

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

2 (6:42 p.m.)

3 MS. SUTER: Good evening and on behalf of the
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC I would like to
5 welcome you all here tonight. This is an environmental
6 scoping meeting for the Atlantic Bridge Project proposed by
7 Algonquin Gas Transmission or "Algonquin".

8 Let the record show that the public scoping
9 meeting in Yorktown Heights, New York began at 6:42 P.M. on
10 May 11, 2015. My name is Maggie Suter and I am the
11 Environmental Project Manager with FERC in the Office of
12 Energy Projects who is managing the Atlantic Bridge Project.

13 With me tonight at the front table is Larry
14 Brown, he is with Natural Resource Group, an environmental
15 consulting firm who is working as a third party contractor
16 to help FERC in preparing the environmental assessment for
17 the project.

18 Also, at the sign-in table up front is Andrea
19 Thornton who is also with NRG. I recognize that some of you
20 here tonight are interested in speaking so I am going to
21 work on minimizing my opening remarks as much as possible.
22 There is an informational handout that looks like this that
23 covers a lot more detail about who FERC is, how are process
24 works, what the proposed facilities are. There's a map in
25 there and there is a flow chart handout. So if you did not

1 get a chance to take one of these we will have them up at
2 the front, feel free to grab one and get some more
3 information about us.

4 With regard to the Atlantic Bridge Project, the
5 FERC is the lead federal agency for the National
6 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA review and the preparation
7 of an environmental assessment. We are currently engaging
8 other agencies to determine what their need for
9 responsibilities and their potential level of interests
10 might be for this project and whether those agencies wish to
11 become a cooperating agency in preparing our environmental
12 document.

13 At this time the Environmental Protection Agency
14 has indicated their intention to be a cooperating agency.
15 The primary purpose of tonight's meeting is to give you an
16 opportunity to comment on the project, or on the scope of
17 environmental issues that you would like to see covered in
18 the EA for the Atlantic Bridge Project.

19 It will help us most if your comments are as
20 specific as possible regarding the potential environmental
21 impacts and reasonable alternatives for the proposed
22 project. These issues would generally focus on the
23 potential for environmental effects, but may also address
24 construction issues, mitigation and the environmental review
25 process as a whole.

1 In addition, this meeting is designed to provide
2 you with an opportunity to meet with Algonquin
3 representatives and get more detailed information about
4 facility locations and construction plans. They were here
5 an hour before the start of this meeting with maps. If you
6 did not have a chance to talk with them or find out and see
7 those maps, I am sure that they will be around after the
8 meeting that you can go up to one of them and check them out
9 a little more closely.

10 I am going to give you a brief overview of the
11 environmental review process, FERC's role in this project
12 and what the planned facilities right now are. Then we will
13 hear from those you planning to speak tonight. If you would
14 like to present comments you need to make sure that you have
15 a numbered ticket from the front.

16 To illustrate how the environmental review
17 process worked, we prepared a flow chart which is in that
18 handout that I showed you and there is also a bigger version
19 of it up front, and there are also copies of that in the
20 NOI. Currently we are near the beginning of our
21 environmental review process.

22 Algonquin has chosen to utility the FERC
23 pre-filing process. The purpose of the pre-filing is to
24 encourage involvement by all interested parties in a manner
25 that allows for the early identification and resolution of

1 environmental issues. As of today no formal application has
2 been filed with FERC. However, the FERC and other agencies
3 have begun to review the project. This is an important
4 facet to understand. During the pre-filing process there is
5 no application for the Commission to consider or to vote on
6 and so there is no mechanism to approve or deny Algonquin's
7 plans at this time.

8 On April 27, 2015 the FERC issued a Notice of
9 Intent or "NOI" to prepare an "EA" or Environmental
10 Assessment for the project which initiated a scoping period.
11 The scoping or comment period will end on June 11, 2015 and
12 we have extra copies of that notice up at the front table.
13 It looks something like this for those who can see all the
14 way up here.

15 During our review of the project we will assemble
16 information from a variety of sources, including Algonquin,
17 the public, other state, federal and local agencies and our
18 own independent analysis and field work. We will analyze
19 this information and prepare and issue an EA.

20 Instructions for submitting comments
21 electronically or by mail can be found in the NOI or at the
22 handout at the sign-in table. It is very important that any
23 comments that you send include our internal docket number
24 for the project. That number is PF15-12. Including that
25 number on any comment that you submit to FERC will ensure

1 that the FERC staff evaluate on a project, receive your
2 comments as soon as possible.

3 Once the scoping period is finished, our next
4 step will be to begin analyzing the project and the issues
5 that have been identified during the scoping period. This
6 will include an examination of the planned facility
7 locations as well as alternative sites. We will assess the
8 project's effects on water bodies and wetlands, vegetation
9 and wildlife, endangered species, cultural resources, soils,
10 land use, transportation and socio-economics, air quality,
11 noise and safety among probably others.

12 When complete our analysis of the potential
13 impacts will be published in an EA with a corresponding
14 comment period. This EA will be mailed to our entire
15 mailing list for the project. Please note because of the
16 size of our mailing list, the EA that you receive in the
17 mail will be on a CD. If you prefer to have a hard copy
18 sent to you, you need to inform us of that.

19 The EA prepared by FERC environmental staff,
20 which I am a part of, will describe the project facilities
21 and the associated environmental impacts, alternatives,
22 mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts and our conclusions
23 and recommendations. However, the EA is not a decision
24 document and does not constitute approval of the project, it
25 merely discloses what the impacts would be if the project

1 were constructed and operated.

2 After that, there are up to five Commissioners at
3 FERC who are responsible for making a determination on
4 whether to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and
5 Necessity to Algonquin for the project. The Commissioners
6 will consider the environmental information from the EA
7 along with non-environmental issues such as engineering,
8 markets and rates, and in making a decision to approve or
9 deny Algonquin's request for a certificate.

10 There is no review of FERC decisions by the
11 President or Congress which maintains FERC's independence as
12 a regulatory agency and providing for fair and unbiased
13 decisions. Some of you tonight may be seeking information
14 about what the Atlantic Bridge Project is. The current
15 project includes 18.1 miles of pipeline in five pieces
16 throughout New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

17 It also includes the addition of compression at
18 two existing compressor stations in Connecticut and one new
19 compressor station in Massachusetts. Another reminder or
20 note that the open house meetings in March, after those
21 meetings Algonquin significantly reduced the size of their
22 planned project -- I'm going to give you a little bit more
23 detail to this area and so the description of the facilities
24 here that I am describing reflect the currently planned
25 facilities and the reduction in scope.

1 So for this area the project includes the
2 replacement of 1.3 miles of existing 26 inch diameter
3 pipeline with a new 42 inch diameter pipeline in the same
4 location in Ramapo Township, New York. The project also
5 includes the replacement of 4 miles of existing 26 inch
6 diameter pipeline with 42 inch diameter pipeline in the same
7 location in Yorktown and Somers, New York. There is no
8 planned compression here in New York.

9 For those of you who may have come tonight who
10 live near Danbury, Connecticut, Algonquin plans to replace
11 2.4 miles of existing 26 inch diameter pipeline with 42 inch
12 diameter pipeline in the same location in Danbury,
13 Connecticut. Algonquin also plans some minor modifications
14 to the existing Yorktown and Danbury metered and regulating
15 stations.

16 As a result of the project reduction in scope,
17 these numbers represent a 3.5 mile reduction from what was
18 presented during the open houses.

19 After our meeting here is adjourned,
20 representatives from Algonquin will be available with
21 project maps and on hand to answer any questions. So we are
22 now going to begin the important part of the meeting where
23 we hear your comments. If you would rather not speak or do
24 not get to say everything that you wanted this evening, you
25 may hand us written comments and there is a pretty form like

1 this up at the sign-in table that you can use to fill them
2 out here and hand them in to one of us, or there are
3 instructions for mailing this in if you wish to do so.

4 There is also a whole bunch of other methods that
5 you can use which are in this handout that describes how to
6 submit them electronically to FERC. Whether you provide
7 your comments tonight verbally, or whether you mail them in
8 or submit them electronically, they will considered by FERC
9 equally, it does not matter one way or the other how you get
10 the comments in, they go into the public record and we
11 consider them equally.

12 All comments tonight verbally and anything mailed
13 into us go on the public record for the project. So for
14 those of you who may not have noticed, we have a
15 transcription service here this evening. They will be
16 recording all comments made. This is being done so that all
17 of your comments and questions can be put into the public
18 record for this project and help us accurately receive your
19 comments when we go back later to review them and dig into
20 the issues.

21 To help the court reporter produce an accurate
22 record of the meeting and help insure that we get through
23 every one who is signed up to speak, I am going to ask you
24 to follow a few ground rules. First, when it is your turn
25 to speak you have to come up to the podium here.

1 There are multiple microphones up here so it is
2 very important that you come up and face us so that all of
3 the different microphones which are both to project your
4 comments to the room but also so that court reporter can
5 capture your comments, so please make sure that you are
6 facing us and speaking into all three of those microphones
7 it looks like that are up there.

8 It is important that when you face us all
9 microphones capture your comments, sorry I'm getting
10 repetitive. All right so to keep this evening flowing, if
11 you wish to speak you received a numbered ticket. We will
12 be going in numbered order. We would like to keep about 3
13 or 4 people on deck prepared to speak so that we can
14 transition to speakers.

