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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office

TEXAS LNG PROJECT DOCKET NO. PF15-14-000  
ANNOVA LNG PROJECT DOCKET NO. PF15-15-000  
RIO GRANDE LNG PROJECT DOCKET NO. PF15-20-000

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BROWNSVILLE LNG PROJECTS

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Port Isabel Event &  
Cultural Center  
309 East Railroad Avenue  
Port Isabel, Texas 78578

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

The evening public scoping meeting, pursuant to notice,  
convened at 1:00 p.m.

GERTRUDE F. JOHNSON,  
Environmental Project Manager,  
FERC

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

2 Whereupon,

3 CARLOS J. GALVAN, JR.,

4 gave his statement:

5 MR. GALVAN: My name is Carlos J. Galvan,  
6 Jr., representing the Laguna Madre Water District here  
7 in Port Isabel. My name is spelled C-a-r-l-o-s J.  
8 G-a-l-v-a-n, Jr. -- J-r.

9 What I'm here for is to serve this  
10 resolution that was passed into proof the 7th day of  
11 August 2015. Okay. This resolution number 121-08-15  
12 from the Laguna Madre Water District. This is a  
13 resolution expressing the board's opposition to the LNG  
14 facilities development and annexation request. And this  
15 is for all of the LNG projects.

16 State of Texas, county of Cameron.  
17 Whereas the Board of Directors of the Laguna Madre Water  
18 District wishes to express its opposition to the liquid  
19 natural gas facility's development and annexation  
20 request. And whereas the board of directors of Laguna  
21 Madre Water District find that its opposition is  
22 necessary and deemed to be in the public interest.

23 Now therefore; be it resolved by the Board  
24 of Directors of Laguna Madre Water District that the  
25 board of directors of Laguna Madre Water District oppose

1 the LNG facility development and annexation request  
2 passed into proof the 7th day of August 2015. Thank you.  
3 Whereupon,

4 NORMA SAENZ,

5 gave her statement:

6 MS. SAENZ: My name is Norma Saenz.

7 N-o-r-m-a S-a-e-n-z. I live in Laguna Vista. And my  
8 concerns are the air. Air -- I moved down here with my  
9 husband six years ago because he was having trouble with  
10 breathing. So they said, "You need to go to an air --  
11 free air -- and so where there isn't anything."

12 So right there we are enjoying our life  
13 and he's doing much better. But now with this, my  
14 greatest concern is impurities that will be expelled  
15 from the process of liquefying the natural gas.

16 And another thing that worries me is what  
17 about unborn children? Will that also affect a pregnant  
18 woman, my -- my children you know, and they were to have  
19 a family or something.

20 And the real estate value, I'm -- I'm  
21 concerned about it going down, because who would want to  
22 live over here when you're going to have all those plants  
23 along the channel?

24 So my question is have they studied very  
25 carefully the impurities that are going to be expelled

1 into the air? Thank you.

2 Whereupon,

3 BEVERLY RAY,

4 gave her statement:

5 MS. RAY: My name is Beverly Ray.

6 B-e-v-e-r-l-y R-a-y. I -- do you want to know where I  
7 live?

8 THE COURT REPORTER: No, just say -- just  
9 your statement.

10 MS. RAY: Okay. We are in a unique area  
11 along the Texas coast. No major petrochemical industry  
12 is here. Why destroy the pristine environment for many  
13 for the financial gain of a few?

14 Our major industries are tourism, birding  
15 and a great place to live for retirees. Pollution -- and  
16 there will be pollution -- will cause us great harm.  
17 Those who can afford to leave will, causing serious  
18 economic problems for the community.

19 The prevailing southeast wind will blow  
20 pollutants over a populated area, plus damage what is  
21 uniquely ours. Please stop the petrochemical industry in  
22 this coastal area. Thank you.

23 Whereupon,

24 RAMONA KANTACK ALCANTARA,

25 gave her statement:

1                   MS. ALCANTARA: My name is Ramona Kantack  
2 Alcantara. I live in Port Isabel. I am a citizen here  
3 and I enjoy so much what we've got here, the unique  
4 environmental area and the opportunities that are  
5 available for us both in the recreational and tourist  
6 areas and also from our unique position on the border.

7                   I believe that this process is an  
8 important one for accommodating all of the various  
9 interests that are in this community and the global  
10 community at large. And so I trust that the comments of  
11 -- of all the environmental and coastal resource experts  
12 will be accommodated, while at the same time  
13 accommodating a serious need in this area to bring in  
14 more business and industry so that the area will have the  
15 resources necessary to properly develop energy, not only  
16 for this community, but for the world.

17                   And energy, I think, represents a very  
18 clean and exciting alternative to the fossil fuels like  
19 coal that are used in the rest of the world and that it's  
20 important that the Rio Grande Valley and this community  
21 recognize that there is a balance to be achieved.

