS. You really could do yourselves a big favor by
14 winding this thing back a little bit and consider doing a
15 programmatic EIS.

16 We have heard a lot about the boom in the gas
17 fields and we've heard a lot about all these miles of
18 pipelines, and of course you're well aware of the other
19 proposals that are there. So if there is a need to get gas
20 from Point A to Point B, as an earlier speaker said, what's
21 the best way to get it there.

22 Do we need three or four or five or ten pipelines
23 going through Virginia to do it, or do you need to consider
24 them piecemeal, or should you roll them up into one
25 programmatic EIS?

1 Within that, of course, you need to establish
2 that there is in fact a purpose and need to get gas from
3 Point A to Point B, and that entails considering what's the
4 future of the Marcellus shale. It's already run into the
5 Red Queen syndrome, which in the energy field means you have
6 to keep drilling more and more and more wells to maintain
7 the profitability. It could very soon before that
8 profitability is gone.

9 Second, and other speakers have spoken to this,
10 you need to develop a proper range of alternatives for
11 getting things from Point A to Point B, even if it were just
12 the ACP. What we have right now are just alternatives that
13 are defined by Dominion and the variations on a theme.
14 There needs to be a no action alternative, as in no
15 pipeline. There needs to be alternatives that go somewhere
16 completely different as many folks have recommended, using
17 existing right-of-ways and so forth.

18 In all of these things, you need to consider the
19 cumulative effects of any action, as well as reasonably
20 foreseeable direct and indirect effects, and those
21 reasonably foreseeable effects include going all the way to
22 where the gas originates, consider the impacts at the
23 drilling sites, the pollution that occurs there and the
24 degradation that can occur there, as well as with the
25 combustion ultimately.

1 It goes to the question of what's the zone of
2 influence. Many landowners are concerned about the
3 right-of-way and the pipeline crossing their land
4 specifically. You know, the 75 foot right-of-way is maybe
5 the depth of this room. The 120 feet is maybe the width of
6 this room for what the construction is going to entail.
7 Think about, however, the evacuation zone for a leak or an
8 explosion.

9 Hit your trip counter when you leave the parking
10 lot tonight and take a look at it again when you get to .067
11 miles, two-thirds of a mile.

12 That's how far away from the pipeline you would
13 have to be to avoid danger from thermal flux incineration or
14 leaking. So that's a little bit wider, and that's the zone
15 within which effects need to be considered, as well as
16 everything downstream, people downstream drinking the water,
17 people downstream using the fish, people downstream
18 purchasing a stay in a hotel or B&B in this area.

19 Those all go to the economic impacts here.
20 Consider external costs, things that won't show up on doing
21 this balance sheet, but they're going to show up in the
22 pocketbooks of everybody who's affected down the line, and
23 I'm out of time. Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 60 is Elizabeth Briley.

1 Elizabeth Briley. The next speaker is up then will be
2 William Gage, followed by Donna Davis and Susan Young.

3 (Pause.)

4 MR. BOWMAN: No William Gage. Donna Davis, Susan
5 Young. Susan Young will be followed by Bill Young and
6 Sherrie Good.

7 MS. DAVIS: I want to talk about safety within
8 the Dominion pipeline. We have some future and unintended
9 consequences with this utility that's supposed to benefit
10 the public. Dominion will be putting this pipeline over our
11 beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, with elevations between 600
12 and 6,000 feet, and through Augusta County, which is full of
13 karst, which you all know is like the holey cheese.

14 It's extremely porous, and that's what's made the
15 Shenandoah Valley and Augusta County the breadbasket of the
16 Civil War, and it's still a good breadbasket. We have great
17 water underground, and that's why Coors Brewery came out to
18 Virginia north of here to take advantage of it, and the
19 great spring waters.

20 Augusta County has over 2,000 sink holes and
21 karst areas, and you already know what they are. They've
22 been talking about it all the time, and we currently know of
23 those 2,000 sink holes. So both the mountain and valley
24 scenarios are full of disaster. This is not flat, steady
25 land, and even in flatter lines these pipelines have had

1 leaks every year some place.

2 The month of January 2015, there were five
3 explosions. Five in one month, in North Dakota, West
4 Virginia and Montana, which emptied toxic petroleum into the
5 Yellowstone River. Can you remember the explosion down in
6 Appomattox, when the pipeline leaked in 2008? It took out
7 two homes and injured five people. There was a 37 foot wide
8 and 15 foot deep crater, and it was caused by corrosion, not
9 by rupture.

10 Local and state governments footed the bill for
11 the pipeline failure, and a \$1 million fine was charged to
12 the corporation. FERC trusts companies, pipeline companies
13 to self-regulate, but obviously this is just not happening.
14 Basically, it's like the fox guarding the hen house. Two
15 weeks ago, there was a gas leak in New Jersey, with a huge
16 explosion in the neighborhood, and you might have seen it on
17 TV.

