



1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MS. WACHHOLDER: We're going to get started in  
3 just a minute.

4 (Pause.)

5 MS. WACHHOLDER: Good evening everyone. On  
6 behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also  
7 known as "FERC," or the "Commission," I'd like to welcome  
8 you here tonight.

9 The primary purpose of this meeting is to give  
10 you an opportunity to provide comments on the Nexus Gas  
11 Transmission project and the Texas Eastern Appalachian Lease  
12 or TL Project.

13 Let the record show the public scoping meeting  
14 began at 6:05 p.m. on May 5, 2015.

15 My name is Joanne Wachholder and I'm an  
16 Environmental Project Manager at FERC's Office of Energy  
17 Projects. David Hanobic and Theresa Gibson, also with FERC  
18 are at the sign-in table. Also representing FERC are John  
19 Muehlhausen, Abby Korte, from Merjent, an environmental  
20 consulting firm assisting us in the production of the  
21 Environmental Impact Statement or EIS that will be prepared  
22 for the projects.

23 Also here tonight is David Chislea with the  
24 Michigan Public Service Commission.

25 So you know, this meeting is being recorded by a

1 court reporter so that we have an accurate record of  
2 tonight's comments.

3 A transcript of this meeting will be placed in  
4 the public record so that everyone has access to the  
5 information discussed here tonight. I'll quickly run  
6 through the agenda for tonight's meeting. I'll start off by  
7 briefly explaining the role of the FERC and our application  
8 process. I will also describe the projects before us, then  
9 David Chislea will discuss his agency's role.

10 Then we'll hear from those of you who signed up  
11 to speak at the table at the back and make formal comments  
12 on the projects.

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.

16 The meeting will end once all speakers have  
17 provided their comments, or by 10:00 p.m., whichever comes  
18 first.

19 I would like to begin by describing the FERC.  
20 FERC is an independent agency that, among other things,  
21 regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas.

22 We review proposals and authorize construction of  
23 interstate natural gas pipelines, storage facilities, and  
24 liquefied natural gas terminals.

25 As the federal licensing agency, the FERC has the

1 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act,  
2 or "NEPA," to consider the potential environmental impacts  
3 associated with the jurisdictional project.

4 With regard to the Nexus and TL projects, the  
5 FERC is the lead federal agency for the NEPA review and the  
6 preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

7 The Commission is made up of five members who are  
8 appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. The  
9 Commission staff, which includes me, prepares technical  
10 information to assist the Commissioners in making their  
11 decisions.

12 When a company wants to build pipeline facilities  
13 to transport and sell natural gas in interstate commerce,  
14 the company files an application with the Commission. Nexus  
15 and Texas Eastern plan to file their applications in  
16 November of 2015 and are requesting Commission certificates  
17 of public convenience and necessity by November of 2016.

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

24 The Nexus project will provide up to 1,500,000  
25 dekatherms per day of natural gas to various markets in the

1 U.S., Midwest, and Canada.

2 Texas Eastern plans to construct 4.5 miles of  
3 pipeline looping adjacent to its existing line 30 in Monroe  
4 County, Ohio, install an additional 9,400 horsepower of  
5 compression, at its currently approved Colerain Compressor  
6 station in Belmont County, Ohio. Construct one new  
7 compressor station with 18,800 horsepower in Columbiana  
8 County, Ohio, and make additional piping modifications.

9 The TL project will provide up to 950,000  
10 dekatherms per day of natural gas from the Appalachian Basis  
11 to various markets in the U.S., Midwest, and Canada via a  
12 lease of the capacity to Nexus.

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

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

23 Tonight's meeting is not a public hearing. We  
24 are not here to debate the proposal or to make any  
25 determinations on its fate. We are here to listen to your

1 concerns so that we can consider them in our analysis of the  
2 potential natural and human environmental impacts of the  
3 project and how those impacts might be reduced or avoided.

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

11           In other words, the Commission wants to hear your  
12 concerns on the non-environmental issues. However, those  
13 issues will be addressed in different ways.

14           Now I want to briefly describe our environmental  
15 review process. We are currently near the beginning of our  
16 environmental review process. Nexus and Texas Eastern  
17 entered into FERC's pre-filing process on January 9 and 26  
18 of this year respectively, which began our review of the  
19 projects.

20           The purpose of the pre-filing process is to  
21 encourage involvement by all interested stakeholders, in a  
22 manner that allows for the early identification and  
23 resolution of environmental issues.

24           The FERC docket numbers for the project are  
25 PF15-10-000 and PF15-11-000. The PF means pre-filing and no

1 formal application has been filed at FERC for the projects.  
2 Once Nexus and Texas Eastern file formal applications, new  
3 docket numbers will be assigned with a CP docket number  
4 designation.

5           The goal of pre-filing is to get information from  
6 the public as well as agencies and other groups so that we  
7 can incorporate our substantive issues of concern into our  
8 review.

9           On April 8, 2015, FERC issued a Notice of Intent  
10 to prepare an environmental impact statement, also known as  
11 an NOI, for the Nexus and TL projects and initiated a  
12 scoping and comment period.

13           The NOI was mailed to over 4,000 stakeholders and  
14 describes the environmental review process, some already  
15 identified environmental issues, and the steps the FERC and  
16 the cooperating agencies will take to prepare the EIS.

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

20           We have set an ending date of May 22, 2015 for  
21 the scoping period. However, the end of the scoping period  
22 is not the end of public involvement. Let me repeat that --  
23 the end of the scoping period is not the end of public  
24 involvement or your only opportunity to comment.

25           We will accept comments throughout the review of

1 the project. But for us to adequately address your  
2 comments, analyze them and research the issues, we ask that  
3 you try to get those to us as soon as possible. There will  
4 be another comment period once the draft EIS is published.

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

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

16           Be sure to include the project docket numbers and  
17 your personal information if you want us to be able to  
18 contact you or to be placed on the mailing list.

19           Your comments tonight, together with any written  
20 comments you've already filed or intend to file, will be  
21 added to the official record of the proceeding.

22           We consider the pre-filing process to be amongst  
23 other things, an extension of our scoping process. The  
24 scoping process is a learning process, it is where we  
25 educate ourselves about the project and the potential issues

1 and environmental impacts.

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

8           We then take all of the comments that address  
9 natural and human environmental issues and utilizing all  
10 available information and expertise, factor them into our  
11 independent analysis of the project's potential impacts.

12           This will include an examination of the proposed  
13 facility locations, as well as alternative sites. We will  
14 assess the project's effects on water bodies and wetlands,  
15 vegetation and wildlife, endangered species, cultural  
16 resources, soils and geology, land use, air quality, noise,  
17 and safety.

18           We will publish those findings in a draft EIS,  
19 which will then be distributed for a minimum 45-day public  
20 comment period.

21           Additional public comment meetings will be  
22 announced at that time where we will invite the public to  
23 provide additional comments on our draft EIS analysis and  
24 conclusions.

25           The public comment meetings may be similar in

1 format to this one and possibly at the same facility if it  
2 is available.

3           At the end of the draft EIS comment period, FERC  
4 staff will prepare a final EIS that specifically addresses  
5 each comment received on the draft EIS. It includes all  
6 necessary changes, additions, and modifications to  
7 conclusions reach in the draft EIS.

8           Once we have issued the final EIS, it is  
9 forwarded to our Commissioners for their consideration.

10           I'd like to remind everyone that the EIS is not  
11 the decision-making document. It is merely our analysis of  
12 the potential impacts of the projects and the alternatives.

13           The Commission will consider the findings,  
14 conclusions, and recommendations in the EIS, as well as  
15 public comments on non-environmental issues, including  
16 engineering, market need, rates, finances, tariffs, and  
17 costs, and making an informed decision on whether or not to  
18 authorize the projects, and if so, under what conditions.

19           Currently, our mailing list for this project is  
20 over 4,000 stakeholders. If you received a copy of the NOI  
21 in the mail, you are already on the mailing list to receive  
22 the EIS.

23           There is a return mailer attached to the back of  
24 the NOI by which you could indicate if you want to correct  
25 your mailing address or remove your name from the mailing

1 list. Also, please note because the size of the mailing  
2 list, the mailed version of the EIS will be on a CD ROM.

3           Next I'm going to hand this over to David so he  
4 can discuss the role of the Michigan Public Service  
5 Commission.

6           MR. CHISLEA: My name is David Chislea, I'm  
7 Manager of Gas Operations within the Michigan Public Service  
8 Commission or PSC.

9           I would like to thank FERC for the opportunity to  
10 provide comments and an overview of the MPSC's potential  
11 role in the Nexus project.

12           Among other things, our section is responsible  
13 for the siting of intrastate natural gas lines and managing  
14 pipeline safety in Michigan by enforcing the Michigan gas  
15 safety standards.

16           So the Nexus project would be an interstate  
17 pipeline. The FERC has jurisdiction over siting and now the  
18 MPSC. The MPSC does act as an interstate agent for the  
19 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration or  
20 ("PHMSA") although PHMSA does not have authority to approve  
21 projects, issue permits, or prescribe location or routing of  
22 pipeline facilities.

23           PHMSA's jurisdiction begins once the project is  
24 approved and then PHMSA and we partner together to ensure  
25 the pipeline facilities are constructed, operated, and

1 maintained in compliance with the Federal Safety  
2 Regulations.

3           If the Nexus Gas Transmission Project receives  
4 permission from FERC for its project, MPSC's staff, as an  
5 agent for PHMSA, would provide the regulations for  
6 construction and safe transportation of natural gas through  
7 the pipeline, to include compressor stations, metering  
8 facilities, and associated pipeline -- piping and will  
9 maintain regulatory oversight over the safety of the  
10 pipeline facilities throughout its operation.

11           As an interstate agent working on behalf of  
12 PHMSA, the MPSC will perform inspections on the natural gas  
13 pipeline facilities in Michigan, as well as on Nexus's  
14 plans, procedures, and records, to ensure the design and  
15 construction are in compliance with Title 49 Code of Federal  
16 Regulations, Part 192 (The Minimum Federal Safety Standards  
17 for Transportation of Natural Gas by Pipeline).

18           This oversight includes inspections to ensure  
19 that that suitable materials are used in construction,  
20 welding is performed in accordance with industry standards  
21 by qualified welders, the pipeline is installed to proper  
22 depth, it is protected from corrosion, contains pressure  
23 limiting devices, and is properly tested before use.

