

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

2 (6:10 p.m.)

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: If you could all take your
4 seats, we'll get started soon.

5 (Pause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Good evening, everyone. On
7 behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC
8 or the Commission, I'd like to welcome you here tonight.
9 The primary purpose of this meeting is to give you an
10 opportunity to provide comments on the Nexus Gas
11 Transmission Project and the Texas Eastern Appalachian Lease
12 or TEAL Project.

13 Let the record show that the public scoping
14 meeting began at 6:10 p.m. on April 29th, 2015.

15 My name is Joanne Wachholder. I'm an
16 environmental project manager with FERC's Office of Energy
17 Projects. Also from FERC today is Alisa Lykens, and also
18 representing FERC are John Muelenhausen, Abby Cordy, and
19 April Holdren with Mergent, that's an environmental
20 consulting firm that are assisting us in production of the
21 environmental impact statement or EIS that will be prepared
22 for the projects.

23 So you know, back there is a court reporter. So
24 we will be having a transcription service of the meeting to
25 make sure that the comments are accurately received.

1 A transcript of this meeting will be placed in
2 the public record so that everyone has access to the
3 information discussed here tonight.

4 I'll quickly run through the agenda for tonight's
5 meeting. I'll start out by briefly explaining the role of
6 FERC and our application process. I'll also describe the
7 projects that are before us. Then we'll here from those of
8 you who signed up to speak at the table in the back and make
9 formal comments on the projects.

10 If we have time at the end of the meeting, anyone
11 who did not sign up but would like to have their comments
12 heard will have a chance to speak. The meeting will end
13 once all speakers have provided their comments or by 10
14 p.m., whichever comes first.

15 I would like to begin by describing the FERC.
16 FERC is an independent agency that, among other things,
17 regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas. We
18 review proposals and authorize construction of interstate
19 natural gas pipelines, storage facilities, and liquefied
20 natural gas terminals. As a federal licensing agency, the
21 FERC has the responsibility under the National Environmental
22 Policy Act or NEPA to consider the potential environmental
23 impacts associated with the jurisdictional project.

24 With regard to the Nexus and TEAL projects the
25 FERC is the lead federal agency for the NEPA review and the

1 preparation of the environmental impact statement.

2 The Commission is made up of five members who are
3 appointed by the president and approved by the Senate. The
4 Commission staff, which includes me and Lisa, prepares
5 technical information to assist the Commissioners in making
6 their decisions. When a company wants to build pipeline
7 facilities to transport and sell natural gas in interstate
8 commerce, the company files an application with the
9 Commission. Nexus and Texas Eastern plan to file their
10 applications in November of 2015 and are requesting
11 Commission's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
12 by November of 2016.

13 As an introduction to the planned projects, Nexus
14 has indicated that it plans to construct about 250 miles of
15 new 36-inch diameter pipeline in northern Ohio and
16 southeastern Michigan, up to 130,000 horsepower of
17 compression at four new natural gas-fired compressor
18 stations in northern Ohio, and four new metering stations in
19 northern Ohio and four new metering stations in northern
20 Ohio and southeastern Michigan.

21 The Nexus Project would provide up to 1,500,000
22 dekatherms per day of natural gas to various markets in the
23 U.S. Midwest and Canada. Texas Eastern has indicated that
24 it plans to construct 4.5 miles of pipeline looping adjacent
25 to its existing line 30 in Monroe County, Ohio, install an

1 additional 9,400 horsepower of compression at its currently
2 approved Colerain compressor station in Belmont County,
3 Ohio, construct one new compressor station with 18,800
4 horsepower in Columbiana County, Ohio, and make additional
5 piping modifications.

6 The TEAL Project would provide up to 950,000
7 dekatherms per day of natural gas from the Appalachian basin
8 to various markets in the U.S. Midwest and Canada via a
9 lease of the capacity to Nexus.

10 It is important for everyone to understand that
11 the planned projects are not conceived by and are not
12 promoted by the FERC or our cooperating agencies. The FERC
13 staff reviews applications for the authority to build and
14 operate interstate natural gas pipelines and Nexus and Texas
15 Eastern are in the process of routing their pipelines and
16 preparing applications to submit to FERC.

17 Once the applications are submitted, our
18 obligation is to review the applications and prepare an
19 analysis of the environmental impacts.

20 Tonight's meeting is not a public hearing. We
21 are not here to debate the proposal or to make any
22 determinations on its fate. We are here to listen to your
23 concerns so that we can consider them in our analysis of the
24 potential natural and human environmental impacts of the
25 projects and how those impacts might be reduced or avoided.

1 If there are any general objections or support to the
2 project or other non-environmental issues concerning the
3 proposal, those issues would be considered by the Commission
4 in its determination of the project's public convenience and
5 necessity whereas environmental and safety impacts are
6 addressed by FERC environmental staff in our EIS.

7 In other words, the Commission wants to hear your
8 concerns about the non-environmental impacts, however, those
9 issues will be addressed in different ways.

10 Now, I want to briefly describe our environmental
11 review process. We are currently near the beginning of our
12 environmental review process. Nexus and Texas Eastern
13 entered into FERC's prefiling process on January 9th and
14 26th of this year respectively which began our review of the
15 projects.

16 The purpose of the prefiling process is to
17 encourage involvement by all interested stakeholders in a
18 manner that allows for the early identification and
19 resolution of environmental issues. The FERC docket numbers
20 for the projects are PF15-10-000 and PF15-11-000. The PF
21 means prefiling and no formal application has been filed at
22 FERC for the projects. Once Nexus and Texas Eastern file
23 formal applications, new docket numbers will be assigned
24 with a CP docket number designation. The goal of prefiling
25 is to get information from the public as well as agencies

1 and other groups so that we can incorporate all substantive
2 issues of concern into our review.

3 On April 8th, 2015, FERC issued a notice of
4 intent to prepare an environmental impact statement also
5 known as an NOI for the Nexus and TEAL Projects and
6 initiated a scoping or comment period. The NOI was mailed
7 to over 4,000 stakeholders and describes the environmental
8 review process, some already identified environmental
9 issues, and the steps the FERC and the cooperating agencies
10 will take to prepare the EIS.

11 Federal, state, local, and other government
12 agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise are
13 welcome to cooperate in the preparation of the EIS.

14 We have set an ending date of May 22nd, 2015 for
15 the scoping period. However, the end of the scoping period
16 is not the end of public involvement. Let me repeat that.
17 The end of scoping period is not the end of public
18 involvement or your only opportunity to comment. We will
19 accept comments throughout our review of the project, but
20 for us to adequately address your comments, analyze them,
21 and research the issues, we ask that you try to get those to
22 us as soon as possible. There will be another comment
23 period once the draft EIS is published.

24 Extra copies of the NOI and other project
25 handouts are located in the back of the room at the sign-in

1 table. A speakers' list is also located at the back table.
2 We will use that list to call speakers to the podium
3 tonight. If you wish to speak and have not signed up,
4 please add your name to the list.

5 In addition to verbal comments provided tonight
6 we will also accept your written comments. If you have
7 comments but do not wish to speak tonight, you may provide
8 written comments on the comment forms provided on the back
9 table. You may drop those off with us, or mail them at a
10 later date.

11 Be sure to include the project docket numbers,
12 PF15-10 or PF15-11, and your personal information if you
13 want us to be able to contact you or to be placed on the
14 mailing list.

15 Your comments tonight, together with any written
16 comments you have already filed or intend to file will be
17 added to the official record of the proceeding. We consider
18 the prefiling process to be, among other things, an
19 extension of our scoping process.

20 The scoping process is a learning process. It is
21 where we educate ourselves about the projects and the
22 potential issues and environmental impacts. During this
23 scoping process we are gathering information. The four
24 general sources that we are using right now are information
25 provided by the applicant, input from other federal, state,

1 and local agencies, our own field work and research of
2 different issues, and information from the public.

3 We then take all the comments that address
4 natural and human environmental issues and utilizing all
5 available information and expertise, factor them into our
6 independent analysis of the project's potential impacts.
7 This will include an examination of the proposed facility
8 locations as well as alternative sites. We will assess the
9 project's effects on water bodies and wetlands, vegetation
10 and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, soils and
11 geology, cultural resources, land use, air quality, noise,
12 and safety. We will publish those findings in a draft EIS
13 which will then be distributed for a minimum 45-day comment
14 period.

15 Additional public comment meetings will be
16 announced at that time when we invite the public to provide
17 additional comments on our draft environment impact
18 statement analysis and conclusions. The public comment
19 meetings may be similar in format to this one and possibly
20 at the same facility if it is available.

21 At the end of the draft EIS comment period, FERC
22 staff will prepare a final EIS that specifically addresses
23 each comment received on the draft EIS and includes all
24 necessary changes additions and modifications to conclusions
25 reached in the draft EIS.

1 Once we have issued the final EIS, it is
2 forwarded to our Commissioners for their consideration. I'd
3 like to remind everyone that the EIS is not the
4 decisionmaking document. It is merely our analysis of the
5 potential impacts of the projects and the alternatives.

6 The Commission will consider the findings,
7 conclusions and recommendations in the EIS as well as public
8 comments on non-environmental issues including engineering,
9 market needs, rates, finances, tariffs, and costs in making
10 an informed decision on whether or not to authorize the
11 projects and if so, under what conditions.

12 Currently our mailing list for the project is
13 over 4,000 stakeholders. If you received a copy of the NOI
14 in the mail you are already on the mailing list to receive
15 the EIS. There is a return mailer attached to the back of
16 the notice by which you can indicate if you want to correct
17 your mailing address, or remove your name from the mailing
18 list.

19 Also, please note because of the size of the
20 mailing list, the mailed versions of the EIS will be on a
21 CD-ROM.

22 We are now going to move into the part of the
23 meeting where we will hear comments from the audience
24 members, particularly the affected landowners. As I
25 mentioned before, if you would rather not speak, you may

1 hand in written comments tonight or send them to the
2 Secretary of the Commission by following the procedures
3 outlined in the NOI and comment forms.

4 Whether you verbally provide your comments or
5 mail them in, they will be equally considered by FERC. It
6 is important that you include the docket numbers, as I
7 mentioned a couple times, in your filings. The Commission
8 also encourages electronic filing of written comments. The
9 instructions are in the NOI or can be located in our website
10 which is www.ferc.gov, under the e-filing link.

11 The forms at the sign-in desk also provide the
12 web address and instructions.

13 Again, this meeting is being recorded -- sorry, I
14 need some water -- allergies are killing me, I tell you.
15 Okay. All of your comments will be transcribed and placed
16 into the public record. For the benefit of all in
17 attendance and for accuracy of the transcript, I will set
18 some ground rules. When your name is called, please step up
19 to the podium and clearly state your name and any
20 affiliation if any. If your name is already on the list, we
21 already have it spelled properly, so you don't need to take
22 time away to do that if your name is on this list.

23 Also please speak directly into the microphone so
24 that you can be clearly heard by the reporter, the panel,
25 and the audience.

1 Also, due the number of speakers, we have about
2 40 right now that have signed up, we are going to limit each
3 speaker to three minutes so that everyone has an opportunity
4 to provide comments.

5 I will set this visual timer here for three
6 minutes, so it will have two and a half minutes of green
7 light, 20 seconds of yellow warning light to indicate to the
8 speaker when it's time to conclude, and ten seconds of red
9 to indicate that it's time to wrap up your comments.

10 I ask you to please abide by this time to allow
11 as many people as possible the opportunity to speak. When
12 your time has ended, please conclude your comments and we
13 will call the next speaker.

14 We do not want to limit anyone's comments, but to
15 get through all the speakers we have to set the timeframe.

16 If you have detailed comments you could summarize
17 the comments at the podium tonight and then give us the full
18 written comments at the table where you came in and we'll
19 get those into the record for you.

20 Also, if you are a speaker and you feel that your
21 comments were previously expressed, you can simply state
22 your name and your endorsement of those previous comments.

23 I also want to make sure we conduct this meeting
24 in a professional decorum. We are here to hear each of your
25 comments on the projects. Please respect each speaker and

1 refrain from interruptions whether you agree with them or
2 not.

3 Lastly, before we start, as a courtesy to our
4 speakers and the rest of the audience, please turn off or
5 silence your cell phones. Thank you for your consideration.

6 We are now ready to call the first speaker. And
7 remember, you guys have the numbers. So I'll say the number
8 and your name and if you are one of the first three or --
9 you know, once I'm going through these, if you want to move
10 up closer so like there's a couple on deck, one is speaking
11 and two could sit in the front row so it's easier to get
12 there, you can do that if you choose to.

13 So number one is Shelby Prater. Number two is
14 Tim Dundr, and three is Joy Sibert.

15 MS. PRATER: My name is Shelby Prater. I live in
16 -- county. The federal cemetery joins our property in the
17 back, just to give you an idea of where we live. It looks
18 as if this pipeline is going through a vacant lot beside of
19 our garage. Is there anyone here that thinks this is a safe
20 situation? What if we have an explosion or we have to
21 evacuate our homes? Who is going to be there to help us?
22 We live in a township with barely enough equipment or money
23 to handle a very small emergency. We have to call on our
24 neighboring communities now. What happens to the field tile
25 that was installed many, many years ago by farmers? When

1 that is disturbed you have a flood on your hands. Where is
2 all this water going? Who is going to pay for all this?
3 What happens to our well and septic system? Who is going to
4 take care of that for us? Nexus? Odina County? United
5 States Government? Who?

6 I'm a housewife, mother and grandmother. And I
7 am concerned for my family and yours. Let's reroute this to
8 a less dangerous situation or forget it altogether for the
9 safety of our children and the future generations. Let's
10 take our time and think this through.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. WACHHOLDER: Two is Tim Dunder, then three is
13 Joy Siebert, and four is Terry Schmel.

14 MR. DUNDR: Hi, my name is Tim Dunder and I live
15 in the Chippewa Lake region. The purpose and need of this
16 Nexus project is unclear. Natural gas usage is trending
17 down. Exporting doesn't benefit locally. Short-term
18 construction doesn't bring jobs, limited jobs are filled out
19 of state and tax-free zones don't look -- don't bring local
20 revenue. This gas isn't for Ohio.

21 The cumulative direct and indirect negative
22 impacts are vast. FERC needs to evaluate the public
23 necessity to use eminent domain to build such a pipeline and
24 evaluate all alternatives during all phases of the project
25 from construction through completion to lessen the

1 environmental impacts.