15 There are plenty of chairs up here if you can't
16 make your way all the way to the front. So please when we
17 call number 1 -- 2, 3, 4, you know please come down. We are
18 going to kind of hold to sticking to this pretty quickly.
19 If the next number is not ready to go, not sitting close to
20 the front ready to go, we are going to skip to the next
21 number to make sure that we get through everybody this
22 evening.

23 Because you have a numbered ticket, I need to
24 make sure that when you come up here you say your name and
25 you spell your name so that the court reporter can

1 accurately get that information as well. There is one
2 ticket per person and you are not allowed to allot your time
3 to another speaker.

4 Due to the length of the speakers who have
5 requested, we are asking that you please limit your comments
6 to 4 minutes. This will begin after you finish spelling
7 your name for the record. If you have a lot to cover that
8 may go beyond 4 minutes, we ask you to consider summarizing
9 your points, and submitting the additional comments in
10 written form.

11 Also as a reminder, once a topic is raised one
12 time, it is given equal consideration to a topic that is
13 raised, 20, 30, 50 times. We will look into it, regardless
14 of the number of times that a comment is raised. So if that
15 is the case you may want to consider just simply saying I
16 support so-and-so's comment who already came up and spoke.

17 So, to help you with the 4 minutes finally I have
18 a lighted timer up here which you will be able to see from
19 the podium. You will have about 3 minutes and 20 seconds in
20 this green section, it's pretty bright it will shine out for
21 you, and then there will be about 30 seconds in the yellow
22 -- the yellow is your sign to start wrapping up your
23 comments, making your final thoughts.

24 And there's about 10 seconds in red for you to
25 finish your sentence before the buzzer sounds and there is a

1 buzzer on that that hopefully the people towards the front
2 can hear and that is the signal that your time is up and we
3 will be stopping speakers after that buzzer goes on.

4 Lastly, if you use any acronyms I ask that you
5 please define those. If you are too caught up in the moment
6 while speaking, write them down afterwards along with your
7 name and hand them to us so that they can be transcribed
8 properly as well.

9 Everyone please show respect for the person that
10 is speaking. They have 4 minutes and they believe their
11 time is valuable so we don't want anything to interrupt
12 that, whether you agree or disagree with their comments.
13 Please do not interrupt the speaker. I will be the official
14 timekeeper so when you hear that buzzer goes off please
15 don't disrupt the speaker either -- I will make sure to stop
16 them if that's necessary.

17 So I know that everyone wants the opportunity to
18 speak, keep everything respectful and we won't have a
19 problem doing so. For those of you who came here tonight
20 who may be wishing to provide some comments on the Atlantic
21 Bridge Project, I'm sorry -- on the Algonquin Incremental
22 Market Project, I am going to give you just a couple of
23 brief notes about that.

24 The project has received approval by the
25 Commission. There was a 30 day statutory timeline for those

1 wishing to request re-hearing. That time has passed, the
2 parties did request re-hearing and the Commission is
3 considering re-hearing so all of that is pending. Therefore
4 due to ex parte communication and restrictions, we cannot
5 respond to or address any comments about the Algonquin
6 Incremental Market Project.

7 If you wish to provide further comments about
8 that project, the appropriate avenue to do so is by filing
9 comments in that re-hearing docket. Comments tonight about
10 the AIM project will not get your comments under
11 consideration in the AIM docket and will take opportunity
12 away from those wishing to comment on Atlantic Bridge.
13 Please file those comments under AIM.

14 We are ready to call the first speaker so numbers
15 1, 2, 3 come make your way towards the front and we will
16 start with number 1.

17 MR. MOSKOWITZ: Hello, Paul Moskowitz. P-a-u-l
18 M-o-s-k-o-w-i-t-z, PhD PE. My PhD is in nuclear physics. I
19 am a registered professional engineering in the state of
20 Colorado and I have nearly half a century of experience in
21 science and engineering.

22 I am concerned about the radioactive radon decay
23 products which accumulate inside the gas pipeline. I ask
24 for an independent study of the long-lived decay products
25 Lead 210 and Polonium 210 which can be found in the

1 pipeline. I ask that measurements be made and that Spectra
2 present the plan for the proper handling of radioactive
3 contaminated waste.

4 The reason I ask for an independent study is that
5 in the past FERC and presumably Spectra have made materially
6 incorrect statements about this issue. The AIM FEIS says
7 and I'm not talking about the AIM project, I'm talking about
8 this as a reference point. The AIM FEIS which is the FERC
9 document says Polonium 214 quickly decays to stable
10 non-radioactive lead. This is cutting the decay chain in
11 half.

12 I don' t know what alternate universe FERC is in
13 but the one that I live in Polonium 210 goes through several
14 decay stages -- excuse me Polonium 214 goes through several
15 stages and leaves behind Lead 210 which has a 22 year
16 half-life, and Polonium 210 which has a 138 day half-life.
17 These are dangerous carcinogenic materials according to the
18 U.S. EPA.

19 If we risk spilling them, letting them out into
20 the atmosphere as in when the pigging station cleans out the
21 pipeline or when there are blow downs, we risk exposing the
22 public and the workers of Spectra to radioactive products
23 which can cause cancer.

24 I would like to add also that in the AIM FEIS it
25 says explicitly that the half-lives of the radioactive decay

1 products are relatively short under one hour combined. It
2 doesn't add up. 22 years and 138 days does not add up to
3 one hour no matter what kind of math you do.

4 As an added comment I think that the people at
5 Spectra if they made these statements to FERC should be
6 prosecuted for lying to the federal government. I think the
7 people at FERC who accepted these statements are complicit
8 in that lie. That includes U290. You should all resign
9 immediately, thank you.

10 MS. SUTER: Where is number 2? All right thanks.
11 And just really quick before -- just to be clear about my
12 comments earlier. Anyone -- you can feel free to talk about
13 the AIM project, the point of what I was trying to say is
14 that your comments will not be considered under the AIM
15 re-hearing unless they are in that docket and this project
16 is for Atlantic Bridge so they cannot be considered under
17 that project, but you can talk about the AIM project all you
18 want.

19 MR. ASCENCAO: Good evening my name is Anthony
20 Ascencao, it's A-s-c-e-n-c-a-o. I'm the business manager of
21 the Laborer's International Union North American Local
22 Number 60, covering Westchester and Putnam counties. I am
23 here tonight to deliver my strong support for the Atlantic
24 Bridge Project. This project will create good-paying jobs
25 for our membership who live and raise their families in this

1 community and communities throughout Westchester and Putnam
2 counties.

3 The laborers of Local 60 are highly trained,
4 skilled and experienced in natural gas pipeline
5 construction. Safety is the cornerstone of our training.
6 We provide OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 training to all of our
7 members and we are committed to keeping workers and
8 communities safe.

9 Like everyone who lives in the area, our members
10 and their families want the pipeline constructed safely, and
11 to operate with minimal environmental impact. The Atlantic
12 Bridge Project proposes to replace 7.6 miles of existing
13 pipeline in New York and Connecticut within Algonquin's
14 current footprint, therefore minimizing the impacts to the
15 environment in our communities.

16 The Atlantic Bridge Project will provide jobs to
17 local people who take great pride and respect in the
18 environment that they live in. The Algonquin Pipeline
19 system has been operating safely in the Hudson Valley region
20 for over 60 years. The Atlantic Bridge Project is a vital
21 new clean energy infrastructure project designed and
22 proposed to meet the energy demands of the northeast region
23 and will provide much needed additional supplies of clean
24 abundant affordable natural gas to the region.

25 When installed with skilled workers and

1 responsible contractors, we believe that a new energy
2 infrastructure means a safer infrastructure for our
3 communities. The laborers of local 60 live, work and raise
4 their families in the local communities. I urge FERC to
5 approve the Atlantic Bridge Project and keep our
6 infrastructure strong and vital.

7 Our communities will be better, stronger and
8 cleaner once construction has been completed. The
9 hard-working, highly skilled and trained men and women of
10 the Laborer's Local 60 stand ready to take on this vital
11 energy infrastructure project and take it and get it done on
12 time, safety and with respect to our environment.

13 So again I urge you to please approve this
14 project so that we can get to work doing what we have been
15 trained to do. Thank you for letting me speak tonight.

16 MS. SUTER: Number 3? So for those who haven't
17 done -- I'm hoping that 4, 5 and 6 are already up here.

18 MR. LINDBERG: Hi my name is Erik Lindberg.
19 E-r-i-k L-i-n-d-b-e-r-g. I am a resident of Peekskill, New
20 York. I have several questions regarding the scoping
21 process and questions that I think need to be answered for
22 the safety and security of the people who live in this area
23 or anywhere near the pipeline.

24 First of all basic stuff, maintaining road and
25 utilities access for residence along the right-of-way and I

1 also would wonder if we could extend the grace area that we
2 consider, not just those adjacent to the pipeline but the
3 entire community around the pipeline and its associated
4 facilities. I myself am not adjacent to it and so I
5 received very little information about my property until the
6 process for the previous project, AIM was already under way.

7 I think that some consideration should be paid to
8 the communities and towns around the infrastructure and not
9 just the rights of landowners next to adjacent to the
10 infrastructure.