22                   And that the regulatory authorities, with  
23 their expertise and different voices that are being  
24 considered and heard in this whole regulatory process,  
25 will assure that that balance is achieved between the

1 environmental concerns and -- and the need for business  
2 development and resources to address those environmental  
3 concerns. That's it.

4 Whereupon,

5 ELLEN TYMA,

6 gave her statement:

7 MS. TYMA: My name is Ellen Tyma, T-y-m-a.

8 I'm speaking on behalf of myself and husband as a  
9 resident that's two miles from the Annova LNG proposed  
10 facility. My -- in favor of it, but my concerns are for  
11 security, environmental impact and that's about it.

12 Whereupon,

13 OSCAR GARCIA,

14 gave his statement:

15 MR. GARCIA: My name is Oscar Garcia.

16 O-s-c-a-r G-a-r-c-i-a. I am in total support of the LNG  
17 project. I think it's going to be -- it's going to offer  
18 tremendous growth in economic here -- economy here. And  
19 again, I'm in 100 percent support of it.

20 Whereupon,

21 JOHN WOOD,

22 gave his statement:

23 MR. WOOD: My name is John Wood, spelled

24 J-o-h-n W-o-o-d. I've been active in the community of  
25 Brownsville and the lower Valley -- Rio Grande Valley for

1 35 years, from chamber chairman, United Way chairman,  
2 city of Brownsville commissioner, Cameron County  
3 commissioner and I currently serve as a commissioner at  
4 Brownsville navigation district.

5 I've always been involved in improving the  
6 community in ways like economic development, recruiting  
7 companies to the area. We have some of the least  
8 educated people in The United States statistically. We  
9 have the -- some of the lowest income folks in The United  
10 States statistically. So education and jobs are  
11 extremely important to our area.

12 As a commissioner at the navigation  
13 district of Brownsville, I definitely support LNG coming  
14 into our area. It's going to not only provide jobs, but  
15 the -- the overflow of it and the ripples that it's going  
16 to cause will improve our education of our kids. It will  
17 give them more opportunities than they have now.

18 I've seen kids in the past that have had  
19 wonderful abilities, but not having the funding to go  
20 fulfill their dreams outside the Valley as far as  
21 education goes. Now, obviously, we'd like to see all  
22 these kids stay in the area, because we need brain power.  
23 We need that. But if -- if they can't afford to go to  
24 college somewhere and come back -- my two boys have come  
25 back and they're productive citizens in the community.

1 But I'd like to see all the kids in our area do that.

2                   And jobs is the main thing, not just for  
3 them but for their families, for their parents. Our  
4 average income for family is less than \$32,000 a year.  
5 And in some areas of Brownsville, it's less than \$17,000  
6 a year. And we're talking about the ability to have  
7 companies like LNG and the LNG companies come into the  
8 area and create jobs where one member of the family, not  
9 two or three, but one member of the family can make 40,  
10 50, 60, \$80,000, depending on what job they do and their  
11 education.

12                   So we've -- we -- we really need to  
13 emphasize the issue of bringing in the money that it  
14 takes to create the companies, to create the jobs that we  
15 need.

16                   Other economic development -- obviously  
17 the spring off from -- from companies like this is  
18 tremendous. It helps throughout the Valley. I serve on  
19 a Valley wide regional chamber of commerce right now.  
20 It's called the Valley Partnership. And I meet once a  
21 month with -- with people all the way from Rio Grande  
22 City to Brownsville that's on the board. And we all have  
23 the interest of developing the area and bringing more  
24 income into the area, bringing more infrastructure into  
25 the area, bringing more jobs into the area.

1                   And we generally work together real well  
2 on those things. We compete, you know, among each other.  
3 But when the bottom line comes, we're all really happy to  
4 help out the next guy and see to it that they have what's  
5 needed, because it does benefit all of us.

6                   I don't know what else to say. That's  
7 probably all I've got to say at this time. I don't like  
8 to get on my soapbox too much, but I can.

9                   Oh, let me -- environmentally. Let me get  
10 into environmental issues. I've -- I've -- because of my  
11 positions in the city and the county in the past and  
12 currently with the navigation district, I've dealt with  
13 probably all of the federal agencies that the LNG  
14 companies will be dealing with.

15                   Everything from EPA to U.S. Fishing and  
16 Wildlife, Coast Guard. I -- all of them. I'm sure I've  
17 dealt with them one time or another. And -- and a lot  
18 more that LNG won't be dealing with. I've had to deal  
19 with U.S. Postal System and things like that in the past  
20 as a city commissioner. GSA, all these companies.