24           Beyond construction process, the MPSC conducts  
25 periodic inspections of the operation and maintenance

1 requirements in Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part  
2 192 (the Operator Must establish comprehensive written  
3 procedures describing the types and frequencies of  
4 monitoring to ensure continued safe operation.

5           The monitoring that the operator must perform  
6 includes monitoring the operations and adequacy of external  
7 corrosion prevention systems, inspecting and testing  
8 pressure relief devices, inspecting and operating  
9 transmission line valves, patrolling the right-of-way and  
10 surveying for leaks.

11           In addition to this routing monitoring, PHMSA  
12 pipeline safety regulations require natural gas transmission  
13 pipeline operators to implement integrity management  
14 programs. These programs require periodic integrity  
15 assessment of natural gas transmission pipelines in highly  
16 populated areas.

17           These assessments provide comprehensive  
18 understanding of the pipeline condition and associated risk.  
19 Inline inspection tools frequently referred to as "smart  
20 pigs," provide detailed information about pipe condition.

21           During integrity inspections, sensors and  
22 computers are sent through the pipeline. These devices can  
23 predict pipe deformations and changes in wall thickness of  
24 the pipeline.

25           By analyzing the data collected during inline

1 inspections, operators can located and repair areas of the  
2 pipeline that may have been damaged or deteriorated.

3 Integrity management programs require operators  
4 to detect and correct damage to their pipelines before the  
5 damage results in a leak.

6 While constructed a maintained pipeline must also  
7 be properly operated. Operators must ensure that personnel  
8 performing operations, maintenance, or emergency response  
9 activities, are qualified to perform these functions. This  
10 system minimize operator error.

11 Operators must implement training and testing  
12 programs for employees and contractors whose performance is  
13 crucial in maintaining the pipeline safely and the pipeline  
14 facilities.

15 Pipeline operators must also implement public  
16 awareness programs to improve awareness of the pipeline  
17 within communities.

18 Operators communicate pipeline safety information  
19 to local public official, the public along the pipeline  
20 right-of-way, emergency responders and excavators.

21 Public awareness programs emphasize the  
22 importance of calling 811 prior to excavating. A call to  
23 811 provides notification to all participating utility  
24 owners, including pipeline operators, to mark the location  
25 of their facilities and monitor the excavation to help

1 ensure their facilities are not damaged.

2           Public awareness programs also include  
3 information on how to recognize a pipeline emergency, how to  
4 respond appropriately, and how to report a potential  
5 emergency to aid and rapid response by both pipeline  
6 operator and community emergency responders.

7           In addition to public awareness programs,  
8 pipeline operators are required to have a written emergency  
9 plan in place prior to the operation of the pipeline  
10 facilities. These programs require operators to establish  
11 and maintain liaison with fire, police, and other public  
12 officials to, among other things, acquaint the officials and  
13 the operator with the respective responsibilities and  
14 resource planning for and responding to emergencies.

15           These emergency plans must, at a minimum, provide  
16 for establishing and maintaining communications, prompt and  
17 effective response, and availability of personal, equipment,  
18 tools, and materials, as needed at the scene of an  
19 emergency.

20           These plans help both the operator and the  
21 emergency responders know their roles, responsibilities, and  
22 available resources, prior to the need to respond to an  
23 incident.

24           If safety inspections find inadequate procedures  
25 or an operator is not following their procedures, then PHMSA

1 is authorized to require remedial actions, assess civil  
2 penalties, and initiate criminal action if necessary.

3 Safety is very important to the MPSC and PHMSA  
4 and we understand how important this mission is to your  
5 community.

6 Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide  
7 an overview of the M PSC's role in PHMSA's pipeline safety  
8 program.

9 MS. WACHHOLDER: Thank you David. We're now  
10 going to move into the part of the meeting where we will  
11 hear comments from the audience members, particularly the  
12 affected landowners.

13 As I mentioned before, if you would rather not  
14 speak, you may hand in written comments tonight or send them  
15 to the Secretary of the Commission, by following the  
16 procedures outlined in the NOI and comment forms.

17 Whether you verbally provide your comments or  
18 mail them in, they will be equally considered by FERC. It  
19 is important again that you include the docket numbers,  
20 PF15-10 and PF15-11 in your filings.

21 The Commission also encourages electronic filing  
22 of written comments. The instructions are in the NOI and  
23 can be located at our website, which is [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov), under  
24 the e-filing link. The forms at the sign-in desk also  
25 provide the web addresses and instructions.

1           Again, this meeting is being recorded by a  
2 transcription service. All of your comments will be  
3 transcribed and placed into the public record. For the  
4 benefit of all in attendance, and for accuracy of the  
5 transcript, I will set some ground rules.

6           When your name is called, please step up to one  
7 of the mikes -- there is one over here and there is one over  
8 here -- state your name and any affiliation you might be  
9 associated with. Also speak directly into the microphone so  
10 that you can be clearly heard by the reporter, the panel,  
11 and the audience.

12           We have about 20 people signed up to speak, so I  
13 suggest if you could keep your comments to about five  
14 minutes so that everyone has an opportunity to provide  
15 comments, I would appreciate that.

16           We don't want to limit anyone's comments so if  
17 you can't get through everything in your timeframe, you also  
18 could always submit them in the back for your full; written  
19 comments and summarize your comments if you feel that would  
20 be useful.

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. Thank you for your consideration.  
4 We will now call our first speaker

5           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: The first speaker is Glen  
6 Ladenberger, number 1:

7           MS. WACHHOLDER: And also, before we get started,  
8 there is a big hole here for the orchestra pit, so if you  
9 see this black little curtain here, don't get too close  
10 because you'll fall.

11          MR. LADENBERGER: Good evening. I'm probably  
12 going to set the tone for everybody who follows and I expect  
13 that much of what I'm going to say has already been said at  
14 previous meetings and will probably be said again after I'm  
15 done.

16          That is, I'm a landowner, I live on Bemis Road.  
17 It's a country road. It's a -- basically we live in the  
18 forest and we like it like that.

19          The property that we're at has been in the family  
20 for 50 years. We bought it from my wife's parents. It's a  
21 very wild place in the sense of deer and wild turkeys,  
22 raccoons, coyote, fox, we do have bats -- I don't know if  
23 they are your northern Indiana bats or what, they don't wear  
24 name tags.

25          We have lots of wonderful birds, grosbeaks,

1 woodpeckers, pheasants, beautiful goldfinches, columbines,  
2 wild roses. All of these things I would suspect would be  
3 greatly impacted by heavy machinery coming through and  
4 digging a three-foot pipeline, as well as the natural stuff.

5           We not only live on the land, but much like  
6 everybody here, we live off the land. That is, we have a  
7 3,000 square foot garden. You can't just move a garden.  
8 This garden has been garden for probably 30 years and I  
9 mean, you can spit in the soil in the spring and you've got  
10 Buckingham fountain in the fall, it's just a beautiful --  
11 you just can't move that.

12           We've got trees that are as big as I am -- I mean  
13 round this way. You can't just move a hundred year old oak  
14 tree. We have a well, it's 200 feet down. You can move the  
15 well, you might hit water, you might not hit water. We, you  
16 know, we just really don't want to have a pipeline come  
17 through here, not to mention the devaluation of the  
18 property.

19           We're in our extreme late fifties and we may want  
20 to sell this property at some point when it's time for us to  
21 like, you know, go to the happy Michigan home for the  
22 mentally challenged, not to mention, with all due respect to  
23 Mr. Chislea.

24           What happened in Lyndon Township yesterday with  
25 all your regulations and all your preparations, they said it

1 sounded like an airplane, a jet airplane, crashed when the  
2 pipeline blew, that that was without an explosion. It's  
3 just never mind the old people living here, what's that  
4 going to do to the squirrels when this thing pops?

5           It's just -- if there is any way at all if you  
6 could reroute this thing, California would be a nice place  
7 to put it since they're not growing anything there this year  
8 anyway, we would really appreciate it. And, you know, I  
9 don't want to say no to the natural gas for all those people  
10 who want it, but on the other hand, if you could put this  
11 place, put it through some place else, we would really  
12 appreciate it. Thank you.

13           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 2 is  
14 Samuel J. Woods.

15           MR. WOODS: Madam Chairman, first of all I would  
16 like to go on record as opposing the proposed Nexus pipeline  
17 for the following reasons -- I have four economic reasons  
18 here which I know that you're probably not too interested in  
19 and I will emphasize the environmental aspects, but I would  
20 like to mention these four economic reasons, if I could.

21           Construction will only temporarily help our local  
22 economy -- perhaps some of the restaurants in Dundee, the  
23 hotels, and so forth would benefit from the workers that  
24 will have to have a place to stay.

25           The pipeline gas will actually be unavailable to

1 industry in our area. This is a main line pipeline going  
2 from Columbiana County, Ohio to Willow Run and it's a main  
3 line. There are no branches, so there is no way that  
4 developing industry in Lenawee County could tap into this  
5 line.

6 A large proportion of the gas will end up as an  
7 exported product to Ontario, Canada. Ohio Utica Shale Gas  
8 will end up in Canada. Texas and Oklahoma pipefitter may  
9 get some good wages out of this project, how many skilled  
10 laborers will be hired from the project in Lenawee County?

11 If the Nexus pipeline were approved, Lenawee  
12 County should place an annual tax on the pipeline similar to  
13 what they do in Ohio. Wayne County, Ohio will have a tax on  
14 Nexus pipeline.

15 Now for the environmental concerns. The proposed  
16 pipeline is going to traverse 80 acres on my farm. The farm  
17 has been in the family for about 65 years. Two side by side  
18 pipelines are already there, and the Nexus pipeline is going  
19 to go right along -- the proposed site for the pipeline will  
20 go right along those two pipe -- existing pipelines.

21 They were put -- the two that are there were put  
22 down in the 50s and we are still seeing and feeling the  
23 effects of those lines today, in the form of reduced crop  
24 yields. Another pipeline will just expand that poor yield  
25 area that's right next to it.

1           Now I have a picture here and you can't probably  
2 see it, but there is a fine line -- this is the field that  
3 the pipeline is going to go through right here and I have a  
4 smaller copy for you. You can actually see the line of the  
5 two parallel pipelines that were put there in the 50s and  
6 early 60s. That is due to the clay subsoil that was brought  
7 up and not distributed properly, so the profile is really  
8 screwed up on that soil.