11 Of course please examine the air quality effects
12 on these communities around the compressor stations,
13 metering stations and the effects of valve emissions during
14 normal operations, during planned and emergency blow downs
15 and the release of fugitive emissions which has not been
16 discussed in any of the proceedings that I have been to in
17 the last year.

18 There was a leaking gasket at the Somer's
19 metering station that was left to leak for an unknown number
20 of days according to Spectra representatives at a Yorktown
21 board meeting last month. It was long enough for residents
22 to report the strong smell of gas in the area. I have heard
23 no one actually assessed the dangers and the hazards
24 associated with this kind of activity other than to say that
25 it happens frequently.

1 If it does happen that frequently, if it is a
2 part of normal operations, it should be considered in any
3 environmental analysis of the project. How often does it
4 happen and how does it factor in and I also have concerns
5 similar to Mr. Moskowitz. We are moving PCB's, Lead,
6 Polonium, any other contaminants from the pipeline when it
7 comes out of the ground -- we have received confusing and
8 often contradictory information about how they remove the
9 pipes, how are the pipes removed from the area if
10 contaminants are found, do they or do they not do Nitrogen
11 blasting, if it comes out near a wetland or water feature,
12 do they have to seal the pipes before they cart them away
13 and will residents be notified if contaminants are found in
14 the pipe?

15 Are they just going to complete the construction
16 and walk away and we have to wonder if the surrounding
17 neighborhood is now contaminated with PCB's? Do we have to
18 do our own testing? There really should be a third party
19 baseline assessment of any of these hazards.

20 And finally my biggest concern is what is the
21 criteria for using an environmental assessment as proposed
22 to preparing an environmental impact statement? Are they
23 different processes? Is one more rigorous than the other?
24 It is pretty clear from recent statements from Spectra and
25 Algonquin that the Atlantic Bridge facilities fall either

1 within or directly adjacent to the AIM study corridor.

2 We are doing -- now we are going to be scoping,
3 surveying and review the Atlantic Bridge and that is
4 scheduled to take place during the same time frame that they
5 proposed during this upcoming AIM construction if it is
6 approved. The facilities are clearly independent. At the
7 same Yorktown hearing last month Spectra rep's told the
8 Board that the pigging station proposed for the terminus of
9 the 42 inch segment in Yorktown, installed as part of AIM,
10 would never be used and instead would just be moved down
11 the line to wherever it ends up being Atlantic Bridge. Well
12 how is that not interdependency? That is explicitly a
13 designing a modular facility to stay at one place and they
14 are never going to use you so move it right down to the next
15 one.

16 It is appalling that for the last year they have
17 been calling these two projects clearly not linked and yet
18 every single time we grill them on it, oh yeah they are
19 completely dependent upon each other. They won't build the
20 Atlantic Bridge if AIM doesn't get completed.

21 They should be considered as part of the same
22 EIS, they are illegally segmented as presently proposed and
23 it undermines public confidence that we don't get a clear
24 picture of the true environmental impact.

25 MR. REILLY: Good evening my name is Thomas

1 Reilly. My family has been in this area for 60 years in
2 Yorktown. I saw it from when I was a little kid nothing but
3 corn fields and now it is what it is and that whole time
4 this pipeline has been buried in my backyard. I live 300
5 feet away from it. So I am here to show my support for
6 replacing this pipeline.

7 It can't go away, we can only upgrade it and make
8 it better. We owe it to our neighbors in the Northeast, we
9 don't want to be the weak link in this vital artery, it has
10 to happen. The sooner it happens the safer it will happen.
11 I am also a Local 60 Laborer's Union member and a taxpayer
12 in this area, so aside from my concern about my children and
13 the pipeline itself, I would like to see all of my brothers
14 and sisters working on this project.

15 So that's all I have to say, thank you very much.

16 MR. RIBEIRO: How are you doing, my name is Roy
17 Ribeiro. I'm also a Local 60 member -- proud member of the
18 Union Laborers. We need the work to build this pipeline.
19 We will keep talking about how much we need this stuff.
20 Well we need it, the pipe has been buried for over 60 years.
21 We are supplying this material up and down the east coast.

22 If this pipe goes we have nothing. How are we
23 going to support it? How are we going to build it? Then
24 there's always a rush that we will get it done. We need to
25 get it going, we need to move, we need to do it. Not

1 because we need the work, but we need to do it. All of
2 these people depend on it.

3 Well everything has a natural resource -- this is
4 a natural resource that can be very fortunate for us. A lot
5 of people don't want it in their backyard. I live in
6 Cortlandt. I pay taxes just like everybody else. I live
7 here and I'm doing it here, so I want to get this pipeline
8 approved, thank you.

9 MS. SUTER: Hang on one second. So you are
10 number 6. I'm hoping 7, 8 and 9 make your way to the front,
11 keep it rolling.

12 MS. DUVAL: Good evening my name is Misti
13 M-i-s-t-i Duvall D-u-v-a-l-l and I'm a staff attorney with
14 River Keeper. River Keeper is a member supported watchdog
15 organization dedicated to defending the Hudson River and its
16 tributaries and the drinking water supply of 9 million New
17 York City and Hudson Valley residents.

18 I will be following up with comprehensive written
19 comments on the scope for this project so tonight I am going
20 to confine my comments to three main points. The first is
21 that there are several significant environmental impacts
22 likely to result from the Atlantic Bridge Project, a number
23 of which I am sure you will hear about tonight, meaning that
24 the project needs to be evaluated comprehensively in an
25 environmental impact statement, rather than an environmental

1 assessment.

2 In New York alone the entire project is located
3 within the Hudson River watershed and the New York City
4 drinking water supply watershed. In particular 4 miles of
5 construction will be occurring in the Croton watershed which
6 is an impaired portion of the New York City drinking water
7 supply watershed that needs to be carefully protected in
8 order to avoid further degradation.

9 The second point is that we would like to make
10 sure that water quality impacts are comprehensively
11 evaluated in an environmental impact statement. This
12 includes an evaluation of storm water run-off and the likely
13 impacts of storm water run-off not only on adjacent streams
14 and wetlands and downstream water bodies, but particularly
15 within the New York City watershed and evaluation of the
16 likely impacts of construction on reservoirs in the
17 watershed that will be receiving points for any run-off
18 caused by the project.

19 We also want to make sure that the environmental
20 impact statement, excuse me -- contains a comprehensive
21 evaluation of not only direct impacts to wetlands, but
22 impacts to 100 foot wetland buffer areas. Degradation of
23 the buffer areas also can impair wetland function which can
24 degrade water quality, particularly again within the already
25 impaired Croton watershed.

1 There should also be an evaluation of trenchless
2 crossing methods for all streams, water bodies and wetlands
3 within the project area and in particular within the New
4 York City watershed.

5 Finally, by conducting or announcing its
6 intention to conduct an independent and environmental
7 assessment for the Atlantic Bridge Project, FERC is
8 continuing to impermissibly segment evaluation of this
9 comprehensive upgrade to the Algonquin Pipeline system.

10 The Atlantic Bridge Project is the second of
11 three planned updates to the Algonquin Pipeline's system.
12 First is the Algonquin Incremental Market or AIM project,
13 the third is the Access Northeast project. All three of
14 these projects should be evaluated together comprehensively
15 in an environmental impact statement, thank you.

16 MS. BRACKETT: My name is Rosanne Brackett.
17 R-o-s-a-n-n-e B-r-a-c-k-e-t-t. I'm a resident of Yorktown
18 Heights and a mother to two young children. My original
19 plan was to come here and use my formatives to speak about
20 the health and safety concerns that this project poses to
21 this town and especially the people who live directly on the
22 right-of-way.

23 I was also going to comment on the environmental
24 impacts that will occur all along the route of this natural
25 gas pipeline, affecting roads, parks, wetlands and air

1 quality but I don't think FERC cares about any of that. I
2 think the whole thing is a sham. You have the word federal
3 in your title but you are not the federal government, nor do
4 you regulate anything.

5 You are an entity comprised of former oil and gas
6 representatives who are licensed to issue permits. You
7 allow public comment only to appease the public and make
8 them think that they are being heard. After their comments
9 are over, you overlook any and all environmental concerns
10 and give your rubber stamp of approval.

11 Never once have you denied an application. You
12 have in fact rendered all the comments made by homeowners,
13 environmental experts and opposing elected officials
14 useless. It's important for the people to understand this
15 fact and to know what they are up against.

16 Last week you decided that you needed more time
17 above the 30 day allotted time frame to consider a
18 re-hearing request that was filed to stop the AIM project,
19 an expansion of this same pipeline, yet days later awarded a
20 Notice to Proceed to Spectra to begin work on this six area
21 wear yards.

22 If you were truly an impartial, an independent
23 organization as you claim, you would make your decision on
24 the AIM pipeline re-hearing request so that the opposing
25 organizations could do what we need to do, which is take you

1 to court. Perhaps in a court of law we would be able to
2 prove that once and for all expanding this pipeline next to
3 Indian Point, 450 feet away from an elementary school and in
4 some cases 50 feet away from a large amount of homes right
5 here in Yorktown is not inconsequential.

6 Perhaps then Spectra would be forced to have the
7 true independent risk assessment that shows that putting
8 millions of people at risk so that they can make an enormous
9 profit is not okay. Perhaps then Spectra will have to face
10 facts that reducing the scope of the Atlantic Bridge project
11 will not get them quicker approvals, this is what they are
12 trying to do.