21                   And I currently serve on a -- on a -- on a  
22 EPA board that's called Border 2020. I started when it  
23 was Border 2012. And now we're looking for 2020 to come  
24 around. I serve as the regional co-chair for that. We  
25 have chairs on the U.S. side and on the Mexican side.

1 And I am the U.S. co-chair for the region from  
2 Brownsville up to Laredo -- actually, past Laredo.

3 And -- and that's -- that's an  
4 environmental issue. Health, safety, welfare of both  
5 sides of the river. I served -- we spent about six years  
6 now -- about five years I've been off of what the board  
7 called Good Neighbor Environmental Board. And that was  
8 from Brownsville to San Diego, California.

9 And we annually wrote a -- a paper -- we  
10 called it a paper, but it was actually a book of about --  
11 usually from anywhere from 75 to 100 pages that went to  
12 Congress and to the president's office. And I served on  
13 that for about eight years, as long as I could serve.

14 And got to go to -- to towns. We always  
15 met along the border. And we met four times a year. One  
16 of them was in D.C. and the other three were along the  
17 border. And that had to do with environmental issues and  
18 environmental problems.

19 Some of those problems I don't know if  
20 we'll ever get fixed. But we pointed out lots of things  
21 that the federal government needed to do and should do to  
22 try to improve the livelihood and the health and welfare  
23 of people all along the border.

24 And a lot of those things have been put  
25 into action. The border environmental board, the BEC and

1 NAFTA NADBANK have funding. And a lot of the things that  
2 we talked about in our meetings and we pushed, not only  
3 in -- in Good Neighbor Environmental Board, but also in  
4 Border 2020 are funded by NADBANK and BEC.

5                   So I -- I think that, you know, even  
6 though all these things have been volunteer -- and it  
7 takes a lot of time -- I've always felt like that I  
8 should be contributing my time to the betterment of not  
9 only my community, but to the other communities when I  
10 could, because it would only benefit my kids and other  
11 people's kids.

12                   Yeah, I am through. Thank you.

13 Whereupon,

14                   EDUARDO CAMPIRANO,

15 gave his statement:

16                   MR. CAMPIRANO: My name is Eduardo  
17 Campirano and I'm the port director and CEO at the port  
18 of Brownsville. Okay?

19                   The port of Brownsville is the only deep  
20 water sea port located on the U.S./Mexico border. The  
21 port is one of the largest land owning public port  
22 authorities in the country, with approximately 40,000  
23 acres of land. Foreign trade zone number 62, of which  
24 the port of Brownsville is the grand T, has ranked number  
25 one in The United States for 2012 and 2013 for the value

1 of exported commodities, valued at more than three  
2 billion dollars annually.

3                   The port is also an industrial port whose  
4 efforts are geared towards attraction of industry and  
5 maritime commerce while promoting economic growth and job  
6 creation for the region. The port of Brownsville is  
7 please to submit its support and comments to the FERC  
8 representatives. Those comments are as follows:

9                   The Port is in support of the LNG projects  
10 and the development of these facilities at the Port. The  
11 Port expects that the FERC process will weigh the facts  
12 associated with these projects and not act on false or  
13 perceived information.

14                   The Port is in support and expects that  
15 each LNG project will fully demonstrate its ability to  
16 fully comply with all of the requirements necessary to  
17 secure a permit to construct and operate an LNG  
18 liquefaction and export facility at the port of  
19 Brownsville.

20                   The Port believes that the regulatory  
21 requirements associated with granting other permit will  
22 ensure that each LNG project demonstrate its ability to  
23 address the safe construction and operation of an LNG  
24 liquefaction expert facility at the port, meet all of the  
25 requirements necessary to protect the community and the

1 workers, meet all of the requirements necessary to  
2 address all air and water quality standards, meet all of  
3 the requirements for the safe loading and transportation  
4 of LNG vessels, balance the needs of the LNG projects  
5 with the environmental impacts associated with these  
6 projects and adhere to the higher standards required to  
7 satisfy the permitting process for the construction and  
8 operation of an LNG facility at the port of Brownsville.

9                   The FERC review will also take into  
10 account the long term sustainability of the Port and its  
11 current users and stakeholders and balance the navigation  
12 needs of the LNG projects with those of the Port.

13                   Submitted on August 11, 2015. Again,  
14 Eduardo Campirano, port director, port of Brownsville.

15 Whereupon,

16                   Cristina Valdez,

17 gave her statement:

18                   MS. VALDEZ: My name is Christina Mendez.  
19 C-r-i-s-t-i-n-a. "V" as in Victor, a-l-d-e-z.

20                   The purpose of me being here is that I'm  
21 very much for the LNG. I'm in favor. I am very happy  
22 that we have that many LNGs interested in coming to the  
23 -- well, at the port of Brownsville. And I know that  
24 this is going to create many jobs and I'm very much for  
25 it. For our community and -- this is -- Brownsville is

1 the poorest city in the whole United States and it will  
2 need a lot of jobs. And yeah, I'm very much for it.