9           And every time that combine goes across that line  
10 the yields dip, so you can really see it. There is no  
11 question about it. And we're talking 50 years after the  
12 pipeline was put in.

13           So then, crop yields then are still significantly  
14 reduced in that pipeline area. Tile drainage patterns had  
15 to be altered as a result of the pipelines and will have to  
16 be altered again when this pipeline -- if this pipeline were  
17 to go through, and that's a real expensive deal.

18           I want to show you my 90 year old father before  
19 he passed away, decided to draw out the tile lines of this  
20 particular field. You should see, it's pretty complicated.

21           Now if you got to the west of the existing  
22 pipeline and go through there with Nexus, you're going to  
23 cut about 25 lines of tile. If you go to the east, you're  
24 going to cut a whole four inch line of tile plus some  
25 laterals.

1           This is a very expensive deal for us and what  
2   it's going to do is reduce our drainage. We're going to  
3   have to again circumvent this new pipeline and mend things  
4   up again and it may take thousands of dollars for one thing,  
5   and a long time for it to heal.

6           The soil type in the field on the proposed Nexus  
7   right-of-way is a Lenawee silty clay loam, highly fertile  
8   but require systematic tiling for good drainage. Without  
9   proper drainage corn and soya bean yields could be reduced  
10  drastically and are reduced drastically over that area.

11          Existing tile will be cut regardless of the path  
12  of the Nexus pipeline. It takes about a thousand years,  
13  give or take a couple hundred, for an inch of topsoil to be  
14  produced.

15          If topsoil is displaced, natural drainage and  
16  fertility go down, the soil profile can never be put back  
17  together in its original, highly productive state.

18          Now then, for safety concerns, how many of you  
19  remember this? But back in 1996 the same pipeline that goes  
20  through my farm exploded, big poof! And the Jenkins -- one  
21  of the Jenkins people, family too this picture and it was in  
22  the Toledo Blade. So that's the same location as to where  
23  this Nexus pipeline is going to go through.

24          And so that melted.

25          MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Could you please stay by the

1 mike so the transcriber can get your comments.

2 MR. WOODS: What's that?

3 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Stay closer to the mike.

4 MR. WOODS: Yes I can. Last summer we had a leak  
5 in the pipe -- one of the existing pipelines and I have some  
6 pictures here that I will submit showing how they had to  
7 mend that pipeline and the mess that they made.

8 They compacted the soil again and went in there  
9 when the soil was wet, compacted that clay soil, so that's  
10 going to be a drainage problem. We're going to have to  
11 bring more soil in there this spring in order to level that  
12 up due to the settling that they caused when they had to dig  
13 that pipeline up. I have some pictures showing the old line  
14 here. I realize you can't see them but I will submit those.

15 So in summary, the Nexus pipeline installation  
16 will reduce crop yields for the next 20 years, at least.  
17 There is really no long-term economic benefit to the local  
18 community. The probability of hazardous explosions on the  
19 proposed Nexus right-of-way will be increased by at least  
20 30% because you have three pipelines there now rather than  
21 just two. Thank you.

22 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. The third speaker  
23 is Jay Gillettee.

24 MR. GILLETTEE: My name is Jay Gillettee and I'm  
25 speaking on behalf of myself and my wife Tracey. We live at

1 9800 Marks Road in Ypsilanti Township, Michigan.

2           On February 24th we were first informed that our  
3 property was now part of Nexus's study corridor and were  
4 provided a Google map printout of the route. This alternate  
5 route does not appear in any current submission to FERC that  
6 I'm aware of.

7           We asked Nexus why they would change the route  
8 that passed by fewer residences, destroyed fewer trees and  
9 allowed the majority of the condemned land to be used as it  
10 currently is, which is farmland, so they could now route it  
11 through where it passes directly by many residences,  
12 destroys more trees, and leaves the condemned land useless.

13           The answer to our question was, and I quote, "we  
14 received an informal request from FERC to reroute this  
15 section to avoid crossing a potential wetland."

16           We have many issues with this answer:

17           (1) Is it common practice for FERC to make  
18 informal requests of its applicants? We would expect all  
19 correspondence to be document in public record.

20           (2) FERC issued formal comments on resource 1 and  
21 10 and they address specific route variations. However, now  
22 here within this document does FERC mention rerouting the  
23 segment between milepost 238 and 241.

24           (3) Nexus's statement that the concern with the  
25 proposed route would cross a wetland is entirely false.

1 First, the proposed route is adjacent to, not crossing the  
2 area claimed to be wetlands; second, the area in question is  
3 not a wetland, it is a water body as defined by FERC.  
4 Again, the proposed route does not cross the area in  
5 question.

6 Nexus states it is their policy to protect the  
7 environment and minimize residential impact. It is  
8 painfully obvious Nexus is not living up to these mission  
9 statements, at the expense of both the environment and  
10 residential impact.

11 There are several other natural gas pipelines  
12 existing and are planned, that service the same area that  
13 Nexus proposes, including the Rover pipeline. The Rover's  
14 3.25 billion cubic feet per day capacity is now going to  
15 connect to the Vector pipeline, which is the same pipeline  
16 Nexus plans to connect to.

17 And it brings up a question. Can Vector possibly  
18 handle the additional volume without expanding its capacity?  
19 FERC asked this very question in the review of resource  
20 reports 1 and 10. The answer is, Vector is not planning on  
21 expanding their main line system, and this is a direct quote  
22 from an Enbridge spokesperson Terri Larson, "Nexus's own no  
23 action alternative conclusions states that a no action  
24 decision should be feasible if the energy could be met by  
25 other natural gas sources.

1           We contend that Rover's increased capacity to  
2 Vector meets that criteria and a no action decision should  
3 be rendered by FERC. If FERC does, however, decided to  
4 allow Nexus the right to proceed with this pipeline, it is  
5 your responsibility to police Nexus's actions and their  
6 disregard for the environment and property owners at their  
7 own private gain." Thank you.

8           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 4,  
9 Gary Schoen.

10           MR. SCHOEN: Good evening. I'm Gary Schoen. I  
11 have a little farm with my wife on Tuttle Hill, 8508. I  
12 guess my thoughts about this pipeline are from a farmer's  
13 point of view.

14           I was talking to a local farmer recently and he  
15 told me, you could blindfold him and put him on his tractor  
16 and he could tell you where the tractor went across the  
17 pipelines in his fields. Sadly he has two pipelines already  
18 there and he certainly doesn't want to see this either.

19           The profile of the soil -- we'll now have at  
20 least a 50-foot wide permanent valley running through your  
21 fields -- the replacement soil put back and the pipeline  
22 will be less productive, and it will always be a low spot.

23           Our local soils hold water in any low area, due  
24 to our high water table. Having a man-made 50-foot wide low  
25 area just provides another area to potentially lose crop

1 production.

2 Southeast Michigan is basically a swamp. If you  
3 look at the MDEQ map of our area that they want to put this  
4 pipeline through, there is as much wetlands as there are not  
5 wetlands.

6 Due to our high water table in the Augusta  
7 Township, this pipeline will be buried under water or mud  
8 much of the time. When I talk to some members at another  
9 meeting from Nexus, my understanding was that the pipeline  
10 may have areas not buried as deeply as in some other areas  
11 due to terrain or other soil conditions.

12 With our cold Michigan winters creating natural  
13 heating of the ground and our often deep frost line, could  
14 there possibly be a higher potential for damage to this  
15 pipeline due to the unpredictable natural occurrences?

16 Paint Creek runs behind our farm, it's a  
17 designated trout stream. It's in the Stoney Creek Basin  
18 upstream from the confluence with Stoney Creek. The  
19 confluence occurs near the south edge of our county,  
20 Washtenaw County, and Northern Monroe County.

21 Paint Creek runs north from there and the  
22 pipeline would cross at approximately a half mile north of  
23 Willis Road between Whittaker and Tuttle Hill.

24 The proposed pipeline route also goes through  
25 York and Augusta Townships in Washtenaw County, the maps

1 provided by Nexus show the route crossing possibly eight  
2 high quality streams or rivers, along with Paint Creek.

3           The map also shows the pipeline crossing the  
4 Huron River east of the dam on Bridge Road. This stretch of  
5 the Huron River connects Ford Lake to Belleville Lake, very  
6 substantial bodies of water.

7           So just in our little area of this proposed  
8 pipeline, it seems obvious to me anyway, and many I've  
9 spoken to, that we don't need this to risk our environment  
10 to build another pipeline.

11           My opinion is this is just big oil with too much  
12 profit. As a farmer, when you have a good year and you make  
13 a big profit, you either pay taxes or you look for tax  
14 write-offs, buying more machinery or land. Big oil this  
15 time should just pay the taxes and not force another  
16 pipeline on us. Thank you.

17           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 5,  
18 Tracy Oberleiter.

19           MR. OBERLEITER: Thank you. I'm Tracy Oberleiter  
20 from Monroe, Michigan, and I'll be making comments on behalf  
21 of two organizations. The first is the Monroe Chapter of  
22 Ducks Unlimited and the second is on behalf of the Monroe  
23 County Chamber of Commerce, and my comments are directed to  
24 the Nexus pipeline, Docket No. PF15-10-000 and this is  
25 comments on behalf of Monroe Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and

1 I am Chairman.

2 Monroe County, Michigan Chapter of Ducks  
3 Unlimited which represents over 3,000 members, is supportive  
4 of the proposed Nexus gas transmission project and strongly  
5 urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission support an  
6 approval.

7 We appreciate that the Nexus team contacted early  
8 with us to inform us of the project, its route, development  
9 approach, and how it could impact the environment. As  
10 always, DT Energy is concerned about its operation affect  
11 the environment and conservation programs here in southeast  
12 Michigan.

13 We are in full support of the pipeline project  
14 being built, considering the economic opportunities for our  
15 region, and yet comprising the environment and conservation  
16 programs in this area.

17 We value DT Energy, a Michigan company that  
18 serves and supports our residence, businesses, and civic and  
19 community organizations, as one of two partners in the  
20 project.

21 DT Energy has been a long-standing supporter of  
22 Ducks Unlimited, is a benefactor-level major donor, donating  
23 over \$100,000 to Ducks Unlimited, was named Corporate  
24 Conservationist of the Year in 2012 for the State of  
25 Michigan by Ducks Unlimited.