13 They filed their project description on March
14 23rd and eight days later reduced the scope of the project
15 from 36.6 miles to 18.1. They also reduced the dekatherms.
16 Was this so that they could get away with not doing a full
17 draft environmental impact statement? Was it to lessen the
18 likelihood of being questioned about illegal segmentation or
19 whether to temporarily appease the residents of Somers where
20 a planned pigging station was going to be located?

21 It all seems to be an extremely convenient way to
22 shirk their responsibilities and make it that much easier
23 for FERC to look the other way. This sham needs to be
24 exposed because you are putting everyday people into harm's
25 way and there is no more people left to look out for them.

1 MR. REICH: My name is Stephen Reich.
2 S-t-e-p-h-e-n R-e-i-c-h, I represent Laborer's Local 754 in
3 Rockland County and I am speaking out for myself on behalf
4 of the 350 members of Local 754 and our brothers and sisters
5 here at Local 60.

6 This project is a very low impact environmentally
7 and other ways due to the majority of it being done in
8 existing right-of-ways. A project such as this only
9 improves safety of the existing infrastructure that has been
10 under your feet for the last 60 years, giving you the gas
11 that all of us use right now while increasing their capacity
12 and ability of Spectra to provide much needed energy for
13 people and businesses in the Northeast.

14 Look at the last two winters and we can only know
15 what's coming. Also it increases Spectra's ability to serve
16 electrical producers during peak usage times when we have
17 extreme heat and cold and it's already taxed out or maxed
18 out electrical grid. It's a win/win.

19 From personal experience and through experience
20 of our membership we know firsthand how the quality and
21 safety and the craftsmanship of these pipelines work and
22 these improvements. Spectra does everything in their power
23 to make sure that they minimize these impacts and we have
24 already gone over as to how that goes over.

25 From an economic standpoint this project will

1 help keep natural gas prices at affordable levels for
2 individuals and helping businesses have reliable energy
3 sources and alter the competitive global market.

4 It will also put the temporary construction jobs
5 that are created will provide much needed man hours for the
6 local union men and trades women that are here tonight and
7 many other ones. Hours that provide middle class living
8 while providing health and retirement security for hundreds
9 of local families, not to mention the tax benefits for
10 everybody.

11 Spectra is committed to the union and the local
12 people in Rockland and West Chester which they have served
13 here for 60 years without incident, proving many times that
14 they have been good neighbors and they do everything in
15 their power to take care of any issues.

16 We believe in the FERC process, we believe they
17 are independent, we absolutely know that -- especially if
18 you are from the oil and gas industry you have been
19 knowledge than most. We also understand that FERC's number
20 one goal is to balance the nation's energy need with the
21 environmental impact in a realistic way, not from just some
22 made up things. So our first speaker if he is worried about
23 radon, if somebody doesn't have a radon mitigation system in
24 their basement, they have bigger troubles and if they do
25 then they are going to jail with you because they are

1 venting it to the outside.

2 So you know these are things that people don't
3 take into account. As far as pig launchers from the other
4 gentleman, it's a piece of pipe. It's something that you
5 cut off and you move on and you go. If you are in the
6 industry you know what it is -- it is not a station, it's
7 something you make and you launch pigs and you receive it.

8 It's connected from one machine to another.
9 Learn about the industry, learn what has to be done before
10 you make comments and that's the problem. People make
11 comments before they know what the hell they are talking
12 about. Every single one of these answers are answered in
13 the FERC docket in the draft environmental impact
14 statements, in the questions that all you have to do is send
15 them to FERC electronically and they will answer the
16 question, either Spectra or FERC themselves.

17 If you don't like the answer you move on. As far
18 as that -- well when I say move on we move on in terms of
19 finding a better answer. As far as our public officials
20 have just catered to the environmental people or to anybody
21 else that is against something just for votes, they do that
22 after the fact because they have no jobs.

23 Other than that have a nice night.

24 MS. SUTER: Number 9, number 9, number 9.

25 MS. ALLEN: Hello I'm Judy Allen, I live in

1 Putnam Valley that's J-u-d-y A-l-l-e-n. I'm not used to
2 dealing with FERC. I have only been used to dealing with
3 the NRC for the last oh I don't know about 30 years so I'm
4 kind of new here and I appreciate all the guys who need
5 jobs, I really do.

6 MS. SUTER: Please face forward so all the mics
7 can capture your comments.

8 MS. ALLEN: Okay so that said I don't have any
9 prepared comments, I just feel that it's criminally insane
10 to come up with a project if you are Spectra and you didn't
11 say anything about Spectra. You didn't use the word Spectra
12 at all in your introduction. You talked about the
13 Algonquin, Algonquin -- I don't know if there is any
14 relation but I think to devise a project that pumps in 42
15 inch pipes through the Northeast corridor from wherever to
16 Boston or wherever it is going is criminally insane and
17 negligent and I think we are asking for trouble.

18 I would just like to know if FERC is already
19 aware that there is a convergence of two earthquake faults
20 in the Hudson River about a mile from Indian Point, aside
21 which you want to or Spectra or Algonquin wants to put 42
22 inch pipes with fracked high-pressured gas next to the spent
23 fuel pools which are not protected by containment, they are
24 just in warehouse-type buildings.

25 So if you put that all together and there is

1 something called Murphy's Law which states if something can
2 go wrong it will go wrong. If you put that all together
3 then I think that you -- if you give your approval to this
4 project then you are criminally negligent because the
5 corporation that moves to do it, thank you.

6 MS. SUTER: Number 10. All right guys. Before
7 number 10 whose next -- you're number 10? Okay before you
8 speak, let me be clear. We want to get through all of the
9 speakers this evening. If there is another interruption I
10 will have to close the meeting early and your only other
11 opportunity is to provide them electronically, okay? Number
12 10.

13 MS. WEININGER: My name is Ellen Weininger.
14 W-e-i-n-i-n-g-e-r. I am with Grass Roots Environmental
15 Education, a science based environmental health non-profit.
16 I am here today to ask you what the purpose of this scoping
17 meeting is. I attended the scoping meeting for the previous
18 Spectra Energy Algonquin Incremental Market Pipeline Project
19 and requested an independent transparent and thorough risk
20 assessment and cumulative impacts for that project and none
21 was done.

22 So to assess the project's risks Entergy hired a
23 former employee of the New York State Power Authority on the
24 plans to prior owners before Entergy bought it and Entergy
25 sent the assessment to the NRC in 2014 and made it public.

1 In November either Paul Blanche, a nuclear power expert
2 submitted a petition to the NRC requesting that the
3 Commission take an enforcement action against NRG for
4 providing inaccurate and incomplete information to the NRC
5 requiring that the company explain itself.

6 My research, according to Blanche questions the
7 qualifications and the knowledge of risk assessment, nuclear
8 regulation and natural gas transmission failures. Richard
9 Cooperwitz a pipeline engineer and safety expert stated the
10 safety evaluation and analysis for the Indian Point Nuclear
11 Power Plant submitted by Entergy concerning the risk
12 associated with the 42 inch pipeline is seriously deficient
13 and inadequate.

14 He elaborates further in a letter, "Entergy's
15 document contains numerous errors that are either an attempt
16 to deceive decision-makers or reflect an incredible lack of
17 pipeline experience in appreciating the real risks
18 associated with a large 42 inch gas transmission pipeline
19 rupture in a very sensitive area." A 42 inch pipeline, he
20 emphasized "is not like a 24, 26 or 30 inch one. Any
21 attempt to dismiss such a large pipeline as similar is
22 extremely irresponsible."

23 Pipelines don't explode, they rupture and when a
24 pipe ruptures said Mr. Cooperwitz, usually it will take out
25 a big segment of the pipeline and leave a big gap. A pipe

1 with a large open space on either side of it which there are
2 two broken pipe ends trading gas, a central error in the
3 entities NRC approved document is that for modeling a
4 potential pipeline rupture at Indian Point used old
5 Environmental Protection Agency computer program called
6 Aloha, which the EPA itself had explicitly forbidden for use
7 in situations like this.

8 It cannot be used to model gas released from a
9 pipe that is broken in the middle and is leaking from both
10 ends. The NRC assumed that a total pipe rupture would occur
11 in only 1% of pipeline accidents, but according to Paul
12 Blanche references accompanying the Entergy document clearly
13 state that total ruptures occur in 20% of such accidents.

14 Paul Blanche says that NRC has submitted the odds
15 of a pipeline rupture, triggering a nuclear meltdown as 7 in
16 1 hundred billion years, an acceptable risk level according
17 to the Commission's regulations. When he recalculated the
18 risk based on 20% accident figures, the pipeline size and
19 the velocity of the gas within it, he found the risk to be 1
20 in 1,000 years. This, he states is an unacceptable
21 probability and a clear violation of NRC regulations.

22 The most fundamental question for Mr. Cooperwitz
23 and Mr. Blanche is whether in the event of a pipeline
24 rupture, the nuclear reactors at Indian Point could safely
25 and securely shut down. Someone needs to demonstrate that

1 would not be a problem and so far no one has done that.