3 Thank you.

4 Whereupon,

5 JULIAN MARTINEZ,

6 gave his statement.

7 MR. MARTINEZ: My name is Julian Martinez.

8 And J-u-l-i-a-n M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z.

9 THE COURT REPORTER: And then just go into  
10 your statement.

11 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay. I was looking at  
12 Texas LNG and Rio Grande LNG. I really didn't look into  
13 the other LNG, but I was really looking at both Texas and  
14 Rio Grande LNG. Because I was noticing -- one of the  
15 biggest things I noticed is that the size difference,  
16 that Rio Grande LNG is way bigger than Texas LNG.

17 And from the feedback I've got, that  
18 putting together a Texas LNG is a lot cleaner and more  
19 efficient process and a faster process of getting that  
20 natural gas out. And from Rio Grande LNG, their facility  
21 is way bigger and the process is actually longer.

22 And what I was getting feedback that their  
23 process takes longer and it's more mechanical than --  
24 that Texas LNG. Texas LNG is more of a simpler version  
25 of getting that gas out, which I think is a lot better

1 process. Cleaner, safer and quicker.

2                   On the other hand, with Rio Grande LNG,  
3 it's just -- it looks like a longer process. It's way  
4 bigger. Takes more land from, you know, like animals and  
5 stuff like that. And then Texas LNG is a lot smaller,  
6 simpler facility, which looks a lot more efficient for  
7 the outside and anything else that could come in hand  
8 with it. I'm done.

9 Whereupon,

10                   DR. ANTHONY FLAIG,

11 gave his statement:

12                   DR. FLAG: My name is Doctor Anthony  
13 Flaig. Foxtrot-l-a-i-g. I'm a chiropractor here in Port  
14 Isabel. And I'm opposed to LNG, particularly the  
15 facility that's to go in just less than two miles behind  
16 our Wal-Mart.

17                   Because the way I look at it is this: if  
18 -- let's just say the facility itself, at 10 to 15  
19 stories high, is not an eyesore. Let's say it looks  
20 okay. Okay? Let's say it's not that big a deal. Okay?

21                   And let's say that whatever product this  
22 facility emits into our environment, let's say that's no  
23 big deal, even though it's directly down wind of where I  
24 work and where I raise my kids. Okay? Let's say decades  
25 go by and there's no incident there. Okay?

1                   And let's say there's never any  
2 environmental disaster. A tanker never spills into the  
3 bay, there's never any explosions at the plant, no one  
4 ever gets hurt.

5                   So those are three scenarios that people  
6 are worried about, right? And let's say all that works  
7 out okay, just like you're promising. Okay? Perfect.

8                   Still what remains is what's in it for us?  
9 You know, last time I checked, we weren't Malibu or  
10 Silicon Valley or New York City, suburban Connecticut.  
11 We're not an affluent area. But here, especially on the  
12 coast, we're not doing that bad. Right?

13                   The way I look at it is if I'm at my house  
14 and I'm paying let's say \$1,000 a month for my mortgage,  
15 my escrow, windstorm insurance, my taxes. And I'm  
16 sitting there in my backyard with my beautiful view and  
17 my white picket fence in my hammock, grilling a steak  
18 looking at that. Just mowed it, just trimmed the trees,  
19 picking oranges. And I'm doing fine and I'm pulling that  
20 \$1,000 a month easily, right?

21                   And someone comes in and says, "Tell you  
22 what, Dr. Flaig. Tell you what. You let us put in a  
23 couple chicken coops, you let us put in a couple hog  
24 pens, we'll pay \$250 a month of your mortgage and we'll  
25 even throw in some free eggs. How about that?" Right?

1                   Let's say someone comes and tells me that.  
2 Hell no. Hell no. I'm fine. We're fine. So what  
3 you're bringing in tax breaks, potential jobs, which seem  
4 pretty inflated to me, do we really need it? I think we  
5 don't. Right?

6                   But what worries me -- what worries me is  
7 that letting us speak our voices now is just a formality.  
8 That it's a done deal. It's driven by money. And it's a  
9 done deal. And that sucks.

10 Whereupon,

11                                           MARIA GALASSO,

12 gave her statement:

13                   MS. GALASSO: My name is Maria .  
14 M-a-r-i-a G-a-l-a-s-s-o. And I live in Laguna Vista,  
15 Texas, which is about eight miles downwind of where a  
16 Annova LNG, Texas LNG and Rio Grande LNG have proposals  
17 to build export facilities.