18 Can you imagine a break on the mountains and
19 setting the Blue Ridge on fire, or a leak in Augusta's sink
20 holes and poisoning our water supply? It amazes me that the
21 Keystone pipeline is still being pushed into existence, when
22 we still have explosion after explosion. They get to
23 destroy and devalue our land, and risk our water supply all
24 under the guise of what?

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 64 is Bill Young, followed
2 by Sherrie Good and Mary Wilson.

3 MR. YOUNG: Good evening. My name is Bill Young.
4 I live in Stuarts Draft. I want to thank publicly Nancy
5 Sorrells, co-chair, co-founder of the Augusta County
6 Alliance organization for her leadership, the hard work and
7 the significant time spent on behalf of all Virginians. My
8 wife and I, along with other volunteers, are in support of
9 this organization's goal, of an alternate, responsible route
10 that will protect property rights, private property rights,
11 socioeconomic, cultural, historical and natural resource
12 routes which Dominion's current proposed routes do not
13 protect.

14 The question I'm asking the Commissioners not in
15 attendance tonight is do these routes seem reasonable to the
16 Commissioners, can we expect support and protection of the
17 future of these rights for all Virginians? Historians
18 believe in the Rotary. In every Rotary meeting we all stand
19 and we talk about four things. Is it the truth, is it fair
20 to all concerned? Will it build good will and stronger
21 friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

22 Commissioners, I admit that I like company stock
23 options, dividends, but not at the expense of my nine
24 grandchildren's future, health or safety. (inaudible)
25 expect cheap gas, low gas prices, but not at the expense of

1 our grandchildren? Dominion, as a businessman I do expect
2 and understand that your profits may be more if the decision
3 is ruled in your favor with the current pipeline route.

4 In my opinion, excess profits are not always the
5 right route in life. Commissioners, if this proposed
6 pipeline route becomes reality, the impacts will be forever.
7 I am proposing that an independent, impartial study be
8 conducted in the use of existing easements and pipeline
9 corridors. Approval of an independent, impartial document
10 will put Commissioners in a statesmanship position for the
11 betterment of all Virginians.

12 An independent study will level the playing field
13 and allow for sufficient time for our Commissioners'
14 verification for all data points. In closing, I sincerely
15 appreciate your professional attention to this important
16 matter. With closure I stayed three hours, because my belt
17 broke in the bathroom, but I'm still here. I believe in
18 what we're doing, and it's not right what's going on to
19 Virginians.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 65 is Sherrie Good, followed
22 by Mary Wilson and Virginia Davis.

23 MS. GOOD: Hi. My name is Sherrie Good. I'm
24 from Rockingham County, and I wanted to first ask Dominion
25 supporters and the FERC reps here if you enjoyed the private

1 party that Dominion held for you here before this meeting.
2 We live in one of the beautiful places on earth. There are
3 many songs written about the beauty of this area, and one of
4 the things that we also have in abundance here is clean
5 water.

6 Clean water is quickly becoming the most valuable
7 resource on earth. It is worth more than all the campaign
8 contributions Dominion can make. Last year, Dominion gave
9 \$744,000 in campaign contributions to Virginia politicians.
10 In this district, Mr. Deeds received \$17,500 one year from
11 Dominion, but he also got \$5,000 that year from Eva Hardy, a
12 chief lobbyist for Dominion. So that doesn't really show up
13 in the campaign contribution list.

14 You might think -- that's \$23,500, which is
15 nothing to Dominion. But it's a lot for a local politician
16 here. What have I heard tonight? Pipeline gas is clean
17 energy. I say tell that to the people who live in the
18 fracking fields of West Virginia. Methane leaks occur at
19 all stages of gas extraction, which is worse than CO2.
20 Please go home and look that up.

21 It says we'll have jobs, jobs here. Dominion
22 admitted at the first meeting before the Augusta County
23 Board that they will use union laborers for building the
24 pipeline. They bring them in. They're not going to train
25 local people, but they will use our restaurants and hotels.

1 That's the jobs. But what they would also do is use our
2 school districts, as they drag their transient families from
3 work site to work site.

4 They say it's safe, and I saw on TV one of the
5 reps from Dominion one night being interviewed, and he was
6 asked about karst. He said that they have special
7 engineering to deal with that. I said please tell. The
8 pipeline needed for energy. Pipelines are better than
9 transport by train. I say neither of these is the answer.
10 Extracting gas expediates the use of fossil fuel burning,
11 non-renewable energy sources.

12 This is by design. Dominion pays off politicians
13 in West Virginia to vote for their interests, as well as
14 voting against renewable energy companies from coming into
15 their state. Personally, I have 24 solar panels in my
16 backyard. I have eight batteries in my basement, and I can
17 live off grid.