2 We live in a wooded area with many old-growth
3 trees. Contains diverse vegetation and wildlife population
4 including large animals and small salamanders. But all play
5 an important role to the local ecosystem. And we also have
6 threatened and protected species such as nesting bald
7 eagles. This pipeline would fragment our forested area
8 disrupting local wildlife, impacting their breeding and
9 nesting grounds, migration routes, and increasing predation
10 because of the open corridor.

11 Now, our water is sourced along with thousands of
12 other from the Cuyahoga aquifer. Blasting and drilling
13 during construction will alter the soil composition and
14 groundwater patterns threatening our only water source,
15 basically the shallow aquifer.

16 Now, we're unable to get city water because we're
17 south of the Saint Lawrence Divide. Well water testing
18 would have to happen before, during, and ongoing and if
19 compromised, who provides us with safe drinking water.

20 Now, we also have many streams and springs which
21 are part of the upper Muskingum watershed, which again is an
22 important part of the region's ecology. This pipeline will
23 cross many of the streams, creeks and wetlands impacting
24 soil, water sources, including surface water and
25 groundwater. Hydrology cumulative effects such as the

1 increased sedimentation from runoff, loss of topsoil,
2 flooding, all need to be evaluated. Local Medina parks are
3 sensitive ecosystems with wetlands and wildlife will also be
4 fragmented. This pipeline will permanently degrade the
5 ecology and recreational values for which these lands were
6 originally protected.

7 Now, a compressor station is also planned to be
8 built a few miles from our neighborhood. It in its
9 construction will diminish the soil, water, air quality, and
10 increase noise levels. These pipelines also raise huge
11 risks of an explosion. We live in a dense residential area,
12 pipeline safety isn't being addressed and communities aren't
13 equipped for disaster. The FERC should consider the blast
14 radius should an explosion occur, evaluate mitigation
15 efforts and avoid densely populated areas, and evaluate
16 health risks associated with living near a compressor
17 station or a gas pipeline leaking.

18 We didn't buy our property to have it devalued or
19 watch it blow up. Bottom line, this pipeline serves no
20 local benefit, the only benefit is profit to those who own
21 it.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number three is Joy Siebert.

1 And then four and five should be on deck.

2 MS. SIEBERT: Hi, my name is Joy Siebert. And my
3 husband and I own a ten-acre farm in Green. We would like
4 this rerouted. In all their surveying, or whatever, they
5 have decided to take one of our hay fields and split it
6 right down the middle. And to me it's a big safety concern.
7 This has been in our family for 83 years and we're dealing
8 with the historical society right now to try to get on the
9 national register.

10 We advised Nexus that we have an underground
11 natural gas storage tank on our land. We do not know where
12 that is, and to my knowledge they don't either. Rather than
13 going to the borders of our property which would be maybe
14 400 yards from where they are, they have decided to go right
15 down the middle.

16 My question is, how deep will this be buried? My
17 concern is the weight that would be on this pipeline during
18 haymaking season. We have estimated to total value or
19 weight, I should say, of the equipment going across this
20 line would be 23,400 pounds or 11.7 tons with a full load of
21 hay, a baler, and a tractor. And to my mind, that's just
22 not safe. We know of one person who had it buried too
23 shallow and could not even cross it with a vehicle after it
24 was installed.

25 The latest proposed route is through the hayfield

1 and if it has changed, I don't know. We've heard several
2 rumors, but that is basically it.

3 The problem also being no possibility of us ever
4 selling this land and a very big decrease in our land value.
5 And with that, I thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number four, Terry Schmel, then
8 it will be Paul Gierosky and Tom West.

9 MR. SCHMEL: Yes, good afternoon. I'm the
10 property owner of 15020 Mount Eaton Road. Mount Eaton Road
11 is considered the state route of 94.

12 The area of concern that I have is five
13 environmental issues. This is where the Pipeline passes
14 underneath the state route where the proposed pipeline is
15 passing under the state route is a waterway and I own the
16 rights of the waterway.

17 My concern is, the waterway encompasses tens of
18 thousands of gallons across state route 94. The underground
19 culverts that are located there cannot handle all the water
20 and I'd say probably 5 to 10 percent of the time right now
21 the water goes over state route 94. I've had the state of
22 Ohio out there to look at the concern and it hasn't created
23 an incident at this point in time where it would be
24 addressed. My concern is if the pipeline goes through on
25 that piece of property that it's going to affect the

1 waterway, the culverts, and also the neighbor's septic
2 systems that leach through that.

3 Once, again, if you start trenching and
4 excavating, you've interrupted the ground and the leaching
5 of the ground is not going to be -- it just won't -- it
6 won't leach properly.

7 The other concern I have is the well depths. My
8 well on that property is 25 feet deep. That's how shallow
9 the water table is right there. So once again, you have a
10 concern with all the water that's in that area. The other
11 couple points I want to make is who becomes the steward of
12 this waterway? if the pipeline were to be proposed in that
13 area? Who is going to maintain the water -- the waterway,
14 whether it's during a flooding situation, an erosion
15 situation, the ground cover, or the sculpting at the
16 entrance and the egress of the culverts where the erosion
17 happens around the culverts? Who is the steward of that?

18 And then last, but not least, who bears the
19 burden of liability and the expense if there happens to be a
20 problem? Not just the steward, but who is going to pay for
21 the reclamation? I'm the landowner, but with that being
22 said, who is going to pick up the tab, I guess?

23 And that's all I have. Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up, Paul Gierosky, then Tom

1 West, and then Ruth West.

2 MR. GIEROSKY: For those of you who don't know
3 me, I'm Paul Gierosky. My wife and I live in York Township,
4 Medina County on a property that is directly affected by the
5 proposed Nexus route.

6 We are members of the Coalition to Reroute Nexus
7 which is a grassroots organization that started here in
8 Medina County. And our focus has been to educate, persuade,
9 and inform Nexus that they should take a more southerly
10 route. Okay. And avoid the densely populated counties on
11 the eastern end of their proposed route and to avoid the
12 ecologically sensitive and environmentally unique openings
13 region out in Fulton County on the west.

14 Now, Joanne, when we met here in Wadsworth back
15 on February 2nd, you were very clear in pointing out to our
16 coalition board that it was our responsibility to come up
17 with and propose reroutes that made sense. And since that
18 time we have diligently pursued that responsibility. And
19 we've delivered the City of Green reroute on March 23rd and
20 earlier this week we delivered segment one in Fulton County
21 which would take the route around the Oak Openings region.

22 Now, the City of Green reroute is an astounding
23 achievement by the planners there. And if it's adopted by
24 Nexus and Specter Energy as sponsor, the result would be
25 that the conflicts with businesses along the route would be

1 reduced by 40 percent. There would be 50 percent fewer
2 conflicts with churches, 70 percent fewer conflicts with
3 homes, and 100 percent fewer conflicts with schools.

4 The impact on our environment would also be
5 reduced by 58 percent fewer acres of wetland affected. And
6 these facts are proven by a statistical analysis of both the
7 existing proposed Nexus route and our alternate route
8 proposals. And this is accomplished by adding a mere 9.9
9 miles to the overall 250-mile route.

10 So what's not to like about this proposal?
11 However, Joanne, Specter Energy/Nexus will not voluntarily
12 adopt the entire City of Green reroute or some alternative.
13 I have confidence that we will hear the princess of project
14 darkness say, Specter, the City of Green Route is a better
15 way.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up is Tom West and then
18 number seven will be Ruth West, and number eight, John
19 Eureka.

20 MR. WEST: Okay. Can you hear me? I have about
21 two hours here and I'm going to condense it down to three
22 minutes. My wife and I live on Hatfield road at the corner
23 of Hatfield and Houston Road. We have five acres. And for
24 you that have land, this is our dream. We bought this and
25 we've lived there 50 years. We built a house, we built a

1 barn, we built a shop, we raised our three children there.

2 We want our grandchildren to live there.

3 Nexus has proposed to put a pipeline between my
4 neighborhood and I and the farthest way that I'll be
5 sleeping from this thing will be 130-some feet.

6 They have a 600-foot survey, it takes all five of
7 our acres, so we are going to Nexus as a neighbor.

8 My wife and I have been blue-collar workers all
9 our life. We have no stocks and bonds. We have no savings
10 really. This piece of land is what we have. It's what
11 we're going to leave to our children and I'm worried about
12 property devaluation which everybody should be. And I'm
13 worried more about the children not wanting to live there
14 because of this 40- or 36-inch pipe that close to our house.

15 I have ten grandchildren there now off and on.
16 They're in the barn with the horses, the four-wheelers and
17 the Jack Russells when they're at our house. This thing is
18 going to be within a few feet of that barn. My wife and I
19 are now retired. We are enjoying the peace and quite of our
20 place, and we are just going to get ready and have Nexus in
21 our backyard for however long this takes.

22 We're watching a pipeline three miles south of
23 us. They're replacing a ten-inch line with a 12-inch line.
24 They've been at that thing over a year and if you drive over
25 to Easton, you will see the mud still piled up over there.

1 Now speaking from what the man that just spoke
2 before me, I went to the Rover Pipeline meetings and we had
3 no people there giving them a hard time because they were
4 smart enough to put this gas line where it ought to be, out
5 in the country. That Rover says, and I quote from their own
6 -- and they're a big pipeline company and they're going to
7 build a pipeline similar to this one. "It is Rover
8 Pipeline's preference to have a few hundred feet of
9 separation between the home and the pipe." I am about
10 one-fourth of the way through.

11 Well, anyway, I have one paragraph I want to read
12 before I have to quit. And to take my property by eminent
13 domain and put in that is natural, high-pressure gas line in
14 my back yard, which I vehemently oppose, is immoral,
15 obnoxious, uncalled for, un-American, and ought to be
16 unlawful.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

19 Oh, and Mr. West, if you want to get the rest of
20 your comments, if you have like a written speech and you
21 want us to make sure it gets in the docket --

22 MR. WEST: I'm going to send it it.

23 MS. WACHHOLDER: You're going to send it in,
24 okay. Okay. We want to make sure we have it in our docket.
25 Thank you.

1 Next up --

2 MR. WEST: My wife is number seven.

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: Yes. You're next. Okay. Okay.
4 You're going to send it in. All right. So we're going to
5 skip Ruth West, or you're going to speak?

6 MS. WEST: No.

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: No, you're not. Okay. Sorry.

8 Then number eight is John Eureka and then nine is
9 Harold Pyle, and ten is John Strong.

10 MR. EUREKA: Hi, I'm John Eureka. My property is
11 not directly in line with the pipeline. But I just want to
12 be a part of the voice of the community that says, I think
13 we need to reroute this to a more logistical area which is
14 farther out into the country and around the major populated
15 areas.

16 I know people have talked about peace and quiet.
17 A 26,000 horsepower pumping station, I believe, someplace in
18 Seville is going to make quite a bit of noise. And we need
19 the EPA or Nexus -- or not Nexus, but FERC -- somebody needs
20 to address noise pollution. You know, we don't really hear
21 about that, but it's certainly going to be something that
22 people will definitely notice on the nice quiet evenings.

23 Also, I don't agree with the shallow depth that's
24 being proposed, three feet in my estimation is way too
25 shallow. And we should be somewhere down in the vicinity of

1 ten to 15 feet. I know that people need to make money, but
2 that's why they invented hydraulic shovels and ditch digging
3 equipment. So we just need to make sure that due diligence
4 is done with the safety and everybody's peace and mind.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

8 Next up, number nine is Harold Pyle, then John
9 Strong, then Richard Baumgartner.

10 MR. PYLE: I'm Harold Pyle, I live in Clinton,
11 Ohio in Summit County and the pipeline is presumed to go
12 about a mile and a quarter in an arc around where I live.

13 I want to start off from east to west and I'll
14 begin with the fact that the pipeline begins in Appalachia
15 and is drawing resources away from Appalachia. It is public
16 policy in the United States to develop the Appalachian
17 region. This is in the Appalachian Redevelopment Act. And
18 this pipeline will create a giant sucking sound of jobs and
19 resources moving out of Appalachia contrary to public
20 policy.

21 Then the pipeline moves over into the
22 neighborhood of the City of Green where it goes right
23 through the school yard of the Green Public Schools and I
24 can only imagine that one day people will hear a flash and a
25 bang and the children to which they have devoted all their

1 lives will have been turned into crispy critters.

2 Then the pipeline moves over into New Franklin
3 and Doylestown. Underneath New Franklin and Doylestown
4 there used to be a shallow seam of Massalin Number 9,
5 metallurgical coal. During the period from the Civil War
6 until about 1900 using the canal and horse and buggy, this
7 coal was transported down to the foundries and furnaces in
8 Massalin leaving behind drift mines and shallow mine shafts
9 leading to mine galleries which were supported by timbers of
10 unknown and indifferent quality, if any.

11 In some places this seam is only 30 feet below
12 the surface of the land. There are maps and very good maps
13 of the known mines. There are no maps of the unknown mines
14 of which there are a great number. And these provide a
15 substantial hazard to a pipeline should the mine roof
16 collapse and suddenly the pipeline is sitting there with no
17 support underneath of it. It could rupture with really,
18 really bad results.

19 And then the pipeline moves into the area around
20 Lorraine where Nexus says it has customers but most of these
21 customers is that they have no characteristics. No
22 characteristics could be described as imaginary customers
23 and imaginary customers would best be served by an imaginary
24 pipeline.

25 (Laughter.)

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. EUREKA: And then the pipeline moves into
3 Michigan and Canada where it hooks up with the Vector
4 pipeline and so does the Rover pipeline. Now all three of
5 these pipelines are about the same size, but nobody has
6 explained to me how you can force two pipelines into one and
7 have a go of it.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

11 Next up, John Strong, then Richard Baumgartner,
12 then Ken Veney.

13 MR. STRONG: Hey, guys. So my name is Jonathan
14 Strong and the Nexus Pipeline in Guilford Township threatens
15 my property. I am a member of CORN and I support the Green
16 Corn southern reroute proposal in its entirety. The
17 problems with the current nexus route are many. The first
18 being the initial proposed route being designed by young,
19 inexperienced engineer from Texas and hence a route which is
20 placed considering the shortest and most cost effective path
21 for Specter Energy.

22 The second being a blatant disregard for property
23 rights of the citizens of Ohio who have worked hard, played
24 by the rules, and now stand threatened by a bureaucratic
25 process in need of reform from top to bottom.

1 The third is insisting on the placement of a
2 36-inch high-pressure pipeline through neighborhoods and
3 communities which defies all common sense.