18                   I am opposed to the addition of an LNG  
19 city next door to Port Isabel, alongside Highway 48, also  
20 known as The Port Road. The reasons are many.

21                   Number one, safety. LNG tankers traveling  
22 in and out of the ship channel are closer to a population  
23 center than the recommended three mile radius by Jerry  
24 Haven's LNG expert. The potential for a SpaceX launch  
25 failure and resulting accident debris carried closer by

1 our unusually strong, southeasterly prevailing winds,  
2 could make the LNG storage tanks a spillover target.

3                   Number two, security. The close proximity  
4 to each other of eight LNG storage tanks, each holding 55  
5 million gallons of hazardous cargo, creates an attractive  
6 terrorist target. The roughly five mile proximity to the  
7 mostly lawless Mexican state of Tamaulipas -- and I'll  
8 spell that for you -- T-a-m-a-u-l-i-p-a-s -- described by  
9 the most recent -- dated May 5th, 2015 -- U.S. State  
10 Department Advisory as follows: "State and municipal law  
11 enforcement capacity is limited to nonexistent in many  
12 parts of Tamaulipas" -- suggest that FERC should  
13 immediately deny these applications as not in the  
14 national security interest of The United States.

15                   And consider instead one of the other 23  
16 proposed LNG applications/sites, 18 of which are in other  
17 parts of the Gulf Coast.

18                   Jaime Jorge Zapata -- and I can spell  
19 that for you -- J-a-i-m-e Jorge is J-o-r-g-e Zapata is  
20 Z-a-p-a-t-a -- was an immigration and customs  
21 enforcement, Homeland Security investigations special  
22 agent, who was ambushed and murdered by the Mexican  
23 criminal group Los Zetas -- that is Z-e-t-a-s -- in  
24 San Louis, Potosi -- P-o-t-o-s-i -- Mexico on February  
25 15th, 2011.

1                   In May of 2015, Cameron County dedicated  
2 the Jaime Zapata boat ramp as a memorial to the fallen  
3 agent. It is impossible to know for sure what security  
4 restrictions the Coast Guard will place on public voters  
5 who use the very popular launch facility to navigate to  
6 the Laguna Madre when two LNG tankers daily come into the  
7 ship channel.

8                   It would be ironic indeed if, for reasons  
9 of national security, this memorial and well visited  
10 recreational facility for boaters and kayakers is  
11 impacted to the point of becoming an upscale fishing hole  
12 or worse.

13                   Health concerns. Number three, health  
14 concerns in minority majority and low income communities.  
15 The LNG facilities will become the largest polluters in  
16 Cameron County. The prevailing southeasterly winds will  
17 carry the emissions towards Port Isabel High School and  
18 Junior High, Laguna Heights, Laguna Vista, Port Isabel  
19 and Los Fresnos. All of these areas are minority  
20 majority communities, with a 93 percent Latino presence.

21                   Ten years ago, the area poverty rate was  
22 43 percent, more in line with that of a third world  
23 country. Today, it's stands at 35 percent, but that is  
24 still high. And because Texas has not expanded Medicaid,  
25 and in fact has one of the toughest eligibility

1 requirements for Medicaid, 50 percent of the Rio Grande  
2 Valley residents, many in these poor communities are  
3 uninsured.

4 Residents in Port Isabel in particular  
5 remember the constant swirling of sand and dust, the  
6 continual sinus infections and bloody noses for the Bahia  
7 Grande -- that's B-a-h-i-a, Grande is with an E --  
8 Restoration Project re-established the wetlands on the  
9 west side of the port road.

10 The health concerns that the LNG pollution  
11 and the windblown spoil from readying efforts at the port  
12 will create is especially troubling and unacceptable when  
13 considering the chronic problem of access to affordable  
14 healthcare these communities face.

15 Number four, jobs lost. Almost done.  
16 Tourism in all its manifestations is the lifeblood of  
17 area economies. Thousands of jobs are provided by  
18 eco-tourism, beach tourism, birding, winter Texans,  
19 spring breakers, sport fishing, shrimping and soon to be  
20 developed rocket launch watching -- watching.

21 The introduction of an LNG city right next  
22 to our beach horizon will dismantle the livelihood of  
23 thousands of families. Additionally, plans are underway  
24 for a second causeway to South Padre Island, just north  
25 of Port Isabel. The beach traffic that Port Isabel

1 enjoys today will already be impacted. Adding the LNG  
2 facilities to the south will further transform the town  
3 into a locals only area.