18 When it snows, I have a snow broom. I knock it
19 off and I call that making electricity. It's, you know,
20 don't be fooled to think that renewables don't work. They
21 work beautifully. I lived in Alexandria, Virginia before I
22 moved back home, and I had 12 panels on my roof. I was
23 totally off grid. Where Dominion says this gas isn't for
24 export, they say that because -- they say -- they're tricky.
25 You've got to watch what they say, because maybe the gas in

1 this ACP. But look at the title. It's Atlantic Coast
2 pipeline. We live on the Atlantic Coast, but the --

3 MR. BOWMAN: Ms. Good, your time has expired.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BOWMAN: The next speakers are Mary Wilson,
6 Virginia Davis, Tracy Pyles.

7 MS. WILSON: My name is Mary Wilson. I live a
8 good life on Verily Pine Road in West Augusta, and we have
9 bears, and should a pipeline explosion occur here I am in
10 the melt zone, and that that is better than the sacrifice
11 zone near me. I agree with the objections my neighbors here
12 tonight have expressed regarding the proposed Atlantic Coast
13 pipeline. Three minutes is clearly not enough time to list
14 the ways this is so wrong.

15 I want to remind you that many of us have
16 full-time jobs, children to raise, farms and businesses to
17 run, and many of us have put our lives on hold to fight the
18 threat to our community. I was born and raised in the
19 Shenandoah Valley, as well as my grandparents and my
20 children. We learned to respect our environment and love
21 the mountains.

22 The proposed Atlantic Coast pipeline shows little
23 respect for the land and for those of us who live on the
24 land. A speaker tonight called those who opposed the
25 pipeline selfish, and I can't imagine who can be more

1 selfish than Dominion. So I keep wandering what can I do?
2 What can I do or say to make a real difference, because
3 there's a real disconnect between D.C. and the George
4 Washington National Forest.

5 So what I ask of FERC is that each Commissioner
6 who has a vote, to please come and take a walk in the woods.
7 Each voting FERC member has a responsibility to witness
8 exactly what is at risk of being sacrificed for the
9 pipeline. I would be happy to facilitate making this a
10 reality. My name is Mary Wilson. Even in the woods, my
11 solar works great too. We also shovel snow off and make
12 electricity, and I have another minute.

13 When I was in college, we didn't have computers.
14 There is a way -- we do have the brain power to find answers
15 that don't involve fossil fuels for our users. This is just
16 stupid. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 67 is Virginia Davis,
19 followed by Jennifer Davis and Meredith Baker.

20 MS. DAVIS: Hi. My name is Virginia Davis. I am
21 here to speak against the pipeline. I just received a
22 letter from Atlantic Coast Dominion pipeline, wanting to
23 survey my property because I am apparently part of a new
24 alternate route. I live approximately 2,500 feet from this
25 school on Route 340. I have lived in Stuarts Draft my

1 entire life.

2 My husband and I started our family business on
3 the property in 1998. Our property is 200 feet wide. Our
4 home sits 50 feet from our neighbor's property. Our
5 business store and parking lot are 140 feet wide. My family
6 lives the American dream. We own our land for what it's
7 worth. We own a small family business on it called Stuarts
8 Draft Farm Market, which is a farm stand that sells fresh
9 produce.

10 Our home is located steps from our business. We
11 have a million dollar view from our front yard of the Blue
12 Ridge Mountains and pristine farmland. We have a million
13 dollar view on the back of the Allegheny Mountains, and
14 pristine farmland. The water that we drink is clear,
15 odorless and tastes good.

16 Dominion talks about everything the pipeline can
17 create. I am here to tell you what it can ruin. It can
18 ruin our million dollar view. It can ruin our water
19 quality. It can ruin our property value. It can ruin our
20 family business. It can ruin our way of life, our American
21 dream. The noise, disruption and construction from the
22 pipeline can ruin our business, because no matter where it
23 crosses, it will adversely affect some aspect of it.

24 But Dominion Atlantic Coast pipeline claims they
25 can create jobs. So after it ruins our family business and

1 way of life, maybe we can go bleachers and sell tickets to
2 watch the devastation. Maybe our son can get a job as a
3 flagger on the construction crew. No matter where the
4 pipeline crosses, our home and business will be in the blast
5 zone, close enough to a 42-inch potential explosive
6 pipeline.

7 It will be the first thing we think of every
8 morning, and the last thing we think of every night, other
9 than getting sucked into a sink hole caused by dynamiting
10 all the surrounding rock. Our only consolation that if the
11 pipeline explodes, we won't need to worry about being maimed
12 or given third degree burns. We will be dead. We plan on
13 fighting the pipeline, because we think -- no, we know that
14 our American dream is worth fighting for.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 68 is Jennifer Davis,
17 followed by Meredith Baker and Morgan Liddick.

18 MS. DAVIS: (inaudible)

19 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

20 MS. DAVIS: So I'm with Friends of Augusta. When
21 I was thinking about what I'd say tonight, I thought of all
22 the reasons I oppose the pipeline. I believe the use of
23 eminent domain by a private, for-profit company is
24 unethical, greedy and unjust. I can't believe that it's
25 legal in America to take the land of private citizens to

1 benefit the stakeholders of a multi-billion corporation.