1           I also know that they -- many of the facility  
2 land sites have achieved wildlife habitat certification,  
3 clean corporate citizen recognition from the State of  
4 Michigan, and even corporate lands for learning and  
5 environmental partner certification from the MMDEQ, and 1401  
6 -- 14001 Environmental Certification as well.

7           DT Energy participates in the Detroit River  
8 International Wildlife Refuge and the company was the first  
9 industry partner in Michigan to join in the cooperative  
10 agreement for the Fish and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
11 to jointly manage 650 acres of land for wildlife efforts.

12           The Nexus projects will deliver substantial  
13 benefits for our area, including affordable, cleaner burning  
14 American-produced natural gas to help Michigan's growing and  
15 environmental needs for cleaner power generation and home  
16 heating.

17           The project's supply of natural gas will result  
18 in carbon footprint, green house gas emission reductions in  
19 Michigan, will help Michigan reach newly required federal  
20 clean air standards, more than half dozen of Michigan  
21 coal-powered generations in the next few years, and replace  
22 that generation with natural gas becomes vital.

23           Reliable and affordable supplies of natural gas  
24 needed to support Michigan schools, hospitals, manufacturers  
25 and businesses of every size, are planning to invest more in

1 the coming years.

2           Wise and prudent use of existing pipeline already  
3 in place in corridors for most of the project's length, can  
4 minimize environmental and local land owner impacts and  
5 preserve wetland and wildlife habitats in Michigan. Only 50  
6 miles of new pipe construction and existing utility  
7 corridor, know as ANR Pipeline, will be required.

8           A Michigan State University economic impact study  
9 conducted for the project indicates the lion share of  
10 economic benefit will realize in Washtenaw County, with the  
11 County benefiting from an estimated 560 new construction  
12 jobs, labor incomes totaling \$37 million, most of any county  
13 where construction will be required, an added value of about  
14 \$50 million.

15           The safest mode of transportation for natural  
16 gas, according to U.S. Department of Transportation, is this  
17 pipeline.

18           The Nexus Gas Transmission Project is an  
19 important opportunity for our communities and our businesses  
20 benefit from it. We are in full support of this and we  
21 thank you for your support.

22           My second document I'd like to share with you  
23 comes from Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. It again  
24 directs its attention to the Docket No. PF15-10-000 and it's  
25 on behalf of the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce,

1 Legislative Affairs Committee.

2 I wrote to express our support of this proposed  
3 Nexus Gas Transmission Project. DT Energy has successfully  
4 restored and enhanced wildlife habitat and natural species  
5 population in Monroe County, Michigan.

6 They also engage their employees, retirees,  
7 families in projects that are consistent with the mission of  
8 the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. The Nexus Gas Transmission  
9 Project will bring important benefits to our area --  
10 American produced, cleaner burning and affordable natural  
11 gas will help Michigan meets new federal clean air  
12 standards.

13 DTE plans to utilize existing pipelines which  
14 minimizes environmental impacts and preserves existing  
15 wetlands and wildlife habitats.

16 In addition, southeast Michigan will gain some  
17 very important economic benefits from new jobs related to  
18 this project. This project has significant opportunities  
19 for our region. We thank you for your consideration and  
20 support of the Nexus Gas Transmission Project. Monroe  
21 County Chamber of Commerce. Thank you.

22 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Sixth speaker is  
23 Tim Lake.

24 MR. LAKE: Good evening. Thank you for the  
25 opportunity to talk to you tonight. My name is Tim Lake and

1 I am the President and CEO of the Monroe County Business  
2 Development Corporation

3 And on behalf of our Board of Directors and the  
4 investors, ranging from private sector businesses,  
5 education, organized labor, financial institutions in our  
6 local municipality, I'm here this evening to support the  
7 Nexus Gas Transmission Project in which Michigan's DTE  
8 Energy is a partner.

9 The Monroe County Business Development  
10 Corporation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) and is Monroe County's  
11 lead economic development organization. Our mission is to  
12 attract, retrain and diversity job opportunities for our  
13 county in the areas of manufacturing, research, and service.

14 And since 1982, MCBDC has helped lead the  
15 development of nine new industrial parks throughout the  
16 county. This investment in infrastructure that we're  
17 talking about here tonight bodes well for continued  
18 investing throughout southeast Michigan for many years to  
19 come.

20 As mentioned, DTE Energy has integral partner  
21 here, and has been through southeast Michigan and Monroe  
22 County. We have a long history or working together with  
23 them, for the better and we're here to support their  
24 commitment and stewardship towards this project.

25 Reliable and affordable energy and the

1 infrastructure necessary to deliver it are vital to our  
2 ability to continue to complete for developments that create  
3 both job creation and capital investment.

4           Additionally, affordable energy is vital to our  
5 manufacturing community in our county, as they are to  
6 schools, businesses, municipality, and to every residential  
7 home.

8           Monroe County currently has two coal fire power  
9 plants, and one nuclear plant. Michigan is preparing to  
10 transition its coal fired power fleet to natural gas power  
11 generation because of federal regulations and the aging  
12 nature of our power plants.

13           In fact, in Monroe County one of our two coal  
14 fire plants is scheduled to be taken offline in April of  
15 next year. It's vital that this power generation can be  
16 replaced on the grid.

17           For all these reasons, the BDC supports the Nexus  
18 Gas Transmission Project that will ensure the safe  
19 transmission of these additional supplies of natural gas  
20 made possible by the U.S. shale gas industry.

21           The project will create good jobs for talented  
22 Michigan pipeline construction workers, mean significant  
23 economic activity for our area, and enhance the energy  
24 infrastructure that enables our employers to grow, adding  
25 revenue and income to the families here.

1           DET and the Nexus team have invested significant  
2 time informing our organizations and others throughout the  
3 area of their plans. They've been responsive to local and  
4 state lawmakers and residents, they've been thoughtful and  
5 respectful in their dealings with us, and we appreciate  
6 that.

7           We strongly encourage the FERC to review the  
8 permit application in a fair and timely manner. Thank you.

9           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 7,  
10 Paul Vergote.

11           MR. VERGOTE: First, thank you for holding this  
12 hearing and allowing me to share my story. My name is Paul  
13 Vergote and I farm with my wife and son in Blissfield for  
14 over the past four decades. We raise around -- we farm  
15 around 1,500 acres, raise corn, soybeans, and vegetables.

16           I want to talk to you about soil, geology on my  
17 farm, targeted for the pipeline pathway.

18           (a) My soil is more than just dirt. Our  
19 agriculture soil is some of the most productive soil in the  
20 state. We soil test, apply nutrients based on specific  
21 prescriptions and monitoring, yield records. I partner with  
22 the soil conservation district on tile and water practices,  
23 GPS soil mapping, wind erosion, reduction, and to the  
24 protecting, protect the environment.

25           I am concerned about the soil compaction altering

1 the soil composition during construction and being poorly  
2 compensated based on the outdated data or outstate  
3 perceptions native to Michigan agriculture.

4 (b) Gings Tile is king. The purpose of tile is  
5 to move water or melted snow through files. The pipeline  
6 will unpack about 40 acres that passes 11 miles of my tile.  
7 I also have photos on that. Tile also moves air in and out  
8 to aerate soil and create a better environment for microbial  
9 activities and earthworks in order to facilitate plant  
10 growth -- plant root growth.

11 I am concerned because of high water table, that  
12 during construction the water movement will flood soils  
13 inside and outside easements, create caving of trenches,  
14 sandy walls and the pumping of sludge, because I have to get  
15 rid of the water, into other farms or county drains, rivers,  
16 Lake Erie, will create needed damage or dredging at later  
17 date, and at whose cost?

18 In summary, my recommendations to you for this  
19 underground utilities to come, include easement compensation  
20 to be based on projection of the last five years average  
21 yields recorded from individual farms, not county or state  
22 averages, and that be for over 10 to 15 years minimum, not  
23 the old outdated 3-5 years standard.

24 Establish and follow a soil best management plan  
25 for current operations and to rebuilding soil and tile

1 design for Michigan agriculture soils, not other states.  
2 That includes a soil recovery period, monitoring the tile  
3 inside and outside of the pipeline right-of-way during and  
4 up to 3 years after construction.

5           Pre-construction soil boring should be considered  
6 on a property, along with easement to help understand our  
7 hidden soils.

8           FERC and utility representatives be educated  
9 about tiling, including field visits to my and surrounding  
10 far properties. Thank you again for holding this meeting.

11           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Just a quick note,  
12 there is a blue Dodge Durango that left its lights on. So  
13 if that could be yours you may want to go check it.

14           Our next speaker is speaker number 8, Paul  
15 Wielfaert.

16           MR. WIELFAERT: My name is Paul Wielfaert and I'm  
17 a lifelong resident of the Britton area. My family has been  
18 involved in farming in Lenawee County for over 110 years,  
19 starting with my grandfather we arrived to the area from  
20 Belgium in 1903. We'll continue with my son and my nephews.

21           My biggest concern about the route of the  
22 pipeline is that it crosses through some of the most  
23 productive farmland in the state. This area always ranks in  
24 the top five counties in Michigan for corn, wheat, and  
25 beans, as well as produce.

1           One of the primary reasons for this is -- one of  
2 the primary reasons this is possible is due to our field  
3 tile drainage systems. The proposed pipeline would chop  
4 these systems to pieces. He rerouting and repair of tile  
5 lines will be extensive, extremely expensive, and some cases  
6 impractical or even impossible.

7           How can you bury a 3-4 foot pipe and leave the  
8 land the way you found it?

9           My other concern is yield loss. You don't need a  
10 monitor to tell you that there is yield loss over a  
11 pipeline. We can easily see it from the cab. We are  
12 farming six parcels that the proposed -- in the proposed  
13 route, which also shadow the two existing pipelines.

14           Sixty years after their installation there is  
15 still a document 50% yield loss. Now contract that is  
16 negotiated right now could possibly address the impact that  
17 this will have on future generations who will farm this  
18 land.

19           I'm not just talking about my family. Every  
20 farmer in this room is thinking about the same thing -- the  
21 legacy that they are living their children and  
22 grandchildren.

23           In conclusion, we in agriculture just want our  
24 concerns and voices heard because this will not only affect  
25 our lives, but the livelihoods of our children and

1 grandchildren for generations to come. Because once the  
2 pipeline is there, it's there.