4                   And the last one. Five, price of gas.  
5 What has happened in Australia will happen here.  
6 Australia is exporting around 80 percent of their gas,  
7 as LNG, and their domestic gas prices have risen  
8 dramatically. Many American companies have warned that  
9 the exporting LNG frenzy will mean higher prices for  
10 their products that they will then be forced to pass on  
11 to their customers. This is not in the public interest.  
12 Whereupon,

13                                   KEITH UHLES,

14 gave his statement:

15                   MR. UHLES: My name is Keith Uhles. It's  
16 U-h-l-e-s. And I wanted to speak in favor of really all  
17 the LNG projects, but particularly of Texas LNG. Because  
18 I've had the opportunity through some of their community  
19 outreach to speak to their COO and some of their  
20 technical people.

21                   It's my belief that this is a very safe  
22 company. I can see how they're already planning ahead in  
23 looking to deal with the safety issues and to protect the  
24 environment. And they're very interested in the  
25 environment.

1                   And this is the type of project that  
2   Brownsville, Cameron County needs, because we have a lot  
3   of poor people here. And we've kind of been neglected on  
4   the economic opportunity front in the 34 years that I've  
5   been here. And truthfully, it's an area that's been  
6   neglected largely by both the state and federal  
7   government in those areas.

8                   And this is a tremendous opportunity for  
9   the area. When you have companies that want to come in  
10  and make the type of investment that these companies are  
11  willing to make and to hire people and give them jobs and  
12  to give them good jobs and to participate in the  
13  community and to provide opportunities for vision, for  
14  careers, for students and schools and universities and  
15  especially scientific careers, that's invaluable to this  
16  community.

17                  I also think that one thing that I've  
18  thought about that I think has been lost is there are  
19  people that say that, oh, they want the port of  
20  Brownsville to be pristine and to not have any  
21  development and so forth.

22                  And I -- I guess I understand those  
23  people's hearts, but they're not -- they're not really  
24  thinking about what we really have here. The port is an  
25  industrial development area. And if you look at any

1 other port in The United States, any other port in the  
2 world, it's an industrial development area.

3                   So the reality of it is, is there will be  
4 industrial development at the port of Brownsville. And  
5 that's especially true in today's world, because there  
6 are very few -- if any -- sites along deep water channels  
7 in The United States where people can develop heavy  
8 industry.

9                   And Brownsville has been looked at for  
10 those purposes. So the reality is -- is what are we  
11 going to have here? The issue isn't whether we're going  
12 to have LNG or nothing. The issue is are we going to  
13 have LNG or are we going to have a steel mill? Are we  
14 going to have LNG, or are we going to have some other  
15 type of -- of facility that doesn't go through the  
16 rigorous regulatory process that I understand that FERC  
17 has and that will be regulated going forward and that  
18 deals with a clean fuel like natural gas, even -- a fuel  
19 that even President Obama calls "the bridge fuel."

20                   So -- so you take these facilities. It's  
21 my understanding from the presentations I've seen that  
22 they have to have a large buffer zone. So the reality  
23 is, you have the facility and then you have a buffer  
24 zone, which means that you're really cutting down on the  
25 industrial development at the port of Brownsville.

1                   You're really leaving it a more pristine  
2 area than it would be. So if we end up with all three of  
3 these projects, the cumulative effect is that in 20 years  
4 there's actually going to be less dense industrial  
5 development at the port of Brownsville than there would  
6 be if you had all three of these projects.

7                   And then if people who are worried about  
8 the cumulative effect, well, Texas LNG is the smallest  
9 project. And therefore, if you really -- if for some  
10 reason that I don't understand it's a decision that there  
11 only can be one because of environmental effects -- and  
12 that's kind of a common sense deal -- that it would be  
13 the Texas LNG project.

14                   That's all I have. Thank you.

15 Whereupon,

16                                   Graciela Uhles,

17 gave her statement:

18                   MS. UHLES: My name is Graciela Uhles.  
19 G-r-a-c-i-e-l-a. Last name Uhles, U-h-l-e-s. I'm here  
20 on behalf of Texas LNG. The reason I am here today is to  
21 support all of their efforts to bring this new facilities  
22 to the Rio Grande Valley.

23                   I believe they are here. They will be --  
24 help the economic development of the -- of the Valley.  
25 And I think I have read all of their pamphlets and

1 information and I have talked to their representatives  
2 here. And I believe they are concerned for the  
3 environment and they will keep it clean for us. And our  
4 wildlife also.

5 And I believe that they are going to bring  
6 jobs to Cameron County, help with our tax basis also.  
7 And overall, it will be a very good project to have in  
8 our area. That's it.

9 Whereupon,

10 PATRICK ANDERSON,

11 gave his statement:

12 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Patrick  
13 Anderson. And that is P-a-t-r-i-c-k A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.  
14 And these comments are first for a Annova LNG.