2 I also think of the effect that it would have on
3 our wildlife that some of us work so hard to protect. We
4 have a nesting pair, which also means breeding; they've got
5 babies coming soon, bald eagles close to where the pipeline
6 is proposed to go. Eagles are extremely sensitive to
7 changes in their environment and to loud noises.

8 We have put so many resources into revitalizing
9 their population that it doesn't make sense to jeopardize
10 their lives now. I'm also concerned about the fragmentation
11 of the forest and how it disrupts entire ecosystems, and
12 makes it vulnerable to invasive species. My husband and I
13 spent a lot of time hiking the trails off the Blue Ridge
14 Parkway, and have fond memories of seeing black bears and
15 hawks.

16 I could go on about my concerns about the route
17 being so close to our schools and nursing homes, and how
18 nervous it makes me feel. But you know what my biggest
19 concern is, what keeps me up at night, and trust me, there's
20 been many sleepless night over this threat of the pipeline
21 coming through the places that I love and cherish?

22 My biggest concern is the cozy relationships
23 between you, Dominion and our elected officials. At these
24 open house meetings, it's actually hard to tell who's who.
25 Thank goodness y'all wear different shirts. I asked a FERC

1 representative at the open house earlier this month what
2 FERC's role was at these meetings, and he says to advocate
3 for the process, and encouraged me to talk to my elected
4 officials if I wanted someone to advocate on my behalf.

5 I laughed, as maybe some of you would too, that
6 our elected officials are also in bed with Dominion. We the
7 people feel that we have no voice, yet we are the ones that
8 will be directly affected. We're the ones that have to live
9 with this pipeline, have to deal with any accidents or
10 explosions that seem to happen daily in this country, and
11 then deal with years of litigation to get someone to be
12 responsible to clean up the mess and pay for damages.

13 Articles about these explosions, which are all
14 smaller than the one being proposed here, all cite poor
15 contractor and subcontractor work and liability. In a 2013
16 report by the Director of Division and Utility Railroad
17 Safety of the SEC, stated that contractors perform the
18 largest share of new construction, replacement and
19 maintenance of underground utility lines, that many
20 contractors have a culture of minimal compliance, and many
21 utilities have little or have no or little inspection
22 programs over their contractors.

23 Recent pipeline explosions are a direct result of
24 poor oversight and poorly enforced regulations. These
25 recent pipeline explosions have caused death, damage to

1 property and contamination, and none of them are as big as
2 the pipeline that's being proposed here, and this again,
3 goes close to our schools and neighborhood. Dominion has --

4 MR. BOWMAN: Ms. Lewis.

5 MS. LEWIS: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 69 is Meredith Baker,
8 followed by Morgan Liddick and Jack Wilson.

9 MS. BAKER: I'm Meredith Baker. I have four lots
10 on 20 acres on the beautiful Back Creek, which flows out of
11 Sherando Lake in the George Washington National Forest,
12 which is close to the Appalachian Trail alternative. I
13 don't have facts and figures tonight, although I greatly
14 appreciate all the research and the information that many
15 others have brought before you.

16 But my viewpoint comes from more of a feeling.
17 It's about the destruction of dreams. When I look at the
18 alternative route, it looks like it was designed to go
19 through the more densely divided lands along Reed's Gap Road
20 and Mount Torrey Roads, thereby disturbing many more
21 families and future home sites, and dreams than on the
22 original route.

23 We live on smaller, quieter properties, not in
24 town because of a love for God's creation and the quiet
25 beauty of the natural forests and streams in the Sherando

1 community. I purchased my land 25 years ago, with a dream
2 of having a Christ-centered women's retreat along 1,000 feet
3 of Back Creek. I've worked ever since that day of purchase
4 to save, plan and prepare this land for my retirement and
5 the dream of a retreat.

6 In 2010, my dream came true. I retired into my
7 newly-built dream home overlooking Back Creek at 3104 Mount
8 Torrey Road, and just this past summer, I completely
9 renovated and enlarged one of my first cabins at 3106 Mount
10 Torrey Road. My neighbors and I may not have the
11 inclination or the money for lawyers or protest campaigns.
12 We actually haven't had a whole lot of time to react to the
13 alternate route.

14 But I do hope that the many voices of these
15 smaller landowners impacted along this route can speak
16 louder than money and corporate political clout. I'm living
17 my dream, but I'm not the only person along this route with
18 mountain home and dreams. This route is disturbing many
19 more dreams and families than it should.