2 Additional remarks will be submitted but in
3 summation I will say that --

4 MS. SUTER: I'm sorry your time is up. Time is
5 up. Number 11 you are now up. I am going to be clear one
6 more time. Compared to the previous project there is extra
7 time here, given the number of speakers that we had. You
8 have four minutes instead of three. If you can't get your
9 comments completed in the time you may submit them in
10 written form or electronically to FERC.

11 If anybody else goes over time we will be forced
12 to shut down the meeting early and I want to make sure that
13 everyone here who wants to prepare comments on the
14 Atlantic Bridge Project has an opportunity to do so. Please
15 be respectful of all of the other speakers in this room and
16 give them their opportunities to speak. Number 11?

17 MS. WHETSEL: Okay this will be short. Okay my
18 name is Wendy Whetsel. W-h-e-t-s-e-l and I'm a Councilwoman
19 in Putnam Valley. I believe that it is the duty of an
20 elected official to protect the health and safety of all of
21 its constituents and understanding an expanded pipeline is
22 not necessarily going to protect the health and safety as we
23 know the gas transmission by nature is not safe and it is
24 not healthy.

25 Since 2001, according to the Wall Street Journal,

1 there have been over 1,400 pipeline spills and/or accidents.
2 This is commonplace, this is not unusual so we have to make
3 the assumption that moving forward, this is going to happen
4 and when this does happen it destroys property, it destroys
5 life, it destroys the healthy environment that we need to
6 live in.

7 And I really would like to ask FERC to certainly
8 consider the health and safety of all live here on this
9 planet as opposed to just being interested in profit-driven
10 projects and we need to really be moving in a direction of
11 more of clean renewable energy because as I said we know by
12 the nature of gas that this is not safe and this is not
13 healthy, thank you.

14 MS. SUTER: Number 12? Are they up here? 13,
15 14, 15. I'm saying to get down up here, 13, 14, 15 we don't
16 want to wait for you to get into the aisle, make your way
17 up. All right number 13.

18 MS. CLAIR: Paula Clair. P-a-u-l-a C-l-a-i-r.
19 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC is a federal
20 agency right? And it is staffed by federal employees right?
21 Wrong. FERC is not a federal agency, it is a Commission
22 funded by the energy industry and staffed by industry
23 personnel. One of FERC's stated goals is safe, reliable,
24 secure and efficient infrastructure.

25 FERC fails on the safe infrastructure goal since

1 it routinely approves siting of huge gas pipelines 50 feet
2 or less from homes whereas the blast radius greatly exceeds
3 that if the pipeline burst. Who could feel safe in that
4 house? Especially considering the large number of gas
5 pipeline accidents in recent years and why is this legal?

6 Also not safe -- FERC approves siting the AIM
7 pipeline at Indian Point Nuclear Plant less than 120 feet
8 from critical infrastructure including cooling equipment for
9 the reactor and the spent fuel. FERC dismissed warnings
10 from pipeline and nuclear experts and from the Director of
11 the National Center for Disaster Preparedness who wrote that
12 this project presents a "real risk of major disaster with
13 profound long-term impact on the region."

14 FERC ignored pleas from experts, elected
15 officials and others for an independent in-depth risk
16 analysis for Indian Point. FERC endangers this entire
17 region as far away as New York City. FERC wrongly dismissed
18 expert allegations of illegal segmentation at AIM even
19 though segmentation evidence at AIM and now in Atlantic
20 Bridge is parallel to the illegal segmentation lawsuit
21 brought by the Delaware River Keeper which FERC lost in
22 2014.

23 The law is clear, why is FERC not abiding by the
24 law? Atlantic Bridge is an extension of AIM and connects
25 with a third planned pipeline that leads to an export

1 terminal. The average outcomes of these projects affect the
2 same region -- the one where we live -- and should be
3 evaluated in an environmental impact statement as one
4 project.

5 FERC's failure to do this clearly shows that our
6 safety is not their priority. Atlantic Bridge and AIM
7 increase air pollution and higher toxic emissions at
8 compressor stations, blow downs that shoot concentrated
9 toxins directly into our air and pigging stations where
10 radioactive materials are handled in open air. Our water
11 quality is threatened by hundreds of thousands of trees and
12 destruction of wetlands which both filter our water. It is
13 disgraceful that ordinary Americans and local government
14 representatives have no rights to control environmental
15 hazards and other dangers in their own back yards.

16 Rather, FERC and the corporations who pay their
17 salaries get to decide that. There is something
18 fundamentally wrong and immoral with this system, it cannot
19 continue. Okay I have some extra time and I would like to
20 mention that people who are homeowners along the pipeline
21 are in -- they are damned if they do and they are damned if
22 they don't because if FERC enables eminent domain then their
23 property is -- they don't have rights to their own property
24 and if they voluntarily agree to have their property passed
25 by the pipeline, then if there is an accident they are

1 liable as well as the company Spectra for any damage that
2 could occur.

3 In addition mortgage companies have written that
4 they will recall mortgages or not allow further mortgages in
5 pipeline residences, thank you.

6 MS. SUTER: 14?

7 MS. SIEGEL: 14 yes. Excuse me my name is Susan
8 Siegel S (as in Sam) - I-E-G-E-L. I am a Yorktown resident
9 and a Councilwoman on the Downtown Board, however I am here
10 tonight speaking as an individual and not as a member of the
11 town board. It is my hope and anticipation that the town
12 board will submit written comments by the by June 11th
13 deadline.

14 I would like to devote most of my time to one
15 major concern and that's FERC's decision to begin the
16 environmental review of Atlantic Bridge with an
17 environmental assessment or EA as opposed to an
18 environmental impact statement or EIS. I will leave it to
19 other speakers to comment on specific subjects they believe
20 should be included in the scoping document.

21 According to NEPA's regulations EA's are concise
22 and brief documents that are designed primarily to help FERC
23 determine if a project will result in significant impacts to
24 the environment or if a fuller, more detailed, more
25 comprehensive EIS will be required. There can be no

1 question, no doubt that the Atlantic Bridge Project will
2 have very significant impacts on the town of Yorktown and
3 its residents, far more significant than the AIM Project for
4 which FERC required both the DEIS and FEIS.

5 I'm asking FERC to skip the EA step and proceed
6 directly to require an EIS for the Atlantic Bridge and to
7 use the comments from this scoping -- comments from the EA
8 scoping as a scoping for the EIS. There is no need to wait
9 for an EA to be submitted and reviewed to know without any
10 doubt that Atlantic Bridge will have significant impacts on
11 the environment.

12 The Atlantic Bridge Project may have been scaled
13 down in size since the original pre-filing but the reduction
14 in miles of pipeline and dekatherms of gas has not
15 eliminated the significant impacts that the remaining
16 project will have. Atlantic Bridge will cross through and
17 impact the heart of Yorktown. It will impact thousands of
18 residents. It will involve construction through the back
19 yards of hundreds of homes. It will impact two schools. It
20 will destruct traffic, both residential and commercial along
21 the town's major north/south roads.

22 Atlantic Bridge will go through a state of the
23 art multi-million dollar sports complex that's less than 5
24 years old as well as impact other town parks and
25 recreational areas. It will impact state and town wetlands

1 that feed into the drinking water supply for 9 million New
2 York City and Westchester residents. It will cross a major
3 trout stream, it will impact air and noise quality both
4 during construction and post-construction.

5 It will exacerbate existing storm water problems.
6 It will destroy habitat, the flora fauna. If these aren't
7 significant impacts I don't know what are. It doesn't make
8 sense for FERC to go through an abbreviated EA review first
9 and then require an EIS that will go over the same ground
10 but in greater detail. It would be a waste of everyone's
11 time -- Spectra, FERC and the public.

12 I also believe that a scoping document should
13 have more pre-construction baseline data. There is no way
14 FERC can evaluate whether a project's negative impacts can
15 be avoided or lessened without being able to compare pre and
16 post construction conditions. For example, FERC should
17 require pre-construction documentation such as photographs
18 of the homes within 50 feet of the limits of disturbance in
19 order to determine if the proposed mitigation will
20 adequately deal with the impacts to homeowners of the
21 construction noise, dust, lasting vibrations, erosion and
22 sedimentation.

23 A second data-driven example is storm water.
24 Without detailed pre-condition baseline documentations how
25 can FERC assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures

1 during and after construction, thank you.

2 MS. SUTER: Number 16? 15, I'm sorry I'm off
3 one. Thank you.

4 MR. LEWIS: Good evening my name is Kenny Lewis,
5 L-e-w-i-s. I am a proud member of Laborers Local 754 in
6 Rockland County. I am here tonight to deliver my strong
7 support for the Atlantic Bridge Project, a vital new clean
8 energy infrastructure project that will create hundreds of
9 new jobs, economic activity and additional tax revenue for
10 our communities.

11 The Algonquin Pipeline system has been operating
12 safely in the Hudson Valley Region for over 60 years. The
13 Atlantic Bridge project is designated and proposed to meet
14 the energy demands of the Northeast region and will provide
15 much needed additional supplies of clean, abundant,
16 affordable, supplies of natural gas to the region by
17 November of 2017. The project is also designated to meet or
18 exceed all rigorous federal safety regulations.

19 We must modernize and strengthen our energy
20 infrastructure to secure our nation's energy future with
21 clean, affordable supplies of reliable natural gas. This
22 expansion work on the Atlantic Bridge Project will be
23 performed by our team of trained union professionals who are
24 experts in building pipelines, installing gas infrastructure
25 and completing our job safely and on time.