15 I oppose Annova LNG due to the following:  
16 Number one, pollution and impact on public health and  
17 quality of life. Two, risks posed to public safety.  
18 Three, destruction, pollution and risks to environment  
19 and wildlife habitats. Four, conflicts with local, state  
20 and national efforts to restore the Bahia Grande. Five,  
21 more negative impacts on local industries and economy  
22 than benefits. And six, cumulative impact on LNG  
23 industries.

24 The effects of pollution on public health  
25 and quality of life will be detrimental to residents in

1 the RGV. Dangerous emissions will threaten the health of  
2 our most vulnerable citizens, of whom many are the  
3 poorest in the nation, making environmental injustice a  
4 serious issue to examine.

5                   Pollution from Annova will have health  
6 consequences to the public air pollution, as estimated  
7 based on published pollution estimates of Sabine Pass LNG  
8 per year, will include 1,209 tons per year, 1,860 tons  
9 per year of carbon monoxide, 60 tons of volatile organic  
10 compounds, 1.7 million tons per year of greenhouse gasses  
11 and four tons of sulfur dioxide and 78 tons or  
12 particulate matter.

13                   Pollution regarding Annova is particularly  
14 concerning, as its parent company Exelon has had  
15 incidents of radioactive tritium leaking into ground  
16 water during a decade of operating in the Braidwood  
17 Nuclear Generating Station in Illinois.

18                   LNG plants will have towers more than 100  
19 feet tall, along with bright lights, visible emissions  
20 and dust will be a blight on our community and degrade  
21 our quality of life.

22                   The entire value train must be considered  
23 in approval of LNG facilities from exploration,  
24 extraction, pipeline delivery, processing and the  
25 liquefaction, shipping, re-gassification and pipeline

1 delivery in foreign markets.

2                   The entire value train will have an impact  
3 on the quality of life in public -- and public health of  
4 citizens in the Rio Grande Valley. As an example,  
5 fracking in the Eagle Ford Shale area has already led to  
6 devastating consequences such as as water depletion,  
7 contamination, pollution, sickness as a result of  
8 pollution and increased seismic activity.

9                   An increase in fracking activity supplied  
10 to Next Decade LNG will increase the effects on the  
11 environment and public health. Annova LNG poses a risk  
12 to public safety. The Annova LNG site is only 6.5 miles  
13 from the SpaceX launch facility now under construction.  
14 This location puts the public at risk.

15                   What would happen in case of an accident  
16 such as that on June 29th, 2015 in Florida? LNG tankers  
17 are a hazard to the public. The ship channel is home to  
18 numerous other industries. The route of the tankers is  
19 near populated areas and tourist destination areas such  
20 as east La Blanca Park and Schlitterbahn Water Park.

21                   Hazard zones recommended by the Sandia  
22 National Laboratories extend into the shrimp basin, Jaime  
23 Zapata boat ramp and the East La Blanca Park beach. Zone  
24 three hazard zones extend into much of South Padre Island  
25 and Port Isabel.

1                   LNG relies on inherently risky technology.  
2   Public safety is an utmost concern, due to the close  
3   proximity of population centers and large amounts of LNG  
4   that will be stored, in addition to other highly  
5   flammable and explosive fuels, such as propane and  
6   ethylene.

7                   As one example, an explosion on March 2014  
8   at a smaller LNG plant in Washington State demonstrates  
9   that accidents can and will happen. And Annova's  
10  proposed location puts the public of Port Isabel and  
11  Brownsville at risk.

12                  The Annova LNG will put our local  
13  environment and wildlife habitats at risk. The proposed  
14  site for Annova LNG consists of 650 acres of the Loma  
15  Ecological Preserve. Until recently, this area was  
16  leased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife as part of the  
17  wildlife corridor. This area is a crucial connection  
18  between the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge to  
19  the north and the lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge  
20  to the south.

21                  Affected endangered species would include  
22  ocelots, Aplomado falcons and the piping plover.  
23  Annova's LNG facilities would sever the connection  
24  between the two areas of habitat. This site contains  
25  wetlands that would be filled in. Wetlands are crucial



1 include: (1) restore, enhance and conserve protected  
2 habitats; (2) restore, replenish, protect living coastal  
3 and marine resources; (3) restore, improve and protect  
4 water resources; (4) restore and enhance natural  
5 processes and shorelines; (5) restore and revitalize gulf  
6 community; (6) restore water quality; and (7) promote  
7 national resource stewardship and environmental  
8 education.

9                   These goals will be undermined and negated  
10 due to destruction of wetlands and prairies. Large  
11 amounts of pollution, large amounts of lighting and  
12 noise, all of which will disrupt the wildlife corridor.  
13 As well, life will no longer be able to travel between  
14 the Bahia and the river.

