



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

2 (6:05 p.m.)

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: We're going to get started soon.  
4 There's a couple more seats I see over here possibly, and I  
5 see some more over in the front here.

6 We're going to get started now.

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

14 Let the record show that the public scoping  
15 meeting began at 6:05 p.m. on May 6, 2015.

16 My name is Joanne Wachholder. I'm an  
17 environmental project manager with FERC's Office of Energy  
18 Projects. David Hafick and Theresa Gibson also from FERC  
19 are at the sign-in table. Also representing FERC are John  
20 Muehlhausen, Abby Cordy, and April Holdren with Mergent,  
21 that's an environmental consulting firm assisting us in the  
22 production of the environmental impact statement or EIS that  
23 will be prepared for the projects.

24 And, as you can tell, my voice isn't going very  
25 well today, so I'm going to let John finish this.

1           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Good evening. As you can see  
2 this meeting is being recorded by a court reporter so that  
3 we can have an accurate record of tonight's comments.

4           A transcript of this meeting will be placed in  
5 the public record so that everyone has access to the  
6 information discussed here tonight.

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

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

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

1 impacts associated with the jurisdictional project.

2 With regard to the Nexus and TEAL projects the  
3 FERC is the lead federal agency for the NEPA review and the  
4 preparation of the environmental impact statement.

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

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

22 The Nexus Project would provide up to 1.5 million  
23 dekatherms per day of natural gas to various markets in the  
24 U.S. Midwest and Canada. Texas Eastern plans to construct  
25 4.5 miles of pipeline looping adjacent to its existing line

1 30 in Monroe County, Ohio, install an additional 9,400  
2 horsepower of compression at its currently approved  
3 coal-rain compressor station in Belmont County, Ohio,  
4 construct one new compressor station with 18,800 horsepower  
5 in Columbiana County, Ohio, and additional piping  
6 modifications.

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

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

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

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

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

9 In other words, the Commission wants to hear your  
10 concerns in that regard, however, those issues will be  
11 addressed in different ways.

12 Now, I want to briefly describe our environmental  
13 review process. We are currently near the beginning of our  
14 environmental review process. Nexus and Texas Eastern  
15 entered into the FERC's prefiling process on January 9th and  
16 26th, 2015 respectively which began our review of the  
17 projects.

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

1 with a CP docket number designation. The goal of pre-filing  
2 is to get information from the public as well as agencies  
3 and other groups so that we can incorporate all substantive  
4 issues of concern into our review.

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

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

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

1           Extra copies of the NOI and other project  
2 handouts are located in the back of the room at the sign-in  
3 table. A speakers' list is also located at the back table.  
4 We will use that list to call speakers to either of the  
5 microphones at the front of the room tonight. If you wish  
6 to speak and have not signed up, please add your name to the  
7 list.

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

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

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

23           The scoping process is a learning process. It is  
24 where we educate ourselves about the projects and the  
25 potential issues and environmental impacts. During this

1 scoping process we are gathering information. The four  
2 general sources that we are using right now are information  
3 provided by the applicant, input from other federal, state,  
4 and local agencies, our own field work and research of  
5 different issues, and information from the public.

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

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

23           At the end of the draft EIS comment period, FERC  
24 staff will prepare a final EIS that specifically addresses  
25 each comment received on the draft EIS and includes all

1 necessary changes, additions, and modifications to  
2 conclusions reached in the draft EIS.

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

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

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

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

23           We are now moving into the part of the meeting  
24 where we will hear comments from the audience members,  
25 particularly the affected landowners. As I mentioned

1 before, if you would rather not speak, you may hand in  
2 written comments tonight or send them to the Secretary of  
3 the Commission by following the procedures outlined in the  
4 NOI and comment forms.

5           Whether you verbally provide your comments or  
6 mail them in, they will be equally considered by FERC. It  
7 is important that you include the docket numbers, PF15-10  
8 and PF15-11 in your filings. The Commission also encourages  
9 electronic filing of written comments. The instructions are  
10 in the NOI or can be located at our website which is  
11 w-w-w-.f-e-r-c-.g-o-v, under the e-filing link.

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

14           Again, this meeting is being recorded by a  
15 transcription service. All of your comments will be  
16 transcribed and placed into the public record. For the  
17 benefit of all in attendance and for accuracy of the  
18 transcript, I will set some ground rules. When your name is  
19 called, please step up to one of the microphones and clearly  
20 state your name and affiliation if any. You might spell  
21 your name to the court reporter to ensure accuracy if  
22 misspelling is likely.           Also please speak directly  
23 into the microphone so that you can be clearly heard by the  
24 reporter, the panel, and the audience.

25           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thanks.

1           Also, due the number of speakers that we have  
2 signed up, we have about 50 right now, we will limit each  
3 speaker to three minutes so that everyone has an opportunity  
4 to provide comments.

5           We have a visual timer here and we're going to  
6 set that for two and a half minutes of green light, 20  
7 seconds of yellow warning light, and ten seconds of red to  
8 indicate that the time is ending.

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

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

15           If you have detailed comments you could summarize  
16 the comments at the mike and hand in your full, written  
17 comments at the table where you came in.

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

21           I also want to make sure we conduct this meeting  
22 in a professional decorum. We are here to hear each of your  
23 comments on the projects. Please respect each speaker and  
24 refrain from interruptions whether you agree with them or  
25 not.

1           Lastly, before we start, as a courtesy to our  
2 speakers and the rest of the audience, please turn off or  
3 silence your cell phones. And I also ask because this is a  
4 very congested area and there's a lot of people, to please  
5 not talk amongst yourselves because the sound in here makes  
6 it really difficult to hear the speakers.

7           Thank you for your consideration. And also  
8 because of how congested it is, if you know your number and  
9 you say you're number 12, and you hear that we're at 10 or  
10 11, start moving closer to the aisle so that we can move  
11 quickly to make sure everyone gets a chance today.

12           Now we are going to start with our first speaker.  
13 So number one is John Ragan. And you had handed in these  
14 things to me.

15           MR. RAGAN: My name is John Ragan, I am a member  
16 of CORN, I'm a local resident of Swan Creek Township. I'm  
17 here tonight to present a group of maps to show the  
18 importance of the Oak Opening region which includes Maumee  
19 State Forest.

20           The area on the location map would be number  
21 three, shows the impact on Swan Creek Township. Number  
22 three will be your first map.

23           I obtained these maps from the County Regional  
24 Planning Commission. These maps -- each map is specific to  
25 a category to reinforce the importance of the Oak Opening

1 region. Map number one is a multitude of soil  
2 identification in the lower right-hand corner which is in  
3 fact the Oak Openings region. It's primarily sand.

4 Drawing number two, the dark green area in the  
5 lower right-hand corner is in fact the Maumee State Forest  
6 which is included in the Oak Openings region.

7 Map number five, this is important because it  
8 would involve shallow wells. It is the Oak Openings beach  
9 ridge aquifer. It is sand based and it doesn't afford the  
10 same protection as either clay or shale.

11 Number six is an important map. It just  
12 reiterates again the sand condition of the Oak Openings  
13 region in Swan Creek. It has the highest recharge in the  
14 entire county.

15 Map number seven, equally important, highest --  
16 with the sand it is regarding potential pollutants, which  
17 filter very quickly through to the watershed.

18 Map number nine -- eight, I beg your pardon,  
19 wetlands. As you can see in the lower right-hand corner,  
20 Swan Creek Township an inordinate amount of wetlands  
21 indicated by each dot.

22 Map number nine, wooded areas in excess of five  
23 acres. Again, the highest concentration of wooded or Oak  
24 Savannah in the county.

25 Map number 11, important land areas. The light

1 green in the lower right indicates the Oak Openings soil  
2 again. The dark green is very important also. That is the  
3 -- productive pharma.

4 Map number 12, land use, the latest available was  
5 2003. As you can see, the lower right-hand corner, Swan  
6 Creek Township has the largest number of residents.

7 Map number 14, indicates, again, development  
8 qualities in the county, Swan Creek Township.

9 Map 15 is basically the same information, however  
10 it doesn't relate to the agricultural.

11 In closing, these maps should visually project  
12 the reasons to keep the pipeline out of the Oak Openings  
13 region. Please help us keep our natural treasures. Thank  
14 you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

17 We have some technical difficulties with our  
18 timer, so he's just going to have an app on his phone. I'm  
19 not sure if we have any better function. Because I want to  
20 make sure that everyone has the right amount of time.

21 So speaker two is Kimberly Bowser.

22 MS. BOWSER: My name is Kimberly Bowser,  
23 B-o-w-s-e-r. I live on County Road EF in Swan Creek  
24 Township. And January 22nd of this year Nexus sent us a  
25 certified letter and a couple of days later a representative

1 showed up at our door asking for us to sign a survey. We  
2 said no. A couple weeks later he showed up again and we  
3 said no. And then the 22nd of April we received another  
4 letter with the survey again. And basically bullying us and  
5 threatening us if we didn't sign it by May 1st, and just  
6 wondering if that was proper protocol to be doing to  
7 landowners.

8           And my main concern is my safety of my husband,  
9 my brother and his wife and seven kids that live right next  
10 door to me and the neighbor that lives right next door to  
11 him who has seven kids, and the ones across the street who  
12 have nine kids and grand kids and in-law kids. We have a  
13 lot of kids in our neighborhood plus there's a few more of  
14 zero, one to four kids, or five kids just within our area.

15           And the map that Nexus gave us I'll give to you  
16 guys. This one was given to us by a Nexus representative  
17 and this was given to my neighbor. And it shows it coming  
18 from the southeast at the front of our property and then  
19 going on the west side of my property heading north and then  
20 cutting back, basically doing a circle around our house.  
21 And it's showing that our houses are within 300 feet of the  
22 pipeline. And that's scary.

23           And my other concerns are, you know, my horses  
24 and our pets, and my well water. I mean, it took us 15  
25 years and six tries to get a decent well. You know, what

1 will happen to that?

2                   And my home that my husband built for me with  
3 his own two hands, you know, and not knowing, you know, this  
4 is a reroute that is a reroute of another reroute. Who  
5 knows, but, you know, it's not showing up on any of their  
6 maps. You know, this is supposedly what they're giving to  
7 the home owners only. Even our Swan Creek Township trustee  
8 can't even get this information.

9                   And then the concern for all the trees that I  
10 planted over 1,500 tree back in 2000. And they're 30 feet  
11 tall now. And they were only six inches to start with. And  
12 I got maple trees that we're hoping to be able to tap into  
13 some day.

14                   So my main concern is safety for all my family  
15 and all my neighbors. Thank you.

16                   (Applause.)

17                   MS. WACHHOLDER: Number three is Charles  
18 Saunders.

19                   MR. SAUNDERS: Hi, my name is -- are you able to  
20 hear me? My name is Charles Saunders, S-a-u-n-d-e-r-s. I'm  
21 an attorney. I live on U.S. 20 in Amboy Township. I have  
22 three kids that live there as well.

23                   We are within the -- I'm going to take this out.  
24 We're within the composed blast zone that they talked about  
25 on this line. Frankly, I don't care. I am all for it and I

1 know there's a lot of people in this group that aren't, and  
2 I'm glad you're out here and I'm glad we have the right to  
3 petition our government and express our views. And frankly,  
4 if they want to put it right in front my house, I don't  
5 care.

6           And since 1994, I should say, there have been only  
7 40 deaths resulting from gas line transmission here in the  
8 U.S. There's over 314 million people here in the United  
9 States. That's not including people that died since 1994,  
10 but born since 1994. Your chances of being injured in a  
11 pipeline explosion are next to nil. You have a better  
12 chance of hitting the lottery twice.

13           It's going to create jobs. It may not create  
14 jobs here, but it's going to create jobs somewhere. It's  
15 going to create jobs while it's going through. When did  
16 Fulton County become anti-job. I'm not saying the whole  
17 county has become anti-job, but I thwarted the expansion of  
18 economic opportunities for those that seek it. We believe  
19 in a free enterprise system here. We believe in the work  
20 ethic. And I think it's important to support that through  
21 this process because this is going to create an impact of  
22 jobs elsewhere for somebody. I wish I could have a job with  
23 them. I'm sure the only thing they hate more than a union  
24 worker on one of these lines is a lawyer.

25           I was listening to some people, I was talking to

1 some people ahead of time about this and listening to their  
2 concerns. And the lady that just spoke about having the  
3 line completely around her property. That actually made the  
4 most sense. I can't see why that's happening. I think this  
5 line should be going from point A to point B because that's  
6 going to be the least environmentally impactful. Okay. So  
7 I don't care where it goes, as long as it's a straight shot.  
8 It's going to increase the power, it's going to increase our  
9 energy independence.

10 Last, but not least, people are worried about  
11 what's going to leak in the ground water. I grew up and my  
12 grandmother had property on County Road B. Me and one --  
13 you know, for two generations. Gas was in our water so  
14 badly there that it was effervescent. You could light a  
15 match under the faucet and it would explode. And we still  
16 drank the water. She lived to be 84, and my uncle lived to  
17 be 87 until they started making them drink city water.

18 It does not make sense to worry about gas leaking  
19 into the water.

20 MS. WACHHOLDER: Your time is up, sir.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. WACHHOLDER: I just want to remind everyone,  
24 I know you have comments about people's concerns, but you've  
25 got to not talk because it's really hard to hear if everyone

1 starts mumbling.

2                   Number four is Emily Moharter with Girl Scout  
3 Troop 407.

4                   MS. MOHARTER: Hello. I'm with Troop 407. I  
5 support the CORN reroute through the City of Green in the  
6 east south of Medina County and the Fulton County reroute of  
7 Oak Opening.

8                   Use the resources wisely and make the world a  
9 better place. These are the two ending lines of the Girl  
10 Scout law. I have learned the law since I was a Daisy  
11 Scout. And I've always tried my best to live by it. But  
12 Nexus would not be using their resources wisely by  
13 installing this pipeline through Oak Openings region.