20 Just in my case, the alternative pipeline route
21 is going through all four of my lots, and a new road that I
22 built two years ago to get access to three future buildings
23 sites and the creek. It will pass directly in front of my
24 new dream house at 3104, and the newly-renovated cabin at
25 3106. It's going through the septic field of both, between

1 the cabin and the spring that supplies water to it, between
2 my house and the well that supplies water to me. The
3 current location of the alternate --

4 MR. BOWMAN: Ms. Baker, your time has expired.

5 MS. BAKER: Okay, thank you.

6 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 70 is Morgan Liddick,
9 followed by Jack Wilson and Harry Crosby.

10 MR. LIDDICK: Thank you. My name is Morgan
11 Liddick. I am a relatively recent arrival in Stuarts Draft.
12 Imagine my surprise. I'd like to thank the members of the
13 committee for coming out and listening tonight. Hopefully,
14 you hear us as well.

15 Most of the environmental concerns that I've
16 heard voiced tonight are not only I think amenable to
17 solution by engineering, but also are offset by a simple
18 question: Compared to what? We live in the real world, so
19 we should probably admit that gas generation of electrical
20 power is preferable to coal, that railroad transport of
21 dangerous petrochemicals is not preferable to the pipeline
22 and that nuclear -- well, never mind nuclear; also that wind
23 and solar are probably insufficient at present to supply
24 baseline power.

25 So none of this means that the Atlantic Coast

1 pipeline should be built. The problem is not the material
2 it carries, the material it goes through, the structure of
3 the route. The problem is the operator. Dominion has been,
4 throughout this process, not only untrustworthy, but a bad
5 actor.

6 Here are some of the things that it said. It
7 asserts that the ACP will lower energy costs and thereby
8 benefit rate payers, which is historically laughable, unless
9 people in this room know something about their electric
10 bills that I have yet to discover. Maybe that's why this
11 year, they used their pet legislature to exempt themselves
12 from financial review and so make any of their assertions
13 along these lines impossible to verify. It also helps deal
14 with those nasty things like rebates to customers when they
15 overcharge.

16 You've heard tonight about their obstinate
17 resistance to alternative routes. You've heard that they've
18 used threats of legal action against landowners, and that
19 they quickly resort to the threat of eminent domain. The
20 last, although legal, is odious. It proposes to use the
21 power of government to transfer private property rights from
22 one party to another, for the latter's benefit.

23 In the Commonwealth of Virginia, that gave this
24 republic four of the first six presidents, that should be
25 sufficient grounds for a no to Dominion for its bad actions.

1 Thank you gentlemen. Good evening.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 71 is Jack Wilson, followed
4 by Harry Crosby and Pam Gibson.

5 MR. WILSON: I came here with a lot more than
6 three minutes' worth of things that are wrong with the
7 pipeline. There's something wrong in it for everybody. But
8 I came in and I had to change, because what I would like to
9 ask specifically is that FERC reject this as a broken
10 process. Anybody in this room had to come by hundreds of
11 signs put up by Dominion. We had to sleep through an hour
12 of padded talks supported by Dominion.

13 Dominion is the applicant. This is a forum for
14 the local residents that are impacted. I am a local
15 resident. As my wife mentioned, my home is in the melt
16 zone, and that's the melt zone for a 20-inch pipeline. This
17 is a 42-inch pipeline, so I guess probably in the sacrifice
18 zone. I'm spending my children's inheritance on the only
19 restaurant between Monterey and Churchville, the historic
20 Whiteway Diner. Raise your hand if you've had the bread.

21 We spent twice as much on the septic system at
22 the Whiteway, as we did on the building itself, so now we
23 can have free pees and no poo in the river. But I guess I'm
24 supposed to do some of the jobs, hire minimum wage
25 waitresses to feed the pipeline workers. But they can't use

1 the bathroom, unless it's going to go right in the river.

2 Health department regulations, in all fairness,
3 an ecological necessity, says you can't have 300 pipeline
4 workers in your bathrooms. We've got a septic system that's
5 good for 20 seats, and that's fair. I don't want to put it
6 in the river, but the jobs that are proposed by Dominion,
7 which are not there. There may be two local mowing jobs
8 spraying Roundup on the pipeline, but the pipefitters aren't
9 from here.

10 So I heard that we were supposed to charge FERC
11 with what they should do, because I'm not a geologist. I
12 can't convince them karst is no good. But FERC needs to
13 document the jobs we will have to put up. Our first
14 responders are county supervisors who were cut off in this
15 process, which is another reason why FERC needs to reject
16 this, and last night's hoax of a meeting that was also
17 padded by Dominion.

18 It is not a fair scoping process. Our
19 supervisors were cut off. I'm going to be cut off here in
20 30 seconds. But the jobs we need are the first responders.
21 Who is going to handle this blast zone? Who's going to buy
22 the equipment to handle it, and FERC needs to study that.
23 FERC needs to address the DOE studies that say we don't need
24 more pipelines.

25 Recent study, last week, got plenty of pipelines,

1 particularly in this part of the country, which is not the
2 northeast. We had no routes in the pipeline process. FERC
3 needs to fine Dominion for the false information, and for
4 the actions it did in West Virginia they were fined.