1 As the Atlantic Bridge Project input process
2 begins we know Algonquin Gas transmission professionals will
3 conduct the same thorough, transparent and respectable
4 communication and outreach to our elected officials,
5 residents and community members as they do with all of their
6 projects.

7 The laborers urge FERC to approve the Atlantic
8 Bridge Project, the winter has shown us once again just how
9 vulnerable our energy grid is, all the more reason to keep
10 our infrastructure strong and vital, thank you.

11 MS. KUPERSMITH: My name is Anne A-n-n-e
12 Kupersmith K-u-p-e-r-s-m-i-t-h. I'm a resident and
13 homeowner in the Maple Brook Development and the gas line
14 goes right behind our house. I share the concerns of others
15 about the effects of the new pipeline on Indian Point and
16 other aspects of the environment. In addition we are
17 concerned about two evergreens and four hardwood trees,
18 maple, elm and ash inside our property line as indicated by
19 the gas company's own flags and stakes.

20 Four of these are very tall, about twice the
21 height of the building. A smaller cherry tree now in bloom
22 is one we purchased soon after moving here and planted right
23 next to our balcony at the gas company's request and our
24 expense away from the easement.

25 Although the company's stakes and flags indicate

1 that these trees are on our land and not in the easement, we
2 are worried that excavation could damage the tree's roots
3 and health. They could thus become a safety hazard to
4 neighbors in our building and others on both sides of the
5 easement. We would like some assurance that excavator's
6 caution will avoid such root damage, thank you for your
7 consideration of this matter.

8 MS. SUTER: 17? 18, 19, 20 there's like two rows
9 of empty seats here, come on up and be ready.

10 MS. HAVENS: Hi my name is Rachel Havens. I
11 traveled down from Woodstock, New York.

12 MS. SUTER: Will you spell your name for the
13 record?

14 MS. HAVENS: R-a-c-h-e-l H-a-v-e-n-s. I've been
15 following the AIM/Algonquin Pipeline for some time, really
16 not enough to even be able to scope myself the tiniest bit
17 of what's happening here so the idea that any kind of -- I
18 understand maybe your -- I would like to know why it is
19 being segmented because what it looks like when segmented
20 actions are taken, it doesn't look good to the public, it
21 doesn't feel -- we don't feel safe, we don't feel like we
22 are actually getting a full environmental review.

23 So that frightens me. There's a fire -- there's
24 a fire this weekend at Indian Point. We are looking at 24
25 minutes of safety barrier which the -- if I am not mistaken

1 it's pretty much supposed to be like 3 hours-worth of burn
2 time before you can get to the core right? We have 23
3 minutes worth of barrier here.

4 So we are talking about high impact, high
5 pressured gas lines going past I understand we are not
6 really supposed to be talking about AIM but because this is
7 a segmented action I get to right because it is all part of
8 the same big picture.

9 I have a child -- I came here with young people
10 who are frightened. When you see smoke coming out of a
11 nuclear power plant at the same time as there has been some
12 rubberstamps for something so ludicrous. I understand that
13 there are many jobs here on the line -- we can see the labor
14 movement is kind of -- they don't really like that we are
15 here, they don't really seem -- it seems like we are looking
16 at money on both sides.

17 We are looking at people afraid of losing money
18 via their jobs. I wouldn't wish even with all of this
19 hostility, I wouldn't wish any of the possible impacts on
20 their families and their children. I don't wish benzene
21 poison on people either but apparently that's what you get
22 when you do that kind of job for that many years.

23 I'm just here to say please consider a full
24 environmental impact review. Misti Duvall I think is her
25 name from River Keeper, I would like to support everything

1 that she had to say. Susan Siegel, her name I caught her as
2 well and probably just about every other person here who
3 opposes a fast-tracking of this project, I'm here to bring
4 my voice all the way, almost two hours from Woodstock.

5 And I will follow up with written comment as
6 well, thank you.

7 MS. FERRIS: Hi name name is Aidan Ferris.
8 F-e-r-r-i-s and my first name is A-i-d-a-n. And I'm here to
9 represent an organization called Earth Guardians New York
10 which is a youth based non-profit that helps activate the
11 youth to rise up and protect the earth, air, water and
12 atmosphere so that our generation and those to follow will
13 inherit a healthy, just and sustainable planet.

14 This increase of fracking infrastructure and
15 transport facilities and pipelines is really dangerous and I
16 would like to second what Rachel said, it's really scary for
17 the youth because we are not just looking at not having any
18 jobs when we are older, we are looking at not having a
19 planet that can sustain our way of life and by increasing
20 even if you are cutting down on the mileage that this
21 project would bring through in pipeline infrastructure, you
22 are still increasing the diameter that a pipeline is
23 carrying from 36 inches to 42 inches, that's a pretty big
24 increase and if it's high-pressured fracked gas then that is
25 more likely to explode.

1 Like the woman said earlier, Murphy's Law and we
2 are not in a position with climate change to take these
3 sorts of risks. I think that we need to have job expansion
4 and renewable energy, things that can really offer a safe
5 and sustainable planet for the future generations because it
6 is not just our jobs, or the profit of big oil industries
7 that is at risk, it is our entire lives and the assurance
8 that we will even be able to drink the water in 20 years.

9 So I really urge FERC to do a full environmental
10 impact assessment for the youth of this state and for this
11 nation because we need to realize that this is not the
12 impacts on human health are very important but we also need
13 to understand that we are living in an eco-system and that
14 implies that our health is directly affected and a part of
15 the environmental eco-system and what we do to our planet is
16 what we do to ourselves.

17 So even though there may not be fracking in New
18 York, the infrastructure that brings and transports the oil
19 fracked gas which is still not safe in the compressor
20 stations which still pollute the environment and the
21 atmosphere. We just really need to make sure that the youth
22 are being considered and what our future is going to be
23 like, over -- we want to know that FERC holds the lives of
24 the youth in this state and this area over the profit of
25 large oil industries, thank you.

1 MS. SUTER: 19? 20, 21, 22 I hope you are up in
2 these front rows, thank you.

3 MR. PATEL: My name is Vishnu Patel. V-i-s-h-n-u
4 P-a-t-e-l. I am a Councilman in Yorktown and I will read a
5 statement from the town board we will present here but
6 really my biggest concern is you know what is in the gas
7 line is not just a gas, is it a solid, liquid gas, it is all
8 -- and when you open the gas line for whatever reason,
9 either a rupture or not, all of these types of matter goes
10 into the air, water and the ground and has the potential to
11 contaminate.

12 The water is the most precious liquid a human
13 being needs. There are more than 10 million people in New
14 York City, New York area dependent on the water. If there
15 is no water we will not be here in New York state and in New
16 York City we will not be here so I urge the FERC to make
17 sure that they do the right thing.

18 The other thing the homeowners those who are
19 living around the gas line, this gas line made and put in
20 the ground more than 50 years ago there was no law, no
21 zoning court and now people are you know, they are really
22 scared to death because by increasing the volume and the
23 pressure and basically the gas companies they are putting in
24 miles and miles of gas line, large quantities of gas into
25 the ground without nowhere to the building or large tank.

1 This is really the main thing in my understanding.

2 Why do you need a bigger line? They are not
3 going to give us 1 cubic foot of gas for New York, I don't
4 think so. Maybe they are going to sell it so what I would
5 like the other thing -- a government official and the rest
6 of the people use this sample and be safe, thank you.

7 MS. VANN: Hello my name is Nancy Vann. That's V
8 (as in Victor) -a-n-n. Nancy the regular way. I have lived
9 in New York City for many years, now I live in Peekskill.
10 But when I was in New York City one of the things that you
11 would see in the street was people playing three card monte
12 or shell games where they would hide their little pea under
13 a shell and move them around so that you had no idea where
14 it was going to wind up.

15 And I feel like that's where the things that
16 Spectra is doing with this particular project. They started
17 out with AIM. Then they decided they were going to have a
18 large Atlantic Bridge Project and they have decided to have
19 a smaller Atlantic Bridge Project, we don't know what they
20 mean in terms of what the need for the gas is in the
21 Northeast.

22 We don't know if they are going to actually use
23 it in the Northeast, there are certainly plans to have some
24 of the pipelines in the Northeast reversed for themselves to
25 the north, to the LNG, that's liquefied natural gas export

1 facilities in Canada and unless we can decide or can find
2 out what is actually being proposed, it makes it very
3 difficult to guess how to respond. Usually it is the one on
4 one side, not the one in the middle and that's why we are
5 very concerned about the fact that it keeps changing on us.

6 I have a statement here from the Mayor of
7 Peekskill who has been opposed to the AIM Pipeline and is
8 now opposed to this segmented part of the AIM Pipeline, the
9 Atlantic Bridge. He says, "Due to my regularly scheduled
10 Council meeting I am unable to attend this meeting and
11 personally deliver my grave concerns regarding these two
12 projects.

13 Over this past winter this matter was brought to
14 our city council for consideration and we passed a
15 resolution outlining 18 different points in unanswered
16 questions raising from overall liability insurance that
17 would be required of the applicant, to damage to our roads,
18 streets, infrastructure, personal property during
19 construction. Not one of our concerns has been addressed
20 adequately by the applicant and we urge you to demand
21 adequate responses to each and every one of them.