14                   We are here to make the world a better place and  
15 keep our planet in good shape. We as the newest generation  
16 need to take care of what is handed down to us. I fully  
17 support the reroute of the Nexus Pipeline and I hope you  
18 will take my opinion into consideration and thank you for  
19 your time.

20                   (Applause.)

21                   MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

22                   Number five is Lydia Napier, also with Girl Scout  
23 Troop 407.

24                   MS. NAPIER: Hi, my name is Lydia Napier. I'm  
25 with Girl Scout Troop 407. And I support the CORN reroute

1 from the City of Green in the south -- in the east, south of  
2 Medina County and Fulton County reroute of the Oak Openings.

3           Nowadays a lot of kids -- a lot of people are  
4 saying that kids are on technology and they're not spending  
5 enough time outside. But if we put a pipeline line through  
6 Oak Openings that will take a big park away. And that's a  
7 big concern especially for me because I enjoy being outside  
8 a ton. During the summer I am outside 90 percent of the  
9 time. I am pretty much as soon as I get up in the morning  
10 from then -- until I'm told to come in and that's hours at a  
11 time.

12           So it is very important to me that we keep it  
13 because I love this -- I love what I have now and to grow up  
14 and to see it getting taken away because of other things  
15 that we can't prevent and then we take this which we can,  
16 that would be really upsetting.

17           Thank you.

18           (Applause.)

19           MS. WACHHOLDER: Number six is Laramie Reynolds.

20           MS. REYNOLDS: My name is Laramie Reynolds. I am  
21 with Troop 407 and I support the CORN reroute from the City  
22 of Green in the east, south of Medina County and the Fulton  
23 County reroute out of the Oak Openings region.

24           If you are not already aware, there's a Girl  
25 Scout camp right next to the proposed site of the compressor

1 station. For those of you who have not attended Girl Scout  
2 camp, I would like to explain to you what it is.

3 It's a place for young girls to learn about team  
4 work and cooperation. To learn how to make decisions that  
5 benefit everyone. To learn how to lead, and to take a stand  
6 against issues that are important to her and her community.

7 In my personal opinion, it would be difficult to  
8 create a happy and healthy learning environment for a child  
9 in an area predisposed to pipeline ruptures and explosions.  
10 But others may disagree. And for those who disagree, I  
11 would like to respectfully request that you live up to that  
12 claim and that you place the compressor station in your  
13 community with your children, not ours. Because running the  
14 pipeline through Oak Openings or through Camp Libby is  
15 taking away my memories, my experiences, and my future  
16 opportunities. It's taking away the feeling of safety that  
17 I have in these places. The places where I first learned  
18 how to build a fire, pitch a tent, where I first learned the  
19 importance of working together.

20 Please, don't ask me to give that up. Don't ask  
21 me to feel uncomfortable at a Girl Scout event in the park  
22 when I'm trying to teach younger Girl Scouts problem solving  
23 skills because the only thought running through my head is  
24 what happens if the pipeline erupts? What happens if one of  
25 these girls gets hurt? How am I supposed to teach these

1 girls how to problem solve when the biggest problem is right  
2 under our feet.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

6 Number seven is Pilar Athaide.

7 MS. ATHAIDE: Hi, I'm assuming that you're seeing  
8 a trend here. I am Pilar and I'm also with Troop 407. And  
9 the consensus is we do support the reroute in its entirety.  
10 The reason being is the entirety of our focus here at Girl  
11 Scouts is to make the world a better place whether that be  
12 talking with younger scouts, younger children or working  
13 projects that benefit the environment.

14 Now, if this pipeline were to go through the Oak  
15 Openings region, that imposes a huge threat on every  
16 environmental stronghold that takes place in this park.  
17 It's not only a vastly diverse ecological region, it's that  
18 it benefits the community that it is so diverse. I mean,  
19 every school district in the greater Toledo area takes  
20 advantage of this park. Every child that lives in this area  
21 learns and benefits from this park, from this area.

22 If this pipeline were to go through it would just  
23 take away the safety and sanctuary that many people and  
24 scouts alike take refuge in.

25 So basically what we're saying is we want to

1 uphold the Girl Scout law, we want to make this world a  
2 better place. And in order to do that, we need to make it  
3 safe and environmentally rewarding. We don't want -- we  
4 don't want anything detrimental to happen to this generation  
5 or generations to come.

6           So I would like everyone to live by the Girl  
7 Scout law and just uphold that, please.

8           Thank you.

9           (Applause.)

10           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Number eight is  
11 Karen Lyke.

12           MS. Lyke: Yes, I'm Karen Lyke. Is this on?

13           I live within the so-called "high consequence  
14 area" aka, the detonation zone over in Lucas County.

15           I see two core issues here. One of them is  
16 honesty and the other is responsibility.

17           With respect to honesty, and it's a matter of  
18 half truths about safety, about jobs, and the costs.

19           With respect to safety, there have been -- there  
20 were four explosions of pipelines in January alone of this  
21 year. And several after that.

22           The environmental damage will include radiation  
23 and toxic chemicals in our water which many people have  
24 addressed. And destruction of the food -- where we get our  
25 food from.

1           With respect to jobs, Nexus does admit that they  
2 will be short-term and they will be only during  
3 construction. Now, we happy to know a young man who is a  
4 welder and he's in his mid-20s. He works on jobs like this.  
5 Lock up your wives and daughters.

6           (Laughter.)

7           MS. LYKE: With respect to costs, our quality of  
8 life will decrease if this goes through as planned. It will  
9 lower our property value. Who wants to live in a bomb zone?  
10 Who wants to live in a place where the water is polluted?  
11 It will raise our insurance costs and the community as a  
12 whole cannot handle the cost of fire protection. Advising  
13 us to dial up 1-800-Big-Bomb is not an emergency plan.

14           And the promised tax revenues are in effect  
15 asking us to sell ourselves for money. I think there are  
16 laws against that in this country.

17           The costs to Nexus are not acknowledged. In  
18 effect Nexus' business plan is to externalize a lot of the  
19 costs, meaning that we get to pick up the expenses that come  
20 from the environmental damage and many of the things I've  
21 mentioned already.

22           There's another factor on this. The amount of gas  
23 available to extract is deeper and deeper and less and less.  
24 That means that the time, the effort, the money, the  
25 expense, to extract that gas from the earth is greater.

1 That means that the return on investment becomes less and  
2 less and less. This is a pretty risky business plan. I  
3 hope none of you have invested in it.

4 And externalizing the expenses, in effect, means  
5 that the costs are placed on us.

6 I would like Nexus to deal with us. Honestly,  
7 give us the straight facts and take your own responsibility  
8 and if you must have a pipeline, please, above all, put it  
9 in a designated safety corridor.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number nine is Andrew Lyke.

13 MR. LYKE: Thank you. My name is Andrew Lyke, I  
14 live at Berky Southern and Waterville Roads. I'll be brief.  
15 Most of it has been covered before.

16 The high consequence area definition comes from a  
17 report that was prepared for the Gas Research Institute by  
18 Seaford Technologies and it defines, for the scope of this  
19 project, as I understand it, about a thousand feet -- a  
20 thousand-foot radius from the pipeline to a zone where in  
21 the words of the report, the criteria is "people located  
22 outdoors at the time of failure would be exposed to a  
23 finite, but low, chance of fatality." That's a pretty low  
24 bar in my mind.

25 You know, if we designed interstate highways like

1 this, we would have people's houses with bedrooms on the  
2 shoulder of the road regardless of what's going to happen  
3 when the next 53-foot trailer full of ingots runs off and  
4 hits the house. In my judgment there should be developed by  
5 some appropriate property acquisition and relocation  
6 pipeline corridors within which there will be no human  
7 habitation, a reasonable design standard for these corridors  
8 would be the width of a section roughly. That would be a  
9 5,280 foot swath allowing a thousand-foot setback from the  
10 nearest pipeline and multiple pipelines in it.

11 This should be funded by industry and the  
12 definition and implementation in my mind controlled by  
13 government.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number ten, excuse me.

17 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Selinda Schultz.

18 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you. My name is Selinda  
19 Schultz, that's spelled S-e-l-i-n-d-a S-c-h-u-l-t-z.

20 I have lived in northwest Ohio for 45 years.  
21 This is the place I raised my children, I grow my own  
22 healthy food, I have enjoyed this safe, peaceful place. I  
23 am a member of CORN and I ask the Commission not to approve  
24 the Nexus Population Project as proposed because of the  
25 risks to our local water supply.

1           My home initially had a 50-foot well with  
2 wonderful drinking water. As the community grew and more  
3 people used the water supply, my well went dry and I had to  
4 replace it with a 100-foot well. This water needed to be  
5 treated before it was drinkable. I was grateful to tap into  
6 the water line which shared the water from Lake Erie when it  
7 was extended to my area.

8           Last August when that water became unusable, I  
9 was grateful to still have access to my old well. Water is  
10 not optional for life.

11           The Toledo Blade recently reported a U.N. report  
12 stating that the world could suffer a 40 percent shortfall  
13 in water in just 15 years unless countries dramatically  
14 change their use of the resource.

15           The process of hydraulic fracking uses millions  
16 of gallons of fresh water. Adds an unknown cocktail of  
17 chemicals and injects it under high pressure deep into  
18 layers of shale rock where the high levels of radioactivity  
19 have indicated the presence of trapped gas.

20           This now toxic, radioactive water is removed and  
21 injected back into wells for disposal. Communities who have  
22 suffered fracking have found their water supplies depleted  
23 and contaminated. The proposed Nexus pipeline puts the  
24 water supply of all the communities it travels through at  
25 risk as it crosses rivers, bogs, wetlands, and especially

1 our rare and precious Oak Openings region.

2 All the promised economic growth and jobs which  
3 the promised cheap supply of natural gas will bring cannot  
4 happen if the supply of clean, life-giving water which we  
5 take for granted is destroyed. The extraction of natural  
6 gas will only last a few years. The toxic contamination  
7 which it leads will last forever.

8 The voices who speak in favor of this project are  
9 those who will make money. The voices who speak against it  
10 are those who are fighting to protect the livability of our  
11 communities. I can live without natural gas. I cannot live  
12 without water. Please listen to us.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 11, Mike Stadler.

16 MR. STADLER: My name is Mike Stadler and I live  
17 off Birdsong Lane, it's off of D between Two and Three. And  
18 they're going to put this thing through my back yard. And I  
19 don't have anything prepared.

20 MS. WACHHOLDER: Can you move the mike up a  
21 little?

22 MR. STADLER: I don't have anything prepared.  
23 I'm just a landowner. That's going to have this thing in  
24 his back yard. I don't want it in my back yard. And I just  
25 don't see any way, you know, that I'm going to get any

1 compensation for all the money I'm going to lose in this  
2 project. Because there's no incentive for this oil company  
3 to pay me anything if my land is just going to be taken from  
4 me anyhow by the government. I guess that's my major  
5 problem and that's why I came here tonight to wonder why the  
6 government is just going to come in and just offer me  
7 nothing and just take my land to stick in a pipeline that's  
8 going to decrease my property value.

9           Nobody would want this pipeline in their  
10 backyard. I mean, nobody is going to buy a people with a  
11 bomb in the back yard. And this is a potential bomb.

12           The numbers that they said going through this  
13 36-inch pipe are mindboggling. And they have blown up in  
14 the past and caused a lot of damage. I just don't want that  
15 in my yard and I just don't know how I'd ever be compensated  
16 for this. So I see this pipeline is just costing me like a  
17 ton of money, like \$100,000 of money. And I'm not going to  
18 get anything. And that's my main problem and that's why I  
19 came here tonight to voice my disapproval of this thing  
20 anywhere near me.

21           I thank you.

22           (Appause.)

23           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

24           Number 12, Lisa Blake.

25           MS. BLAKE: Well, I did write this down because I

1 can meander and speak a long time.

2           So I'm going to read this. I live on Jefferson  
3 Road near Oak Openings Preserve. We moved there 24 years  
4 ago for the beauty, the peace, and the quiet. I first  
5 visited it back in 1975 with a University of Michigan field  
6 botany class because it's renowned as an area of unique  
7 ecology. It's one of the rarest habitats in the world.

8           Many of neighbors received a post card of lovely  
9 bucolic scene announcing that the intent to safely provide,  
10 you've seen it, affordable, clean-burning, domestically  
11 abundant, all of which set off strong warning bells in me  
12 because I read a very different story when I began to  
13 research this.

14           Whether it's 36 inches or 42 inches of  
15 combustible gas at pressures between 800 and 1500 pounds per  
16 square inch, what you have is a bomb waiting to explode.

17           In January just before I attended my first  
18 meeting that was held here, I saw Rachel Maddux's story on  
19 the five pipeline accidents -- not all fireballs. Somebody  
20 mentioned before that it exploded. But five pipeline  
21 accidents that had happened just in that month. The  
22 spectacular fireball on the screen was enormous and burned  
23 for many hours. The heat described was blistering from even  
24 far away. This pipeline was in West Virginia and was only  
25 one and a half years old. Supposedly very safe from the

1 technology.

2                   And, I mean, I haven't followed up with that, but  
3 it has occurred to me that no matter how safe the actual  
4 work makes it when they put it in, I had wondered about it  
5 being a target for malicious intent, you know, explosions,  
6 people trying to see what they could do with such a  
7 combustible source right there. So it's not my primary  
8 concern, but it's a concern that it becomes a target.

9                   The gas to be extracted is found by detectible  
10 radiation. In case of a pipeline accident the gas radiation  
11 blows all over the land surrounding the accident site. The  
12 land is traditionally, around here, some of the best for  
13 agriculture and will needed to be kept and converted for  
14 food purposes.

15                   I have a shallow well. We had to move it when we  
16 were expanding our house. We found it was too close to our  
17 propane tank. And the water department people came out and  
18 said, I have some of the best water in the county when they  
19 inspected it. I was very grateful for it when many of my  
20 neighbors couldn't drink their water just last summer due to  
21 the toxins from Lake Erie's algae bloom. And I offered it,  
22 you know, freely to anybody who wanted to come and fill up  
23 their jugs.