4 The fourth is ignoring human life first, then
5 sensitive ecosystems such as the upper Chippewa watershed
6 and the balance growth development plan paid for by the
7 state of Ohio and Medina County taxpayers violating it with
8 a compressor station, no less, the Rocky River watershed,
9 the Meskingham watershed flood control project, the
10 ecologically sensitive and unique Oak Openings regions, and
11 these are just the beginning.

12 The fifth problem is it will significantly alter
13 the use of my property and homestead which my family and I
14 have built over the past 21 years. This unconstitutional
15 violation of my Fifth Amendment rights is poised to decimate
16 my scenic landscape through which my creator's handiwork is
17 clearly evident and revealed to me through each wildflower,
18 the many animals, and change of seasons that go by. I could
19 go on and on, but I only have three minutes.

20 Contrary to what the pro Nexus propaganda may
21 attempt to brainwash the mindless masses with, we know our
22 property usage will forever be altered and permanently
23 scarred with an unsightly zipper cut through the middle.

24 Our own county auditor has gone on record to
25 corroborate our loss in property value and admitted no one

1 can measure the costs of the psychological devaluation
2 through lost buyers.

3 I'm respectfully going on record today to say we
4 will not accept business as usual. We will no longer idly
5 stand by to watch our community be destroyed, our property
6 rights violated, nor the reckless disregard of our family's
7 wellbeing all for the sake of a private company's personal
8 profit.

9 I am taking action to fight for what I now
10 understand and appreciate as has been handed to me by our
11 founding fathers and almighty God. It is my duty to ask
12 Nexus to do what is right and just and reasonable in
13 rerouting this pipeline in accordance to the request of CORN
14 in the City of Green.

15 If Nexus stands defiant, I request the FERC, for
16 support in exercising your authority to demand Nexus use
17 this more sensible, logical, and less destructive alternate
18 route. While this program may be cumbersome, overly
19 complicated, and the last thing I ever wanted to spend time
20 learning, I am inspired to continue on from a quote made by
21 Albert Einstein, "You have to learn the rules of the game
22 and then you have to play better than anyone else." Nexus,
23 you shall not pass.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

1 Next up, Richard Baumgartner, then Ken Veney, and
2 then Deborah Beckstett.

3 MR. BAUMGARTNER: I think I need a stool. Well,
4 I don't know if you can hear me, but my name is Richard
5 Baumgartner and I'm a property owner in Grafton Township.
6 I'd like to talk about pipeline safety a little bit because
7 I think in this case it affects the environment. The
8 Heidelberg, the Titanic, Chernobyl, Three Mile Island,
9 Fukushima are just some of the projects that were engineered
10 to be safe. The PR people claimed that you would never have
11 to worry about safety.

12 In the case of the Hindenburg and the Titanic it
13 didn't take long to learn that the safety aspects were
14 greatly overstated.

15 In the case of Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and
16 Fukushima after years of safe operation disasters occurred.

17 Flash forward to the high volume, gas
18 transportation projects like the Nexus project. Some say
19 there is as much energy in a large-diameter gas pipeline as
20 in a nuclear explosion. Again, we are told that the project
21 is engineered to be safe.

22 Data suggests that gas pipelines are safe most of
23 the time. But there have been disasters, lives lost because
24 of gas line rupture and explosions.

25 The primary effort of the present pipeline safety

1 program features maintain the integrity of the pipeline.
2 The theory is that if the gas can be kept captive inside the
3 pipeline and not exposed to air, then an explosion cannot
4 occur. This program does not compensate for earthquakes,
5 sinkholes, earth shifts, manmade error such as accidental
6 penetration, poor materials, improper weld test results,
7 faulty test equipment or sensors.

8 Nexus representatives stated that if a pipeline
9 did rupture sensors would transfer information to a remote
10 control room. Alarms would alert an operator that there was
11 a problem. There is not an automatic shutoff so an operator
12 would have to make a decision to shut the gas off. Even
13 under the best case, there could be at least 20 miles of gas
14 that could leak from the ruptured line. This already
15 implies many opportunities for a disaster.

16 Let's take a worst-case scenario. The proposed
17 Nexus route runs parallel to and across the First Energy
18 high voltage lines at several locations. What would happen
19 if there was a rupture under, across, over a point in the
20 high voltage line? What would happen if the rupture flame
21 caused the high voltage line to go down? What if this line
22 ultimately provided the power for the sensors that notified
23 the control room that a problem now exists? What if this
24 line also powered by the power that operated the shutoff
25 valves stopped because of the power loss?

1 What if the line also provided the power that was
2 used to communicate with first responders and emergency
3 management people? There's no doubt that the engineering
4 that goes into --

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. You can submit the
6 rest in writing if you care, or at the end, we may have time
7 for you to come up again.

8 MR. BAUMGARTNER: Thank you.

9 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up Ken Veney, then Deborah
12 Beckstett, then number 14 is Melissa Deming.

13 MR. VENEY: I'm Ken Veney, as she said, and I
14 live in Wadsworth Township on Mennonite Road and the Nexus
15 proposed line is to cut across my woods. And there's been
16 people say the things that I was going to say, only they've
17 done a much better job. So I'll just say -- I'll just make
18 a few points.

19 One would be, why put a pipeline through a
20 residential neighborhood? Okay. That's a question I had.
21 And then there's the only people that are really going to
22 make anything off of this is -- I mean, I shouldn't say
23 that. The people that are going to make things off of this
24 will be like Nexus. There probably isn't one person in the
25 Wadsworth Township that will ever get -- you know, that will

1 make money off of having this pipeline go through their
2 thing even though Nexus is going to make money off of it for
3 the next 100 years or whatever.

4 Okay. And another thing I would like to bring up
5 with be if there's -- I live on Mennonite Road and if I
6 wanted to sell my house and there's maybe four or five
7 houses in the area for sale, who would want to buy a house
8 that has a 36-inch pipeline within 400 feet of the bedroom?
9 I think that people would want to buy someone else's house,
10 not mine.

11 Anyway, another thing would be when the salesmen
12 come around from Nexus trying to get me to have them get on
13 my property to survey, I said, you know, I've got ravines
14 that are 20, 30 foot deep, I don't want people back there
15 walking around. Someone gets hurt, I'm responsible for it.
16 So just please don't go on my property. And then what do I
17 find? I have no idea what little blue ribbons mean, but on
18 the trees that come down -- little trees that come down
19 through my creek, they have blue ribbons tied to them. And
20 it's also where my septic, after it goes through the septic
21 system, where it drains. So that to get there, they had to
22 jump over the fence. Someone went over a fence to get in
23 there to do that after I said please don't do it.

24 And another thing I want to say, which is just a
25 personal note, is, my dad bought this place in 1952, which

1 is 63 years ago and I spent some 47 years on this property.
2 You know, not my whole life, but 47 years of it and I hate
3 to see it devalued and whatever might happen to it. And
4 thanks for letting me speak.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

7 Next up, number 13, Deborah Beckstett, then
8 Melissa Deming, and then Michael Simmons.

9 MS. BECKSTETT: Good evening. I am Deborah
10 Beckstett. I live along the pipeline. While I care about
11 everybody's comments tonight and I do care for two-footed
12 creatures during my day job, I also have a passion for the
13 four-footed creatures, feathered and not.

14 This letter has already been submitted to FERC,
15 but I'd like the opportunity to just highlight a couple
16 things. And also while you're doing your analysis to truly
17 beg you, this has mentioned only a few but I can give you a
18 list that does not even include the Department of Natural
19 Resources where I'm a volunteer. But nationally renowned
20 research centers that can talk about the noise pollution,
21 the gas line disruptions, already through the west and the
22 east in Ohio that affects our wildlife population. Whether
23 it's the waterways and Medina has been noted as one of the
24 counties in Ohio with the most ponds and lakes, and so I'm
25 only going to mention and highlight a few of those research

1 centers here for a few minutes.

2 But, the BBC, you're probably aware of, is the
3 breeding birds survey and it is a large-scale, one of the
4 largest scale surveys that monitors the trends of birds in
5 North America.

6 I have personally witnessed and followed three
7 pairs of the red-headed woodpeckers. That is on a 66 noted
8 decline and it's at 80 percent in some areas. I've noted a
9 similar decline in our area. And while I monitor a lot of
10 different species, if you go to the Smithsonian, you will
11 note that the seven northern woodpeckers of Northeastern
12 American is right here and we have witnessed every one of
13 them.

14 The red-headed is only one on decline. The
15 pileated was taken off of the protected survey or the
16 protected list by the ODNR but it's being placed back on.
17 The other one that I would like to mention is the protected
18 species of the aviary species in the Migratory Bird Treaty
19 Act of 1918. I know they're trying to undo this law right
20 now, but it's a very important one because their mission is
21 similar to yours. And I'll read it.

22 "The mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service
23 Migratory Bird Program is to conserve migratory bird
24 populations and their habitats for future generations
25 through careful monitoring, effective management supporting

1 the national" which includes your federal agencies
2 "international partnerships that conserve habitat for
3 migratory birds and wildlife." Guess how many on that list
4 is witnessed along our pipeline? Anybody want to take a
5 guess?

6 Well, 44. The bald eagle is only one.

7 The reason why this is important that you do that
8 research is -- and I'll just finish my sentence -- is
9 because the idea is to protect them as they're approaching
10 the endangered list because by then it's too late.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up is number 14, Melissa
15 Deming. Then Michael Simmons, then Judith Alberts.

16 MS. DEMING: I'm Melissa Deming. I'm what you
17 would call an adjacent property owner. I'd like to read an
18 excerpt from the 2013 report by Specter submitted to SEC and
19 this particular excerpt is from the risk factor report that
20 they submitted, page 29.

21 "Natural gas transmission and storage, NGL
22 transmission and crude oil transportation, storage activity
23 involved numerous risks that may result in accidents and
24 otherwise affect our operations." And that is Specter's
25 operations.

1 "There are a variety of hazards and operating
2 risks inherent in natural gas gathering and processing,
3 transmission and storage activities, and crude oil
4 transportation and storage such as leaks, explosions,
5 mechanical problems, activities of third-party and damage to
6 pipelines, facilities, equipment caused by hurricanes,
7 tornados, floods, fires, and other natural disasters that
8 could cause substantial financial losses.

9 In addition these risks could result in
10 significant injury, loss of life, significant damage to
11 property, environmental pollution, impairment of operations,
12 any of which could result in substantial losses for
13 pipelines and storage assets located near populated areas
14 including residential areas, commercial business centers,
15 industrial sites, and other public gathering areas. The
16 level of damage resulting from these risks could be greater.
17 We do not maintain insurance coverage against all these
18 risks and losses and any insurance coverage we might
19 maintain may not fully cover the damages caused by those
20 risks and losses."

21 I live in an area where the Dunders live. It's
22 Chippewa Lake. Chippewa Lake is the largest man -- or
23 largest natural lake in Ohio. That's where the bald eagles
24 are. We have a shallow water table. We can't even get
25 water to our house because they won't allow a pumping

1 station. Isn't that right, Sally? Yeah.

2 So, we can't even get water and you can bring a
3 huge pipeline through the properties.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thanks. Next up is number 15,
7 Michael Simmons, then Judith Alberts, then Gerald Schmelzer.

8 MR. SIMMONS: How you doing? I'm at 6073 Taylor
9 Road. I have six acres. I bought my property in 2002,
10 built my home in 2002. Of my six acres I have four acres
11 that's buildable. I have a tower that's on my acres, so I
12 went into this knowing I won't be able to build on two acres
13 for the tower electric lines.

14 This coming through -- this pipeline coming
15 through is going to knock me down from four buildable acres
16 to about an acre and a half. Maybe a quarter acre more, but
17 that's going to be on the other side of this easement which
18 is going to be useless.

19 You know, I had some concerns with the young lady
20 who was the representative from Nexus in my area. Her name
21 was Laura. I apologize I don't know have her last name. I
22 told her that it was going through my septic system and she
23 -- her main concern was, well, I need to get on your land so
24 we can take a look. I'm like, you don't need on my land.
25 I'm telling you where my stuff is at.

1 I went to Google Maps, got a map of my property,
2 highlighted where my septic is going. I have not heard back
3 from her after I sent it to her. But yet she hounded me for
4 months to get this to her and I do and now no more contact.

5 Nexus has been on my property without my
6 permission. I got a so-called apology, but that's -- you
7 know, the center line of this pipeline that's going to be on
8 my property is within 75 feet -- it's actually 71 feet from
9 my home; 71 feet -- 73 feet from my well. And then, again,
10 it's going through my septic system. And I asked the
11 question, what am I supposed to do when you cut through my
12 septic system, what am I supposed to do? Where am I
13 supposed to live at? Are you going to put me an outhouse
14 and say, here, there you go, while you're doing your
15 construction? You know, it's -- this is so frustrating, it
16 really is. You know, I work my tail off to be able to
17 afford the American dream. Nexus has come through and
18 turned my American dream into an American nightmare. And
19 I'm asking FERC to wake me up from my nightmare and restore
20 my American dream. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

23 Next up number 16, Judith Alberts, then Gerald
24 Schmelzer, then Mark Scarberry.

25 MS. ALBERTS: Hi, I am Judith Alberts and I live

1 in New Franklin. I'd like to talk about the American dream
2 too.

3 In 1998 we bought a beautiful house, but the
4 reason I wanted that house, and that counts because I'm the
5 woman in the family, is the property, the beautiful trees
6 and land and creek and, you know, that was it. So basically
7 we have three acres which is 310 feet across the front and
8 435 to the back. Okay.

9 Nexus wants to put in a 50-foot easement, pretty
10 much through the middle of the property, kind of close to
11 the house, and it's going to go the whole length of the
12 property. So it's going to go 50 feet as easement and then
13 50 feet so that they can do their development and so forth
14 and bring their trucks on. They are permitted to cut my
15 trees down to the ground. And the part they're on I could
16 never even put a plant unless it's seasonal. So that's 100
17 feet across, 435 feet deep, basically you might as well say,
18 it's one-third of my property because it's 310 foot wide. I
19 get to pay taxes on it forever. They get to pay one time
20 per linear foot. That's not the American dream.

21 Next to my house is the Dominion easement, 30
22 feet specifically from my house starts a 20-inch,
23 high-pressure Dominion easement and then on the edge of my
24 property is a 10-inch Dominion line.

25 Now, I can understand why those easements were

1 given. It was 1929 and this was all farmland then. We are
2 not farmland anymore. We're a residential community. And
3 now we're adding this.