5 Dominion needs to be criminally prosecuted if
6 they have criminal behavior. We had on our property a
7 surveyor --

8 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. Wilson, your time has expired.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 72 is Harry Crosby, followed
11 by Pam Gibson and Tim Lane.

12 MR. CROSBY: My name is Harry Crosby, and our
13 family farm is west of Stanton in the Hebrew Church area.
14 Members of the Commission, thank you for being here tonight
15 to listen. In 1971, my grandparents, against their wishes,
16 signed documents that allowed VEPCO, the forerunner of
17 Dominion Power, to build a high power transmission line
18 across their property.

19 The line was a huge project for its day, and I
20 can remember as a teen the construction, and the men moving
21 the long electric poles through the neighborhood that
22 summer. The result of that project is still visible today
23 for our family. Giant poles and lines traversing our farm,
24 blocking one of the most beautiful views of the Allegheny
25 Mountains to the west.

1 The lines are a constant reminder of how Dominion
2 has changed the landscape in our neighborhood. Road
3 frontage property that at one time would have been potential
4 building sites, are now devalued because of the power lines.
5 Fast forward 44 years, and Dominion is at our doorstep
6 again, preaching the same story of economic development,
7 prosperity and jobs, and again we and our entire community
8 of farmers and homeowners are asked to do the right thing,
9 and allow Dominion to build a high pressure gas pipeline
10 through our properties.

11 This time, the project will out of sight, below
12 the surface of the ground, but never out of mind. Our way
13 of life, the way we farm and the loss in property values
14 will be impacted forever, and forever is a long time. The
15 potential path of the pipeline would cut through the middle
16 of one of the most productive fields we own.

17 Construction will destroy the soil profile and
18 render that land unproductive for many years. There is no
19 way that soil, once removed, can be replaced and not have an
20 impact on productivity. At one of the question and answer
21 meetings at Expo last fall, we were told that we might not
22 be allowed to traverse the pipeline with heavy farm
23 equipment, including a combine, a real and certain impact
24 for our operation.

25 Right now, the farm is a productive

1 income-generating entity, but that may not always be the
2 case. Future generations may not desire or be able to
3 continue the agricultural pursuit, and may not want or need
4 -- and may want or need to develop the land. That option
5 will not be available if the Atlantic Coast pipeline is
6 built.

7 There is no way anyone in their right mind would
8 buy a building lot anywhere near a gas pipeline of this
9 scale. For Dominion to say that the pipeline will not
10 impact property values is ridiculous. The very notion is an
11 insult to us all. In closing, I think it is just asking too
12 much of the citizens of Augusta County to shoulder the
13 burden of a pipeline. The loss of land value is something
14 that will never be recovered.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. BOWMAN: The next speakers are Pam Gibson,
17 Tim Layne and Susan Brooks.

18 MS. GIBSON: Hello. My name is Pam Gibson. I
19 live in Churchville. We've lived in Virginia for 23 years,
20 and I ask some things of FERC tonight. My request is to ask
21 FERC to take the big picture into account, but people have
22 -- some people have addressed the cumulative effect of the
23 many pipelines, so I won't belabor that.

24 But the big picture also involves a change in the
25 social climate of the area, with male workers with money in

1 their pockets at night and nothing to do. Things are so bad
2 at this point in the Bakken shale that not only are women
3 being trafficked into service the gas workers, but the
4 social workers who try to rescue trafficked women are now
5 moving in. It's that bad.

6 The big picture also involves moving continual
7 heavy equipment during the building of the pipeline on all
8 of the roads, and God forbid if fracking occurs. It takes
9 6,790 truck trips for each individual horizontal well dug.
10 So my first request is look at the big picture. My second
11 request is look at with whom you are dealing.

12 I know people have addressed this, but in Susan
13 Young's henhouse, it needs a little more. Dominion has been
14 caught in a large number of lies, has already been fined for
15 their operation at Cove Point, has built a golf course out
16 of coal ash without a liner, thus contaminating a
17 community's water with arsenic, chromium, lead, beryllium,
18 manganese and zinc.

19 The owners of Battlefield Golf Course are suing
20 Dominion for \$40 billion. Their former partners in the
21 project said that Dominion was looking for a cheap way to
22 dispose of their coal ash. So they not only used 1.5
23 million tons of it to build the course, but they got a
24 variance to do it without a liner. So not only does
25 Dominion treat landowners badly; they can't even do an

1 honest deal with another company.

2 As one example of a lie we were told by Dominion,
3 they said that they don't use herbicides. Yet on tape, a
4 Dominion said to a Nelson County landowner that they would
5 "defoliate" when encountering brush. Defoliate means use
6 Agent Orange, the nerve poison and carcinogenic chemical
7 used to destroy the ecosystem in Vietnam.