24                   If digging anywhere near the dammed regions of  
25 what used to be the black swamp we'll have to be pumping

1 water. I mean, I can't dig in the lower parts of my land  
2 without, you know, immediately creating little pools. And I  
3 had several of my neighbors lose their wells when the quarry  
4 went in west of us. I don't know if you know where that is.  
5 Several people had to either dig another well much deeper or  
6 one of my neighbors simply began bringing it in --

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Sorry, your time is up.

8 MS. BLAKE: Oh, okay. I'm so sorry. If I may  
9 end with a point of, we put most of our money into our  
10 property and our house and the decrease in property values  
11 that's possible with this project would pretty much destroy  
12 us. My husband is 70, I'm 62, starting all over again, you  
13 know, without the property value would be devastating to us.

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 Number 13 is Richard Baumgartner.

17 MR. BAUMGARTNER: Hello, I am Richard Baumgartner  
18 and I'm a member of CORN and I have property in Grafton  
19 Township.

20 I'd like to talk about my environmental impact.

21 MS. WACHHOLDER: Could you move the mike up a  
22 little bit?

23 MR. BAUMGARTNER: When my son was ten years old  
24 he was assigned the same science project that I had when I  
25 was ten. The project requirements were to go out collect

1 leaves, identify the trees, seal them in waxed paper, put  
2 them in a notebook and it was a great family project. We  
3 drove to a metro park in our area and started to collect  
4 leaves. We only had a few fallen leaves when a park ranger  
5 came up to us. Sure, "Put down those leaves" he said. I  
6 thought he was joking. I explained to him that we were  
7 collecting fallen leaves for my son's science project. The  
8 ranger replied, "You are not allowed to take any out of the  
9 park. What if everyone took something home with them?  
10 There would be nothing left. I'll give you a break this  
11 time, and not give you a ticket. But remember to leave  
12 everything as it was and take nothing with you." He was  
13 serious. So we left without the leaves.

14 I was somewhat disturbed by this experience. I  
15 felt bad for my son who might be deprived from ever knowing  
16 the joy of free nature. How lucky I was at ten years old  
17 that I could build a camp fire, shoot bows and arrows, throw  
18 brick and rock into the creek without reading a 20-page rule  
19 book. The only thing I needed was a little common sense. I  
20 felt that my son apparently would never know that freedom  
21 and responsibility.

22 One thing great about America though is that  
23 there are alternatives. I saved up my money and bought a  
24 few acres in Lorraine County. I was so happy that now I  
25 actually owned a few acres of trees. If my sons wanted

1 leaves they could go out and get them. If my son wanted to  
2 have a campfire, if he built it with a little common sense  
3 he could do it. If he wanted to sleep in a tent, he could  
4 do it. I saw the same joy in his heart that I had when I  
5 was a little boy.

6           The first thing we did was went out to this land  
7 and planted a few trees.

8           Fast forward to six months ago. I learned that  
9 Nexus might want to take a strip of my land for their  
10 pipeline. They may take my potentially buildable lot and  
11 render it useless. I only have 300-foot frontage and if the  
12 pipe goes through the middle of it, where am I going to put  
13 my house?

14           Instead of the trees I so longed for, there might  
15 be a strip of brown dirt. My grandchildren might hear the  
16 sounds of a gas line cleaning pig instead of a songbird. I  
17 might not have a bald eagle's nest to defend, but I was  
18 saddened at the loss of my own little nature preserve.

19           I hear stories about others losing much, much  
20 more than me because of what I consider thoughtless  
21 policies. Pipelines are spreading like cancer across our  
22 nation and I wonder what is really important to us today and  
23 what will be important tomorrow.

24           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Your time is up. I'm  
25 sorry.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 14 is Steve Madewell.

3 MR. MADEWELL: My name is Steve Madewell. I'm  
4 the Executive Director of Metro Parks. I would like to take  
5 a moment and apologize for the ranger not working with your  
6 son to get the leaves --

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. MADEWELL: -- and allowing him to take them  
9 home. How's that for a setup?

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. MADEWELL: As a representative of the Metro  
12 Parks, we're a separate political subdivision of the state  
13 of Ohio and we're empowered to acquire property for the  
14 conservation of the natural resources of the state and it's  
15 widely regarded that northwestern Ohio is one of the most  
16 ecologically diverse portions of Ohio.

17 Several habitat types that exist in the Oak  
18 Openings are globally recognized and extremely rare, but I'd  
19 also like to mention that the Maumee River is one of the  
20 largest tributaries to the great lakes and Lake Erie happens  
21 to be the most productive of all the great lakes combined.  
22 There's more fish caught out of Lake Erie than all of the  
23 other great lakes combined. So I appreciate the comments on  
24 water quality that were made earlier.

25 Our primary concerns, just briefly are in the

1 following areas and that's, minimization of local ecological  
2 impacts, avoidance of the introduction of invasive species,  
3 all impacts be considered on any aesthetics of parklands or  
4 any of the landscape, safety and quality, of course, of our  
5 -- the quality of experience of all of our park visitors  
6 we're primarily concerned with. And we would like to  
7 encourage a commitment to alignments with minimum local  
8 impacts. We'd like to encourage the utilization of existing  
9 corridors and explore multiple use areas whenever possible,  
10 and we would like to recognize the true value of unique  
11 lands be considered in the appraisal process.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

15 Number 15 is Carol Jacks.

16 MS. JACKS: Good evening. My name is Carol  
17 Jacks. I am a landowner. I live at 3703 County Road One in  
18 Swanton.

19 I am emphatically opposed to the Nexus Pipeline  
20 for the following reasons. It will decrease my home value  
21 which will drastically decrease my planned retirement  
22 income. I live in the Oak Opening region. I have prickly  
23 pear cacti on my land which is considered a semi-endangered  
24 plant. I have seen bald eagles, which are also endangered,  
25 fly over my property. They are nesting in the Oak Openings

1 park.

2 I feel that my well water will become  
3 contaminated. My neighbor has seen salamanders, another  
4 endangered specie on her property. I fear an explosion is a  
5 reality. I have worked hard my whole life so that I could  
6 comfortably retire in a safe, peaceful, serene environment.  
7 I feel the Nexus Pipeline will rob me of this serenity.

8 I request that the Nexus Pipeline be rerouted to  
9 an established safety quarter. Respectfully submitted,  
10 Carol Jacks. Thanks for your time.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

13 Number 16 is Paul Wohlfarth.

14 MR. WOHLFARTH: We've got quite a crowd here. Is  
15 this okay with the fire department, this many people in this  
16 venue?

17 My name is Paul Wohlfarth. I'm a member of CORN.  
18 I'm a third-generation United Auto Worker. My son Nick  
19 lives in the Swan Creek Township and works as a union flight  
20 nurse. Of all the places he could live, he chose to live in  
21 the Oak Openings region, a wooded oasis in a sea of  
22 northwest Ohio farm land. The largest environmentally  
23 protected area of northwest Ohio.

24 The Oak Openings is home to hundreds of  
25 environmentally concerned union members that chose to live

1 in a natural area void of industrial contamination. They  
2 are for rerouting the pipeline to open, less densely  
3 populated areas away from environmentally sensitive  
4 parklands and away from close proximity to homes and  
5 businesses.

6           So I asked my union brothers and sisters what  
7 would you do if an out-of-town corporation came calling with  
8 a route through your front yard? A route that threatens  
9 your drinking water, a route conceived on a computer by an  
10 employee in a far-away city without any input from you or  
11 your elected officials? A route where the main goal was to  
12 maximize profits and use public relation lobbyists and  
13 lawyers to force the rest.

14           Well, I'm here to tell you, we do have choices.  
15 While no route is perfect, there are lesser evils. We think  
16 with proper input from those who know their communities best  
17 we can minimize the impact while following the best route.  
18 A commonsense reroute will add more union jobs, while  
19 protecting union homeowners from possible catastrophic  
20 property and environmental loss.

21           Nexus will find savings and less lawsuits, less  
22 conflict, less eminent domain litigation, and less  
23 catastrophic risk. We support a collaborative reroute from  
24 Medina County in the east to Fulton County in the west. A  
25 few more miles would create more job, more income for my

1 union brothers and sisters and less unforeseen costs for  
2 Nexus.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

6 Number 17 is Pat Tucker.

7 MR. TUCKER: My name is Patrick Tucker. I'm an  
8 adjunct instructor with the Department of Sociology and  
9 Anthropology at the University of Toledo. And my concern is  
10 with the cultural and historical heritage of the Gypsy Point  
11 and also the pipeline is going to go under the island and  
12 come out at Gypsy point.

13 It is known in that area from past explanations  
14 of the university in 1985 that there is an historic  
15 farmstead known as the Dunlap Farmstead from 1831 to 1839.  
16 Robert Dunlap was Revolutionary War veteran and came to Ohio  
17 with his family and lived there at Gypsy Point. In addition  
18 there are other archeological sites surrounding that area  
19 that are indicated from surface collections registered with  
20 the Ohio Historic Preservation Office from archaic to Lake  
21 Woodland.

22 In addition from Missionary Island there was also  
23 a survey in 1985 that explored a number of Native American  
24 burials all cremated burials. Also one from archaic to late  
25 woodland. But Missionary Island was also the first village

1 and home of the late, great, 18th century war chief Pontiac  
2 who inspired a Native American revolt against the British in  
3 North America and upon failure he fled with his followers  
4 and another chief called Adeline to Missionary Island,  
5 established a village and if there should be a rupture of  
6 the pipeline underneath -- that leaks up through the soil to  
7 the river it could cast off the contaminate that island and  
8 archeological and artifacts around the island not to mention  
9 other islands.

10 That's basically none of my concern, but other  
11 people, residents in the area and also archeologists at the  
12 University of Toledo.

13 One thing I did want to ask, I understand t have  
14 there was a cultural resources survey, done by Nexus who had  
15 hired a contract group. Does anybody know the status of  
16 that report if it's available for the public?

17 MS. WACHHOLDER: The cultural resource reports  
18 will be coming probably in June. We're going to get the  
19 resource reports. They surveys, the sensitive information,  
20 found in the surveys is confidential. That is to preserve  
21 summary -- resource report-- when it comes out.

22 MR. TUCKER: Is this something that's going to be  
23 followed --

24 MS. WACHHOLDER: Yes.

25 MR. TUCKER: -- with the Historic Preservation

1 Office?

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Yes, it has to be.

3 MR. TUCKER: Okay. So they will only make a  
4 redacted report available to anyone that's interested  
5 particularly the archeological resources?

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: It will be a summary.

7 MR. TUCKER: A summary?

8 MS. WACHHOLDER: Yeah.

9 MR. TUCKER: Okay. I just want to last mention  
10 that if anybody has or know of archeological sites on their  
11 property, I've talked with David Snyder at the Ohio Historic  
12 Preservation Office, he would like people from his office to  
13 weigh in with FERC at the appropriate time, whenever that  
14 is, to write them by e-mail and you can contact me at  
15 Patrick.Tucker@UToledo.edu. His address I think is  
16 David.Snyder, S-n-y-d-e-r, @OhioHistory.org. And with that  
17 information, he is better able to provide FERC with the  
18 preservation concerns from cultural resources of the area.

19 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 18 is Sally Wylie.

22 MS. WYLIE: My name is Sally -- can you hear me?  
23 My name is Sally Wylie. I reside at 2240 County Road Two,  
24 Swanton, in Swan Creek Township and have since 1987. I have  
25 21 years of real estate experience in selling primary rural

1 residential properties and agricultural land.

2 I am here to speak with you regarding the effects  
3 of the property on property values. I also submit to you an  
4 extensive study completed called the Study of the Impact of  
5 Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines by Kirk Keelish, a Senior  
6 Appraiser, Forensic Appraisal Group. The study provides  
7 further evidence of devaluation of property due to pipeline  
8 construction.

9 Perception creates the sense of value. The media  
10 coverage of gas pipeline ruptures and explosion help create  
11 a stigma in turn causing decreased property values.  
12 Aesthetics and land usage constraints are also a factor.  
13 These are parcel, by parcel devaluation that are dependent  
14 on several variables. For example, the proximity of the  
15 pipeline to the home, the location of the property, front  
16 yard versus back corner lot, the diameter of the pipeline,  
17 12 inches versus 42 inches. Take an example of two  
18 identical homes on the same acreage, one is located close to  
19 a railroad track the other two miles away. The appraiser,  
20 as well as the buyer, would value the home two miles from  
21 the track at a higher price.

22 A few examples of the study would be lots in a  
23 development in Butler County Ohio that experienced a 14  
24 percent decline, lots in a development in Grafton, Wisconsin  
25 that experienced a 33 percent decline. Disclosure is

1 required in many states, Ohio included. It is recommended  
2 that a seller disclose both the presence of the pipeline on  
3 their property and their knowledge of its nature. It is  
4 believed that the disclosure of the pipeline on the property  
5 will influence the value perception of the property.

6 A few examples occurring currently, buyers are  
7 asking for maps of the proposed routes. Buyers are  
8 searching out properties that are not in the current  
9 identified route. Realtors are perceiving that up to a  
10 quarter mile distance will affect the value of the property.

11 In a survey of real estate agents in three  
12 geographical areas concluded, when asked, 68 percent stated  
13 that the presence of a pipeline on residential property  
14 would decrease its value; 70 percent believed it would take  
15 longer to sell the home with a pipeline than one without.  
16 Of those who said it would be a decrease in value due to the  
17 gas pipeline, 56 percent believed the decrease in value to  
18 be between 5 and 10 percent.

19 MS. WACHHOLDER: I'm sorry, your time is up. If  
20 you would like to submit the rest of your comments in  
21 writing, you can take that in the back as well.

22 MS. WYLIE: In the back?

23 MS. WACHHOLDER: Yes. You can and we'll make  
24 sure it gets in the docket.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

2 Number 19 is Patricia Wiemken.

3 MS. WIEMKEN: Good evening. My name is Patricia  
4 Wiemken, and the comments I have tonight are on behalf of  
5 the Fulton County Health Department. And I do have some  
6 maps that I will submitting.