4 Nexus speaks of safety. Their employees can be
5 gracious. This is similar to Dominion Gas. Dominion Gas
6 like Nexus speaks of safety all the time. But in August of
7 2010 two friends visited our home, one was a retired science
8 teacher and I was showing her my flower gardens. One is
9 indigenous to the state of Ohio, beautiful. Don't have to
10 water it or fertilize it. And she says, I smell gas. You
11 have a gas leak. Well, I was smelling it off and on, but it
12 was in different spots and not every day. But when she
13 said, she said, "You can trust me. I've got the nose they
14 talk about." She says, "You have got a major gas leak."

15 So I called Dominion and they were concerned
16 about safety too and they said, "Oh, my, we will, you know,
17 take care of that. We will get someone out there." But no
18 one came.

19 So I called and spoke with a supervisor several
20 times and two days later I'm still speaking with him and he
21 says, "I'm very concerned" and I loved the tone of his
22 voice, honestly. He says, "I'm very concerned, but we don't
23 have anyone we can send out now."

24 Well, one week prior I was watching TV and
25 Cleveland, which is about 40 miles from us, had a gas

1 explosion for a pipe leak. And I thought, well, I've got to
2 do something. So I called the Public Utilities Commission
3 and I explained the situation to him.

4 Interestingly, in 20 minutes there was a gas
5 repair truck in my driveway. They didn't have any. So
6 there you go. So what I'm saying is, I support the Green
7 reroute. All we're asking is they just go around this.
8 We're for the union, they'll get a few more miles out of it,
9 and our backyard has been -- we got an award by the Division
10 of Ohio Wildlife.

11 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 17, Gerald Schmelzer,
14 then Mark Scarberry, and then number 19 is Elizabeth
15 Jarrell.

16 MR. SCHMELZER: Hi, my name is Jerry Schmelzer.
17 I live at 6314 Grove Road in Clinton, Ohio, New Franklin
18 Township. I'm going to file this online, but basically I'm
19 saying, Dear Commissioners, I'm writing in response to your
20 April 8th request for public comment prior to the
21 preparation for the environment impact statement. You've
22 asked us to focus our comments on the potential
23 environmental effects, reasonable alternatives and measures
24 to lessen environmental impacts. I have enclosed recent
25 examples of documented pipeline incidents located in Ohio

1 both involving 36-inch gas lines, both involving Tennessee
2 Gas Pipeline, a former subsidiary and sister company of
3 Specter Energy.

4 I believe that pictures and documents demonstrate
5 the need for safety setbacks for the pipelines and the
6 urgent need for the city -- the proposed City of Green
7 reroute. This is the Tennessee Gas Pipeline explosion in
8 Hanoverton, Ohio, 2011. That was four years ago, March
9 11th. This was basically due to a -- they had a double-wall
10 thickness of pipe going underneath the road right by a
11 compressor station and they had a weld failure.

12 So it's pretty scary. Very scary. There's a lot
13 of articles about it.

14 Now, I did a Google Earth map search and I did
15 some research because I want to understand about projected
16 impact radius or burn or blast radius. The closest homes --
17 there's a home in the foreground of that picture. The
18 closest home was 967 feet away, the next closest was 1,083
19 and the next one was 1,478 feet away. So there were no
20 injuries.

21 There was an explosion, I believe about seven
22 months later on the exact same pipeline on Glouster, Ohio in
23 Athens County. There's a nice article here talking about
24 gas company settles with Glouster couple after November
25 pipeline explosion. "The Taylor Road home of John and Cathy

1 Sayers in Morgan County near Glouster was reduced to a few
2 bricks and the semblance of a foundation after a 36-inch
3 diameter pipeline owned by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company
4 exploded about 50 feet behind their home. Cathy Sayers was
5 home at the time but escaped without injury. The resulting
6 fire reached hundreds of feet into the air and burned 50
7 acres of land. The explosion could be felt as far as 15
8 miles from the site and witnesses said it sounded as though
9 a jet airplane had either crashed or flown too close to the
10 ground. It took more than four hours to extinguish the
11 flames, and two homes, including the Sayers' were destroyed
12 along with an unoccupied structure and barn." So these
13 people got a settlement from Tennessee Gas Pipeline a
14 division of Kinder Morgan after this.

15 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. SCHMELZER: You bet.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up is number 18, Mark
19 Scarberry. Then number 19, Elizabeth Jarrell, and then
20 number 20, Charles Marshall.

21 MR. SCARBERRY: Hi, my name is Mark Scarberry. I
22 live at 3775 Greenwich Road, Seville, Ohio. I'm here to
23 tell you today that I'm not opposed to the Nexus pipeline
24 running through my property. What I am opposed to is Nexus
25 not committing to a local workforce. It is a proven fact

1 that every dollar earned in the community will turn over
2 multiple times in the community.

3 I have no interest in Nexus using out-of-state
4 workers, subcontractors using 1099 tax forms, undocumented
5 workers not paying local and state taxes. Without this tax
6 revenue this only weakens our school systems, our police and
7 fire and other safety services provided by the city, county,
8 and state.

9 Ohio craftsmen will show up on this pipeline on
10 time, well-trained, OSHA and drug-free certified. Without a
11 commitment from Nexus to use a local workforce, you can stay
12 off my property.

13 This natural gas is an Ohio resource and Ohioans
14 need to work on this project.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

18 Next up number 19, Elizabeth Jarrell, then number
19 20, Charles Marshall, 21 David -- I got it wrong last time
20 too. Laborde.

21 MS. JARRELL: Hi, I 'm Elizabeth Jarrell and I am
22 neighbor to the first speaker from Acme Road. And I am
23 opposed to the pipeline for safety risks. I am also -- I
24 mean, I fear for explosions and I fear for the leaks. I am
25 also opposed to the compressor station for the pollution of

1 our land and our air and our water and the noise that it
2 would cause.

3 You know, the compressor station itself, it runs
4 between two of our park systems. And I know I'm very active
5 in the school system and the scouts and these park systems
6 they provide a lot of conservation programs for the
7 community for a whole and for the children. And I know one
8 of the things I've done badge work and stuff on is the
9 migratory bird patterns that are overhead. And I think this
10 is wrong.

11 I think that this pipeline is for profit only.
12 It doesn't fit in Medina County. It affects everyone here
13 and it should at least be brought to a vote.

14 I also want to support my neighbor in the fact
15 that the tract of land that it's going through actually runs
16 very close to the Whitman Western Reserve National Cemetery
17 and I think that's really disrespectful. This is cemetery
18 that has a national shrine status. And also on Memorial Day
19 Weekend the scouts from all over northeastern Ohio come and
20 they set up flags.

21 I think it's dangerous and I think it's very
22 disrespectful.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

1 Next up number 20 is Charles Marshall, then 21,
2 then 22.

3 MR. MARSHALL: Hi, I'm Charles Marshall, CEO of
4 Beacon Marshall Development. I'd like to read into the
5 record.

6 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington,
7 D.C., Dear Secretary, I'm writing in support of the Nexus
8 Gas Transmission Project. The project will generate
9 millions of dollars in tax revenues for Ohio. The project
10 will also create thousands of jobs during the construction
11 of the pipeline. The natural gas pipeline will also support
12 addition manufacturing jobs in the future as a result of the
13 investment in Ohio's energy infrastructure.

14 The Nexus Pipeline will increase access to
15 affordable and dependable natural gas that will enable local
16 businesses to grow and add wealth to the region. The
17 increased access to natural gas will bring out more
18 competitive energy prices, added reliability, and create
19 further economic development in Northern Ohio.

20 Despite needed energy infrastructure and a large
21 supply of natural gas will allow industrial development such
22 as the brick yard industrial park in Wadsworth, Ohio to
23 attract new manufacturers. The Nexus Natural Gas Pipeline
24 will serve as a foundation in the region for future growth
25 opportunity that will attract new and expanding businesses.

1 Utilizing clean burning natural gas will help
2 improve air quality and create a cleaner environment.

3 Finally, this pipeline will be safe, meeting and
4 exceeding all federal safety requirements. I urge you to
5 give every consideration to approving the project.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

8 (Boos.)

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. WACHHOLDER: Excuse me. No, we are polite to
11 all speakers whether we agree or disagree and I won't handle
12 anyone disrespecting anybody else here. And I'm very
13 serious about that.

14 All right. Thank you.

15 Number 21. And I said your name wrong yesterday
16 too.

17 MR. LABORDE: Good evening. My name is David
18 Laborde and I'm the Teamsters National Pipeline Director.
19 The Teamsters Union represents about 50,000 members in the
20 state of Ohio and we are in support of the Nexus Pipeline.

21 The reason that we're in support of the Nexus
22 Pipeline is that many of our members within this community
23 and this state does pipeline for their livelihood. These
24 projects give our members a good living wage, they provide
25 pension benefits and health and welfare benefits for them

1 and their families.

2 I mentioned last night that I always try and find
3 something that I think the local people might be interested
4 in hearing me speak about. I took for example a pipeline
5 project that we did in the state of Illinois that was not to
6 the size of the magnitude of this project. And I wanted to
7 just share with the folks here the economic impacts that it
8 had on that community.

9 That project at peak employed over 700 craft
10 members, local craft members. The weekly payroll for that
11 project was somewhere in excess of \$1.5 million. Out of
12 that \$1.5 million over 30 percent of that we estimated went
13 back into the local community. It went back into the local
14 community in the forms of hotels, restaurants, grocery
15 stores, clothing stores, et cetera.

16 In addition, I got some information today that 48
17 percent of the total cost of that project went back into
18 what we call consumables. Consumables are what we need to
19 build the project. Out of that 48 percent of that total
20 project cost approximately 50 percent of that was spent in
21 the local economy. It was purchased through our local
22 automotive stores, it was purchased through many of the
23 products and necessities that we need to build this project.

24 While I recognize everybody's concern in this
25 room today, I would just like to stop or finish on this

1 personal note. I live in a small community myself. And I'm
2 a very blessed man. And this pipeline industry is the only
3 industry that I've ever known. But the biggest blessing
4 that I've ever received in my life is the day that I became
5 a father. And I'm a father of an eight-year-old Cub Scout
6 and we live out in a -- we have a small farm that we raise
7 our son on and we have a 36-inch pipeline that borders our
8 property. And that 36-inch pipeline was built after my son
9 was born. We supported that project then and we support the
10 project today.

11 Thank you very much for your time.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up is number 22, Kyle
14 Rohrig, and 23 is Jerry Ryan, and then 24 is Robert White.

15 MR. ROHRIG: My name is Kyle Rohrig and I live on
16 Mennonite Road. The Nexus Pipeline currently is passing
17 straight through my property which consists of two parcels.

18 I want to start by saying, I am not against the
19 pipeline, but I am against the use of eminent domain by a
20 for-profit company. I can totally understand why the
21 pipeline chose my property as it was an open field and woods
22 when they chose the route. However, this route was chosen
23 before I purchased that land and spent my life savings. And
24 I lived well below my means for about 20 years saving every
25 penny for my dream to go and build my dream house, build a

1 barn, and build a shop.

2 A side note, I've owned the land for less than
3 two years. I've lived there less than six months, had I
4 known this was even a remote possibility, I would have never
5 in a million years purchased this land.

6 As it stands now, the pipeline will consume a
7 third of the parcel frontage and render the remaining
8 frontage unbuildable. And my families' intention is for my
9 brother, or my parents to build on that land next to me.

10 In addition, it will pass within 100 feet of my
11 shop and within 100 feet of my neighbor's home which has
12 five small children.

13 In closing I want to say, that no matter how far
14 one goes down the wrong road, you can always turn around. I
15 respectfully ask that the FERC help Nexus turn around and
16 proceed down the correct road, a road with safety corridors,
17 minimum safe distances from dwellings, and overall common
18 sense.

19 Please reroute Nexus to a more southern safer
20 route that has already been provided to them.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

23 Number 23, Jerry Ryan, then Robert White, and
24 then Chris Camino.

25 MR. RYAN: My name is Jerry Ryan. I represent

1 Pipeline Welders Local Union 798, here in support of the
2 Nexus Pipeline Project along with the other skilled crafts
3 that make up the pipeline industry if approved and
4 contractors from the Pipeline Contractors Association to
5 build the Nexus Pipeline Project, welders from Local 798
6 will perform the work, skilled welders, welders' helpers and
7 journeymen will lay, weld together, and test the pipeline.
8 Local 798 has a large membership in Ohio and surrounding
9 states. Highly skilled, well-paid people will do the work.

10 The Pipeline Industrial Benefit Fund manages
11 health care and pension for local 798 members in 2014 paying
12 out \$46,356,000 in health care and health reimbursement,
13 \$44,977,798 in pension to retired and actively retired
14 members. These people come into your community not as a
15 burden, but an asset, not using the local health care
16 providers for free, not sending most of their earnings back
17 home to another country, and not living sometimes six to a
18 motel room.

19 Thank you.

20 (Appause.)

21 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 24, Robert White, then
22 Chris Camino, and then 26 is Terry Lindeman.

23 MR. WHITE: I want to look at the crowd. My name
24 is Robert White. I am President of the Ohio State Grange.
25 And our delegates passed a resolution to support this line

1 and the reason I am here is to listen to your concerns.

2 I happen to live in Harden County and that's
3 between Lima and Marion, Ohio just on a line south of that.
4 I have a 200-acre farm. I have two high-pressure lines
5 through my farm. I have a high-pressure line that goes in
6 front of my house, the Honda of America in Marysville.

7 In all the years that I've lived there, the first
8 line went through when I was 12 years old and I am now 73,
9 60 years ago. The second went through later.

10 I am only going to give you some of my concerns.
11 I am tickled to death to hear yours. But I would like to
12 have you understand I've never had a problem with it. I
13 tiled a field. I'm amazed that it's as shallow. Mine is
14 about nine foot down. I tiled a field, no problem. They
15 come out and spotted the line for us. I didn't have a
16 problem with that. If I have a blowed out tile, they come
17 and fix it. They don't want me messing around over that
18 high-pressure line.

19 The only thing I want you to think about is every
20 town in Ohio has high-pressure lines in them to service
21 those towns. That's another thought. I don't know that,
22 you know, the safety factors there. Those are issues you
23 want to think about.

24 But I've been very interested in hearing your
25 comments and we will take them into consideration. Our

1 organization is rural people, so we don't, you know, have
2 these kind of issues.

3 But the other thing that I think about is this,
4 why don't they run the lines where we already got lines?
5 They can come through my farm. I'm rural. I think that
6 you've made that point here today. So there are a lot of
7 things to think about on this issue.