22 Our concerns regarding the AIM -- the Atlantic
23 Bridge Pipeline expansion are identical to those raised
24 regarding the Algonquin Project. We are very concerned
25 especially after the explosion at Indian Point this past

1 weekend, where are volunteer first responders respond and
2 ensure safety during a disaster.

3 In fact nothing has been forthcoming from the
4 applicant regarding the training and equipping of our first
5 responders, thereby leaving the ultimate obligation to
6 shoulder all expenses upon the city and local fire
7 department.

8 Without satisfactory answers to each and every
9 one of our stated concerns, we urge your rejection of this
10 application." Sincerely Frank A. Catalina, Mayor.

11 MS. SUTER: Guys let her speak.

12 MS. VANN: I also had some comments from Cathy
13 Talbot who is a member of the Peekskill City Council. She
14 said, "I think the events of this weekend at Indian Point
15 put into sharp focus the danger of this pipeline expansion
16 sitting right next to Indian Point will pose to our
17 communities and beyond. After --

18 MS. SUTER: I'm sorry your time is up now but I
19 encourage you to provide us with those comments and we will
20 get them on the record.

21 MS. VANN: All right.

22 MS. SUTER: 21?

23 MS. GARDNER: Hi, my name is Cari Gardner. I am
24 a resident --

25 MS. SUTER: Spell your name.

1 MS. GARDNER: Oh C-a-r-i G-a-r-d-n-e-r. I am a
2 resident of planet Earth as we all are here. We all share
3 the air and water that has been provided by the magnificence
4 of nature. I would like to say that I am very sad that you
5 don't find a way to bring water in a reusable bottle by the
6 way, there's really no excuse for using manufactured water
7 anymore when you all know things today about our
8 environmental degradation that we didn't know when Spectra
9 went into business 60 years ago building these gas
10 pipelines.

11 We, the people who are opposed to this project,
12 to these projects -- the segmented illegal project, are not
13 the enemy of the people who work for the unions. We
14 actually are probably as concerned -- we are as concerned
15 about their children and their homes and their future as we
16 are for our own so I would like to say that the only way to
17 avoid or mitigate the impacts of these projects is to deny
18 the approval of all of these projects and its segments and
19 compressor stations.

20 You mentioned -- I don't remember where I heard
21 it already today about endangered species -- I think if you
22 were concerned about endangered species, well humans will
23 very shortly become an endangered species.

24 If we fail to stop building increased
25 infrastructure for fossil fuels and if we fail to transition

1 off fossil fuels. I don't know if it is fair to mention a
2 name but Mr. Reilly stood here and said the pipeline can't
3 go away. Well in fact it can go away and it must. I would
4 like to see all of these union men fighting with those
5 bosses and saying please give us safe jobs in renewable
6 energy so that our children can live in a safe and
7 sustainable world, thank you.

8 MS. ZAZZERA: Elisa Zazzera, E-l-i-s-a
9 Z-a-z-z-e-r-a. I thought I could speak here easily until I
10 heard Aidan speak. To all of my brothers and sisters in
11 this room and beyond union members or non we cannot continue
12 going down the road of fossil fuel. Anyone in the union
13 working in fossil fuel now, yes as my friend Cari says
14 should be demanding jobs in renewable energy.

15 That the environmental people from FERC are here
16 with individual bottled waters, single-sided printed paper,
17 I see no stewardship from FERC at all. I'm sorry that you
18 have that job. There are other jobs there that you can do
19 that are friends of the environment but clearly FERC is not
20 a friend of the environment, FERC is a friend of the
21 economy. Of which we would have none if we have no
22 environment.

23 Most of us in this room will live out our lives
24 as we know them now. Aidan, if we go down the path that
25 FERC is sending us down now, will live a very different

1 life. One that is bringing tears to my eyes and we should
2 all be crying for Aidan's classmates because if this project
3 is approved her future will look very different than ours.

4 Our President said in his State of the Union,
5 "this is a matter of national security, our environment is
6 in peril". If we continue to pump carbon into the air,
7 which this project will do we are endangering our national
8 security. We are endangering the future of all of our
9 children and of the human species period.

10 So the overused analogy of rearranging deck
11 chairs is clear what this is about. Our ship is sinking and
12 we all sit here like "oh should we build more or expand our
13 gas pipelines or not?" No, we should not expand our gas
14 pipelines. The ship is sinking people. We need to turn to
15 renewable energies and deny the continued use, expanded use
16 of fossil fuels.

17 So I don't know what your notes are all going to
18 say to you at the end because I'm sure you will just reach
19 for that rubber stamp and give them the okay but there is
20 nothing else but the environment and if we continue to go
21 down this road we are just going to screw the environment
22 for future generations. Do not allow this project to go
23 through.

24 MS. SUTER: 23? 24 and 25 should be up here ready
25 to go.

1 MR. CANINI: Joe Canini C-a-n-i-n-i. There isn't
2 really anything I can say that hasn't already been said.
3 Everybody that is against the pipeline I am going to agree
4 with. I have some concerns because I live very close to
5 Willow Pond where it is a beautiful pond. There is a park
6 right next to it and the kids play there on the weekends.

7 Every day I go to work I pull over with my van
8 and I can look out to the left side of Willow Pond and there
9 is a beautiful blue herring that is right in the middle of
10 the pond, usually one or two times a week and I'm trying to
11 get it to where I can actually see him spear for a fish but
12 I haven't been able to find that yet.

13 My point is it a beautiful place to live. There
14 has never been a problem over there. I understand that the
15 pipeline is going to go right next to Willow Pond, very
16 close to Willow Pond. I live about 150 feet from there. I
17 just want to know if these guys are going to be working on
18 this if it goes through, if they are going to be tested for
19 drugs.

20 I would also like to know if there is going to be
21 anybody policing Spectra's work. I would also like to throw
22 in where to me this is a massive political situation. I
23 don't trust any of it. This has already been stated.
24 Politics is politics, money is money and it goes all the way
25 to the Congress of the United States.

1 There aren't too many people that have too much
2 faith in that either. I would just like to know if there
3 can be a scenario where somebody could imagine a worst case
4 scenario for a gas explosion on a 40 foot pipeline. What
5 would be the worst case scenario, the linear footage radius
6 that it would cover? What would be the damage?

7 It's all about money in my opinion. Guys that
8 need jobs, it's all about money, it's already been said I'm
9 not going to waste your time going all the way through the
10 time lapse here but I would also like to say that Chernobyl
11 Nuclear Plant and the Kursk submarine, both Russian vehicles
12 -- it was human error that blew them up. And it was
13 careless human error.

14 I'm not going to say that this is the scenario
15 here but it is a scary situation, especially when the 26
16 inch pipeline seems to be doing its job. That's it.

17 MS. SUTER: 24?

18 MR. HYMAN: Good evening. My name is Jonathan
19 Hyman, H-y-m-a-n. I speak tonight on behalf of the Koppel
20 family who live at 2998 Stony Street in Yorktown. The
21 Koppel's have owned their property for many, many decades.
22 In fact over 80 years over what is now a 4th generation of
23 family members who have all come to love and enjoy a
24 beautiful, idyllic and bountiful landscape that is their
25 property and the surrounding property of others.

1 This is land with abundant wildlife and really
2 delicious water. The artisan well on their property which
3 empties into the open air down the hill from where their
4 house is runs right alongside Hunter Brook and it yields
5 water that is literally sweet. The Hunter Brook is part of
6 the feeder system for the Croton reservoir which is a source
7 of water for the very lucky residents of New York City.

8 Unfortunately there is an inconvenient truth for
9 the Koppels. Their property is ground zero for the
10 proposed segmentation of the Algonquin Pipeline. You see
11 the AIM project terminates on the west side of Stony Street,
12 right across the street from their house and it continues
13 roughly 22 feet under the road and begins and carries on
14 through an easement on their property.

15 But now the pipeline enlargement is no longer
16 called the AIM Project, but the proposed Atlantic Bridge
17 Project. Anyone who knows anything about the AIM Project
18 and/or about how FERC has conducted the issuance of
19 Spectra's certificate of necessity and convenience for the
20 AIM Project is not only horrified by the complete lack of
21 adherences in the NEPA process but is equally worried that
22 FERC will do the unthinkable as mentioned by Councilwoman
23 Siegel and made note of here tonight.

24 It appears that Spectra has through a
25 technicality related to the length of the pipeline and

1 dekatherms of gas actually proposed to only perform an
2 environmental assessment of its Atlantic Bridge proposal.
3 You must perform an EIS. Anyone who knows anything about
4 the AIM Project also knows that Atlantic Bridge and AIM are
5 the same.

6 Anyone who knows anything about the Delaware
7 River Keepers winning lawsuit over the Tennessee Pipeline's
8 northeast upgrade project knows that what is going on here
9 is similar. Spectra Energy has interdependent pipeline
10 projects that are all really the Algonquin Pipeline. You
11 will be sued for this and you will lose for segmenting this
12 massive pipeline.

13 The outrage and there are many here is that by
14 allowing Spectra to proceed with a segmented pipeline and by
15 not legally taking the requisite hard look at the issues
16 facing local communities, you are forcing regular people
17 into federal court and this none of us can afford. This is
18 a devilish game and an even more insidious process that you
19 are complicit with, with Spectra Energy.