7 The potential route of the Nexus Pipeline is  
8 through the geologically significant areas in Fulton, Lucas,  
9 and Henry Counties known as the Oak Openings region of Ohio.

10 I am providing a map that was developed due to a  
11 multi-agency project that included representation from  
12 multiple agencies for the purpose of monitoring the water  
13 quality produced by this aquifer.

14 The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has  
15 records for 536 water wells in Swan Creek Township alone  
16 that are 25 feet deep or less. The static water level is  
17 usually less than eight feet. According to the ODNR  
18 hydro-geologist program supervisor, Jim Rab, any excavation  
19 deeper than seven or eight feet will require dewatering.  
20 Dewatering too close to existing residential wells could  
21 cause a temporary dewatering of these wells.

22 The pipeline company would have to provide water  
23 until the water table recovered. It would be advisable that  
24 the pipeline company monitor the groundwater levels around  
25 their excavation to determine the area of groundwater

1 disturbance.

2           The second map that I'm submitting provided is  
3 the pollution potential map for Fulton County. The map  
4 shows where the aquifer has a relatively high vulnerability  
5 to being contaminated. Most, if not all, of the shallow Oak  
6 Openings sand aquifer has a yellow color indicating the  
7 higher vulnerability. And these maps will be provided.

8           No one here today can determine with certainty  
9 what the pipeline will be used for in the future. It is our  
10 responsibility today to limit the risk for current residents  
11 and future generations. We are concerned for the thousands  
12 of residents whose potable water supply could be negatively  
13 affected by the pipeline construction or any event affecting  
14 the integrity of the pipeline in the future as well as  
15 events that require a response and repair.

16           The Fulton County Board of Health therefore  
17 respectfully requests that Specter Energy Corporation  
18 consider any well-researched and presented reroute options  
19 during this planning phase that will avoid construction of  
20 the pipeline above and/or through the Oak Openings sand  
21 aquifer as well as populated communities and areas of public  
22 congregation such as churches and schools.

23           Thank you.

24           (Appause.)

25           MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 20 is Danuta Lange.

1           MS. LANGE: My name is Danuta Lange, D-a-n-u-t-a.  
2 I'm a Swan Creek Township resident and a tree farmer. I'm  
3 also a wife, mother, and grandmother who is concerned for  
4 the safety of the next generation.

5           The Nexus postcard states that Nexus will provide  
6 the region with affordable, clean-burning, and domestically  
7 abundant natural gas. Gas is not being provided in this  
8 region as represented. The project is designed to transport  
9 gas from Ohio and deliver it to Michigan and Canada. If  
10 there was a significant local demand for gas running the  
11 pipeline all the way to Canada would be unnecessary. This  
12 would also eliminate the need for so many large compressor  
13 stations.

14           Nexus states that over 85 percent of the proposed  
15 route follows existing utility corridors in Ohio and  
16 Michigan. Also that placing the pipeline near electrical  
17 transmission or other utility easements will promote safety  
18 and affect fewer landowners.

19           Swan Creek Township trustee Rick Casmer did  
20 discuss this with Gary Keyes a local representative from  
21 First Energy. Gary was totally unaware of Nexus using their  
22 utility easement. There is no corporate proof of sharing  
23 their electrical transmission line easement as suggested in  
24 the mailer.

25           If the pipeline were to rupture, the emergency

1 would be compounded by the pipeline's effect on the  
2 electrical transmission lines and electrical grid.

3 Nexus implies that they will be on existing  
4 easements. They may desire to run parallel to existing  
5 easements, but in fact they will still need their own  
6 100-foot construction easement and their own 50-foot  
7 permanent easement.

8 Nexus has offered false and misleading  
9 information that by constructing the pipeline in  
10 agricultural areas environmental impacts would be reduced.  
11 While somewhat true, even on agricultural land there will  
12 still be significant environmental impacts.

13 The construction and the pipe itself could mean  
14 long-term effects to groundwater and drinking wells because  
15 this is the Black Swamp unique drainage concerns exist. The  
16 exceptionally high water table will be an issue during  
17 construction. This can lead to other concerns including  
18 failure by corrosion.

19 The sandy soils can lead to shifting which could  
20 put stress on wells and damage the epoxy coating. This can  
21 lead to cracking of the epoxy and accelerate corrosion.

22 The Fulton County Commissioners passed a  
23 resolution that they -- oops, I'm done.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: She is the first person in all  
3 my meetings that saw the little red light.

4 MS. LANGE: I saw the yellow too.

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

6 Number 21 is Denise Heban.

7 MS. HEBAN: Hi, my name is Denise Heban. I live  
8 at 4827 County Road Three. I am a ten-year member of the  
9 Fulton County Board of Health and one of our functions is to  
10 make sure that our residents have safe drinking water.

11 I want to reiterate that I -- Pat works at the  
12 Board of Health, so I agree with what she said. But I do  
13 want to mention that the construction of the pipeline has  
14 the potential to contaminate the Oak Openings sand aquifer  
15 and present a hazard for thousands of residents using water  
16 from the Oak Openings sand aquifer.

17 The vehicles that will be used to install the  
18 pipeline have the potential to introduce contaminants  
19 directly to the aquifer such as diesel fuel, gasoline,  
20 hydraulic liquids, and other potential contaminants present  
21 in the construction phase.

22 You will be interested in the ground water  
23 pollution potential maps for Fulton, Lucas and Henry  
24 Counties. These maps are color coded to show the  
25 vulnerability of the aquifer to becoming contaminated due to

1 surface activities. The hotter colors, red, yellow and  
2 orange show where the aquifer has a relatively high  
3 vulnerability to being contaminated. Most, if not all, of  
4 the shallow Oak Openings sand aquifer has a yellow color  
5 meaning it is extremely vulnerable to contamination.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

9 Would someone mind closing that back door because  
10 I can hear the people out there and I don't want to be  
11 distracted.

12 Number 22 is Janet Traub.

13 MS. TRAUB: I am Janet Traub, T-r-a-u-b. I'm  
14 president of the Oak Openings Region Conservancy. I focus  
15 my remarks on the hazard of allowing corridors of overturned  
16 and excavated land within the Oak Openings. The limits of  
17 the Oak Openings region are constrained by the geology of  
18 ancient beach sand over top of ancient lake bottom plains.

19 The remaining quality of Oak Openings habitat is  
20 measured better in the acres than in square miles. Much of  
21 the good habitat is under no formal protection. The biology  
22 of our area cannot be reduplicated just by its stalling  
23 plantings elsewhere. The basic requirement that allows our  
24 hydrology and habitat is our geology and we can't move that.

25 Utility corridors cause fragmentation, in this

1 case, both above and below ground. Fragmentation increases  
2 invasion by weeds calling for concerted use of herbicides.  
3 Amphibians and reptiles are left more vulnerable to  
4 discovery by predators. Seasonal migration routes used by  
5 amphibians by the tens of thousands are severed.

6           The leap of the edge to area ratio of the habitat  
7 area leaves a high percentage of good Oak Openings habitat  
8 in frontline competition with the challenges from the --  
9 challenges from degraded sites.

10           Relatively narrow swaths through good habitat can  
11 isolate parts of populations that do not have large home  
12 ranges leading to their decline and loss.

13           Species richness drops, an obvious negative  
14 effect of cutting through a prime and rare area is that  
15 there is less of that habitat. As recently as March the  
16 Journal of Science Advances published a study synthesizing  
17 35 years of studies on fragmentation. Lead author Hadad and  
18 his fellow researchers were struck not only by the damage  
19 fragmentation caused, but by the long-term and progressive  
20 decline it engendered.

21           Paid and volunteer workers have invested  
22 thousands of man hours to bring our native habitat closer to  
23 the robustness needed for survival. Many grants and  
24 donations summing to tens of millions of dollars have been  
25 awarded to fund habitat conservation, maintenance, and

1 restoration in the Oak Openings region including National  
2 Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NAQUA and Ohio State Issue One  
3 Grants.

4           Individuals living in our area can qualify for  
5 USDA status by setting parts of their properties into native  
6 savannah species. Why would the government have any  
7 interest in now degrading the habitat that it awarded so  
8 much money to protect?

9           (Applause.)

10           MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 23 is Walt Lange.

11           MR. LANGE: My name is Walt Lange. I live at  
12 5893 County Road Three. I'm a retired math professor from  
13 the University of Toledo. And I have a talk all prepared  
14 about the faulty numbers in one of the FERC studies, but I  
15 canned it because I really want to talk about the overall  
16 project.

17           It's a more endangered native plant specie than  
18 any other place in Ohio. More than one-third of all of  
19 Ohio's rare plant species can be found there. I did slip a  
20 little math in there.

21           (Laughter.)

22           MR. LANGE: A few examples are regarding the blue  
23 butterfly which is totally dependent on the wild lupine  
24 flower and -- I had a nice picture, but you guys don't have  
25 facility for pictures.

1           Another endangered critter is the northwest and  
2 northwest Ohio is the large sparrow and then there was  
3 mention about the money spent in Fulton County -- well,  
4 actually in Lucas County and Wood County there's a federal  
5 program called the Lake Erie Conservation and Urban program  
6 and its subtitle is Rare and Declining Habitat Oak Savannah.  
7 And this is a unique federal program designed to restore Oak  
8 Savannahs in the Oak Openings.

9           In Swan Creek Township there are 102.2 acres that  
10 have been restored. How does that make any sense to run a  
11 strip mine through the Oak Openings that's 100 feet wide and  
12 I actually I guess if you run all the way from the river up  
13 to Michigan, it's about 15, 18 miles. And we're going to  
14 make this standing pictures, I have one, that's what it  
15 looks like, you all can't see that very well. But it's a  
16 100-foot-wide construction zone. This is August 19th, 2014,  
17 in Floyd County, Virginia and it's under construction. And  
18 it's literally a strip mine. There is nothing left.  
19 Everything is gone.

20           And how we can decide that that's a good thing  
21 for our area, I don't know.

22           How are they going to restore it? So much of  
23 this is like, you know, rare habitat, rare grasses, and you  
24 can't just put grass seed on it. If I understand the rules,  
25 you folks are supposed to restore it to its original

1 condition. Where are you going to get all the seeds? It  
2 doesn't make sense.

3           Where are your plans for controlling species? It  
4 took a glacier to create the great black swamp and the Oak  
5 Openings region and I don't know who's got the power, FERC,  
6 or Nexus, but who is going to bring the next glacier to  
7 restore all that?

8           One other quick comment. One of the restoration  
9 kind of possibilities is prairie grass, but guess what,  
10 every couple years you have to burn it off. And who is  
11 going to light the first match over the pipeline?

12           (Laughter.)

13           (Applause.)

14           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

15           Number 24 is Sean Shinaberry.

16           A request from the court reporter not to get too  
17 close to the microphone because it's muffling. He's having  
18 a hard time hearing you.

19           MR. SHINABERRY: My name is Sean Shinaberry. I'm  
20 here with my wife Jenna and I'll keep this short because my  
21 comments are mainly the same as most everybody else's. We  
22 live at 3353 County Road EF in Swanton with our three  
23 children. We have lived and owned land in the area for over  
24 ten years. It was my lifelong dream to live out in the  
25 country. This dream began when my wife and I purchased 32

1 acres of land and started our family.

2                   Three years ago we built our dream home, a barn,  
3 a pond, and other such things to make our house a home. I  
4 share this information with you because I am not a farmer or  
5 a landowner, I am a homeowner who had a dream, a vision and  
6 a family.

7                   Our homestead has 11 parcels and other homesteads  
8 that touch it. On the mile of road that we live on there  
9 are 33 residences. I invite everyone from FERC to come out  
10 to my home and my neighbors' homes and visit their families  
11 and see their dreams.

12                   Nexus has chosen a route that cuts through my  
13 people on a 45-degree angle. The only reason I know this is  
14 because of the map that I hold before you which shows my  
15 property and the maps that my neighbors have shown me of  
16 their properties. Please note on the one map that I have  
17 been provided by Nexus, they forgot to put my home on it.

18                   It's a barren piece of 32 acres and I'll leave  
19 this with you when I'm done here today.

20                   The reason that I bring all of that up to you is  
21 as I looked at the map to give you those statistics it  
22 occurred to me that in the next mile of road to the west of  
23 my home there were only eight parcels. The further west you  
24 go and the further south you go, the fewer and fewer people  
25 there are.

1           I understand the need for infrastructure and  
2 resources, but I have the following concerns. And I'll save  
3 everybody this part because it was mostly the points from  
4 the study of the impact of natural gas transmission  
5 pipelines that Sally Wylie pointed out earlier.

6           But there are a couple of points in there on  
7 safety that the outside forces of construction account for  
8 50 percent of all pipeline accidents. Thirty-six percent of  
9 natural gas pipelines, 36-inch natural gas pipelines under  
10 high pressure could cause radiant heat up to 1,000 feet  
11 radius. And Mr. Pooler's study -- observation from that  
12 study did not prove to be inaccurate in the 2000 explosion  
13 in Mexico that killed ten campers that were all over 800  
14 feet away.

15           I ask you why put the pipeline in the most  
16 populated area of our county, the most populated area of our  
17 township and the most populated area of my road if the  
18 primary cost per incident and accident is human error  
19 action.

20           What I'm asking you is the Fulton County trustees  
21 have put together a utility corridor, a planned route  
22 designed for travel through which established easements,  
23 roadways, rails, and recreational trails would allow the  
24 pipeline to travel, not cutting across my property at a  
25 45-degree angle or that of my neighbors. Consider the

1 reroute proposed by the Swan Creek Township trustees. For  
2 me, there is no amount of money that could keep me or my  
3 family or my dreams alive with a pipeline in my back yard.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

7 Number 25 is Jeff Truckor.

8 MR. TRUCKOR: My name is Jeff Truckor, Amboy  
9 Township of Ohio. I'm a fourth generation farmer. My son  
10 Brandon will be the fifth farming 2,00 acres in the area.  
11 I'm speaking on behalf of three of my landlords, my parents,  
12 Brandon and myself.