8 And that's about all I got to say. I appreciate
9 your comments and I'll certainly take them back to our
10 membership and we'll support what's right. Okay. Thank
11 you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

14 Next up, number 25 is Chris Camino, then 26,
15 Terry Lindeman, and 27, Randy Watt.

16 MR. CAMINO: Good evening, my name is Chris
17 Camino. I'm here on behalf of Local 18, the Operating
18 Engineers.

19 We are in support of the Nexus Gas Transmission
20 Project. This pipeline will be a critical economic
21 development and infrastructure project within Ohio which
22 will bring thousands of jobs to our region and hundreds of
23 jobs to Medina County.

24 Our communities have the opportunity to play a
25 crucial role in moving Ohio and the nation towards an energy

1 independence. We continue to safely develop and transport
2 abundant supplies of clean-burning, low-cost natural gas.
3 And according to the U.S. Department of Transportation,
4 interstate transmission pipelines are the safest mode of
5 transportation for natural gas.

6 The International Union of Operating Engineers,
7 Local 18 are proud of the integrity and the safety record
8 that we maintain in the construction pipeline
9 infrastructure.

10 Local 18 has one of the largest training programs
11 in the International Union of Operating Engineers with over
12 15,000 training hours last year alone. Our training program
13 is recognized by others as one of the most successful
14 programs in the country.

15 Local 18 has members who live in every county of
16 Ohio in which this project is proposed to be in, and our
17 members welcome the economic growth and job benefits that
18 the Nexus project will bring to their region.

19 I urge you to approve this pending Nexus project
20 application and please put our members to work. Thank you
21 very much.

22 (Appause.)

23 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up number 26, is Terry
24 Lindeman, 27 is Randy Watt, and 28 is Brian Heller.

25 MR. LINDEMAN: My name is Terry Lindeman. I'm

1 the Mayor of the Village of Dawstown. On March 18th of this
2 year Village Council passed a resolution opposing the
3 proposed location of Nexus gas line through the Village of
4 Dawstown. The area is basically a 56-acre area that we set
5 up for future development of our community. It's at the
6 corner of Gate Street and 585. The Village of Dawstown
7 invested heavily in that. For years the property owner had
8 it for 20-some years. Every time we had somebody come out
9 and look at it, they said, well, your utilities aren't
10 there. So about eight years ago the Village of Dawstown
11 invested heavily, ran the water to the northern end of it
12 and then we put a sewer and pump station in and a forced
13 main at the southern portion of it.

14 Our concern is the way the pipeline is laid out,
15 it's shooting dead through the center of the 56 acres. We
16 would like to see -- and I did look at the alternative
17 routes that other people have come up with, I wish Nexus
18 would consider that. But if Nexus has to come through the
19 Village of Dawstown, we would like to see them relocate it
20 closer to the easement of 585 so it doesn't go through dead
21 center of the 56 acres which would diminish the value of the
22 land and growth of the Village of Dawstown.

23 We realize pipelines are needed. We have other
24 high pressure lines going through our Village of Dawstown.
25 Safety is always a consideration. And what I really feel

1 that the pipeline itself is a 36-inch with only three-foot
2 coverage, I really feel it should be deeper.

3 But as I said, the Village of Dawstown is very
4 concerned safety wise and also what it will do for the
5 future growth of our community.

6 So if we are forced to receive this, I wish the
7 federal would take in consideration, hey, work with them
8 instead of totally destroying 56 acres that you might only
9 destroy a third of it.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. WACHHOLDER: If you want to get it into the
13 record, you can hand it to me, I'll give this -- whatever I
14 get I'm going to give to the court reporter.

15 That's fine.

16 Yes, number 26 -- that was him.

17 Number 27, Randy Watt.

18 MR. WATT: Good evening. My name is Randy Watt.
19 My wife and I own property in the city of New Franklin in
20 southwestern Summit County. And that property lies within
21 the survey path of the Nexus Pipeline.

22 Our primary concern is that our water source lies
23 very close to the center line of the proposed pipeline
24 construction. And disruption or contamination of our sole
25 water source is completely unacceptable.

1 We also have two ponds on our property that
2 support a variety of wildlife, bird life, plant life and
3 insect life which help support a sizeable population of bats
4 in our area. We fear disruption of surface springs caused
5 by construction or resulting from construction that feed
6 these ponds and we have no less than five spring outflows on
7 our property.

8 The proximity of the construction threatens the
9 integrity of our sole water source, our surface spring
10 outflows, and our wildlife supporting ponds.

11 Other concerns include potential damage to our
12 sanitary system, slope shifting caused by disruption from
13 pipeline construction; loss of old growth trees including
14 Oaks and Shag Bark Hickories that bats and bird species of
15 special concern depend on; loss of security and peace caused
16 by being forced to live next to a high-pressure energy
17 source; loss of property valuation, disturbance of our peace
18 during pipeline construction, and loss of our right to the
19 pursuit of happiness in that our primary reason for
20 purchasing this property is the diversity of flora, fauna,
21 topographic and geologic features included therein. All
22 these features are placed at risk by the installation of
23 this pipeline.

24 We urge that FERC either deny the Nexus project
25 or deny the current proposed path and require the Nexus

1 Pipeline to follow a safer, saner path such as that proposed
2 by the City of Green.

3 Our situation in New Franklin is by no means
4 unique in that area.

5 Finally, I would like to point out that there's a
6 glaring disconnect between local governments versus state
7 and federal government concerning the project. Most local
8 government entities have voiced concerns, grave concerns
9 about Nexus. While state and federal representatives most
10 of which, if not all, have received campaign contributions
11 from Specter Energy and they voice support for the project.
12 And to those state and federal representatives, I say, shame
13 on you for ignoring the concerned voices of your
14 constituents that live along the pipeline path.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker, number 28 is Brian Heller. And
19 I would just like to remind people to not have
20 conversations. The acoustics in here are fabulous because I
21 could hear people's conversations in the back and I don't
22 want to be distracted from listening to the speakers. So if
23 you have something you need to say, if you could step out, I
24 would really appreciate it. Thanks.

25 MR. HELLER: Hi, I'm Brian Heller. The pipeline

1 isn't proposed to go across my property, but I am -- I live
2 right across the street where they're proposing to put the
3 compressor station. So a lot of my questions and concerns
4 deal with that because of how it affects me, but the whole
5 process I'm concerned with as well.

6 What's the noise levels permitted from the
7 compressor station at the meeting in Wadsworth prior to this
8 the people from Nexus said that their decibels would be like
9 50 or less, which would be like a dishwasher in my house.
10 Well, I can sit in my living room and not hear my
11 dishwasher. Is that 50 decibels like you said it would be
12 like the closest people living to it and not like a mile
13 away or something. Is there -- I would like to know more
14 information about that since that would affect all the
15 residents around there.

16 There are 15 houses that are either due west or
17 southwest of that on Guilford Road within a half mile of
18 where the compressor station is proposed. And there's eight
19 houses that are due west and north of that on Guilford Road.
20 That's a pretty populated area within a half mile of both
21 directions of it. That's not even counting Guilford Farms
22 which is on the northeast side of it and all the residents
23 that live over off Roar Road and back in that area on the
24 east of it.

25 Couldn't they find a better place to put this

1 where it's not so populated?

2 The compressor station releases larger or huge
3 amounts of toxins, benzene, sulfuric oxide, formaldehyde,
4 and a lot of other ones that I can't even pronounce.

5 My wife is allergic to formaldehyde. I don't
6 know if it would affect her. They say, oh, this will be
7 below federal limits, it should have no affect on her. But
8 who is to say long-term exposure living that close right
9 across the street from it wont have some impact? Everybody
10 is different and more sensitive than no. Maybe it won't
11 impact her and that would be great for us. I don't know.
12 But if it does impact her, and by that time it's already
13 there, I've been told my property value, from where I live,
14 to the vicinity right across the street from it, could drop
15 20 to 25 percent. That's if I can sell my house. Who is
16 going to want to buy a house right across the street from a
17 compressor station?

18 What's going to be done about these property
19 values? And what if insurance companies with all these
20 reportings of explosions and things and insurance companies
21 say, we're raising your rates. Who is going to pay for
22 that?

23 I agree with the people about, yes, jobs, but why
24 couldn't they move it to a more southern route? The economy
25 will still be there for our areas, still have jobs. It

1 would be a benefit for everybody.

2 There's more line in the works, so something
3 needs to be done now. I mean, I hear three or four more
4 lines coming. Are we going to let them do the same thing?
5 Make a corridor.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Next up is number 29, Sherry
8 Baker, then 30, Jimmy Stewart, and I just want to let you
9 know, we're going to take a short, five, ten-minute break
10 after the 30th speaker so you're not surprised.

11 So, number 29, Sherry Baker. Ok

12 MS. BAKER: I'm Sherry Baker, I live in New
13 Franklin. I did not prepare a speech. I am part of CORN
14 that opposes the Nexus route. I would like to see it
15 rerouted. Basically my family and I own what is left of
16 farmland in New Franklin. We have 60 acres. On it it has
17 been mined in the past and I have started a horse farm out
18 there. So we have lots of horses.

19 Personally, riding, I can tell you on horseback I
20 went out on our property and the ground sunk under me on
21 back of this horse four feet, the mines run through the
22 property. My niece has found enormous horseshoes. My
23 concern with this pipeline is the fragility of this land and
24 the collapse of this line.

25 I could also tell you that there are turtles that

1 have to be 150 years old crossing where this proposed line
2 goes. I could ride on their back.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

6 Okay. So number 30, Jimmy Stewart and then we'll
7 take a short break after that.

8 MR. STEWART: Good evening. Again, thank you for
9 the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed Nexus
10 Gas Transmission Project. I'm Jimmy Stewart. I'm President
11 of the Ohio Gas Association. We are the trade organization
12 that represents over 30 local distribution natural gas
13 companies in Ohio as well as most of the intra- and
14 interstate natural gas transmission companies. In fact some
15 of our members are actually Ohio municipalities as well as
16 cooperatives that maintain their own natural gas
17 distribution systems.

18 Collectively our members serve more than 3.6
19 million Ohio customers and maintain and manage over 50,000
20 miles of distribution and transmission pipeline throughout
21 the state. Which means, folks, those pipelines already run
22 under streams, they run under rivers, through hills,
23 valleys, farms, highways, streets, bike paths, hospitals,
24 schools, you name it, wherever there are people there are
25 typically natural gas pipelines in, as one of the speakers

1 mentioned earlier, in most of the cities across the state.
2 You walk over them, you drive over them big tractor trailers
3 drive over them on a regular basis.

4 The safety record I would compare to any other
5 industry is certainly safer statistically than getting in
6 your car as most of you will probably do this evening and
7 drive.

8 So, with that said, I did want to clear up last
9 evening there was some testimony that suggested that the
10 Medina County Commissioners were opposed to the originally
11 proposed Nexus preferred route. According to the letter
12 that they submitted to your -- it's on your docket, that is
13 not the case. And I'm reading from that letter, they
14 actually mentioned they strongly support the oil and gas
15 industry in Ohio. Most of our concerned constituents share
16 that strong support. And then they did go on to say that it
17 is their request that FERC and Specter earnestly and
18 genuinely consider well-researched, reroute options that
19 have been proposed by some of their concerned constituents
20 which I can say unequivocally that Specter and certainly, I
21 would hope, FERC would consider those options.

22 So I know Specter is doing so.

23 There have been several very legitimate concerns
24 I've heard last night and tonight, but I would just mention,
25 you know, I come from southeastern Ohio, there are several

1 natural gas transmission pipelines very close to where I
2 live. In fact, there's a compressor station just a couple
3 miles from my home. I don't think we have any shortage of
4 streams and natural beauty and natural habitat in southeast
5 Ohio. In fact, all I ever hear from people that come to our
6 part of the state is how beautiful it is, and, yes, there
7 are several natural gas transmission pipelines there and
8 have been for decades.

9 at you and me and and millions of other people walk and
10 drive over these pipelines every single day. In most
11 considerations I drive across them on a regular basis and I
12 see people -- a friend of mine drives his tractor across the
13 one that goes through his farm.

14 And with that, I'll close and leave you with a
15 letter from your docket.

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: All right. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. It is current 7:45 and I
19 would like just to take a ten-minute break. And right now
20 we have 15 more speakers on the list and then after those 15
21 speakers are done, we can open it up to see if anyone else
22 has additional comments that they would like to make at that
23 point.

24 So, again, it's 7:45. So at 7:55 we'll resume.

25 Thank you.

1 (A brief recess was taken at 7:45 p.m.)

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: All right. We're going to get
3 started again. The next speakers up are number 31, which is
4 Susan Honda, 32 is Terry Langley, and 33 is Dan Bock.

5 MS. HONDA: Hi, I'm -- can you hear me? Is that
6 better?

7 I'm Susan Honda. I'm from Akron. I don't own
8 property. I have great sympathy for people who do because
9 eminent domain seems to be an unfair abridgement of
10 citizens' rights in this particular case.

11 In Akron I'm a member of Sustainable Akron.
12 We've been doing a lot of research on fracking, hydraulic
13 fracking which has been promoted as a clean fuel. What we
14 have discovered is that it is not. It is not even better
15 than coal when you consider fugitive emissions which every
16 one of those fracked wells will exhibit. Over 15 years'
17 time 50 percent of them will have some sort of leakage and
18 the leakage of natural gas is 20 times more heat inducing in
19 the environment than carbon dioxide. It's not a better,
20 cleaner fuel. That's a misnomer.

21 Neither, apparently, has it provided a lot of
22 jobs for us here in Ohio. They are temporary jobs often
23 despite the fellow who is a pipefitter, he will have a job
24 for a few months putting in this pipeline. His
25 eight-year-old son will live with the effects on the

1 environment for the rest of his life.

2 We have -- we are using hydraulic fracturing to
3 generate that is gas that goes into the pipeline that needs
4 millions of gallons of water. Water, which is removed from
5 the water cycle. It has to be filled with all sorts of
6 chemicals in order to engender the sorts of productivity
7 that they need. Each well drops off by 30 percent a year
8 and usually has to be refracked after two or three years.

9 We are building problems in Ohio for our children
10 and that's a very short-term horizon. And we are not
11 getting the economic benefits that we are being told that we
12 have. So I would say, please fight on. Fight on for
13 yourselves and for our children. This is not a good
14 alternative. And the better alternative is ready to go now.
15 It's solar and wind energy. And our representatives at the
16 state level have put a big thumb on all renewables. So I
17 would hold them accountable and I would be very careful
18 about encouraging any pipelines that would allow more
19 drilling and hydraulic fracturing in Ohio.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

22 Next up is number 32, Terry Langley, then number
23 33, Dan Bock and then 34, Georgia Kimble.

24 MR. LANGLEY: Good evening. My name is Terry
25 Langley. I'm an organizer for Pipeliners Local Union 798.

1 We support the Nexus Pipeline and the building the Union
2 Pipeline here. And to speak to the ladies' comments there,
3 I've been doing this for 39 years. It's not temporary.
4 It's full-time work for us and our families.