3 One last thing, if you would like to come out and  
4 visit the are and the fields in Britton, please feel free to  
5 give me a call. I submitted a written proposal also with  
6 some aerial maps that show the existing pipelines that are  
7 there. Thank you for your time.

8 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 9,  
9 Tim Robinson.

10 MR. ROBINSON: Good evening. My name is Tim  
11 Robinson. I'm the Director of Operations for Lenawee  
12 Narrow. On behalf of the Board of Directors for Lenawee  
13 Narrow, Lenawee Economic Development Agency, I'm here this  
14 evening to provide our support for the proposed Nexus Gas  
15 Transmission Project, Docket NO. PF-10-000.

16 Lenawee County is home to 99,000 citizens. The  
17 county has a skilled workforce, a strong agricultural, as  
18 well as manufacturing base and three higher education  
19 institutions.

20 Lenawee now has been working with the Nexus  
21 development team for nearly a year and we appreciate their  
22 efforts to partner with our organization for discussions  
23 with others throughout the community about this project.

24 As a county with significant agricultural lands,  
25 we have been particularly pleased with the project's mindful

1 approach to working with farmers, with respect to issues  
2 such as drain tile protection, crop loss remuneration, and  
3 others.

4           Project team leaders have held meeting at our  
5 offices for community members on several occasions, bringing  
6 in experts and demonstrating a positive and cooperative  
7 approach.

8           Of course, energy plays a vital role in the  
9 economical well-being of our county residents and  
10 businesses. We recognize the benefit of infrastructure that  
11 ensures greater access to natural gas being produced for  
12 distribution to and in our region.

13           Energy affordability and reliability are key to  
14 many of our county's entities. Our three colleges, where  
15 holding down costs are key to tuition affordability, farms  
16 where energy uses for irrigation, grain drying, and other  
17 activities enable farm viability, and our hospitals where  
18 safety is vital.

19           Nexus will benefit our county, southeast Michigan  
20 and the state through job creation income, and revenue  
21 generation included.

22           For Lenawee County, an estimated 686 jobs over  
23 the duration of the project, approximately \$33 million in  
24 labor income, \$44 million in gross regional product --  
25 regionally, counting Lenawee County, Monroe County, and

1 Washtenaw County, 1,423 jobs over the duration of the  
2 project, \$83 million in labor income, \$110 million in  
3 regional gross product, and then statewide, the 1,800 job  
4 that was in the MSU study.

5 Over the duration of the project \$114 million in  
6 labor income, \$159 million in gross regional product. In  
7 Lenawee now we care about the safety and environmental  
8 protections too. Interstate pipeline such as Nexus, are  
9 highly regulated, which helps ensure the safety of this  
10 means of transporting natural gas.

11 We thank you for being here tonight as one of the  
12 primary regulatory authorities for the proposed pipeline.  
13 Finally, we commend Nexus for seeking the use of the  
14 existing infrastructure corridors for new pipe installation,  
15 and for making use of existing pipelines already in place in  
16 our state. These approaches are both smart and respectful.

17 Lenawee now urges the FERC's approval of Nexus.  
18 Thank you.

19 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 10,  
20 Katie Kazakos.

21 MS. KAZAKOS: Good evening, my name is Katie  
22 Kazakos. I live on Tuttle Hill Road in Augusta Township. In  
23 Augusta Township, Michigan, Nexus will pass directly through  
24 the few assets we have. We have no industry besides  
25 farming, and Nexus will pass through one of our very few

1 commercially zoned areas, restricting future development.

2 Nexus will pass less than 1,000 from our two  
3 elementary schools and our early childhood center, yet  
4 another strike against the Lincoln Public Schools, and a  
5 threat to the safety of hundreds of young children.

6 Nexus will pass through undeveloped farmland,  
7 wetlands, creeks, streams, and floodplains, destroying  
8 ecosystems and our Township's natural beauty.

9 The presence of a pipeline will hamper future  
10 residential development and drive down property values,  
11 decreasing our Township's income from property taxes.

12 In addition, our Township has a very high water  
13 table. Flooding is an ongoing problem, as recognized by  
14 FEMA in 2012. Agricultural activities are widespread and  
15 many farmers are already dealing with existing pipelines on  
16 their land. This cannot be the safest, physical environment  
17 for a 3-foot wide, high pressure pipeline.

18 The Nexus pipeline would provide little to no  
19 benefit to the American people. According to the U.S.  
20 Energy Information Administration, the United States will be  
21 a net exporter of natural gas by 2017. In other words,  
22 there is no domestic need for the additional gas that Nexus  
23 will provide.

24 In November 2013, FERC approved the abandonment  
25 or sale of energy transfers, natural gas trunk line, based

1 on the claim that there is already access pipeline capacity  
2 in the Midwest, including Michigan.

3           If Spectra or DTE had any measureable evidence of  
4 a need for more natural gas in the Midwest, they would have  
5 been only too glad to share this data with the public.  
6 Their marketing materials are suspiciously high on vague  
7 jargon about affordable energy, and low on any real data.

8           It is obvious that we do not need Nexus and that  
9 this project is more about corporate greed and selling gas  
10 to Canada, then meeting legitimate energy needs here in the  
11 Untied States.

12           If FERC approves Nexus, our citizens, small  
13 businesses, local economies, and the natural environment,  
14 will once again bear the burden, in this case an unnecessary  
15 burden, while huge corporations make millions.

16           As you make decisions about Nexus and other  
17 pipeline projects, please seriously consider the real impact  
18 the project will have on the lives of thousands of  
19 individuals and the permanent damage fracking is causing to  
20 our environment.

21           We are tired of being ignored while our  
22 government bows to the relentless greed of companies like  
23 DTE and Spectra. It will be very easy for FERC to look the  
24 other way and rubberstamp yet another pipeline projects.

25           For once, take a bold stand and make the logical

1 and ethical decision, say no to the Nexus pipeline. Thank  
2 you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. The next speaker is  
5 Laurie Isley, speaker 11.

6 MS. ISLEY: My name is Laurie Isley and I  
7 appreciate the opportunity to address you this evening. My  
8 husband and I operate a corn and soybean farm in Palmyra  
9 Township located in Lenawee County.

10 We are the fifth generation farmers in this area  
11 and we hope to some day pass our farm on to our children and  
12 grandchildren.

13 In addition, I also serve as the Lenawee County  
14 Farm Bureau President. Lenawee County is situated on some  
15 of the most productive farmland in the state. We have about  
16 1,600 farmers, the greatest number of farms in the state.

17 The production from this farmland contributed  
18 over \$204 million to our economy in 2014, and our impact  
19 goes beyond the financial aspect.

20 Our farmers have incorporated conservation  
21 practices that also help maintain the quality of our air,  
22 soil, and water. Our concerns regarding the proposed  
23 pipeline are varied, yet they all revolve around one thing,  
24 that's maintaining the productivity of our farms, not just  
25 for the next few years, or the next decade, but for

1 generations to come.

2           We are continually learning more and more about  
3 the importance of our soil health. We're learning how to  
4 maintain and improve that delicate balance between mineral  
5 content, organic matter, water holding capacity, and air  
6 space.

7           We are also very conscious of the impact of  
8 compaction on our soils. Many area farmers have embraced  
9 minimum tillage practices to reduce that compaction. The  
10 construction of this pipeline will undoubtedly cause  
11 increased compaction to our soils.

12           Some of our specific concerns are, first, as was  
13 mentioned earlier, the topsoil is like gold to the farmer.  
14 We are concerned that the soil horizons, the layers of soils  
15 will be returned to their original order and depth following  
16 the construction of the pipeline.

17           Second, disruption and damage to tiling systems.  
18 Most, if not all of the county farmland with the path of the  
19 pipeline is tiled to provide drainage. These systems are  
20 elaborate and expensive to install and replace.

21           In addition, damage to these systems may not be  
22 evident immediately. We are concerned about repairs that  
23 may be needed several years after the pipeline is completed.

24           Third, we're concerned about determining a fair  
25 compensation for the farmer without knowing how our

1 productivity and yields may be negatively impacted for  
2 generations to come.

3           We recognize the need to transport energy from  
4 its source to its point of consumption. However, the  
5 negative impact and associated losses should not be borne  
6 entirely by the landowners along this pipeline.

7           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 12,  
8 Terry Langley.

9           MR. LANGLEY: Good evening. My name is Terry  
10 Langley and I am here to speak to you today on behalf of the  
11 support from Pipeliners Local Union 798.

12           Our local is the largest pipeline local in the  
13 United States, and for over 65 years we have provided the  
14 most experience and best qualified craftsman to support our  
15 nation's infrastructure needs.

16           I stand before you to say this: the Nexus  
17 pipeline is good for Michigan. It will support creation of  
18 critical jobs such as the NASA/Glen research facility,  
19 various manufacturings, local distribution companies, and  
20 power plants, not to mention the thousands of constructions  
21 jobs it will create for skilled craftsmen, such as the 700+  
22 local union members that live along the proposed route.

23           Pipelines have long been proven to be safe and  
24 most reliable way to transfer natural gas. The pipelines  
25 are also more environmentally friendly than transporting it

1 by truck or rail, which have much higher carbon emissions.

2 The Nexus pipeline is good for our nation's  
3 growing energy needs and pipeliners as Local 798 is here,  
4 ready to provide the skill craftsmen necessary to build the  
5 state-of-the-art pipeline that we can all be proud of.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 13,  
8 Margaret Neuman.

9 MS. NEWMAN: Good evening. I'm Margaret Neuman  
10 and you're probably wondering why I'm here cause I don't own  
11 any land where the pipeline is going to go through, but I  
12 understand it's going to go so close to my house, probably  
13 just as close as they can come to it, and I want to know  
14 what's going to happen to my well.

15 Nobody has said anything about wells. They say  
16 break the vein that goes to our shallow well. They're all  
17 shallow wells in our area. If you drill a well you'll get  
18 salt water, sulphur water, or water that you just can't use.

19 Also, what's it going to do to the value of my  
20 home? I only have three and a half acres of property with  
21 my house and what's it going to do? I have two sons, when  
22 it comes time to sell that home, what's it going to be  
23 worth?

24 Also, it's coming through a residential area.  
25 How can they come through a residential area? There were

1 three houses on that Mile Road when my husband and I built  
2 that house. I lived in the house beside us with my parents,  
3 graduated from high school in '49, we moved there in '48,  
4 and then we bought land from my parents to build our house.  
5 That was in 1953. So I've been there a long time.