8 Agent Orange is used in logging to aerial spray,
9 and I assume that Dominion would be no different. We could
10 say planes flying over and dumping this lethal combination
11 of 24D and 245T on our plant growth. The bottom line for
12 Dominion is only money. We ask Dominion's engineer why a
13 42-inch pipeline. She replied because that's what the
14 market will bear. Not because that's what we can safely do
15 or that's what's really needed, or any other reasoned
16 response, but because we are greedy and we can sell that
17 much gas.

18 On top of gas, not grass; I wish it was grass --
19 on top of this Dominion has bought and paid for Virginia,
20 which means that democracy in Virginia is all but dead.
21 Virginia's legislators are not only falling all over
22 themselves to please Dominion, but they're unlikely to
23 support us not if, but when something goes wrong.

24 People here are pouring out their hearts about
25 their lives. They stand to lose all that they worked for --

1 MR. BOWMAN: Ms. Gibson, your time has expired.

2 MS. GIBSON: My time is up. Okay.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker 74 is Tim Layne, followed by
5 Susan Brooks and Marian Roberts.

6 MR. LAYNE: Thank you. My name is Tim Layne. I
7 am a lifelong resident of Augusta County. I am also an
8 educator. So I'll begin with this quote by Thomas
9 Jefferson. "Charged with the care of the general interest
10 of the nation, and among these with the preservation of
11 their lands from intrusion, I exercise on their behalf a
12 right given by nature to all men, individual or associated,
13 that of rescuing their own property wrongfully taken."

14 From where I stand tonight gentlemen, that is
15 your responsibility. You are scientists and you serve our
16 government, which means you serve us. You have heard a
17 great deal of experts tonight, speaking about geology,
18 speaking about our water, speaking about why environmentally
19 this pipeline should not go in the way it is currently
20 proposed.

21 As far as I'm concerned, you can walk out of here
22 right now with the proper decision, which is no, this should
23 not be built. I will however continue, in terms of my stake
24 in this. My family and I live within three miles of the
25 proposed pipeline route. While we are fortunate that our

1 property does not lie in the direct route of the pipeline,
2 and I sincerely feel for those who do. Like anyone else who
3 lives in the area, as you have heard repeatedly tonight, we
4 are dependent upon underground water supplies to feed our
5 wells and provide us with drinking water.

6 This pipeline, due to the karst geology, which
7 you have also heard about repeatedly tonight, poses a major
8 threat to those water supplies. Not just to me, not just to
9 those who live around me, not just to those on wells, but
10 every single person in this county, the surrounding counties
11 and the state.

12 It is this immediate threat that concerns me the
13 most. One leak that goes undetected and acted on for mere
14 minutes, arguably the least severe thing that can happen,
15 could result in the complete and irreversible contamination
16 of our water source, and would in turn render our property
17 uninhabitable.

18 Not only would we not be able to live there, but
19 its value would be compromised as well. Who would buy land
20 such as that. I have little confidence in Dominion's
21 ability to fix such an occurrence, or to make it right, as
22 they often reply to such questions, given the evasiveness
23 and vagueness of those responses.

24 Beyond my immediate concern, I am also concerned
25 for my fellow residents in the county as a whole. Simply

1 put, this pipeline will offer no benefit whatsoever to this
2 county, especially when compared to the impact it would have
3 in return. No permanent jobs, no use of the gas it is
4 transmitting, no direct revenue from the gas, not even
5 royalties to the people whose land it would affect.

6 In exchange, the county will get permanent
7 environmental destruction. This cannot be undone, as well
8 as the theft of property under so-called eminent domain,
9 which does not exist to benefit corporations, who will live
10 with daily threats of contaminated water, harmful fumes,
11 devastating explosions and the loss of life.

12 In closing, I ask for you to do for us as
13 Jefferson once did for those he served, the people, to
14 rescue our property, our livelihoods, our county --

15 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. Layne, your time has expired.

16 MR. LAYNE: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. BOWMAN: The next speakers are Susan Brooks
19 and Marion Roberts.

20 MS. ROBERTS: Oh. I've waited too long for this.
21 You folks have heard it all. I'm Marion Roberts. I'm 88,
22 almost 89. I've been 39 years on this piece of property. I
23 have a pipeline right on the property line. There's 120
24 feet, I'm looking it up, but I won't be looking long. But
25 somebody's got to do the right thing.

1 They started out with a ten-inch line. They took
2 that out. Then they got 20. They're rather greedy. 42
3 inches is this, 42 inches. Think about these two trailers,
4 well not trailers, train fires that they have, where it took
5 two days to put the fire out. What do you think this is
6 going to be for us? I live right near 262 in Stanton,
7 Virginia. We built this beautiful loop around Stanton to
8 protect the people.

9 Inside Stanton, it's very poorly built. There is
10 only two places where you can go around the block and come
11 back. It would take me (inaudible). Anyway, everybody will
12 run this 262 that runs around Stanton. The people inside,
13 because you can't get anyplace. You take a road that goes
14 up in a subdivision. You just wonder around.