5 We have approximately 750 people plus families
6 that live in Ohio here that will profit and spend their
7 money back into the economy by working on this project.

8 Not only will those people benefit, but new
9 members that we can obtain from this project, hopefully, by
10 signing up more families and workers to our union to provide
11 work for them while we're doing this project and a future in
12 the pipeline industry.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

16 Next up, number 33, David Bock, then 34, then 35.

17 MR. BOCK: Okay. Dan Bock. This line's proposed
18 route right now runs about 200 foot from our house. If in
19 fact it's FERC's job to see that this thing is run in a safe
20 place, then I think it's up -- FERC needs to take the
21 responsibility to do some research and if there was an
22 incident that they need to say, what was the minimum that
23 the damage was there. And set that minimum so that -- let's
24 say if it's 1,000 feet away, then that line should not go
25 within 1,000 feet of a house.

1 The other thing that bothers me a little bit, or
2 in my mind is if in fact it's your job to say, okay, this
3 route has environmental waterways or wetlands or whatever,
4 and you need to change it. Why is Nexus already giving down
5 payments to people for land and doing surveying? I think
6 FERC needs to be transparent and say, okay, this is our job,
7 and this is, you know, what we're here for. Then why is
8 Nexus -- I don't care how money they have, you're not stupid
9 and throwing money -- how deep your pockets are, you're not
10 going to put money out there unless you feel that that's
11 already going to happen.

12 So I think FERC needs to say to the people, don't
13 make this a horse and pony show for us, you know, make sure
14 that we know that, yeah, you're going to take these into
15 consideration.

16 That's all I've got to say.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

19 Next up, number 34, Georgia Kimble, then 35, Jen
20 Kline, then 36, Ryan Augsburg.

21 MS. KIMBLE: Good evening. My name is Georgia
22 Kimble. I am one of the owners of Mapleland Farms.
23 Mapleland Farms opposes the Nexus pipeline running through
24 our century farm.

25 We are located in Litchfield Township, Medina

1 County, Ohio. Nexus is proposing to go across our farm with
2 their massive pipeline. Mapleland Farms has been in the
3 same family for 130 years. This is a family treasure, an
4 historical property.

5 Arrowheads from civilizations past are still
6 found here. We at Mapleland Farms are actively farming the
7 property making maple syrup, growing natural gardens,
8 orchards, a small apiary, -- and line. As valuable farmland
9 becomes more and more scarce where is the consideration
10 about where our food is coming from?

11 We oppose the Nexus pipeline going across our
12 land and the harms it would cause. Destruction of valuable
13 farmland. Destruction of our maple sugaring process in
14 early spring. A financial burden, the devaluation of
15 property values, increase insurance and taxes, impact on our
16 water supply, destruction of our natural areas. Mapleland
17 Farms hosts artists, photographers, bird-watchers,
18 naturalists, 4-H club, all who come to observe and learn
19 about the tiny species that call Mapleland home.

20 The Monarch butterfly is now nearing the
21 endangered species list. The host plant, milkweed is found
22 here on our set aside nature area. Potential danger or
23 damage to neighboring properties, an impact on our township
24 roads. Whose money repairs them?

25 No benefit to our homes. Nexus pipeline will not

1 bring gas to our stoves or furnaces. The pipeline gas is
2 intended for export. Use of eminent domain to obtain
3 easement for private gain, health and safety risks, just one
4 leak, one loss of life and property is too much.
5 Gas-related accidents are reported daily. Yet, we are told
6 that everything is safe and secure.

7 In view of devaluation and destruction of America
8 by big gas and oil, we the people are enraged. And we're
9 getting off our armchairs, putting down the beer, turning
10 off the TV and reclaiming our rights as Americans to have
11 clean air, water, and an environment that is sustainable.
12 The future of clean energy is advancing now. Solar and wind
13 are sustainable concepts. In the end the rights of the
14 people will prevail for we are the true stewards of the
15 land. For an environment not fit for animal would not be
16 fit for man.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

20 Number 35, Jen Klein, then 36, and then 37.

21 MS. KLEIN: Good evening and thank you for the
22 opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Nexus gas
23 transmission project. My name is Jen Klein. I am the
24 President of the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council.

25 Ohio is the sixth largest chemical manufacturing

1 state in the U.S. and the second largest manufacturing
2 industry here in Ohio. Chemical manufacturers contribute
3 44,000 jobs, direct jobs, and contribute an addition 131,000
4 indirect jobs to the economy.

5 Today I'm here to support the proposed Nexus
6 project. Our industry is proud of our record on job
7 creation that was sustained through recent economic
8 downturns. Our continued growth relies on access to
9 important energy sources such as natural gas.

10 Natural gas drives chemical production for our
11 state and helps create jobs. With the abundance of natural
12 gas production here in Ohio and neighboring West Virginia
13 and Pennsylvania, we have the opportunity to expand our
14 access to these resources and increase chemical production
15 in our state. With proper infrastructure in place, the
16 Utica and Marcellus Shale will provide Ohio chemical
17 manufacturers with affordable, clean-burning and
18 domestically abundant natural gas.

19 Energy costs have a large effect on any company's
20 bottom line, but to the chemical manufacturing industry, it
21 also serves as a feedstock for the products we make.

22 Pipelines are the safest means of transportation
23 of natural gas to markets. Many industries in this region
24 including our own stand to benefit from new access to
25 affordable energy produced right here in the U.S. delivering

1 benefits directly to the people of Ohio. With reliability
2 and stable energy prices that increase production in the
3 region, we are even more hopeful that this region will
4 become a bigger player in the chemical manufacturing
5 industry.

6 The proposed Nexus project will help connect
7 Marcellus and Utica natural gas supplies to markets in
8 northern Ohio. Nexus will also enable the growth of jobs,
9 revenues and businesses all along the proposed route. The
10 project will provide energy and essential feedstock to Ohio
11 industries like the chemical manufacturing industry.

12 I urge favorable consideration of the Nexus Gas
13 Transmission project.

14 Thank you for your time this evening.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 36, Ryan Augsburger, then
17 37, Gary Thonen, and then 38, Robert McGregor.

18 MR. AUGSBURGER: Good evening. I appreciate the
19 opportunity to speak with you today about the proposed Nexus
20 Pipeline project. My name is Ryan Augsburger, I am the
21 managing director of public policy services for the Ohio
22 Manufacturers Association. My testimony is on behalf of the
23 OMA.

24 Access to reliable, affordable energy is a
25 competitive issue for Ohio Manufacturers. Combined with

1 electricity, the price of energy has a significant impact on
2 manufacturers' bottom lines.

3 The OMA represents over 1,400 manufacturing
4 companies across the state. Ohio manufacturers produce
5 every product you can think of, ranging from automotive
6 components to medical equipment, to frozen pizza rolls.

7 In aggregate, Ohio ranks among the top three
8 states for manufacturing. Economic output from
9 manufacturing in 2013 was topping \$100 billion.

10 As for employment, in 2013, Ohio again ranked
11 third nationally in manufacturing employment and 5.5 percent
12 of our nation's manufacturing jobs are right here in Ohio;
13 663,000 Ohioans are directly employed in the state's
14 manufacturing sector. Manufacturing leads all industry
15 sectors in payroll, that's \$36 billion paying an average
16 annual wage of over \$55,000.

17 The men and women who work in Ohio manufacturing
18 are among the most skilled and the most productive anywhere
19 on the globe.

20 Manufacturing and productivity is a competitive
21 advantage to Ohio's economy. Manufacturers in Ohio excel in
22 both product and process innovation. Investments underway
23 in plants across the state will improve productivity while
24 saving energy, minimizing waste and reducing environmental
25 emissions.

1 Ohio competes with other states for manufacturing
2 investment. Energy policy and energy infrastructure are
3 both important considerations when companies make investment
4 decisions.

5 The OMA believes energy policy can enhance or
6 hinder Ohio's ability to attract business investment,
7 stimulate economic growth, and spur job creation especially
8 in manufacturing.

9 State and federal energy policies must first
10 ensure access to reliable economical sources of energy.

11 Second, support the development of a diverse
12 energy resource mix.

13 And, third, conserve energy to preserve our
14 natural resources while lowering costs.

15 The OMA has a longstanding position of support
16 for a modernized energy infrastructure to maximize energy
17 supplies and to stabilize energy pricing and reliability.

18 Additionally, the construction of natural gas
19 pipelines from the Marcellus and Utica shale formations will
20 increase access to gas as a feedstock. Gas is not just a
21 source of energy. It is also a raw material utilized in
22 many manufacturing processes.

23 Finally, construction and operation of a pipeline
24 will afford manufacturers from the region with expanded
25 market opportunity to bid to supply needed parts, materials

1 and technologies. These will all serve to protect and grow
2 Ohio manufacturing.

3 The Nexus Pipeline stands to benefit
4 manufacturing in Ohio and throughout the Midwest.
5 Therefore, the OMA encourages the Federal Energy Regulatory
6 Commission to approve the Nexus Pipeline Project.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. WACHHOLDER: On the buzzer.

9 Number 37, Gary Thonen. Then 38, Robert
10 McGregor, and 39, Russ Callahan.

11 MR. THONEN: Yeah, I'm Gary Thonen. Hey, I'm a
12 union member also, but I hear all you union people in here
13 saying how it's going to do all this Ohio jobs force. Well,
14 all I see is Texas companies right now doing all the
15 surveying and they don't respect the property owners because
16 we've not given them permission at all to be on our farm.
17 And I catch them one day getting out right underneath my "No
18 Trespassing" signs running through our corn field. I go
19 down and I run them off. So they leave that day.

20 A week later, my son tells me at seven o'clock in
21 the morning, "Hey, day, there's people going down through
22 our woods." Right past my "No Trespassing" signs. It's
23 Nexus again. All these Texas guys don't respect us at all.
24 So as union workers in Ohio, how about let's get these union
25 Ohio surveyors in here.

1 I support the southern Green proposal because
2 it's going to create a financial hardship with my family
3 because we've got a 55-acre farm that I grew up on. Well,
4 our dreams have been to create that a subdivision and it's
5 already been allotted a 29-acre subdivision and they're
6 angling down through the middle of our farm taking up 13 to
7 14 of our buildable lots.

8 Now, this is just going to destroy my family, my
9 mom, my brother, everybody if they're allowed to come on and
10 take it eminent domain. Because we don't want them here.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

14 Next up, number 38, Robert McGregor, then 39 and
15 40.

16 MR. MCGREGOR: Good evening. My name is Robert
17 McGregor. I'm a Chippewa Township trustee. I'd like to,
18 for purposes of brevity, read a portion of a resolution that
19 was passed unanimously by the trustees on January 14th,
20 2015.

21 Whereas, in not opposing the proposed Interstate
22 Nexus Gas Transmission Pipeline Project, the Chippewa
23 Township trustees do oppose the proposed location of the
24 pipeline running through Chippewa Township. In which the
25 pipeline would reduce property values and not provide energy

1 needs to the residents of Chippewa Township, Wayne County,
2 Ohio.

3 And, therefore, the Chippewa Township Trustees
4 request the pipeline be routed on a more southern
5 trajectory, avoiding the heavily populated counties of
6 northeast Ohio and make use of routes less invasive to
7 personal property and more considerate to populated
8 neighborhoods thereby mitigating the hardship on township
9 property owners and irrecoverable damage to Chippewa
10 Township, Wayne County, Ohio.

11 And now therefore be it resolved the Chippewa
12 Township Trustees oppose the proposed Nexus Gas Transmission
13 Pipeline Project location and urge Specter Energy
14 Corporation lead developers of the Nexus Gas Transmission
15 Project to remember their goals and commitment to positive
16 impact communities, have respect for the individual property
17 owners overall and reconsider locating the pipeline to other
18 less populated areas to minimize the total disruption and
19 negative effect of fewer property owners throughout
20 northeast Ohio and Chippewa Township.

21 Be it further resolved that a copy of this
22 resolution shall be filed as a statement before the Federal
23 Energy Regulatory Commission, members of the House of
24 Representatives, and United States Congress, DT Energy and
25 Mr. Greg Able, President and CEO Specter Energy Corporation.

1

2 I have a copy of that for your records and we've
3 also submitted that already.

4 Now, I'd like to speak as a resident, if I may
5 and not a township trustee.

6 Now, I've witnessed maybe 38 people speaking
7 tonight, at least 30 have been opposed for valid and
8 appropriate reasons to the location of this pipeline. I've
9 heard perhaps seven or eight industry speakers. Not one
10 comment has been made why this is the right route. No one
11 is opposing, at least from the township trustee standpoint,
12 the need for pipelines. But, again, not one comment why
13 this is the right route.

14 Now, Jennifer, if it's truly your job to evaluate
15 the environmental and safety impact of pipelines I would
16 welcome you and challenge you to come to our township
17 trustee hall on Galehouse Road. We've had a pipeline
18 project going on in our township for over a year. And it's
19 still not done, it's still not finished, we still have
20 subsoil on top of the ground instead of topsoil. It's truly
21 a mess. And these residents have really struggled with this
22 project for well over a year. And that invitation is open
23 at any time.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Number 39, Russ
2 Callahan, then 40, Karen Hurst, and 41, Charles Willoughby.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening, everyone. My name
4 is Russ Callahan and I'm a resident of Gilford Farms
5 Development out in Gilford Township. I also own a property
6 at 6718 Worchester Pike Road. Neither one of my properties
7 are going to be directly touched by this pipeline, but both
8 are going to be affected.

9 This is my first meeting on this subject tonight.
10 I've heard a lot of things from a lot of people. I've heard
11 a lot of executives from organizations saying how good this
12 is going to be for our community and so forth in the
13 economic development, and this is part of your study too, I
14 understand.

15 I have not heard one person here say, it's going
16 to give me a job. I've heard executive trying to keep their
17 jobs, in my opinion. Okay.

18 I did a lot of research and give you some
19 background, real short, I was military intelligence for the
20 last part of my 28-year military career. I now serve as a
21 financial crime investigator. So I like to look things up.
22 Today and one day since I heard about this meeting I
23 questioned the pumping stations. The size of their
24 footprint, and how expandable are they? Is this going to be
25 a one-time thing? Because we're all forgetting that once

1 the pipeline is in, that's just the start. Everything else
2 goes on. And what's the noise level?