13 In this project I have three parcels equaling  
14 5,280 feet, the landlord's 1,980 feet, my parents' 2,648  
15 feet, 9900 feet in total, almost two miles.

16 Over the years I've been involved in a lot of  
17 industrial and energy projects involving the lands owned by  
18 us and my landlords. In the '60s replacement of one of  
19 Panhandle's eastern lines 72 and 73 the construction of  
20 Edison's 345K lines, '94 construction of -- '98 the  
21 annexation of my 72 acre farm from Mammler's Industrial  
22 Park. In 2000 and proposed peak generating plant. 2008,  
23 the Burns McDonald's Proposed Peak generating plant. And  
24 2014 Ohio gas installation of 5,000 feet of gas line crossed  
25 our properties. In 2014, 9,900 feet Nexus line and in 2015,

1 6,600 feet of Utopia pipeline.

2 I'm not opposed to progress or infrastructure.  
3 Sometimes it's just the concerns we have are because of  
4 other projects over the years. Rerouting of the Industrial  
5 Park, tile crossing for the future, crop damages, capital  
6 gains taxes, and attorney's fees, ditch crossings, and road  
7 crossing. We have three road crossings, three ditch  
8 crossings, one Ohio gas crossing and three Panhandle Eastern  
9 gas crossings.

10 On rerouting the tile, which we've spent a lot of  
11 money on, I propose to put lateral tile in and outlets so we  
12 don't have to cross this pipeline every 35 feet. Install  
13 tile before the construction of the pipeline, prevent crop  
14 damages from the farm during construction.

15 The tile crossings for the future make it five  
16 foot deep so we don't have no problems crossing the pipeline  
17 again.

18 Crop damages, the settling of the boring holes,  
19 the feathering of the excess dirt, and releveling of the  
20 boring holes, the industrial park --

21 MS. WACHHOLDER: I'm sorry, your time is up.

22 You can submit the remaining comments  
23 electronically.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 26 is Pam Moore.

1 MS. MOORE: My name is Pam Moore. I live at 409  
2 Dodge Street.

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: Start again.

4 MS. MOORE: My name is Pam Moore. I am a Swan  
5 Creek Township trustee. I live at 409 Dodge Street, Swan.  
6 I took office as Swan Creek Township trustee January 1st,  
7 2012.

8 I ran to be the voice of the people in our  
9 township. On December 8th, 2014 at our township meeting I  
10 motioned not to support Nexus Pipeline or any other  
11 pipeline. It was passed by resolution and all voting yes.  
12 Now I'll tell you why.

13 My first contact with Nexus was early 2012. The  
14 trustees met with Mark Wagner, Nexus attorney and the Nexus  
15 representative to discuss the proposed pipeline. At that  
16 time it was not going through our township.

17 The next time I heard anything about Nexus was  
18 last fall. A neighbor told me about an open house that was  
19 being held at Swanton High School for Nexus Pipeline. The  
20 open house was for the residents that were being affected by  
21 the pipeline. I attended it along with our other two  
22 trustees to see what was going on. We were not notified at  
23 all about the proposed pipeline that was running through our  
24 township.

25 Being public officials for Swan Creek Township we

1 felt we should have been.

2 Mark Wagner met us at the door, got us a  
3 representative to help us, and we had lots of questions that  
4 night. Later that evening I e-mailed more questions to the  
5 representative that helped us earlier. He forwarded them to  
6 Mr. Wagner so he could address them with me. I have  
7 attached the e-mails between Mark Wagner and myself.

8 We never got a straight answer on any of our  
9 questions. We asked for transparency. We felt Nexus was  
10 not being up front with us as you will see when you read the  
11 e-mails. As a public official I'm concerned about our  
12 safety. Can our fire departments handle an incident? Our  
13 roads cannot handle the truck traffic construction will  
14 bring. Who will repair the roads?

15 What will happen to our orchards, our forests,  
16 our parks, and our wetlands? Will they repair the entire  
17 farm drainage tiles they're going to destroy? Who will make  
18 up for the lost tax dollars when property values go down?

19 How does the pipeline benefit Swan Creek  
20 Township? What can we expect 20, 30, 40 years from now?  
21 Why did Nexus contact the township when it wasn't coming  
22 through our township three years ago, but do nothing to  
23 notify us when it was? Nexus could not answer our  
24 questions, can you?

25 I gave my word to the people in Swan Creek

1 Township not to support any pipeline and all I have is my  
2 word. I am asking this forum to please consider the reroute  
3 plan that is proposed to you tonight. This reroute proposal  
4 is less populated than the route Nexus proposed.

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

6 MS. MOORE: In closing, I just want to say thank  
7 you for listening to us and for listening to all the voices  
8 here tonight.

9 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 27, Martha Mora.

12 MS. MORA: Hi, I'm Martha Mora and this is my  
13 youngest son Aaron. We live at 4374 County Road Three in  
14 Swanton and I am here to support the latest reroute that  
15 CORN has submitted in it entirety from the City of Green  
16 through Fulton County.

17 I'm also here to talk about Johnston Fruit Farms.  
18 I come from a long line of farmers, but my dad, Dale  
19 Johnston, started a fruit farm back in 1954. My husband and  
20 I do not work outside of the farm. We also do not  
21 participate in any farm funding programs which ultimately  
22 the taxpayer pays for.

23 If our 120 acre farm succeeds in supporting my  
24 family, it's because of good weather, community support, and  
25 countless hours of leg work.

1           I'd like to share some reasons I feel the Nexus  
2 Pipeline is not a good fit for my farm. My four children  
3 all show interest in continuing their legacy including my  
4 daughter studying botany at Penn State. I already carry the  
5 burden of an easement to Toledo Edison which I cannot plant  
6 trees under and I feel I am already doing my part.

7           Busloads of children come out for field trips as  
8 well as countless families to pick their own fruit. This is  
9 not open farmland, and it is definitely not a safe place for  
10 a high-pressure pipe. Since 2009, we have donated over  
11 130,000 pounds of apples to the food banks and in  
12 surrounding counties. This is a challenging task for a  
13 small farm. Losing trees and the use of my land will make  
14 this an even more difficult task in the future.

15           Cider production is a major part of our income.  
16 This requires clean, uncontaminated water, as does making  
17 donuts which would be a real issue if we don't have donuts.  
18 I'm just telling you that.

19           (Laughter.)

20           MS. MORA: -- in Fulton County. And irrigating  
21 strawberries. The drainage of my -- I'm sorry, the draining  
22 of my well to facilitate pipeline construction are the  
23 consequence of contamination of my water source from a  
24 shallow sand aquifer would shut down every aspect of my  
25 business.

1           Natural gas is replaceable. Renewable energy  
2 sources like solar, wind, hydro and geothermal, biomass,  
3 wave, and tidal are used worldwide. Are food and water  
4 considered replaceable? Are we willing to compromise our  
5 local food and water sources just to export energy to other  
6 countries? I don't see that as a wise tradeoff.

7           Nexus feels their payment for my land is a great  
8 business decision for them. But will Nexus be here to  
9 support my family, my community, and ensure we have clean  
10 drinking water for the next 60 years? No, they will not.

11           And it reminds me of what Oscar Wilde once said,  
12 "Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value  
13 of nothing."

14           (Applause.)

15           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

16           Number 28, Matthew Meeker.

17           MR. MEEKER: I'm number 28, Matthew Meeker.

18 Thanks for turning up the microphone. Matthew Meeker,  
19 number 28. Your voice is very hard to hear just everywhere.

20           Hi, neighbors. I live on the edge of Waterville  
21 Road around mile mark 181 on some of the maps outside.

22           Blue Creek is right across the road from me. And  
23 when I first moved there seven years ago, my neighbor Brian  
24 says, "You know, just walk into that field sometime and look  
25 down and you might find an arrowhead." Well, would that be

1 a sign of earlier human habitation? So I gave it a try.  
2 This year I walked into the field. I took my first step into  
3 the new furrow. Right at my toe I found my first arrowhead.  
4 So there's some signs of human habitation that have been  
5 discovered right there at my feet. I imagine there's more  
6 in the undisturbed forest across Blue Creek from me which is  
7 where one of the sites that was proposed for the pumping  
8 station would be about 1,400 feet from my bedroom window.  
9 That's not why I moved to Providence Township. I've lived  
10 in the Oak Openings my whole life. If you look at it  
11 historically you'll find from the western suburbs of Detroit  
12 to Fort Wayne, Indiana is the region. One of the nicest  
13 things that happened to me, I love maps and I looked at the  
14 map where my new house is, you know, it actually looks like  
15 a house from 1737 but it's fairly new. And right there the  
16 Oak Openings region is designated on the map. I dashed the  
17 line, have you seen that is map?

18 My house sits right on one of the dashes. And  
19 right across the road is Blue Creek, and they want to put --  
20 maybe they want to put the pumping station in. So alarm  
21 bells started going off. That neighbors are all irritated  
22 and upset and they don't know what to think. They feel like  
23 they won't have any say in it. Well, here we are tonight,  
24 we have a say and I want to encourage all my neighbors and  
25 everybody here, if you haven't put your comments in, go to

1 the FERC.gov site, register, they'll send you an e-mail,  
2 respond to the e-mail with your comments.

3 I drink the water from our shallow well. It's  
4 delight, the best coffee in Lucas County. And so do my  
5 grandkids, and our children when they come visit us. So,  
6 you know, there's a lot of people affected by this. I'm one  
7 of them, apparently.

8 And while I'm generally for progress I just  
9 wonder if maybe the route that's going through Lucas County,  
10 maybe if there isn't some reason why we have to have a piece  
11 of this in Lucas County, I don't know, would there be a  
12 political reason that we need to have a part of a pipeline  
13 go through Lucas County? Fulton County is already, I guess,  
14 pretty much -- it's going to go through Fulton County. Does  
15 Lucas County have to even be involved?

16 I heard talk tonight about the new route. So I'm  
17 going to say to Martha, speaker 27, and Aaron, her little  
18 boy, I'm in support of what you said over at Johnston Farms  
19 and also speaker number one who says, let's save our Oak  
20 Openings.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

24 Number 29 is Eva Waldron. And just to let  
25 everyone know, we're going to take a break at eight o'clock.

1 So who ever we get through by eight o'clock, then we'll  
2 start up after the break.

3 MS. WALDRON: Hi, I'm a member of CORN and I  
4 support the rerouting of the pipeline. I guess I'm  
5 underdressed and not wearing my shiny boots tonight.

6 But I think I'm part of a working farm and  
7 community and I assume my opinion is just as valuable and  
8 just as important as anybody else because I belong here. I  
9 own property in Swan Creek Township and my home is my  
10 American dream.

11 I am so worried for my family's safety and our  
12 health. There's been pipelines that have exploded and lives  
13 have been lost. We do not have fire departments in our  
14 community that can handle this type of devastation. We have  
15 wells for drinking water that we don't want contaminated or  
16 poisoned. We have an eight-acre lake at my home with fish,  
17 water fowl and emigrating birds adjacent to Maumee State  
18 Forest.

19 I love my family, my neighbors, and my community.  
20 I do not want to see our lives destroyed. But, Nexus, can  
21 you live with that if you destroy our lives?

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

25 Number 30 is Wendy Stinson.

1 MS. STINSON: Hi is that even working?

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: If you want to sit down and just  
3 hold the mike that would be fine.

4 MS. STINSON: Thank you.

5 Hello. My name is Wendy Stinson, S-t-i-n-s-o-n.

6 And I was a registered nurse and I've seen a lot of  
7 sicknesses, a lot of deaths and I'm just wondering if we're  
8 going to have more deaths here because of this.

9 And it's not -- I'm not worried about other  
10 people. I have been blessed myself, but I worry about  
11 everybody else, you know, I worry about kids, I worry about  
12 families, I worry about the elderly, and they don't have a  
13 choice where you're putting this in. And I just want to --  
14 that's just my concerns.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

18 Number 31 is Don Dickerson.

19 MR. DICKERSON: My name is Don Dickerson. I've  
20 been a full-time farmer for 65 years. I served on the local  
21 bank board for 27 years. And my concern is the proposed  
22 pipeline is being installed along the present power line  
23 right-of-way which has four towers on my property and have a  
24 99 year lease on 15 acres of my farm.

25 In my opinion with the threat of terrorism in

1 this country, all it would take is one stick of dynamite to  
2 take out the pipeline and the power line also.

3 And also the south line of our property is also  
4 the north edge of the Matamora City limits. This would  
5 prevent any future plans for development of lots on our  
6 property.

7 The closest of the line to Matamora City limits  
8 would endanger the people of Matamora in case of an  
9 explosion and fire. The distance from city limits to  
10 pipeline is approximately 1,000 feet which is within the  
11 blast area in the event of an explosion. The pipeline  
12 crossing our farm would cut off approximately 50 to 60 lines  
13 of drainage tile, disrupting the drainage system of the farm  
14 forever. If a pipeline was to be installed during planting  
15 season we would have no way of getting to the back part of  
16 farm to plant and tend to our crops.

17 As the land in this area is very flat, that left  
18 in the field from the pipeline installed would disrupt the  
19 disrupt the natural surface drainage of the farm and under  
20 frozen conditions would pond and drown out any crop planted  
21 on the farm.

22 The subsoil left on the top would not grow good  
23 crops from installation on. Our son has three pipelines on  
24 his farm. They have been there for 40 years and you can  
25 still tell where the pipelines are. And by the way, my wife

1 went through one of these pipelines exploding back in the 19  
2 -- later 1950's and 1960's. She lived about three miles  
3 away from the explosion at that time and it rattled the  
4 windows in the house.

5 Eminent domain, the power of government to take  
6 private property for public use. This is not public use.  
7 It also is to prevent the government from taking property  
8 from politically weak and transferring it to the  
9 well-connected special interest groups such as Nexus.