15 We have seven, no eight roads. The pipeline is
16 going to come through Churchville, and I said why? That's
17 where the rock is. All the rock in this area will come from
18 rocks, coal, I mean stone quarry. What do you think these
19 poor little roads that we have in Stanton are going to do
20 with all these trucks?

21 I inquired, and they said they're going to take
22 the bed of the pipe. Have you ever seen the size of their
23 trucks? Some of it will, but basically they're going to use
24 standard trucks, like two ton trucks like we have here, to
25 haul this rock, and our roads are going to just look like

1 some of the stuff that's happening in West Virginia, that
2 hasn't been addressed.

3 People, we need to think. This thing's awful
4 big. This is 42 inches. Just think of this. Never been
5 done before. Why don't they put two 20 inch and make it
6 safer? But to take this big thing, I worry about the future
7 of everybody sitting here, and then I also worry about all
8 of the people that were before me, that have to suffer the
9 property losses. Put your whole life into everything that
10 you work for --

11 MR. BOWMAN: Ms. Roberts, your time has expired.

12 MS. ROBERTS: It always does. Bye.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker, 77, is Robert
15 Hanshaw.

16 (No response.)

17 MR. BOWMAN: Mr. Hanshaw's not here. Ruth Jost.

18 MS. JOST: Hello. I'm Ruth Jost. I'm from
19 Harrisonburg in Rockingham County. Thank you. I admire all
20 of you who have come here to speak out so movingly as you
21 have this evening. My husband and I got a call. We got a
22 call from Dominion, asking us to come to this hearing. We
23 don't know what that call was about, but apparently a number
24 of people got the call to come here this evening to speak.

25 We were not the right kind of call that they

1 wanted to make. We are not aware of what the goodies were
2 that were available before to some people. But I want to
3 speak to the question of trust. A number of people have
4 spoken this evening and said -- have remarked about their
5 willingness to trust Dominion. I have to say that Dominion
6 has opposed the development of solar in my community.

7 My sister's church embarked on a big process to
8 have a major solar installation on the roof of the church.
9 The prices for solar have dropped enormously, and it's
10 profitable within about five years as many of you know.

11 They threatened that church with a cease and
12 desist order, and insisted that they would not allow a solar
13 power purchase agreement, that you have to be an entity that
14 uses only solar power, a misinterpretation of the law, that
15 they could put that church through a lot of trouble if they
16 went forward to have to litigate that issue.

17 They had to go another alternative with the
18 lease. That alternative isn't available now. Dominion is
19 not able to stand there and say that these alternatives
20 don't work. They're trying to make sure they don't work,
21 and they've been working on a plan that doesn't have them
22 doing significant solar and alternatives until about 2020.

23 They've also got, as we've heard and said before,
24 a five-year exemption from fee regulation. How do you get
25 that? Is that some kind of a wonderful gift that came down?

1 No. They are a profit-making monopoly that takes our money
2 and has enough from us to have a lot extra to give to the
3 General Assembly members. I don't know what else is
4 bribery. It's a certain level. It's not real direct, it's
5 not real indirect either and it's serious, and it's part of
6 your career and your work as members of FERC to deal with
7 the results of that.

8 You have a responsibility to look at
9 environmental impacts, and I want to say to you. Even if
10 they're large, you have to look at them. What about
11 methane? What if the methane that comes just from having
12 leaked right here? What if you had to consider that?
13 That's serious, that's important. Methane is 30 to 100
14 times as bad, a global heat warming -- heat trapping gas
15 substance.

16 But it's also important to the rest of the world.
17 That makes it no less important for you to note it here.
18 This is part of the most important obligation you can have.
19 I think your response to this kind of project might be one
20 of the most serious moral decisions you ever make, and that
21 you tell your children about, that you stood up and looked
22 not just at the tremendous local impacts, but the fact that
23 we know from the Intergovernmental Panel's Climate Change
24 report, that the only way forward for humans to thrive is to
25 keep fossil fuels in the ground. We can do it.

1 MR. BOWMAN: Ms. Jost, your time is expired.

2 MS. JOST: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. BOWMAN: Unfortunately at this time, we do
5 not have this facility for any longer, so we will have to
6 adjourn today's meeting at this point. For those of you
7 that did not get a chance to speak and sign up, you can
8 still file written comments with the FERC, and they will
9 carry equal weight as if you had spoken tonight, as FERC
10 treats both verbal and written comments equally in our
11 analysis.

12 You can file comments online at our website at
13 www.ferc.gov. On that page, you can select the e-Library
14 link and input the docket number PF-15-6 and PF-15-5 to
15 access everything related to this project, whether it is
16 issuances by the Commission, filings by Dominion or comments
17 by other stakeholders.

18 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
19 Commission, thank you for coming tonight. This meeting is
20 officially adjourned.

21 (Whereupon at 10:23 p.m., the meeting was
22 adjourned.)

23

24

25