3 According to a FERC report today, venting can be
4 as high as 152 decibels. The book they gave tonight says
5 the average has to be 55, not the peak, the average.

6 Also -- so there's your noise pollution.

7 Emissions, we already know it's not going to be
8 an electric compressor. It's going to be a natural gas
9 powered compressor. That's a carbon fuel. It might be
10 cleaner burning than diesel fuel, but it's a carbon fuel
11 with emissions.

12 The examples I found today and the best I can
13 give so everybody understands is, the emissions from one of
14 these pumping stations is the equivalent of a single jet
15 engine off a 747 running all day.

16 Now, my property where I reside is directly west
17 of these emissions. And another study found today that
18 prolonged hydrocarbon emissions exposure to humans increases
19 heart attack and heart disease.

20 Lights at night. Pumping stations, a lot of the
21 counties say, well, we have to have some lights.
22 Absolutely. I found a case where one company put up 16 arc
23 lights at night to light an unmanned pumping station.

24 The long-term effects on the economy of the
25 community. Increased fire equipment and training.

1 Right-of-ways, even though they go through our woods and
2 everything else, are going to have to be kept clear. We're
3 going to have to allow access to our properties to let this
4 happen.

5 Property owners, we already know property values
6 will go down. How much depending on how much exposure you
7 have and the potential insurance increases have already been
8 said.

9 But the pipeline construction has not been
10 questioned, it's just been asked to be moved. And I thank
11 you for your time.

12 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Next one is number 40,
15 Karen Hurst, then 41 and 42.

16 MS. HURST: Good evening. I am Karen Hurst and I
17 live on Earhart Road in York Township and also I support the
18 comments that were made by Georgia Kimble.

19 The pipeline is not going through my property,
20 but it is going through some of my neighbors' properties. I
21 am concerned about this huge pipeline coming in a very
22 residential and populated area. Safety is a huge concern of
23 mine when this occurs. Just the laying out of the people
24 will disrupt our small community in ways I can't even
25 imagine it right now, with the noise and the trucks.

1 We live on a township. Our township has a
2 volunteer fire department. Is it equipped to handle if,
3 heaven forbid, an explosion happened with this huge pipeline
4 that's going to come in right alongside our houses?

5 This pipeline will devalue our properties, it's
6 going down right in the middle of homes. We have a septic
7 system will it interfere with that?

8 We have water, will it poison that? What happens
9 to the surrounding woods? These are all huge concerns and I
10 really think that it needs to go in a less-populated area.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

14 Next up number 41, Charles Willoughby. Then 42,
15 Angelina Samples, and 43, Mike Bock.

16 MR. WILLOUGHBY: Thank you. My name is Charles
17 Willoughby. I'm the Director of Energy and Environmental
18 Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

19 The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has been involved
20 with the Utica shale play and development of natural gas
21 since the beginning and been encouraging its development.

22 The pipeline infrastructure is now the next step
23 in getting the most potential out of our abundant natural
24 resources that we can.

25 The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, we represent nearly

1 8,000 business members across Ohio and I'm testifying in
2 support of the proposed Nexus Gas Transmission Project.

3 As the state's leading business advocate and
4 resource, the Ohio chamber is aggressively championing free
5 enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the
6 benefit of all Ohioans.

7 Shale development is already having a positive
8 impact on Ohio. You may or may not have felt it directly,
9 but it is benefitting local economies, creating jobs and
10 been an economic driver since the recession and since its
11 discovery.

12 I would also like to add that the Medina County
13 Economic Development Corporation, the group here was not
14 able to attend, but asked that I at least let them be on the
15 record as in support as well. They have submitted a letter
16 two years ago, I believe, with the development of natural
17 gas and would like to again be on the record in support.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 42, Angelina Samples,
20 then 43, Mike Bach, and then 44, Gay Baumgartner.

21 MS. SAMPLES: Hi. My name is Angelina Samples.
22 I live in Clinton, Ohio.

23 First of all I heard several supporters say that
24 I live adjacent to, I live nearby, I live directly within
25 the corridor, first of all.

1 My husband and I had purchased property three
2 years ago, 30 acres. And this is going to run directly
3 through that property. We had initially planned on our
4 children some day building homes there. The way that this
5 pipeline is going to be routed, that's going to be -- that's
6 a dream. And they've just squelched that dream because I
7 don't think that that is going to be a possibility the way
8 that it's routed.

9 We had considered financial risks when we
10 purchased our property. And when I hear that my property
11 could decline in value up to 35 percent, that's
12 unacceptable. It's very disheartening. And you can have
13 others argue that that's not the case. But I can tell you
14 that our previous home we purchased from Marathon Oil. And
15 the reason that we go such a deal on it was because there
16 was an underground oil leak. So we got a huge deal on it.

17 So I do know that if there's any type of spill or
18 accident or leak that it is going to depreciate the value of
19 my property. Even without that, the risk is going to
20 depreciate the value of my property.

21 We had planted hundreds of sapling trees. We had
22 initially also planned on that being part of our retirement.
23 Where this pipeline is going is directly through where we've
24 planted hundreds of trees. We also enjoy up there watching
25 pheasants and wild turkey and deer. We're raising Rowan

1 ducks. We're expanding our pond. Initially where they drew
2 the stakes to put this pipeline in was directly through that
3 pond that we are in the process of enlarging.

4 We have filed to register our property as a
5 certified wildlife habitat and we're waiting to hear on
6 that.

7 Most importantly, I think when we bought the
8 property -- we have six children and 13 grandchildren. We
9 wanted those kids to grow up there and we enjoy watching
10 them run and four-wheel and play. And we wanted to do this
11 and provide a safe environment. If this pipeline goes
12 through, I feel that that's being taken away from us. I
13 feel that there is a safety risk there. And I don't feel
14 that someone should have the right to put that risk in my
15 path on my property. I'm not willing to take that risk with
16 my children and grandchildren. Why do I allow someone else
17 to take that risk, as small as it may be, even if it's 1
18 percent, it's still a risk and it's on my property.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

22 All right. We have number 43, Mike Bach, then
23 44, Gay Baumgartner, and then 45 Susan Yovichin. And then
24 after that we'll open it up to anyone who wants to speak
25 again.

1 MR. BACH: My name is Mike Bach. I'm here as a
2 citizen of the County of Medina. Appreciate the
3 opportunity. I'm glad to see this many people coming out.
4 I began my career in the business of corrosion prevention,
5 primarily on pipelines. I've walked hundreds of miles of
6 them. What we did was surveyed and looked for conditions of
7 the pipeline as to corrosion. We worked for the pipeline
8 companies and found them to be some of the safest and most
9 responsible people that you could work for. They wouldn't
10 be in business if it weren't for that. Set that aside.

11 My personal ideas as to how our society does well
12 begins with jobs. And I've heard a number of discussions
13 about jobs. I believe in jobs in Medina County. I believe
14 them to be in America, then our state, then here.

15 I've run two companies in the area here, one that
16 began in 1984 as a start up primarily working with pipeline
17 companies on health safety and environmental protection. We
18 grew to 1,000 people. These people were full-time
19 employees. The company was bought by a big public company
20 some years ago. These people went out all over the world
21 working on pipelines, bringing the money back here, coming
22 here, buying homes, buying goods, going to the grocery
23 store, pipelines mean an awful lot to our community.

24 We have one of the biggest coating companies
25 headquartered in the northern part of our county that most

1 people know. Jobs are here as a result of this industry.

2 I'm proud to have been a part of it. I retired
3 from that industry after 30 years, but what I can tell you
4 is jobs need business. Business needs energy, energy needs
5 to be transported. I for one have a pipeline that runs
6 right through our neighborhood. It's like two or three
7 doors down. It was there when I bought the house.

8 I understand the level of risk that one takes by
9 living near a pipeline. There's risk in everything we do.
10 What you look at when you're defining what you're going to
11 do every day whether you know it or not, is you understand
12 the consequence of a risk, but we also know what the
13 likelihood is. That's why we have gas running into many of
14 our homes, electricity. We drive a car. We get on the
15 freeways, and what we're really looking at is there's an
16 opportunity for a bad event to happen. We know the
17 consequences aren't good. But the likelihood allows us to
18 understand that the convenience is more appropriate than
19 what the consequence is going to be and we choose to do
20 that.

21 Pipelines are safe. I live near one. I would
22 much rather have my children and grandchildren by a pipeline
23 that I know where it is than with a gas or gasoline truck
24 driving down the highway where a whole confluence of
25 problems can come together and cause them to have a problem.

1 So, thank you.

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

3 Next up is Gay Baumgartner and then our last
4 speaker on my list right now is Susan Yovichin.

5 MS. BAUMGARTNER: Okay. Can you hear me? Okay.
6 My name is Gay Baumgartner. My husband and I own 30 acres
7 of land in Grafton Township which is affected by the
8 pipeline. I am a member of CORN which wants to relocate the
9 pipeline, not stop the pipeline.

10 I am the daughter of a Marine who served in China
11 during World War II and I am the mother of a Marine who
12 served in Afghanistan where he was recognized with the Navy
13 and Marine Corp Achievement Medal with a combat V for valor.
14 He received this for saving his unit in Afghanistan. About
15 three months after his discharge he died from the effects of
16 post traumatic stress.

17 I share that with you because I want you to know
18 my family has a history of defending this country from
19 forces that we think are going to cause a negative impact.
20 Now it's my turn to try to defend this state from forces
21 that I believe are going to cause a negative impact.

22 What I don't understand is how or when common
23 sense became uncommon. When it relates to the Nexus
24 Pipeline there are many areas that I don't see any common
25 sense. Experts who study pipelines in Canada and in

1 Cleveland and in Pennsylvania and the victims in California
2 say that significant pipeline setbacks are important. That
3 makes sense to me. I've seen the pictures of the damage. I
4 don't understand how with a little common sense and very
5 little time the City of Green could find a route for the
6 Nexus Pipeline that makes more sense and incorporates safety
7 setbacks.

8 I am concerned that Nexus might just have put
9 together a design as a test to see who would complain
10 instead of putting together a design that makes sense.

11 CORN is not trying to pass the buck and risk our
12 neighbors to the south of us. They tried to find the safest
13 route. The Nexus people say that setbacks are not needed.
14 These are the same people who send me vague and misleading
15 information. They are part of the team who told me at the
16 open house that two of my neighbors had already signed
17 survey agreements. Unfortunately for them, I know those two
18 neighbors and I know they did not give Nexus permission to
19 survey their property.

20 When I said this to the man, he said, "well, we
21 must have surveyed the property from the street or from the
22 air." I am very concerned about transparency and truth.

23 At the open house held by Nexus, I asked two
24 simple questions. I wanted to know if bending the pipe at
25 the installation site would have an impact on pipe thickness

1 at the bend. That was a yes or no question. And I wanted to
2 know if stretching the pipe would impact strength.
3 Unfortunately for Nexus I asked that question in front of
4 four of their employees. Three of them said no, and the
5 fourth said, yes, there would be an effect, however it would
6 not affect the strength of the pipeline.

7 My favorite new quote is from a person in Oregon.
8 It says, and I'm paraphrasing, one minute, I'll finish the
9 sentence. I'm from Oregon, but I'm not stupid. We are not
10 stupid here in Ohio either. I believe that the fourth man
11 was correct. But the other people on the team are either
12 uninformed, under skilled, or you can fill in the blank.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

15 Next speaker, number 45, Susan Yovichin.

16 MS. YOVICHIN: My name is Susan Yovichin from
17 Clinton, Ohio. I'm a member of the Village of Clinton
18 Ohio's Zoning Board of Appeals.

19 I'm opposed to the current route of the Nexus
20 Pipeline. I believe it should not be placed in this densely
21 populated area of Summit County. It will have adverse
22 effects on safety, the environment, and property values. It
23 will not produce any significant local jobs. The few that
24 it will provide will be far more than offset by the
25 destruction of a safe green environment and valuable

1 property.

2 The ensuing bust is far greater than any boom.
3 I'd like to conclude by stating that eminent domain should
4 not be used for profit.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. That was the last person
7 whose name is on the list. If you would care to speak again
8 -- if you've already spoken and you care to speak again, you
9 can come up and then you can just say your name. But if you
10 haven't spoken yet and you want to speak, you'll need to say
11 it and spell it so we can get it in the record. So if
12 somebody wants to raise their hand to go first, we'll start
13 with -- here you go.

14 MR. BAUMGARTNER: Yeah, my speech before was
15 talking about disasters and things like the Titanic and
16 other places where engineered products did not live up to
17 their PR expectation of being safe. Even the Titanic had
18 life boats though. And maybe they didn't have enough of
19 them, they didn't do a good enough job getting into them,
20 but they had life boats.

21 One of the problems I see with our present safety
22 system for pipelines is they're engineered to be very safe
23 under certain laboratory conditions. But they're not
24 engineered, or they're not protected from rupture and
25 failure when it does happen by surprise or whatever. So

1 what can we do if a pipeline does rupture? What is it --
2 where's the safety? Well, experts say that if we did have a
3 safe setback distance, that would at least protect the
4 people that are in the blast zone. Why don't we have a safe
5 setback distance?

6 Well, when a pipeline goes through New York City
7 or something, there's too many people, it's too dense. So
8 big business or the developers don't want a safe setback
9 distance, they can't maintain one.

10 Well, that may be true and we may need to put a
11 pipe through New York, but my feeling is that safe setback
12 distances, a known risk reducer, should be used whenever
13 possible. And in the case of this Nexus Pipeline going
14 through Ohio, there's a lot of possibility of moving the
15 pipeline down to a southerly region where it's less dense
16 and setback distances are more readily available.

17 So even though there's not an overall regulation
18 to use them, there should be some sort of incentive to use
19 them when at all possible. And this is one case where it is
20 possible. So, being a member of CORN, I'm advocating using
21 the CORN southern route, the Green City route, whatever.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. WACHHOLDER: All right. He was next. Okay.

25 MR. SCHMELZER: Yeah, my name is Jerry Schmelzer.

1 I had to apologize earlier. I had so much information and I
2 get so enthused. I shouldn't be enthused about disasters.
3 But what I'm enthused about is us having the opportunity to
4 use public record and testimony to try to get people's
5 attention because I think this is a very serious issue that
6 everybody needs to be concerned about.

7 As I was saying, the one big flaming incident,
8 the closest home was a thousand feet away, nothing happened,
9 no one got hurt, it was scary, scared a lot of people, made
10 it into the news. Made it into the pipeline hazardous
11 materials safety administration incident report.

12 The other one that I shared about and I read the
13 testimony about the two people, the one woman thought that
14 it was the end of days, she mentioned. Her house actually
15 melted around her.