20 Try telling the Koppel's that a pigging station
21 and a main line regulator 22 feet from their property on one
22 side of the road is not inextricably connected to the same
23 new pipeline on the other side of the road, it's laughable.
24 In addition to the baseline air, soil and water testing that
25 we called for during the AIM hearings, the same must be done

1 for Atlantic Bridge and some of this is outlined again by
2 Councilwoman Siegel.

3 This is because the property that falls down the
4 hill where the Atlantic Bridge Property is -- New York
5 states DEC wetlands and that rolls into the DEP watershed.
6 We demand that you do this baseline testing because of the
7 actual construction needed to install the pipe because of
8 the very toxic and carcinogenic nature of the pigging
9 process and because of the gas released by the main line
10 regulator.

11 Lastly when I spoke at the AIM hearing in
12 Portland last fall, I mentioned that Spectra Energy was
13 working closely with the Town of Yorktown to decimate almost
14 25 acres of beautiful, environmentally sensitive town owned
15 parkland in a quid pro quo where the town would receive cash
16 and by the town supervisor's count, 2 million dollars' worth
17 of site development work for massive sports complex, thank
18 you.

19 MS. SUTER: I'm sorry your time is up.

20 MR. HYMAN: Yes, thank you very much for holding
21 this session. I'll submit the rest in writing, thank you
22 very much.

23 MS. SUTER: 25?

24 MS. WINKLER: Hi, Suzanne Winkler.

25 MS. SUTER: Spell it for the record.

1 MS. WINKLER: S-u-z-a-n-n-e W-i-n (like Nancy) -
2 k-l-e-r. I don't have prepared comment. I drove three
3 hours to come here tonight to listen to what you had to say
4 at the beginning of the session because for the life of me I
5 really couldn't understand when I looked for information on
6 like what the hell the project is about -- how it could
7 possibly not be segmentation. For the life of me it just
8 doesn't make any sense, so I am opposed to the illegal
9 segmentation of this project.

10 I started out by saying that this is a pre-filing
11 that there is no application right? And because so there is
12 no mechanism to approve or deny the project -- so what is
13 the point of what we are doing here. I mean really, who is
14 paying for this travesty of something where there is no
15 application? What honestly will happen? What is the next
16 step?

17 If you approve an EA, an abbreviated process that
18 does nothing for all of the questions that these people
19 asked you today, really what happens next, that's a question
20 for you, can you answer?

21 MS. SUTER: After your time is up. I don't want
22 to interrupt your time so get all your comments in and I
23 have a few minutes here that I will cover answering some
24 questions.

25 MS. WINKLER: Please answer it first because --

1 that's what I want to address.

2 MS. SUTER: But when the four minutes is up you
3 won't get to say anything else because your time will be up.

4 MS. WINKLER: All right I apologize, I will
5 finish. I will say my comments are that that should have
6 been explained at the beginning of this session so that
7 someone like myself could understand the parameters that I'm
8 supposed to just address. I -- you also mentioned at the
9 beginning that this was an EA, not an EIS that's a travesty
10 in itself but I know this is a scoping hearing.

11 Unfortunately I have become pretty familiar with
12 scoping hearings because I have been fighting for pipelines
13 in my community three hours from here. That's the
14 Constitution, the Millenium, Dominion New Market Project and
15 now the Northeast Direct.

16 So unfortunately we are all really familiar with
17 this process which makes me ask that question. How can
18 there be no application nonetheless? For the life of me I
19 don't understand what the point of this scoping hearing is
20 anymore because every scoping hearing that I have been to
21 and for every question that I have asked I never received an
22 answer that was at all satisfying.

23 And yet you stand here and tell us that what we
24 say is important and you don't understand why citizens like
25 us are infuriated. You don't understand why you feel like

1 you are doing a job that has any purpose honestly -- it's
2 just what I end up coming here and saying. After being here
3 at another hearing I know what the outcome is going to be.
4 It's not going to be good for this community, it is not
5 going to be good for my community, it is not going to be
6 good for our climate. It's not going to be good for our
7 kids or the animals, it's not going to be good for the
8 citizens in hospitals who end up with cancers, nobody. Okay
9 now you can go ahead and answer your question -- answer my
10 question.

11 MS. SUTER: So there are a couple of notes from
12 all of you have come up here so far tonight that I can try
13 to answer or begin to answer, most of that has to do with
14 how the process works or aspects of the process so I am
15 going to respond to as many of those as I can.

16 While you are here so why are we doing PF? So --

17 MS. WINKLER: PF?

18 MS. SUTER: Pre-filing process, the pre-filing
19 process. So over 10 years ago this process did not exist,
20 maybe more than 5 to 10 years ago this process did not exist
21 and what we discovered when we did not have this process is
22 that scoping occurred after an application was filed and
23 much of the public felt that at that point they didn't have
24 an opportunity to provide input over aspects of the design
25 of the project, mitigation measures, alternatives, et

1 cetera.

2 So we added the pre-filing process at the
3 Commission. This happens --
4 Your time is up and you are not going to get another chance,
5 so I'm sorry you are hearing my answers.

6 MS. WINKLER: All right just for the record you
7 are nasty.

8 MS. SUTER: By all means. So we added the
9 pre-filing process to give you all the opportunity to
10 provide input earlier. We have had many successes in terms
11 of finding alternatives and mitigation measures and in
12 addition it allows us to engage the agencies, other federal,
13 state and local agencies earlier on before an application is
14 filed so that they can also continue to investigate the
15 issues and provide their input to us, for those who want to
16 be cooperating agencies with us.

17 They get that opportunity much earlier on to
18 learn about the project and provide input. We have had many
19 alternatives that have worked as a result of implementing
20 the pre-filing process because they were identified early
21 on. We have had many cases where mitigation measures were
22 found early on.

23 As another example, just to give you some
24 examples, we had a project where in one state where there
25 are a lot of septic systems in residential areas, and by

1 using the pre-filing process homeowners were able to
2 identify where the septic systems were on their property
3 during pre-filing which then allowed the routing of the
4 project to avoid those areas.

5 So while you don't get every answer and
6 everything during pre-filing, it is the identification of
7 issues and if you are going to be disrespectful I won't
8 answer any more questions and we will close tonight. So and
9 some of the other questions that were asked, EA versus EIS
10 and why we are doing an EA at this point in time -- as
11 someone pointed out, NEPA allows and encourages the
12 preparation or the beginning of the process for an EA first
13 to identify the scope of issues however in doing so we may
14 determine that based on the scope of issues for this project
15 along with the impacts of this project that an EIS is needed
16 at which point in time we would switch over and transition
17 and prepare an EIS.

18 There is nothing right now that says we will not
19 prepare one, we are starting with an EA at this point
20 because at this point we don't have a lot of information
21 about the project so we are gathering it.

22 After the close of the comment period some of you
23 -- I think I had heard something or if not I wanted to
24 address -- we continue to accept comments even after the
25 close of the comment period so the purpose of the comment

1 period during scoping is that NEPA requires you to have one,
2 but it also allows us to identify issues during pre-filing
3 so that Algonquin can address what they can and build that
4 into their application.

5 Comments that come in after the close of the
6 comment period while considered by FERC's staff, may not be
7 timely enough to make it into being addressed in the
8 application. So that is why there is a comment period and
9 why we encourage that comments be filed during the comment
10 period so that they can be addressed in that application.

11 But if something comes in later, we have other
12 avenues that we can seek to research and find answers to the
13 questions. For those of you who may be wondering how you
14 receive answers to questions -- to those that may have come
15 tonight -- so the first step, the first set of answers that
16 will come is within 14 days of the close of the comment
17 period Algonquin is required to respond to all comments on
18 the record.

19 So that will be our first step. After that they
20 will prepare an application which hopefully the intent is
21 that it will incorporate the responses to comments as well
22 and we can review that. If we feel that that does not
23 adequately respond to comments we can ask for supplemental
24 information or go and talk to the agencies and our own
25 independent analysis to research the issues.

1 We don't individually answer each person. The
2 answers to comments and questions and concerns will be in
3 the environmental document and that is the next issuance
4 that will come from FERC that answers the questions for you.

5 If you feel that we do not adequately address
6 your questions or concerns in the environmental document,
7 there is a comment period associated with that. You comment
8 on that and then the Commission will consider it in an
9 Order.

10 And one final note so the reduction in scope of
11 the project does not and has not played into the type of
12 document that we will prepare. The main purpose of my
13 pointing that out this evening was because there were quite
14 a few residents that are no longer part of the project and
15 we wanted to ensure that if they were unsure or needed to
16 find that information out between the open houses and now,
17 people can understand and know what the project entails but
18 we will still look at the issues raised and the scope of the
19 impacts for the project to determine whether an EIS or an EA
20 is necessary.

21 Is there anybody who did not have a chance to
22 come up and speak yet that wishes to do so? Okay, I am
23 going to close the formal part of this meeting however FERC
24 staff is available if you want to come up while we are
25 closing down and everything and you can come up and speak

1 with us, so the formal part of the meeting will close. On
2 behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, thank
3 you for coming tonight, let the record show that the
4 Atlantic Bridge Scoping meeting in Yorktown Heights, New
5 York concluded at 8:21 P.M.

6 (Whereupon, at 8:21 p.m., the meeting was
7 adjourned.)

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