10 We saw pictures of the pipeline that blew up and  
11 burned in California. We are afraid of ourselves and the  
12 whole town of Metamora. Why should anyone be forced to have  
13 a pipeline installed do close to so many people? We don't  
14 want the people on our property for any amount of money.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

17 Number 32 is Lea Harper.

18 MS. HARPER: I am Lea Harper of Fresh Water  
19 Accountability Project also Ohioans Against Pipelines for  
20 Export.

21 I've addressed FERC before about the Rover  
22 Project.

23 Over four years ago I was directly impacted by  
24 the fracking industry. Everything that I warned my  
25 neighbors about in southeast Ohio about this industry has

1 come true. Much of it even worse than I predicted about the  
2 unregulated industry that it is.

3           These pipelines are meant to support the fracking  
4 industry and get its products to the higher-paying export  
5 markets. These pipelines are for profit and you, FERC, are  
6 supporting them in that effort by approving them.

7           There is no longer legislation and regulation for  
8 we the people, but for them the profiteers. You take our  
9 tax money for your pay check and then you buddy up to the  
10 industry you're supposed to regulate, even hoping to get  
11 jobs from them which you often do.

12           I know I'm not going to get through this because  
13 I timed it, but I'll go on.

14           The years I researched and personally experienced  
15 the damage this industry can do has been a real eye opener.  
16 To this day I see that the industry's lies and propaganda  
17 are working to keep those who have not been personally  
18 impacted from seeing the truth.

19           We the people have to wake up to what is being  
20 done to us. The fossil fuel industry is treating us here  
21 like they have others in other countries, like Nigeria.

22           Now they are polluting with carcinogens in our  
23 own back yard. And FERC's sense of omission to actually  
24 regulate and hold the industry accountable for its  
25 cumulative effects by the environment and public health are

1 obvious.

2           Our civil and property rights have been  
3 eviscerated to allow those who hold the wealth and power in  
4 this country to purchase politicians and legislation.  
5 Because of purchase regulatory loopholes, the industry is  
6 allowed to dispose of their massive amounts of toxic and  
7 radioactive wastes as nonhazardous.

8           The pipeline build out infrastructure goes on  
9 even despite the legitimate lawsuits brought before the  
10 courts. No one is calculating the overall effects of each  
11 pipeline and even the combined effects we will suffer here  
12 in Ohio, even considering the fact that this is our gas  
13 coming from Ohio and none of it is for Ohioans.

14           The pipeline will allow even more fracking to  
15 take place and the industry will move to northwest Ohio to  
16 harm us here all for the sake of their profits even though  
17 they lie and say it's America's clean energy future. Those  
18 who know the truth know that fracking is dirtier than coal  
19 overall and most of the product is slated for export.

20           Okay. My time is up, but I commissioned a  
21 recommended study from BGSU, professors who are saying that  
22 there must be a study funded. We've heard a lot about Oak  
23 Openings, not a lot about the carst geologic formation, and  
24 there are sink holes in this area and until they are  
25 identified this pipeline cannot be built. And the DOE says,

1 we don't need more pipelines for our energy needs.

2           So this study must be done. And this pipeline  
3 must not be built.

4           (Applause.)

5           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

6           Number 33 is Karen Schneider.

7           MS. SCHNEIDER: Good evening. Hello, my name is  
8 Karen Schneider and I'm a trustee for Waterville Township.  
9 I am here to discuss the permanent repercussions the  
10 compressor station will have on Waterville Township and our  
11 residents.

12           With regard to air quality and noise, the  
13 proposed compressor station will be located in direct  
14 proximity to 37 homes and one church.

15           Not quite three years ago these exact same homes  
16 in addition to our larger community were heavily impacted by  
17 the construction of a new State Route 24 bypass that is  
18 traveled by thousands of trucks and cars every day. The  
19 bypass put a wide swath directly through family farms and  
20 has brought with it negative, life-changing sight and sound  
21 consequences.

22           The township's sensitivity to additional sight  
23 and sound impacts from the compressor station is at the  
24 forefront of our list of concerns. What will Nexus propose  
25 to provide the maximum mitigation for the sight and sound

1 impacts to our community? Will they be willing to go above  
2 and beyond the baseline standard for mitigation? Who will  
3 have final say over what is or isn't sufficient noise and  
4 nuisance mitigation?

5 Socioeconomics. About 3,000 citizens support our  
6 fire and police revenues and bridges funding. Our general  
7 fund is supported by just two-tenths of one inside mill.  
8 Our funding from the state has decreased significantly over  
9 the last several years. Our ability as a township  
10 government to handle any amount of increased costs that come  
11 to us because of the Nexus Pipeline is nonexistent.

12 The township is solely responsible for two of the  
13 roads that will be consistently utilized during the  
14 construction and operation of the compressor station in our  
15 township. They total 1.6 miles. At a cost of \$1 million  
16 per mile to restore roadway, the township does not have now  
17 nor do we anticipate being able to levy any necessary  
18 additional monies in order to cover the incremental wear and  
19 tear of the roadways due to Nexus' activities.

20 Who will cover these costs both on a short- and  
21 long-term basis? What solutions will Nexus provide?

22 Public safety. The compressor station will be  
23 located within plain view and walking distance from State  
24 Route 24. We have serious concerns regarding the security  
25 of the station. Waterville Township has one police officer

1 on duty 24/7. Our policing area of responsibility includes  
2 20 square miles of suburban and rural areas along with seven  
3 miles of Route 24 traffic patrol. In addition we provide  
4 support to four other police agencies.

5           Waterville Township fire and EMS services are  
6 provided for us by the Waterville and Whitehouse Fire  
7 Departments. Much of these departments are composed of  
8 volunteer firefighters.

9           Nexus' proposed facilities will place an  
10 additional burden on our extremely limited public safety  
11 resources. Will Nexus provide the funding and equipment  
12 that will be required to safeguard their facilities in  
13 addition to our and our neighbors' existing  
14 responsibilities? Our resources should not be forced to  
15 reduce the focus on our citizens' needs in order to  
16 accommodate Nexus responsibilities.

17           And, finally, the land use and cumulative  
18 impacts, other concerns, degradation of residential  
19 development opportunities due to sight, sound, and safety  
20 concerns, devaluation of property and homes surrounding the  
21 compressor station, and finally, concerns regarding blasting  
22 done by the Waterville Stone quarry, given the proximity of  
23 the pipeline to the quarry, what damage will this do to the  
24 -- the blasting do to the integrity of pipeline over time,  
25 continuous seismic disturbances from the blasting could have

1 a significant effect on the pipeline and its coatings. Is  
2 it even possible Nexus can guard against this?

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. Your time is up.

4 MS. SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Thank you for the  
5 opportunity.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: We're going to take one more  
8 speaker before our break. And that will be number 34, Bill  
9 Taylor, and then after that we'll take a ten-minute break  
10 and we'll start up with number 35 after the break.

11 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you for being our voice for  
12 the evening. I'm Bill Taylor, I live at County Road Six, in  
13 Swan Creek Township. And I've got a little bit different  
14 take on this is that I'm retired from AT&T and I'd like to  
15 tell you that from the other side of the stick, I'd like to  
16 talk about the economics of what a permanent easement does  
17 on these properties.

18 For those of you who don't recognize me, that's  
19 good, because I was the guy that did away with Cable Line  
20 Road.

21 What happens when a utility puts in an easement,  
22 that easement becomes a tourniquet in the area. I reflect  
23 on this only because of an easement that I worked for about  
24 eight years from Woodville Mall in the Edgewood County and  
25 all the way to out. These easements were written in 1928

1 and I buried 160 miles of cable in the 419 area at that  
2 time. And I saw what these easements actually did. No one  
3 can look in their crystal ball when an easement is set in  
4 gold today to see what it's going to do in future years. I  
5 have done things such as release easements because of a  
6 manhole that is less than five foot from a person's window.  
7 I've seen farmers strangle throughout Sandusky County  
8 because of the AT&T, that was put in, in 1928. This project  
9 needs to go solely in the public way because when it's in  
10 the public way then it becomes a permit not an easement.  
11 And it's a permit all of our sons and daughters they have  
12 way to change this over the years gone by.

13           When we look at the strategic specifications if  
14 this pipeline is put in, if the pipeline had been put in  
15 everything as they are required to put in underneath the  
16 lake shore line, the railroad, or underneath the Ohio  
17 Turnpike, it would be a whole different world of cost to  
18 them. But I know that isn't going to happen.

19           The safeguards that are taken by the railroad or  
20 the turnpike and that, for you that don't know it, are  
21 unbelievable considering what they want to do across your  
22 farmland. Economically in Swan Creek Township we're in bad  
23 shape. We're rated, the last -- the worst in the state of  
24 Ohio. This only puts a tourniquet on our development for  
25 the next 50 to 100 years.

1 Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

4 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: All right. So we'll take a  
5 ten-minute break. It is eight o'clock right now. We will  
6 resume at 8:10.

7 (Brief recess taken at 8:00 p.m.)

8 (Meeting resumes at 8:10 p.m.)

9 MS. WACHHOLDER: If everyone could get settled,  
10 we're going to restart in a minute.

11 We're going to get started now. The next speaker  
12 is number 35, Diana Schwind.

13 MS. SCHWIND: Okay. Hi, my name is Diana Schwind  
14 and I've worked in construction for 25 years. There has  
15 been a lot of --

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: Please let her talk.

17 MS. SCHWIND: There's been a lot of conversation  
18 tonight about the possibility of irreversible damage to  
19 drinking water supplies along the the pipeline route. And I  
20 would like to bring it to your attention another issue that  
21 has the potential to impact water supplies in addition to  
22 the possible water contamination due to excavating  
23 activities.

24 Corrosion protection sites will be scattered  
25 along the whole length of the pipeline per the Public

1 Utility Commission of Ohio regulations and at regular  
2 intervals per engineered specifications.

3 Nexus has advised that the chosen method of  
4 corrosion and protection on this pipeline project will be  
5 through crushed deep well rectifiers. Thus far -- I'm  
6 sorry. This means they will be drilling a deep well of at  
7 least 300 feet at each CP site. Thus far we have not been  
8 advised as to where these deep well rectifiers will be  
9 placed. Actual measurements that have been taken in many of  
10 these residential areas and the current proposed pipeline  
11 route will be within easily 100 feet from many of the  
12 residential wells and leech pits.

13 There should be great concern about the potential  
14 impact on property owners' water quality and water supply  
15 since the well for the rectifier will be much deeper than  
16 most property owners' drinking water wells.

17 In addition, many areas do not have municipal  
18 water supplies as an option should the drinking wells be  
19 compromised in any way. It is imperative that Nexus conduct  
20 a thorough examination of the potential impact their project  
21 will have on residential water supplies in their path.

22 I might even suggest that the crew construction  
23 documents include a page that plots residential wells in  
24 relationship to the deep well CP sites for review.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

3 Number 36 is Howard Black.

4 MR. BLACK: I'm a Swanton Township resident and I  
5 feel sorry for you people in Swan Creek. I don't have a  
6 prepared message, but I've got questions. And I'm sure  
7 that's what we all came here for was to have these questions  
8 answered. And we're not getting a direct answer from  
9 anybody here where the route is going to be located. You  
10 know, who is going to pay for any damages that happen to  
11 take place. You know, ground water contamination and stuff.  
12 I'm sure they're going to come up and tell us, you know.

13 My big thing is last winter when I was out  
14 driving around -- my mom lived on County Road AW and County  
15 Road Two between One and Two -- I saw their surveyors in a  
16 plot of land that was up for sale, you know. I drove by and  
17 they kind of disguised the sign on the side of the truck and  
18 stuff.

19 Right directly behind this farm which they could  
20 probably go across because it was up for sale by Weyland,  
21 there's a forest, you know, Maumee State Forest. In front  
22 of it -- it's by White Pines Golf Course, I'm sure you all  
23 know where that's at, there's another state forest. I want  
24 to know, has there already been a handshake deal on these  
25 forests that they can go through them, they can destroy

1     them, you know?

2                   I've lived here all my life and that's the last  
3     thing I want to see is the beauty of this area destroyed.  
4     You know, they probably none of them live here, you know, or  
5     are going to ever come back here after this pipeline is put  
6     through. But, you know, I want to see it preserved for my  
7     grandchildren, my children, and, you know, what guarantees  
8     are you going to give us?

9                   That's all I want to know.

10                  Thank you.

11                  (Applause.)

12                  MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

13                  Number 37 is Lisa Hochheiser.

14                  MS. HOCHHEISER: Wow, that's pretty impressive.  
15     Not many people pronounce my last name correctly. I'm Lisa  
16     Hochheiser. I live in Wood County. Where currently there  
17     are an unprecedented number of six proposed pipeline  
18     projects. We've been told that Wood County is to be a hub  
19     for the oil and gas industry. But this is my home and I'm  
20     not giving permission for Nexus or any other pipeline  
21     company to turn it into a sacrifice zone.

22                  I have a degree in environmental policy and  
23     analysis from Bowling Green State University so I understand  
24     the various risks the Nexus Pipeline Project brings to my  
25     county and beyond.

1           I also understand that critical information  
2 regarding these risks is being withheld by Nexus in order to  
3 protect their project for private profit. The risk of a  
4 Nexus accident occurring in Wood County is greatly magnified  
5 by its unique geologic inconsistencies. For example, the  
6 ground of Wood County is riddled with unstable carst which  
7 readily forms sinkholes near or well below the surface where  
8 they may be undetectable without regular high-tech testing.

9           Wood County geology is completely transected from  
10 north to south by a major fault line, the Bowling Green  
11 fault which crosses the Maumee River near the proposed  
12 pipeline crossing and a nearby active quarry which blasts on  
13 a regular basis.

14           Wood County geology is also riddled with  
15 approximately 20,000 abandoned oil and gas wells. Many with  
16 unknown locations and many never having been properly  
17 plugged.

18           If a Nexus accident occurred in Wood County, it  
19 would not only incinerate many people like my family living  
20 within its blast zone, but would also affect hundreds of  
21 thousands more throughout the region because of high voltage  
22 transmission lines it plans to diverse through most of the  
23 county will also be incinerated.