16 Now, I have a drawing here you can't see, but it
17 will be on the FERC filing. It shows three homes. It shows
18 one home that's 2,200 feet away from the pipeline
19 right-of-way, one that's 1,020 feet away, and the one that
20 was 100 feet away was the one that actually basically burned
21 down and the woman saw the vinyl siding melting around her
22 house. She waited five minutes to get out because she
23 didn't know what to do.

24 So at any rate, that's what happens. So my
25 statement after talking about those facts is the explosion

1 in Hanoverton, the closest home was 967 feet. The one in
2 Glouster, Ohio where the people were injured and the home
3 melted around them was 100 feet away, both were class one
4 locations, but each had a disastrously different result.

5 Many of the miles of the Nexus proposed pipeline
6 are class two and class three locations. That's what really
7 concerns me. And I live -- I will live 150 feet from one of
8 these.

9 I support the natural gas industry, Ohio jobs,
10 and the national energy independence. I think we're truly
11 blessed to have this gas in our country. Having said this,
12 I am in favor of the City of Green and the CORN sponsored
13 routes, and I believe that safety setbacks whose parameters
14 are based on science and past incidents should be adopted
15 and applied by FERC and the pipeline industry. And thanks
16 for letting me have a second chance.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. WACHHOLDER: Somebody else would like to --
19 okay, I saw your hand first.

20 MS. BAUMGARTNER: Okay. Nexus claims this
21 pipeline is for the public good. Oh, Gay Baumgartner.
22 Sorry.

23 Nexus claims this pipeline is for the public
24 good. I have tried to understand how this pipeline project
25 fits that definition of public good. Nexus is a private

1 company that is not making the United States energy
2 independent but is actually a Texas company which is taking
3 Ohio resources and selling a lot of it in Canada, a
4 significant portion of which is to be exported.

5 If you include Canada in the public, that might
6 make sense to you.

7 My final concern for common sense is related to
8 jobs. Yes, there will be jobs. I have a great deal of
9 respect for pipefitters and I'm glad there will be jobs.
10 However, the estimation for jobs has already been
11 reestimated to be significantly lower than was first
12 reported. And it has been said by pipeline companies that
13 may Ohioans don't possess the higher- level skills needed
14 for the pipelines so talent from other parts of the country
15 will be used as well.

16 Now, bear with me because I am an Ohioan, but I
17 noticed that the person who knocked on my door three
18 separate times to get my permission to survey my property
19 was from Pennsylvania. I would think that some people from
20 Ohio would have the ability to check boxes on a form. It
21 isn't as if he answered any of our questions because he
22 didn't. He gave us very vague answers. He just wanted us
23 to sign on the dotted line and since we didn't he said he
24 would report us to his manager.

25 It has been a very long time since I went to the

1 principal's office. But suddenly I went from being an adult
2 to someone who had skipped gym class. Lucky I have such a
3 great sense of humor. He was very, very nice, but I think
4 someone from Ohio could have done that job. And I am pretty
5 sure that we have surveyors in Ohio. The majority of the
6 cars in my neighborhood have Texas license plates on them.

7 My concerns may reflect that I am against gas
8 pipelines. In general I am not. I am against being
9 bullied, misled and feeling like I have to defend myself
10 and my property from injustices from a private business when
11 there are other but better options.

12 I am counting on FERC to see through the
13 loopholes and provide the common sense that this project
14 needs.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. WACHHOLDER: Again, state your name.

18 MR. GIEROSKY: You know who I am. I'm Paul
19 Gierosky. And I'm a member of the Board of Director of the
20 Coalition to Reroute Nexus. And what I didn't have the
21 chance to say in the earlier statement was, you know, you
22 have heard that there are many, many issues that are
23 involved with the routing of these projects. Okay. The
24 issue that our organization and perhaps me personally finds
25 most egregious is the blatant lack of respect for individual

1 property rights guaranteed by us, by the Fifth Amendment of
2 our U.S. Constitution.

3 You know, you've heard -- last night I remember
4 hearing one of the speakers in Grafton defending Nexus,
5 Specter Energy, okay. Because they were saying, well,
6 they're just -- they're following the law. You know, Nexus
7 is just following the law.

8 Well, maybe they are following the law. But I
9 think we all know that the law isn't always right. I remind
10 you, a little history lesson. Remember the Dread Scott
11 decision, 1857, started a Civil War. It was a landmark case
12 in the U.S. Supreme Court that held that African Americans
13 whether enslaved or free could not be U.S. citizens. Was
14 that law right?

15 How about Plessey vs. Ferguson, 1896, Supreme
16 Court decision that upheld state laws regarding the racial
17 segregation of public facilities. How do you feel about
18 that one?

19 Or Cora Box vs. the United States in 1944 where
20 the Supreme Court sided with the Chief Executive of the
21 country that allowed for the interment of Japanese Americans
22 in camps regardless of their citizenship. Those were all
23 laws that were upheld.

24 It's the 1938 Gas Act that authorizes eminent
25 domain takings based upon a certificate of public

1 convenience and what, necessity? I'm not making fun of you,
2 but understand this is -- I'm not pointing, but what's this
3 public convenience and necessity thing? I argue that the
4 government has no right to forcibly transfer our property to
5 a private company with the hope that its development will
6 yield higher tax revenue, new jobs, a more reliable energy
7 infrastructure, reduced energy bills, a stronger regional
8 economy or some other vague outcome like energy
9 independence.

10 The use of this taking power to me is like a
11 reverse Robin Hood gambit. You take from the poor and you
12 give it to the rich. You know, the beneficiaries are only
13 those with disproportionate influence and power in the
14 political process like corporations.

15 You know, allowing the government to take
16 property solely for public purposes is bad enough. But
17 extending the concept of public purpose to encompass an
18 economic benefit or some goal like that guarantees these
19 losses will fall disproportionately on private citizens that
20 are least able to defend themselves like us. Why are we
21 here? Why do we have to do this? Well, it's because the
22 company gets to pick the route, 1938 Gas Act allows them
23 your certificate of necessity and public convenience gives
24 them the power to use eminent domain to take whatever they
25 want and there are no safety setback standards. Take any

1 one of those away and we're not here.

2 Please, give us back our life. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thanks. Is there anybody else
5 who would like to speak?

6 All right. Please step up. And, again, state
7 your name.

8 MS. BECKSTETT: I'm Deborah Beckstett. I think
9 that you've heard a lot of valuable opinions tonight. And I
10 still am a bit confused about the jobs when I look at the
11 research. This wasn't an area that I was looking into
12 originally but I came across it. And it's from universities
13 and respected centers around the country. What they found
14 was, as the lady mentioned earlier, that the jobs that were
15 promised were greatly exaggerated.

16 I have family in Texas. They're worried that the
17 U.S. has now become a number one producer of natural gas.
18 They work in the oil company. They're thinking they're
19 losing their jobs. This isn't just about me. This isn't
20 just about me.

21 I got a letter saying Nexus was removing my
22 property, 70 acres we worked our whole lives to have. But I
23 am within the incendiary mile, but I'm worried about my
24 citizens, my county, my neighbors, the fauna, the birds that
25 I mentioned, the mammals, the surveys that I do, the

1 reptiles for the HUD Department of Natural Resources. This
2 is about affecting all of us. I don't see a strategic plan
3 on a grander plane, let alone a local one. I see many of us
4 willing to compromise and say, yes. We're not energy free
5 yet on a basis where America can go to completely natural
6 products like wind. We may need these products for a while.

7 I heard most of us say, we understand that. I
8 don't hear the other industry coming and saying, we'll go
9 further south. You know, I did hear somebody who was brave
10 enough to say, I'm a union person, but where are my jobs. I
11 do know that those little white trucks running around were
12 surveyors. We've seen them. They're not from our state.
13 They're from Virginia and Oklahoma, and Texas. I'm as
14 American as I think everybody in this room is. Apple pie.
15 But, you know, I don't think I'm the only American that's a
16 little disillusioned with listening to the fox in the hen
17 house. If I had to prepare a report for my board of
18 directors, I couldn't just come in there and say, I believe.
19 I'd have to join up with universities or research centers
20 that actually work outside of just what I would be telling
21 my board of directors.

22 So I'm asking you again, follow the research.
23 There's universities that have reported the jobs. There's
24 universities and nonprofit centers that are nationally
25 renown that can give you the facts. It's about all of us.

1 We're all losing a dream in this generation and next if we
2 don't step back and take a deep breath and put a plan
3 together that makes sense for all of us. This is a natural
4 resource going to Canada, Europe. I do question the value
5 of eminent domain. There's a few of us willing to take that
6 to the Supreme Court.

7 But in the meantime, this company is going to
8 shove ahead with whole disregard to what we're telling you
9 and much of it is based on the research.

10 Please, step back, take a breath, and take a look
11 at how it affects all of us.

12 Thanks.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Is there anybody else who
15 would like to speak?

16 Okay.

17 MR. HELLER: Just a couple other things -- my
18 name is Brian Heller again. Just looking at things, if you
19 look still who is here, it's all the people that it's going
20 to affect. All the associations and directors and everybody
21 else, they came to give their little say and then they
22 leave. It's just like the job, it's going to be put in,
23 they don't care after that. Their jobs are over with or
24 it's not going to impact them. They get their economic
25 benefit out of it and they're gone.

1 Look at the people that are here, the people that
2 it's going to affect over the long haul. They're trying to
3 present options and things. The director's associations,
4 they didn't project or volunteer any other options or try to
5 look for the benefit of everything. Nothing against them. I
6 want our economy to be well and people to have jobs and
7 things, but it can be rerouted, they'd still have the jobs.

8 And energy independence, I thought from what I've
9 heard the majority of this is, this is a transfer line. I
10 haven't seen any contracts that it's going to go to any
11 manufacturing. A lot of the associations saying, oh, it
12 will improve Ohio's manufacturing benefits so much. Where's
13 the backup for that? There hasn't been anything as far as
14 I've heard that there's going to be contracts for this or
15 that it's going to split off and go to industrial parks or
16 anything at all.

17 Increasing our markets. I received this from
18 Nexus saying -- it's a brochure in the mail from them. This
19 new infrastructure will provide enough reliable,
20 cost-effective supplies in natural gas to serve millions of
21 people and local businesses in markets in Ohio, Michigan,
22 Chicago, and Ontario. This is going to become a
23 residential? How is it going to serve people? Maybe people
24 when they export it somewhere else, I don't know. But if
25 it's going to Ontario and they're exporting it, I don't see

1 any benefit for anybody in Ohio.

2 And what little tax revenue, I don't think that
3 outweighs the risk of this pipeline. Move it to a less
4 populated area. That's about all.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Next?

8 MR. HOUSTON: Well, I don't want to misspeak on
9 some folks who spoke so well eloquently like Paul earlier.
10 I'm Don Houston. It looks like Houston, Texas, pronounced
11 like a house that weighs a ton.

12 And I'm getting awfully close.

13 A couple of comments. First up we saw a lot of
14 business interest come down here and say that they've got
15 pipelines that are close to their neighborhood or near their
16 house, or some vicinity. What vicinity? Be specific. And
17 also tell us how big that pipeline is that you're talking
18 about that's in the vicinity of your neighborhood. Is it a
19 36-inch pipeline? I doubt it. And I know early on in this
20 process I read and I've done some research because I've
21 saved all these articles about all this gas that's gone in
22 this Nexus Pipeline. And it was asked by the reporter, who
23 are you selling this to, and they could not name at that
24 time one company in Ohio that they were selling it to. It
25 was going to Canada. All right. It may have changed. They

1 may have discovered hundreds of customers in Ohio, but as of
2 right now I have not seen any and I have not seen them
3 commit to anybody.

4 I'm all in favor, like everybody else here,
5 moving it to a safer, rural area. I don't think -- Nile
6 Grange spoke very eloquently about that too. So, again, I'm
7 not against jobs, I'm all in favor of moving it to a safer,
8 more rural area instead of shoving it down the throats of
9 all these people that live in this populated area that we
10 all live in. It's not right.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Anybody else? Let's see.
14 Okay. Come on up. And remember to say your name.

15 MR. THONEN: Yeah, my name is Gary Thonen again.
16 Hey, you know, we just received last week a letter from
17 Nexus saying, since we will not give them permission to come
18 on our property and survey, they are going to forcibly come
19 on our property. What are they going to do? Hold a gun to
20 us until we let them go out there and survey it. And this
21 word of eminent domain if you look it up in Google or in the
22 Encyclopedia, it says, to improve your town or your
23 community. Not to destroy your property to run a pipeline
24 to Canada.

25 I mean, you guys have listened up there the whole

1 time. You tell me your explanation of eminent domain out of
2 your words. I'd like to hear both of you tell us.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. WACHHOLDER: Anybody else who would like to
5 speak?

6 MR. THONEN: I'd like to hear your words of what
7 eminent domain is, please.

8 MS. WACHHOLDER: I don't have words for eminent
9 domain. It's whatever the legal description is that's in
10 the law. That's all I know about it. I'm not involved with
11 eminent domain for that.

12 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Yeah, I'm an environmental
13 scientist, not a, I guess, regulator or lawyer involved with
14 eminent domain. So I can't speak to that.

15 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. Who else would like to
16 speak? I thought I saw somebody else.

17 All right. Come on up.

18 MS. WEST: Hi, I'm Ruth West. All I'm hearing
19 from all those big wheels is about the jobs that are going
20 to be, the money it's going to make for the people and all
21 this and that. I have not heard one word what is in the
22 good for us and what are we going to get out of it. Nothing
23 but a bomb in our yard, depreciation of our land, and never
24 be able to sell our property. And never to live on it again
25 as it was.

1 So what are they offering us to go through our
2 land to destroy our pasture for our horses, destroy our
3 trees for the shade for the horses, and our grandchildren
4 never to play on that acreage again. What's in it for us?
5 Nothing.

6 Does anybody else know what's in it for us
7 besides the people getting rich in Texas and everywhere
8 else? And no gas to anybody in Ohio, but everything out of
9 the United States. I have not heard one word that this gas
10 is going to be in Ohio or anywhere in the United States. So
11 why should we be happy about it? Nothing for us.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Is there anybody
14 else who would like to speak?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: Go one last time.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. WACHHOLDER: All right. Seeing none, we will
19 conclude the meeting. It is 9:05 p.m. and on behalf of the
20 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission I want to thank you all
21 for coming tonight and this meeting is adjourned.

22 Thank you so much for your time.

23 (Whereupon, at 9:05 p.m., the meeting was
24 adjourned.)

25