6           You might wonder why I'm speaking because I don't  
7 have land, but I don't want that so close to my home.  
8 Nobody knows what it's going to do to the property.

9           And there is another thing that concerns me.  
10 These people I've talked to -- about four people -- they're  
11 right in front of my house, parked right there and I go out  
12 and talk to them because I want to know what's going on.

13           And all they tell me, they're looking for  
14 historical artifacts. Why can't you be honest with us? By  
15 the way, there used to be a house standing where my lot is,  
16 and that house is over to my neighbors where my parents used  
17 to live, and that is just a tool shed now.

18           But I found, when my husband was ploughing the  
19 ground, garden one time, I found a woman's wedding ring,  
20 maybe there is somebody buried there, I don't know. Does  
21 anybody know?

22           Well I guess that's about all I have to say, but  
23 I'm not in favor of having this so close to my house and I'm  
24 sure they're going to come just as close as they can, and  
25 I'm not going to be reimbursed for anything because it's not

1 my land. I don't think they're being very fair with me  
2 either. Just because I'm old, I'd like it taken into  
3 consideration. Thank you.

4 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 14,  
5 Robert Knoblauch.

6 MR. KNOBLAUCH: First off I'd like to thank the  
7 FERC members and staff for holding this scoping meeting on  
8 the proposed Nexus Pipeline Project.

9 I'm Robert Knoblauch, Lenawee County District 7,  
10 County Commissioner which represents six counties and three  
11 villages in the southeast and east side of Lenawee County.

12 The proposed Nexus Pipeline Project will traverse  
13 five of the townships I represent and will have a  
14 devastating effect on the health and economic stability of  
15 the area, unless the unique drainage and tiling systems are  
16 well protected.

17 I will explain why these systems are so unique  
18 and why great care is taken to maintain them. First I will  
19 cover the drainage systems.

20 This area was once part of Lake Erie. As time  
21 went on, the water receded to the present location of the  
22 lake. It did leave behind, in the southern part of this  
23 area, the black swamp, which is located in the Maumee River  
24 Basin which flows water to Lake Erie in Toledo, Ohio.

25 The northern part of the district, which I'm in,

1 was the Cottonwood Swamp. This is located in the River  
2 Raisin Basin, which flows water to Lake Erie in Monroe,  
3 Michigan.

4           Early in our State's history the landowners in  
5 the area requested that the legislature place in law a  
6 procedure to develop drainage districts, maintain the  
7 system, and to place the cost of doing so upon themselves as  
8 a special assessment on their property taxes.

9           The Lenawee County Drain Commissioner has  
10 identified 34 county drains which will need to be traversed  
11 in the proposed route of the pipeline. This does not  
12 include others that are private waterways and roadside  
13 waterways, which are part of the total drainage system of  
14 the area.

15           With the land in the area being so flat and the  
16 distance from the river, it made development and maintenance  
17 of these systems a great challenge. In the majority of  
18 systems, the grade or slope in which the water flows is  
19 1/8th of an inch for 10 feet, which is a 10th grade or the  
20 water having the ability to flow downhill.

21           This would mean 1 inch of grade or fall for every  
22 80 feet of distance, or 66 inches per mile. If you are  
23 losing 66 inches, which is 5 feet of grade every mile, the  
24 depth of the river determines the distance you can travel  
25 with the system.

1           At the upper end of the system, the depth of the  
2 drainage system may be so shallow that it will not support a  
3 tile system which flows directly in the drainage system. A  
4 sump pit or silo pit would have to be placed in the field  
5 with an electric pump to lift the water from the pit to the  
6 drainage system.

7           This by itself is already an additional cost to  
8 the landowner and any obstruction or deviation from the  
9 grade will cause the system to fail and require additional  
10 maintenance cost.

11           Any and all adverse affects this pipeline would  
12 cause during construction and in the future, must be  
13 addressed in the plans and be corrected at the cost of the  
14 pipeline operation.

15           At present, I know of two locations of other  
16 pipelines in the district that prevent the Lenawee County  
17 Drain Commissioner from doing normal maintenance on the  
18 system due to the pipeline not being installed several feet  
19 below the drainage system grade.

20           I was told in one case you can actually just  
21 about feel the pipeline in the bottom of the drainage  
22 system. This must not be allowed to happen in the future  
23 because in both cases the upstream portion of these systems  
24 fail to operate as designed due to the obstruction in grade.

25           In both cases, the pipeline company has failed to

1 correct the issue at the request of the County Drain  
2 Commissioner.

3 My other concerns is the tiling system which are  
4 installed and maintained by the landowners to flow water to  
5 the overall drainage system. These systems consist of  
6 underground clay and plastic lines which have a 4-inch to  
7 12-inch diameter size according to the size of the system.  
8 They would normally have 26 to 28 inches of cover and be  
9 placed in lines 50 to 30 feet apart.

10 If the average of these tile spacings was 40  
11 feet, there could be 130 miles of tiling lines in every  
12 square mile of farmland.

13 These lines also have to be put in on grade to  
14 provide flow to the discharge point to the drainage system.  
15 The depth of the drainage system and the distance to travel  
16 with the tiling system at a 10th grade, all make these  
17 systems very unique and precise in order to work as  
18 designed.

19 The installation of the pipeline across these  
20 systems will not only affect the construction zone, but the  
21 total system will be in jeopardy until repairs are made.  
22 That also means as the land settles over time in the future.

23 As above with the drainage systems, any and all  
24 future repairs must be paid for by the operator of the  
25 pipeline if the cause of such repairs was due to the

1 installation of the pipeline.

2 In conclusion, the residents and landowners of  
3 this community should not be burdened with additional costs  
4 to maintain the drainage and tiling systems that are working  
5 as designed, making this area some of the best farmland in  
6 the state, and a great place to raise a family.

7 Please remember that we were once a lake, a  
8 swamp, a wetland. If not for the systems in place and  
9 working as designed, we will start to revert back to those  
10 same areas. I ask that the Federal Energy Regulatory  
11 Commission make sure that the proposed pipeline plans  
12 address these issues and protect the health, safety,  
13 welfare, and economic stability of our community. Thank  
14 you.

15 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker 15, Kathy  
16 Schoen.

17 MS. SCHOEN: Yeah, Kathy Schoen and I'm speaking  
18 in regards to PF15-10-000. I am a fourth generation owner  
19 of a centennial farm located just northwest of Willis,  
20 Michigan in Washtenaw County. Actually, my family has owned  
21 this property for 128 years.

22 Sadly, it's situated within the study corridor of  
23 the pipeline. As a child of the 60s and 70s, I grew up and  
24 became an environmentally-minded adult.

25 For the last number of years, I've been working

1 with the committee to ban fracking in Michigan. We are  
2 determined to get horizontal hydraulic fracturing and frack  
3 waste on Michigan's ballot proposal.

4           So you can imagine the horror I felt upon  
5 receiving notice that Nexus wants to build this monster of a  
6 natural gas pipeline and run it from the dirty fracking  
7 fields in Pennsylvania and Ohio, into my beloved Michigan.

8           The problem with this clean natural gas, as the  
9 industry so fondly calls it, is that it comes from the  
10 environmentally filthy front end process called hydraulic  
11 fracturing or fracking for short.

12           Fracking is a method of extracting natural gas by  
13 injecting, under high pressure, huge amounts of fresh water,  
14 sand, and chemicals into shale deposits in order to fracture  
15 them, thereby releasing the natural gas.

16           Unfortunately, many of the chemicals used are  
17 known carcinogens that the government, so far, has not  
18 required the companies to disclose. Along with wasting  
19 millions of gallons of fresh water per fracking site,  
20 fracking also creates a need for land-filling or deep-well  
21 injection of millions of gallons of toxic fracking fuel  
22 byproducts.

23           Why would we want to risk contamination of ground  
24 water when water, not natural gas, is the greatest resource  
25 we have? This is especially true here in Michigan, where we

1 are surrounded by the Great Lakes, which hold a fifth of the  
2 entire world's supply of standing, fresh, surface water.

3 I believe that dramatic increase in fracking in  
4 the U.S. way exceeds our country's need for this natural  
5 gas. Studies in Michigan show that demand is actually  
6 leveling off.

7 So why does Nexus want to build this pipeline? I  
8 believe the answer is that new markets out side of the  
9 United States are being created to handle overproduction of  
10 natural gas in areas like the Utica Shale Fields.

11 That is why much of the gas this pipeline will  
12 carry will end up in Dawn Hub, Ontario. The benefactors of  
13 this overproduction will be the oil companies. All at great  
14 cost to the citizens and the environment, especially at  
15 great cost to citizens who have to shoulder the burden of  
16 the pipeline running near or through their property.

17 To those gathered here tonight, I ask you to join  
18 in this fight to stop the pipeline. I do not want to see it  
19 rerouted. I don't want to see it rerouted anywhere. I want  
20 to see it stopped, period. You can find more information by  
21 going to a Facebook group called No Nexus Pipeline In  
22 Michigan and Ohio.

23 And I do want to close by thanking you for this  
24 open forum. I have attended a Nexus pipeline meeting that  
25 were held at Lincoln School in Ypsilanti, Michigan and about

1 all I learned, other than seeing the lovely aerial maps  
2 showing the exact path of this pipeline monster, was  
3 according to Nexus how wonderful it would be.

4 Other questions I didn't have answered. I don't  
5 think they've been transparent or helpful in any way. Thank  
6 you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 16,  
9 Nancy Shiffler.

10 MS. SHIFFLER: Good evening. I'm speaking  
11 tonight on behalf of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra  
12 Club. There is little in this proposal that reflects a  
13 balancing of public benefits with the residual impacts.

14 This pipeline is essentially a supply-push  
15 project, an attempt by the natural gas industry to find a  
16 market for its overproduction in the Marcellus Play in  
17 Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, in particular to  
18 expand exports.

19 There is no demonstrated need for additional  
20 natural gas capacity in Michigan, or in the region in  
21 general, while the impact on safety, economic value, and  
22 environmental health of local property owners and  
23 communities will be considerable.

24 The need for the pipeline is certainly  
25 questionable. An AEO 2015 early release forecast indicated

1 that Marcellus gas production will remain relatively flat  
2 from now through 2030. Natural gas demands in eastern  
3 Canada is in decline, and many of the plans for liquid  
4 natural gas export are likely to not be realized.