24           Wood County hydrology is part of the Lake Erie  
25 western basin watershed. Land disruption from pipeline

1 construction will boost runoff rates and elevate nutrient  
2 and sediment loads within our watershed. Last summer half a  
3 million people went without water there because of runoff.  
4 We don't need it to be made worse by a pipeline project for  
5 private profit.

6           Contrary to what Nexus tells landowners, it's  
7 going to damage and devalue property. Landowners not only  
8 in Wood County, but all across northern Ohio are being told  
9 they have no choice but to accept the Nexus pipeline through  
10 their lives. Why aren't people being asked whether or not  
11 they want their lives and property destroyed? Wood County  
12 is a critical leg for oil and gas transmission, however, the  
13 people of Wood County who are being affected most by this  
14 activity haven't been respected enough for Nexus or FERC to  
15 so much as hold a meeting there or to even inform us of the  
16 inherent risks we are facing.

17           Regardless of what Nexus says, the main purpose  
18 of the Nexus Pipeline is to connect high volumes of natural  
19 gas to the global market. If it were meant to benefit  
20 Ohioans domestically, it wouldn't be going to Canada. This  
21 project is not for public convenience, it's for private  
22 profit.

23           According to the Ohio Constitution and the  
24 Declaration of Independence, people have an inalienable  
25 right and duty to tell their government what they want it to

1 do.

2 So, FERC --

3 MS. WACHHOLDER: Your time is up.

4 MS. HOCHHEISER: I want you to deny approval of  
5 the Nexus Pipeline.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

8 Number 38 is Janice Lower.

9 MS. LOWER: Good evening. My name is Janice  
10 Lower. I live on West River Road in Bowling Green,  
11 Miltonville Township in Wood County.

12 I am a member of CORN and I oppose the proposed  
13 Nexus Pipeline.

14 I am here to talk with you tonight about my  
15 concerns. My concerns are the historic sites located on my  
16 property known as Gypsy Point, my house, which will be 200  
17 feet away from a proposed pipeline, Missionary Island,  
18 Bowling Green geological fault, the Bowling Green water  
19 treatment facility and the degradation and safety of my  
20 property.

21 The Bowling Green geological fault runs through  
22 the entire area where the Missionary Island, the Robert  
23 Dunlap Homestead, the Robert Dunlap Family Cemetery, the  
24 other late archaic archeological sites are located and  
25 directly on my property.

1           Earlier you heard from Patrick Tucker who is the  
2 archeologist on this Dunlap site and the materials that I  
3 passed to you are his findings along with Matt's and lists  
4 of archeological artifacts that were recovered from the site  
5 as well as my remarks in case I don't finish.

6           I talked with Nexus at one of their open houses  
7 recently and I talked to them about my concern about the  
8 historical significance of the sites. And they replied that  
9 anything they found during excavation they would put in a  
10 box and give it to me. This shows definite disregard for  
11 the scientific protocol that should be required for a site  
12 like this.

13           I have great concern that many of the known sites  
14 as well as the sites that have yet to be discovered will be  
15 destroyed by Nexus and key pieces of our local history and  
16 our national history will be gone forever.

17           The Bowling Green fault is another major concern  
18 of mine, as I said. And not only has the potential to  
19 damage or destroy the historical sites, either on my  
20 property or adjacent to my property, but it also has the  
21 potential to damage or destroy the water supply for the  
22 entire northern Wood County and southern Lucas County. The  
23 water treatment plant will be -- the pipeline will be 150 to  
24 200 feet away from the water reservoirs on Route 65 at the  
25 Bowling Green water treatment plant. Even a small movement

1 of the geologic fault could cause serious consequences to  
2 the integrity of the pipeline. That could cause an  
3 explosion, for instance, and that would definitely damage  
4 the water supply if not destroy the water supply for those  
5 areas.

6 Many towns and municipalities, hundreds of them,  
7 rely on that facility for clean drinking water. And because  
8 I live at Gypsy Point and only 200 feet away from the  
9 proposed pipeline I myself am concerned about my own well  
10 being.

11 I am opposed to the Nexus Pipeline and I  
12 sincerely request that your earnest investigation of my  
13 comments and concerns and that you hopefully will  
14 thoughtfully consider the pipeline reroute as proposed by  
15 CORN.

16 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 39, Corbin Reece.

19 MR. REECE: My name is Corbin Reece. I live up  
20 on County Road Six. I have no comment at this time so far  
21 as the pipeline is concerned. I yield to number 40.

22 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

23 Number 40 is Lowell Bryan.

24 MR. BRYAN: My name is Lowell Bryan. I'm a  
25 resident of Swan Creek Township. I'm a landowner in the

1 proposed site. My biggest concern is the loss of property  
2 value, the possible damage to my water supply, which has  
3 been a tough go for the last few years. The reduction of  
4 property value. And safety is another concern because of a  
5 possible incident. We don't have the infrastructure to  
6 handle such problems if they do occur. And that needs to be  
7 addressed wholeheartedly.

8           Also about our Oak Openings area, it is pristine.  
9 I live across the road from the Maumee State Forest. We've  
10 enjoyed it for 35 years. I don't need to see that  
11 destroyed.

12           So I request that this pipeline be relocated out  
13 of our populated area to a better safety corridor.

14           Thank you.

15           (Applause.)

16           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

17           Number 41 is Terry Langley.

18           MR. LANGLEY: Hello. My name is Terry Langley  
19 and I'm here to speak to you today on behalf of the  
20 Pipeliners Local Union 798. Our local union is the largest  
21 pipeline local in the United States and for over 65 years we  
22 have provided the most experienced and best-qualified  
23 craftsmen to support our nation's infrastructure needs.

24           I stand before you to say this, the Nexus  
25 Pipeline is good for Ohio. It will support the creation of

1 critical jobs such as the research facility, various  
2 manufacturers, local distribution companies and power  
3 plants, not to mention the thousands of construction jobs it  
4 will create for skilled craftsmen such as the 700 plus local  
5 union members that we have living along the proposed route.

6 Pipelines have long been proven to be the safest  
7 and most reliable way to transport natural gas. Pipelines  
8 are also more environmental friendly than transportation by  
9 truck or rail which have much higher carbon emissions.

10 The Nexus Pipeline is good for our nation's  
11 growing energy needs and Pipeliners Local 798 is here and  
12 ready to provide the skill and craftsmen necessary to build  
13 a state-of-the-art pipeline that we can all be proud of.

14 And I had spoke to a gentleman earlier that  
15 spoke, Charles Saunders, the lawyer that spoke earlier, and  
16 he was telling me that there was a railroad that runs  
17 through this community. And it's every 40 minutes it passes  
18 through this community. And he was telling me that 5,600  
19 derails since 2012 and 2014. So I think that the pipeline  
20 would be safer than rail or trucking.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

24 Number 43 is Rhonda Mokri -- oh, I'm sorry, 42 --  
25 I'm sorry, 42 Brett Lafaso.

1           MR. LAFASO: Thank you. My name is Brett Lafaso  
2 and I live on Jeffries Road in the Oak Openings district. I  
3 am here on behalf of the Operating Engineers Local 18. I am  
4 here to support the Nexus Gas Transmission project. Nexus  
5 will be a critical economic development and infrastructure  
6 project within Ohio that will bring thousands of jobs to our  
7 region and hundreds of jobs to our county.

8           Our communities have the opportunity to play a  
9 crucial role in northern Ohio and the nation towards energy  
10 independence as we continue to safely develop and transport  
11 our abundant supply of clean-burning, low-cost natural gas.

12           According to the U.S. Department of  
13 Transportation, interstate transmission pipelines are the  
14 safest mode of transportation for natural gas. The  
15 International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 18 are  
16 proud of the integrity and the safety record that we  
17 maintain in the construction of pipeline infrastructure.

18           Local 18 has one of the largest training programs  
19 in the International Union of Operating Engineers with over  
20 15,000 training hours last year alone. And our training  
21 program is recognized by others as one of the most  
22 successful programs in the country.

23           Local 18 has members who live in every county of  
24 Ohio which this project is proposed to be in and our members  
25 welcome the economic growth and job development that the

1 Nexus project will bring to their region.

2 I urge you to approve the pending Nexus project  
3 application and to put our members to work.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

7 Number 43, Rhonda Mokri.

8 MS. MOKRI: I'm Rhonda Mokri, it's M-o-k-r-i. I  
9 live on the corner of Jeffers and Nealmosh and it wasn't  
10 until I started getting phone calls from I'm not  
11 particularly sure which pipeline company it is, but they're  
12 calling two or three times a week for the last three weeks.  
13 That's when I started becoming more aware of this. Like  
14 everybody else, unless it's in your backyard, you're not  
15 paying attention. Everything I've learned to date is very  
16 disturbing.

17 I am asking that FERC support a reroute away from  
18 established areas of farms and homes. I can't -- I should  
19 follow my notes here.

20 My understanding is there's no defined safety  
21 setback defined for this project which unconscionable in any  
22 other industry. I don't understand how it's possible in  
23 this one that it could come close to homes where it has the  
24 potential to eradicate lives in an instant if it were to  
25 explode.

1           I have five grandchildren. I have a small sheep  
2 farm. We've lived there since 2000. It's the result of a  
3 life dream fulfilled. If this pipeline were to come in my  
4 property or next to my property I would no longer be able to  
5 have my grandchildren over to spend weekends with me because  
6 I could risk their lives. I apologize.

7           That's the essence of my objection is the safety  
8 of the individuals in the homes. If we're going to have a  
9 pipeline, that's going to be good for Ohio and jobs, there  
10 should be an established corridor away from businesses and  
11 farms and livelihoods of tree farmers, sheep farmers, my  
12 neighbors, it should be someplace out away from Oak  
13 Openings.

14           It's unconscionable that it even got originally  
15 drawn up. I don't understand how that's possible, going  
16 through Maumee State Forest, which I'm only a few miles  
17 from. I'm in this sandy district. If there would be an  
18 accident that contaminated the aquifers, my wells, my sheep  
19 would have no way of -- how would I get water to them? That  
20 means I would have to send them to, you know, a feed lot.

21           That's all I can say is that I really hope that  
22 we take time to reroute all these pipelines that are coming  
23 through. I've learned of three other ones. I'm not sure  
24 which one is coming next for my property. They've been  
25 asking for permission to be on it. I denied them

1 permission. I put up signage that I've gotten from the  
2 Nexus Project asking, you know, no trespassing, no surveys.  
3 But I just understood that just this week or last week there  
4 was letters send to the Medina -- all the people that were  
5 in that region affected by the Nexus Pipeline were just  
6 informed that there's no permission required, they're  
7 allowed to come onto the property. I'm not sure if that's  
8 -- everything is on the web, so I'm not sure exactly what's  
9 true. Because on the Nexus website there's very little  
10 information. And I could not find a current map showing the  
11 route or a reroute or an expected reroute. Since I'm west  
12 of where it looks to be on the north of Neapolis I'm  
13 expecting if it's moved away from Oak Openings I'm going to  
14 be in the next area. So maybe I would be very -- very  
15 objected to a pipeline grouping coming through my property  
16 or through my neighbors. So thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

19 Number 44, Terry Lodge.

20 MR. LODGE: Thank you. Thanks for the  
21 opportunity to speak to you. Thank you for coming out to  
22 the Midwest to listen to us.

23 I have one technical question. I have copies of  
24 the statement that I'm giving. I'm obviously just going to  
25 hit a few high points. But where do we give them, to the

1 people in front, or to you, or --

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Do you have something you want  
3 to submit for the record, you can give it to us. I have a  
4 pile here now.

5 MR. LODGE: Whatever is convenient for you.

6 My name is Terry Lodge, I'm an attorney in  
7 Toledo. There are two main points that I want to talk about  
8 in my three minutes. One is that Ohio is being subjected --  
9 has recently been subjected to a couple of major pipeline  
10 projects. It's apparently this quadrant of Ohio is facing  
11 perhaps half a dozen more major pipeline projects of various  
12 sorts.

13 Wood County and Fulton County are being  
14 crisscrossed by what I consider to be an absurd unregulated,  
15 laissez faire system of allowing companies to dictate  
16 location as well as to dictate the terms and conditions that  
17 they wish to acquire easements under.

18 What we need is a programmatic environmental  
19 impact statement covering the entire state or certainly the  
20 northern two-thirds of it that is being affected by these  
21 massive, gigantic, mega-pipeline projects. This is  
22 unprecedented, certainly for FERC.

23 The problem is that the agency's approach is as  
24 to take one tree out of the forest at a time, pronounce it  
25 good and approve that pipeline limiting the scrutiny under

1 NEPA to just the -- effectively the local or mini-regional  
2 effects of one pipeline at a time.

3           We're talking about massive industrial projects  
4 that are changing the nature of the countryside consuming  
5 hundreds of acres of land affecting thousands of people  
6 socio economically and we're talking about massive air  
7 contamination and certainly some other effects to water and  
8 other aspects of the environment such as wetlands.

9           The other thing I want to talk about which kind  
10 of leads into that is that this is a frenetic rush to  
11 judgment. This project is being ramrodded through without  
12 sufficient scrutiny. And I would submit that FERC is  
13 playing a role in facilitating a quick approval in this  
14 fashion.

15           I am very concerned that in the legal notice of  
16 April 15, 2015 in the Federal Register there's wording that  
17 expressly is a signal that people should begin negotiating  
18 now with pipeline companies or face the perilous acts of  
19 eminent domain. Specifically in the notice it says, quote,  
20 "If you're a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline  
21 company representative may contact you about the acquisition  
22 of an easement to construct, operate and maintain the  
23 planned pipeline facilities. The company would seek to  
24 negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement, however, if the  
25 Commission approves the project that approval conveys with

1 it the right of eminent domain. Therefore if easement  
2 negotiations fail to produce an agreement, proceeding could  
3 be initiated where compensation will be determined in  
4 accordance with state law." That is a signal to the  
5 companies that they can bully people into negotiating.