5 In 2015 February, the Department of Energy report  
6 indicated that only 54% of current pipeline capacity is  
7 being used. One of their key findings, and I quote, "higher  
8 utilization of existing interstate natural gas pipeline  
9 infrastructure will reduce the need for new pipelines."

10 Even so, FERC is in the process of approving far  
11 more pipeline capacity than the DOE or the EPA say you're  
12 needed. FERC must begin to rationalize this sort of  
13 spaghetti of pipelines that seem to be cropping up around  
14 the country.

15 And in this area, the Nexus, UT Rover, the A&R  
16 and all the other Midwest pipelines make a rational common  
17 sense use of existing gas pipelines that can meet the needs  
18 of the markets and are not even needed in this area.

19 Use of existing alternatives and capacity would  
20 eliminate the environmental, landowner, and other problems.  
21 As you begin your environmental assessment process, keep the  
22 contrast of this lack of need against the potential adverse  
23 environmental impacts.

24 The scoping process should include an analysis  
25 the impact of all the alternative routes, the pipeline, and

1 related infrastructure, would cause irreversible damage to  
2 2,000 acres of forestland, wetlands, and fields, and it  
3 should be FERC's responsibility to consider the cumulative  
4 impacts of the entire length of the pipeline and the  
5 activities that produce the gas to be transported through  
6 the pipeline.

7           The environmental impact statement should provide  
8 an accounting of the total acreage of wetlands that will be  
9 affected by each alternative, and give particular  
10 consideration to the complexity of the drainage issues in  
11 this area.

12           Likewise, the EIS should provide an accounting of  
13 acreage of forest and woodlands that will be affected and in  
14 rural areas, there has been insufficient consideration of  
15 the impact on farmlands, including farmers' access to farm  
16 fields during construction, inadequate restoration of top  
17 soil during reclamation, temporary plugging or damage to  
18 drainage ditches and underground tiling.

19           And particular attention needs to be paid to  
20 protecting existing conservation easements, fish and  
21 wildlife service contracts for resource conservation,  
22 conservation stewardship and grassland reserve programs, and  
23 timber stand improvement contracts.

24           Alternatives should also be assessed for impacts  
25 on state and federal threatened endangered species,

1 including a habitat suitability survey along each route.

2           As part of its environmental review, FERC should  
3 estimate the greenhouse gas impacts of the production  
4 transport and usage of the gas, including methane leakage  
5 from production sites, the pipeline, compressors stations,  
6 and the CO2 releases from increased burning of natural gas.

7           In addition to the methane and CO2 emissions,  
8 FERC should also calculate other emissions, including  
9 benzene, VOCs, arsenic, radium, and other chemicals.

10           Finally, FERC should consider the potential  
11 environmental impacts of increased use of hydraulic  
12 fracturing in the Marcellus region as a result of the new  
13 markets targeted by this and similar projects.

14           Also under consideration should be the adverse  
15 impact on landowners and local communities. Safety impacts  
16 are of paramount concern. Required setbacks for home and  
17 other buildings are insufficient to account for the  
18 potential impact radius in the vent of an explosion.

19           The EIS should analyze the safety risk posed by  
20 the number of residences within the projected impact radius  
21 of the pipeline. Many rural areas are served by small fire  
22 departments backed by local volunteer firefighters, which  
23 would be stretched thin in the event of a major explosion  
24 and fire.

25           The EIS should assess response time and capacity

1 for communities along the route. Local government concerns  
2 over the heavy impact of equipment on local roads and  
3 bridges must be addressed, and the EIS should assess the  
4 cost to local communities.

5 Finally, individual landowners are rightfully  
6 concerned with the impact of the project on their property  
7 values, access to mortgages, and the insurance coverages.  
8 Estimate of these costs should be available from previous  
9 pipeline construction projects and should be considered in  
10 your Environmental Impact Statement.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to present these  
12 concerns. I have sent this in via email.

13 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker number 17,  
14 John Ford.

15 MR. FORD: My name is John Ford and the ET Rover  
16 is cross through my woods in Manchester Township.

17 During the first 10 minutes of your introduction,  
18 FERC was talking about safety rules and how safe gas  
19 pipelines are. But yet last night at 10:30 p.m. we had a  
20 major high pressure gas pipeline burst in Lyndon Township  
21 about 30 miles to the north.

22 Had this pipeline been ignited, you would have  
23 had a fireball that would have destroyed things for half a  
24 mile away. This just happened last night and we heard  
25 testimony about another ignition here earlier back in 1996.

1 So pipelines are not as safe as you're saying that they are.

2 We are only operating at 54% right now, if we add  
3 eight more gas burning power plants to the State of  
4 Michigan, as it is planned, we'll have plenty of capacity  
5 for these new gas-powered generating power plants.

6 I've read reports where we only have 14 years  
7 worth of natural gas left in our reserves in this country.  
8 Why are we building 50-year pipelines if we only have 14  
9 years of natural gas left? What are we going to do with  
10 these empty pipelines?

11 In the meantime we are destroying a lot of  
12 beautiful, private property. Natural gas maybe cleaner, but  
13 when you take into consideration their production pollution,  
14 it is almost as dangerous and polluting as coal.

15 Fracking is not a clean method of getting natural  
16 gas. I agree with one of the previous speakers. We need to  
17 think about that before we approve a lot of new natural gas  
18 pipeline transmission lines. Thank you.

19 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker 18, Andrea  
20 Connors.

21 MS. CONNORS: Andrea Connors and I live on Bemis  
22 Road in Willis in Augusta Township. I'm here on behalf of  
23 homeowners -- not big business or those people supported by  
24 big business, we're the ones that pay our own taxes and our  
25 own mortgages. We don't have all this slush funds to go to

1 when we want to build all these projects we don't need.

2 My house is what I consider my up-north house in  
3 Willis. It's beautiful. I consider it a blessing that the  
4 house was made available so I could purchase it. I grew up  
5 in Harsens Island, if anyone knows where that's at, it is a  
6 wildlife. It is beautiful.

7 I thought, oh my gosh, this is great, I have this  
8 right here in Willis. And then I get these notices about  
9 Nexus.

10 Now the proposed corridor that they're talking  
11 about either goes right down Bemis Road, which if anybody  
12 has ever traveled down Bemis Road -- I live on the dirt  
13 part, it's a mud pit. It's either a goat path, a mud it, or  
14 snowmobile route, at best. It has very large dips in it,  
15 which again, for safety concerns if you're going to throw a  
16 pipeline across that, how is that going to not break? That  
17 is a huge concern.

18 They're talking about -- the other proposal is to  
19 put it behind me, which there are lakes that run right  
20 behind my house, there is a huge lake next to me. These  
21 lakes are a migratory route for geese, for ducks, for swans.  
22 It gets very loud behind my house with all these birds and  
23 all this wildlife.

24 I have fox, I have the wild turkeys, the deer,  
25 raccoons, you name it, it's there. That's why I moved

1 there. we don't need this pipeline. My goal with this home  
2 is to be as green as possible.

3 I wanted to take my home and provide some type of  
4 educational thing for small children to come in a see we  
5 don't have to destroy your earth, we can live with our earth  
6 and do the things we're supposed to do as opposed to being  
7 lazy and throwing in another pipeline because hey, why  
8 should we try to conserve?

9 You know, we have so many other resources  
10 available to us, and for us to turn around and say let's put  
11 a pipeline down because big business wants it and everybody  
12 is getting their pockets lined, that's not what we need.

13 There is also farms, and I don't know if those  
14 farmers are here tonight, but there is farms on Bemis Road  
15 too. There is one Kiddy Corner from me and there is one  
16 right down the road. They're big farms. This is a big  
17 industry. The strawberry festival and all that rely on  
18 these crops.

19 And for, you know, big business to come in and  
20 say, ah, you know, you guys will get over it, that's  
21 unacceptable.

22 As far as me personally with Nexus, I'll keep my  
23 language clean, I don't trust them and I can tell you  
24 specifically why.

25 On my property is posted no less than six areas

1 that say no trespassing allowed, private property. It's  
2 marked very clearly. Now to get to my home you have to go  
3 down a very narrow driveway with all these signs.

4 I know that Nexus doesn't do what they say  
5 they're going to do by respecting our privacy about getting  
6 our acknowledgment to allow them on our property.

7 When I came home one day from work and found a  
8 note taped up to my garage, you don't accidentally get to my  
9 garage, you very purposely pass the no trespassing signs to  
10 put that note up.

11 Then when I confronted Nexus about this at a  
12 meeting, they said, oh, that's not our policy. Well how  
13 else did it get there? The Nexus fairy? I'm not sure, but  
14 it was there.

15 I strongly oppose this pipeline. I think it's  
16 ridiculous. Again, what somebody else said, we don't even  
17 need another pipeline. Not in front of me or behind me or  
18 anywhere. We don't need it. And if we only have x amount  
19 of years left, why are we putting it there and ruining  
20 resources we can't get back?

21 Farmers can't get back the topsoil. I can't get  
22 back my huge oak trees. Once they're gone they're gone.  
23 And big business will keep rolling on and rolling right over  
24 us, then homeowners and the farmers.

25 So I strongly oppose and I hope FERC, you take

1 our opinions to heart and see what we're talking about  
2 because you all go home to your homes. Would you want it in  
3 front of your homes? Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker 19, Troy  
6 Post.

7 MR. POST: Thank you. I'm Troy Post. I'm a  
8 pipeline welder. Well, I appreciate the concerns of all you  
9 landowners and farmers. I come from a farm in southwestern  
10 Pennsylvania, which is located in Marcellus Shale. And  
11 Washington, Pennsylvania was a town that was on the ropes,  
12 you know, 15 years ago, 20 years ago. The steel industry  
13 and everything.

14 A lot of things go on when something big like  
15 this comes to town. You wouldn't believe how much better it  
16 is. It's created jobs for not only fathers but daughters,  
17 sons, uncles, everyone, you know, there is a lot of work  
18 there.

19 Pipeliners 798 is where we're from, Tulsa,  
20 Oklahoma, and there has been a lot of talk about not taking  
21 local people.

22 Last year alone I took two young men from  
23 northeastern, Ohio, get them into our apprenticeship  
24 program. One of them emailed me last night at 11:00 o'clock  
25 -- I'm in support of this as my union is and the way my

1 father got into it was a pipeline came through, you know,  
2 his area, and he stayed there 50 years working out of this  
3 union from Oklahoma.