6 Now, there is supporting wording in the, What I  
7 Need to Know About a Natural Gas Facility on my land which  
8 is a FERC required booklet for the pipeline companies to  
9 publish to distribute.

10 MS. WACHHOLDER: Your time is up. I'm sorry.  
11 You can submit the rest of it.

12 MR. LODGE: I certainly will.

13 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 46, Laura Cole.

16 MS. COLE: My name is Laura Cole, I'm a member of  
17 CORN and I am director of the Growing Holt Farm at 2471 U.S.  
18 20A, a farm for adults with autism.

19 I support the reroute submitted from CORN and  
20 would like to just highlight some of what the alternate  
21 route would do. It would reduce the amount of residents  
22 affected by 64 percent from 383 to 138. It would have an  
23 effect on 70 percent fewer residences, 100 percent fewer  
24 schools, 50 percent fewer churches, and 40 percent fewer  
25 businesses.

1           It would have an environmental impact on 58  
2 percent fewer wetland acres.

3           It would add only 9.9 additional miles to the  
4 overall length of the pipeline which would reduce easement  
5 costs and lessen eminent domain issues.

6           I must ask the Commission, what could possibly be  
7 the reason that they would not require Nexus to reroute to  
8 the most recent proposed and could it possibly be the cost  
9 to Nexus which in its first quarter has proclaimed hundreds  
10 of millions of dollars in profit.

11           The Bowling Green fault line. I have a water  
12 bill and the blast quarry, when they blast, I'm over a mile  
13 away and the whole house shakes. How can it be safe to put  
14 that compressor station there with that gas line?

15           If Nexus is allowed to dissect, Growing Holt farm  
16 will cease to exist. We cannot -- we cannot tolerate that  
17 intrusion. And 25 people will lose day camp services and 16  
18 will lose residential. Now one in 68 people I would ask the  
19 Commission to please consider that. I know that we're  
20 small, but people are entitled to a good life.

21           And I would encourage you union guys, man, you  
22 know, the reroute creates more job. You know, 9.9 miles --

23           (Simultaneous conversation.)

24           MS. COLE: Ok.

25           I think that's it. Thank you for coming.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Number 47, Renee Walker.

3 MS. WALKER: I'm Renee Walker. I live on 2933  
4 County Road Three and we are landowners.

5 Thirty years ago we bought 74 acres of probably  
6 the worst property in Swan Creek Township. In the last 30  
7 years my husband and my two kids and I have amassed 300  
8 acres now which isn't a lot by most farmers' standards, but  
9 it means the world to us.

10 Through blood, sweat, tears, and a lot of cuss  
11 words, we have turned a swamp into a profitable farm that I  
12 want to leave to my kids. My daughter is going to Ohio  
13 State to be a plant pathologist or an enigmatologist. My son  
14 is out on that farm working all the time.

15 In fact, we live on water sand and if you know  
16 what that means, our water table is two to three feet above  
17 the ground -- or below the ground. I don't know how they're  
18 going to -- and our deepest tile is nine foot down. You  
19 take that nine foot, a three foot pipe, they have to be  
20 under our tile like two foot, and what else did I have on  
21 here? So you're already at 14 foot. And with the water  
22 table at two to three foot it's going to be impossible to  
23 get that in without destroying a lot of our farm.

24 The way they're proposed route is, they're coming  
25 in at the corner by Blue Creek which is a major tributary

1 going to Maumee River that drains most of our farm. And  
2 they're going to cut across a numerous amount of our tiles,  
3 probably destroy our may header tile and go 2,500 feet right  
4 along the power lines.

5 Like Mr. Dixon said, we worry about, you know, a  
6 bomb and, you know, destroying the power lines.

7 We are 200 foot from those power lines which  
8 makes us maybe 250 from where they're proposing to put this  
9 pipeline through. You know, we're out of luck.

10 My husband was snowmobiling a couple winters ago.  
11 I was in the house laid up with foot surgery. My son come  
12 running in the house, he had been out playing. We got hit  
13 by a tornado five years ago. So we have 30, 40 acres of oak  
14 woods. Well, he was out trying to clear some of the woods  
15 because he's a profitable young man. He's cutting fire wood  
16 and selling it. He come running in the house, got my  
17 daughter, the bulldozer was sinking. It was on frozen  
18 ground and he got into some muck and just out of the blue,  
19 he came up for lunch, went out there, the bulldozer was sunk  
20 half way up the tracks.

21 Now, you tell me how they're going to put a  
22 pipeline in that without destroying acres and acres of our  
23 farm? Our tiles have run continuously for the last 30  
24 years. The one year that it did not run was the year of  
25 '88, if any of you guys remember that. I'm five-foot tall.

1 Our crops were knee-high to me. You know, normally they're  
2 twice my size. So that's the only year that our tiles did  
3 not run water. So I don't know what -- you know, and we  
4 have pond out there with fish. My kid and my dog love to be  
5 out there.

6 That's going to be -- because the only way  
7 they're going to drain that ground is keep putting in what  
8 do you call them -- key waters and they're going to drain  
9 all of our neighbors' water, all of our water.

10 We have -- we have spring points. You know, I  
11 don't know what else to say. But, you know, I just don't --  
12 we don't want it.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

15 Number 48, Craig Keil.

16 MR. KEIL: My last name is Keil, K-e-i-l. And  
17 the first thing I want to say is I think everybody that's  
18 here, there's not very many left, I think we all ought to  
19 know, when their tax time comes around that is time because  
20 they're going to save a lot of money because this is going  
21 to be critical.

22 Next thing is I want to propose that they reroute  
23 the Nexus Pipeline, instead of coming the way they are, I  
24 would like to see them come on the Turnpike which is already  
25 owned by the citizens of Ohio and go north on either 75 or

1 23 which would save Nexus a lot of money, thus it would do  
2 away with all your right of public domain. It would do away  
3 with a lot of permits and everything else they need because  
4 that's all owned by the state or the federal government.

5           And it would sit, like I said, it would save a  
6 lot of money and it would save the Savannah, it would save a  
7 lot of heartache for a lot of the farmers because the  
8 farmers, like they say, their drains lines get broke when  
9 they're doing this and they most likely never get repaired.  
10 And the other thing is, if they're digging where that young  
11 lady was just talking about, they're digging in sand with a  
12 lot of water in it, that's nothing but quicksand and you  
13 can't put pipe in quicksand, let it sink and moving up and  
14 down and everything else.

15           That's all I got to say.

16           (Applause.)

17           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

18           Number 49, Brian Donahue. Brian Donahue?

19           No. Number 50, Jimmy Stewart.

20           MR. STEWART: Good evening and thank you and for  
21 the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed Nexus  
22 Gas Transmission Project. I'm Jimmy Stewart, I'm the  
23 President of the Ohio Gas Association. We are the trade  
24 organization for Ohio's Natural Gas Distribution and  
25 transportation companies. Our members include folks like

1 our Gas Company and the Ohio Gas Company right up here in  
2 northwest Ohio. Also includes several municipal governments  
3 who also, by the way, happen to be natural gas distribution  
4 companies here in Ohio.

5 Collectively our members serve about 3.6 million  
6 Ohioans and manage over 50,000 miles of distribution  
7 transmission pipelines throughout Ohio which means that they  
8 run under streams, under rivers, under sidewalks, hills,  
9 valleys, farms, highways, bike paths, schools, hospitals,  
10 all across this state and two great big other ones, operate  
11 pretty close to my house and one with a big compressor  
12 station. And I live near the corner of -- Athens where  
13 different counties come together in beautiful Ohio.

14 I would like to try to address every issue that I  
15 heard brought up, and obviously the time constraints we  
16 can't do that. But I have heard the safety issue come up  
17 several times this evening. And I would ask you, all of you  
18 to compare the safety record of natural gas transmission  
19 lines versus any other form of transportation that you use,  
20 or have used, and that would include any rail, highways,  
21 cars, air, water. Again, I know you will find natural gas  
22 distribution pipelines to have a better safety record than  
23 any of those.

24 And to suggest that somehow skilled tradesmen who  
25 have completed four-year finishing programs with oftentimes

1 decades of experience, along with professionally licensed  
2 engineers from some of the best universities in the Midwest  
3 if not the United States, are too incompetent to safely  
4 design and engineer and build and operate a natural gas  
5 distribution pipeline which by the way they've been doing  
6 for decades is insulting.

7           There is one issue though, I think we can all  
8 agree on. Yes, these are construction jobs. Yes, this  
9 project has a beginning, it has an end, just like the great  
10 pyramid, that Great Wall of China, and probably every single  
11 construction project with the notable exception of I75, has  
12 a beginning and has an end.

13           I've heard you concern bomb used a lot this  
14 evening and I am curious about folks that will leave here  
15 tonight with a 15 or 20 gallon or maybe more -- depending on  
16 what you drive -- bomb right under your back seat, you know,  
17 where you put your child safety seat, probably and FERC  
18 actually examined this issue in 2012. I would ask you to  
19 look at docket CP11-56000 and FERC found no pipeline and  
20 property values according to that study.

21           And I would also suggest that if you don't like  
22 the law that probably predates all of our lifetimes on  
23 eminent domain -- I don't like it either, quite frankly, I  
24 would suggest elect people who will change it. If you can't  
25 find someone, then run or sell.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you. The last speaker we  
3 have number 51, Ruth Gwynn. Ruth Gwynn?

4 (No response.)

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Okay. So that is the end of our  
6 list. Is there anybody who has not had an opportunity to  
7 speak and would like to say something? Okay. You can come  
8 up and make sure you say and spell your name.

9 MS. SWINGHOLM: High, my name is Deborah  
10 Swingholm, S-w-i-n-g-h-o-l-m, 2356 County Road D in Swanton.  
11 I was until recently in the study zone. I believe that the  
12 new maps that will be forthcoming will show that the map --  
13 the study zones have shifted.

14 I support the reroutes that have been presented  
15 and I appreciate FERC really taking a look at those. I just  
16 want to underscore a few things that the reroute does and  
17 it's pretty simple.

18 The reroute that goes to the south -- south of  
19 the river and west five, six, seven miles, mediates, avoids,  
20 or reduces almost every issue that people have considered  
21 and brought to your attention today. Damage to the native  
22 plants, the rare plants at the Oak Openings, the rare  
23 species, the migrating birds, that is handled by this  
24 reroute. And it's in almost entirety.

25 Disturbance to wetlands and the Oak savannahs is

1 either mitigated or completely avoided. Risks to the  
2 aquifer, pollution, dewatering the same risks to wells,  
3 pollution and dewatering, in part, at least. There are  
4 still wells to the west and to the south, but not in this  
5 kind of concentration.

6           Construction difficulties of working in a swamp  
7 are mitigated. Getting us out of the muck and the sand and  
8 the Oak Openings water table would be mitigated.

9           The safety factor goes up as you get farther away  
10 from schools and homes and churches and subdivisions and  
11 parks. Drainage issues could be reduced going south and  
12 west where the stables are a bit more stable-- soils are a  
13 bit more stable. This would also potentially move the  
14 compressor station away from the very vibrant and growing  
15 towns of Waterville and Whitehouse where noise and fumes of  
16 methane and benzene or whatever else would be off gassed  
17 would impact two very vibrant towns and their residents  
18 because this compressor station had 52,000 horsepower is  
19 going to be not just loud, it's going to rattle people every  
20 day, all day and all night.

21           It would mitigate the long-term cumulative  
22 effects.

23           Thank you.

24           MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

25           (Applause.)

1 MS. WACHHOLDER: Is there anybody else who would  
2 like to speak? All right, right here. Say and spell your  
3 name.

4 MS. DAWE: Joanne Dawe, D-a-w-e.

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Mike.

6 MS. DAWE: Okay. I'm sorry. I'm Joanne Dawe,  
7 D-a-w-e, Liberty Center, Ohio and we live on Fulton County  
8 and across the road is Henry County and we have a farm that  
9 Nexus want to go through.

10 And I have to look at the future. I'm not  
11 looking today. Our grandchildren and great grandchildren  
12 live on this five and we're the five generation on this  
13 farm. And I am thinking with Nexus going through, let's say  
14 40 years from now they have eminent domain and the well is  
15 abandoned, they don't want to do that anymore. So behind  
16 the table somebody gives them some money, let's put some  
17 atomic waste in there, nobody will know it's there. So that  
18 happens. And then 80 years from now, we have children born  
19 -- and I was in the medical field for a long time, so I have  
20 a thing with children -- that have three eyes and no tongue.  
21 And people say, I wonder why?

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. WACHHOLDER: Anyone else?

25 MS. CARECCIO: Hi, I'm Morey Careccio,

1 C-a-r-e-c-c-i-o. I understand that this pipeline is going  
2 to be cathodically protected and I understand that because I  
3 work with it. I do note that what that means is this is not  
4 a bomb like everybody says. However, 1,480 pounds is very,  
5 very scary to be right next to your house.

6 I know that there's no coating out there that is  
7 100 percent, I know that they are going to cathodically  
8 protect it and they are going to use all of the new  
9 technology to do that. However, digging holes through  
10 farms, through homes, putting this huge pipeline with this  
11 kind of pressure is very, very scary in all these congested  
12 areas.

13 The vibration, the mess from what the trucks are  
14 going to do is going overtime cause problems to wells, to  
15 leach fields, to foundations, to any other structure that  
16 they have on their property.

17 I just feel honestly that -- and I hate to put it  
18 in somebody else's back yard, but I think it needs to be  
19 pushed further out. It just does not need to be so close to  
20 people. I know it will be protected, because that's what  
21 they do, but it needs to be pushed out. And I'm sorry to  
22 whoever it gets pushed out to. But that's what I think  
23 needs to be done.

24 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. WACHHOLDER: Is there anybody else who would  
2 like a chance to speak?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. WACHHOLDER: Going one, going twice.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. WACHHOLDER: Seeing none, I would like to  
7 thank everybody for coming out today. And this meeting is  
8 adjourned. Thank you so much.

9 (Applause.)

10 (Whereupon, at 9:45 p.m., the meeting was  
11 adjourned.)

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