4 And I just like to say it does create good jobs  
5 and thank you.

6 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker 20, Frank  
7 Munsell.

8 MR. MUNSELL: Hi, my name is Frank Munsell and  
9 boy I'm from Michigan and I've been in Michigan all my life.  
10 I'm not from Oklahoma, I'm not from Pennsylvania. I farmed  
11 on the farm we farm, my granddad bought in 1905.

12 We still farm today. My grandparents are all  
13 dead, my parents are dead, my brother is dead. I've got one  
14 brother farms with me and we do farm.

15 I probably shouldn't a come down here because I'm  
16 not from this area, I'm from Livingston County and we have  
17 the Roper line that's proposed to put a new pump station on  
18 our farm.

19 We have the lovely Enbridge Line that's on there.  
20 W had the Lakehead pipeline, it was put in in 1969. We had  
21 Enbridge line that was put in in 2000, which is a 42-inch  
22 line. In 2012 we had a replacement of the 6B line that blew  
23 up in Marshall and dumped all the oil.

24 The practices that the pipeline use today are no  
25 better -- extremely no better than the practices used in

1 1969 when the original 6B line was put in.

2           The line that was put in in 2012, the replacement  
3 line, was a hodgepodge at best. If we're talking about soil  
4 conditions, every farmer here knows exactly what I'm talking  
5 about.

6           The land, when they strip the top soil off and  
7 they put it here and they put the subsoil someplace else  
8 until timeline start to go bad, the rain starts to come in.  
9 We've got test wells on our location that we used to dump  
10 some sludge from the city on our land, 50 foot of solid  
11 clay. So I know what clay is.

12           That ground today, you can fly over it, you can  
13 do -- and I testify the same as everybody here that's got a  
14 farm, you can go over it blindfold, you can tell where that  
15 pipeline is today, same as you could then.

16           And I'm glad to see the people in here are froze  
17 to death from the need of this new natural gas. I'm  
18 surprised you all survived the winter because if you didn't  
19 have this natural gas that's coming through that they want  
20 to put through. Your line is only going to be a 36-inch  
21 line, but I sure hope that everybody takes consideration of  
22 that.

23           As far as the MPSC overlooking this, the MPSC  
24 will overlook it. They'll watch your giant oaks being cut,  
25 they'll watch your swamps be deteriorated to the point where

1 you used to have a low area, when they get through you'll  
2 have a lake area.

3 I just don't think there is any cooperation with  
4 anything here and it would sure be my opinion that this line  
5 is not approved as well as any other future pipelines.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. Speaker 21, Laura  
9 Mebert.

10 MS. MEBERT: Good evening. I'm from Genesee  
11 County, Michigan. I am directing my comments at the issue  
12 of imminent domain.

13 Specifically, I question FERC's legal rationale  
14 for the use of imminent domain to justify the seizure of  
15 private lands for the construction of pipeline such as Nexus  
16 and Rover, for the purpose of exporting natural gas to  
17 Canada.

18 The Fourth Amendment protects the public from  
19 unreasonable seizure of private property, and the Fifth  
20 Amendment ensures that private property may only be taken  
21 for the purpose of public use.

22 Now literally, public use refers to things that  
23 we can all use, like highways, electrical infrastructure and  
24 so forth.

25 In decision after decision, the Supreme Court has

1 ruled that public use for imminent domain can be interpreted  
2 non-literally and more generally to mean public benefit.

3           However, it is beyond clear that the proposed  
4 Nexus pipeline like the Rover pipeline serves no public  
5 benefit. Instead, the proposed pipeline forces unwilling  
6 landowners and local governments to relinquish control --  
7 part of their property -- and suffer devastation of what  
8 remains, including damage to tourism and so forth.

9           It forces them to endure irreparable damage to  
10 woods, waterways, farmlands, and ecosystems. And it forces  
11 them to tolerate in-perpetuity the health and public safety  
12 risk that accompany the ever present danger of a gas  
13 explosion, or in case of conversion to transporting crude  
14 and oil spill.

15           The only justifications I've heard thus far of a  
16 possible public benefit are:

17 (1) A small number of jobs, which, well jobs are important,  
18 we'll all agree. These will be very temporary jobs.

19 (2) The erroneous claim that fracked natural gas is good for  
20 the climate and we now know that the methane emissions  
21 associated with fracking render those claims false

22 (3) And finally, there is the argument of trickle-down  
23 economics, that an enrichment of oil and gas companies will  
24 somehow enrich us all. However, the credibility of this  
25 theory too is dubious.

1           So in short, I'm concerned that the party  
2 benefiting from the use of imminent domain for the nexus  
3 pipeline is not the public, but rather Spectra.

4           For that reason, I request that in its decision  
5 FERC provide the public with detailed legal reasoning for  
6 invoking imminent domain in this case and I urge FERC to  
7 listen to what all of these landowners have been saying --  
8 that we do not need this pipeline. Thank you.

9           (Applause.)

10          MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you. The final speaker,  
11 Kojo Quartey.

12          MR. QUARTEY: Good evening and thank you for this  
13 opportunity. I'm from Monroe County. I'm the President of  
14 Monroe County Community College in Monroe and I'm here to  
15 speak in support of the Nexus Gas Transmission Project.

16          Monroe County Community College is a  
17 comprehensive two-year community college located in Monroe,  
18 Michigan. And as an educator, I'm providing an educational  
19 perspective, that's why I'm here this evening.

20          We were founded 50 years ago and the college is a  
21 true source of pride for the residents of Monroe County and  
22 we enroll approximately 7,000 students annual on the credit  
23 side and another 6,500 on the non-credit side, in life-long  
24 learning classes and training opportunities.

25          So we support this project because Nexus has been

1 very vital to the energy security of our entire region.  
2 It's continuous investment in our Monroe County community,  
3 and thereby provides opportunities for our MCCC -- that's  
4 Monroe County Community College students -- during their  
5 educational years and once they enter the world of work.

6 DTE Energy has been a partner in the project,  
7 along with Spectra Energy. Both companies exemplify what it  
8 is to be good corporate stewards and it's supported us for  
9 many, many years and continue to support our programs with  
10 the renewable energy program that we have and the various  
11 grants they've provided for our students to be able to close  
12 the skills gap that the President and the governor and  
13 everybody is talking about.

14 MCCC and DTE are partners in preparing the next  
15 generation of professionals. Specifically, MCCC has taken a  
16 leadership role in training students for careers in energy  
17 and energy infrastructure vocations.

18 The DTE Energy Foundation has contributed  
19 significantly to MCCC's new career technology center. And  
20 our career technology center, a \$17 million building is the  
21 hub now for all of the high schools and the K-thru 12s now  
22 to have a partnership with us where they come to our campus  
23 and they utilize that campus to continue to grow the CTE or  
24 career technical education efforts, programs that are being  
25 cut from the various institutions.

1           And with us, it's not just a case of students  
2 coming to us necessarily for an Associate degree, but  
3 students coming to us to get a post-secondary credential, a  
4 credential of economic value, and without the DTE's and  
5 other companies of that nature, we would not be where we are  
6 today.

7           Also projects focus on energy engineering and  
8 technologies. We have a construction management certificate  
9 program with a specialization in heavy and industrial  
10 construction.

11           It is also noteworthy that DTE has also supported  
12 our curriculum development to establish an alternative  
13 energy renewal program. These programs enable MCCC to  
14 produce the caliber of talent necessary to build and  
15 maintain the safety and viability of our region's energy  
16 security, which is necessary to growing investment, tax  
17 revenues for public services, and quality of life for our  
18 residents, quality of life.

19           There is a need for additional natural gas supply  
20 in Michigan over the coming decades to meet manufacturing  
21 growth in our state. New natural gas powered electricity  
22 generate in plants and to keep homes also.

23           To access and move more natural gas into  
24 Michigan, where it can be stored for peak time use and used  
25 as needed, new pipeline infrastructure is needed.

1           The Nexus team has met with the college  
2 leadership and discussed our engineering/technology and  
3 construction courses. They have committed to lending their  
4 expertise in the development of an enhanced curriculum for  
5 our students, ensuring that our students, that MCCC is on  
6 the cutting edge of education and training needed by  
7 employers today and tomorrow.

8           And again, this is what the President of the  
9 United States and the Governor are talking about, closing  
10 the skills gap. And DTE and Nexus are at the forefront of  
11 that working with community colleges like ours to ensure  
12 that that happens.

13           Education is taken to the middle class and I like  
14 to think of education as being that cure for poverty. It's  
15 a cure for poverty, it's that key to success, it's that  
16 roadmap to prosperity.

17           I can't think of any other profession that can  
18 claim that it has the cure for poverty, it has the key to  
19 success, and it has that road map to prosperity.

20           That is why we at MCCC support the Nexus  
21 application pending before the FERC. I urge you to approve  
22 the Nexus Project and thank you for your time here in  
23 Michigan tonight. Thank you very much.

24           MR. MUEHLHAUSEN: Thank you.

25           MS. WACHHOLDER: That's the last name we have on

1 our sign-up sheet but we have some time so if anyone else  
2 would like to either speak again, or who hasn't had an  
3 opportunity speak. Please raise your hand and I'll see --  
4 boy it's really bright in here -- I'll see if anybody else  
5 would like to speak tonight. And again you don't have to  
6 speak -- uh, there is one back there, okay thank you. Come  
7 on up and make sure you say your name clearly and spell it  
8 out for the court reporter because we don't have it writ end  
9 own for him.

10 MR. EISEN: My name is Don Eisen. I'm a retired  
11 County Commissioner and I trace my bloodlines back to the  
12 revolution. The people that came at that time were  
13 disgusted because the public was taking their rights away  
14 and to me this is exactly what's taking place here.

15 The public is trampling on the rights of the  
16 individual. There are four words that best describe it:  
17 it's all about the money. I'm not opposed to progress.

18 This pipeline in some ways is going to be  
19 progress, probably more so for some than for others. But in  
20 the meantime, the people that are being run over almost to  
21 take care of this progress, it's not correct, and it's  
22 always going to take place. That's just my comment.

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

25 (No response.)

1                   MS. WACHHOLDER: Seeing no hands, I'd like to  
2 thank you all for coming out here tonight and this meeting  
3 is adjourned. Thank you.

4

5                   WHEREUPON MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:59 P.M.

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