15                   Annova will have negative impacts on local  
16 industries, economy, all of which need to be researched  
17 and calculated. Any economic benefits Annova provides  
18 will be negated, putting a greater burden on some of the  
19 poorest citizens in the country.

20                   The goal of restoring the Bahia Grande is  
21 increased contribution to the local economy through  
22 increased nature tourism, and Annova's location next to  
23 the Bahia Grande is a conflict of interest and continues  
24 effort -- and continued efforts towards the restoration  
25 of economic benefits. The Bahia Grande will no longer be

1 a wildlife refuge with large LNG industrialization.

2 Oh, I'm -- okay. The environmental  
3 degradation cause by LNG will have serious impacts on the  
4 Rio Grande Valley's vibrant industries of nature and  
5 beach tourism and commercial fishing. Ecotourism and  
6 recreational tourism will be negatively effected in Port  
7 Isabel, South Padre Island and the Bahia Grande.

8 Year round, tourists visit the Rio Grande  
9 Valley for clean, undisturbed beaches, the beautiful  
10 landscape and view scape, bird watching, water sports and  
11 recreational fishing and more, adding hundreds of  
12 millions of dollars in local economy. A study by Texas  
13 A&M in 2012 revealed that nature tourism brought in 463  
14 million that year.

15 In addition, South Padre receives nearly  
16 half a million visitors, adding millions more. Thousands  
17 of jobs and millions of tourist dollars and tax revenue  
18 will be threatened by industrialization, pollution and  
19 view scape.

20 The fishing industry will be impacted  
21 negatively due to sea grasses and marine life that will  
22 be effected due to carbon dioxide deposition, raising the  
23 acidity levels in the water and due to destroying of  
24 wetlands, which many types of fish, oysters, shrimp and  
25 crab depend on.

1                   Analysts have determined that exporting  
2 natural gas will raise domestic gas prices, in which --  
3 which in turn will cause home energy rates and prices for  
4 consumer goods to increase and will discourage U.S.  
5 manufacturing.

6                   Our citizens, among the poorest in the  
7 country, will be further burdened with higher costs for  
8 goods and services, negatively affecting our economy even  
9 further.

10                  In addition, healthcare costs due to the  
11 effects of pollution in the future will add insult to  
12 injury and even further burden the citizens of the Rio  
13 Grande Valley. Public health costs will negatively  
14 impact the local, state and national economy.

15                  Brownsville is one of the poorest cities  
16 in the nation and 93 percent Latino. Brown's Port Isabel  
17 is also a majority minority community. This population  
18 will bear a disproportionate share of negative  
19 environmental consequences, making environmental  
20 injustice a serious issue to examine.

21                  Lastly, requested tax abatements from  
22 Annova must also be taken into account when examining  
23 economic benefits. The poorest communities will not be  
24 receiving any tax benefits for ten years in return for  
25 the comprised -- I'm sorry -- compromised health and

1 safety from Annova LNG.

2                               Lastly, with concern to pollution, public  
3 health, public safety, quality of life and environmental  
4 impact and environmental injustice, the cumulative impact  
5 of multiple LNG facilities, including Annova LNG, Next  
6 Decade LNG and Texas LNG and possibly two others all in  
7 one ship channel in close proximity must be taken into  
8 account in the approval process.

9                               The following summative risks and impacts  
10 of multiple LNG facilities needs to be researched and  
11 accounted for, including summative pollution, summative  
12 risks to public health, summative risks to public safety,  
13 summative environmental impacts. Summative negative  
14 impacts on local economies, to include recreational  
15 tourism, ecotourism, recreational fishing and commercial  
16 fishing, summative risks to other industries, including  
17 those in the ship channel.

18                               Summative risks to state and national  
19 economies due to increased cost of goods and services  
20 from LNG exportation. Summative impact posed from  
21 fracking that is necessary to extract the natural gas to  
22 supply all proposed LNG facilities in the port of  
23 Brownsville and based on full production capacities and  
24 export of product of each company.

25                               Summative environmental impact of all the

1 pipelines each company will build from Eagle Ford Shale,  
2 Corpus Christi and elsewhere necessary to delivery the  
3 natural gas. Summative impact of tankers, to include  
4 safety, traffic in the ship channel and pollution posed  
5 by tankers.

6 I oppose Next Decade LNG due to the  
7 following: pollution and impact on public health and  
8 quality of life; risks posed to public safety;  
9 destruction, pollution and risks to environmental and  
10 wildlife habitats; conflicts with state, local and  
11 national efforts to restore the Bahia Grande; more  
12 negative impacts on local industries and -- and economy  
13 than benefits and cumulative impacts on LNG industries.

14 The effects of pollution on public health  
15 and quality of life will be detrimental to residents in  
16 the RGV. Dangerous emissions will threaten the health of  
17 our most vulnerable citizens, of whom many are the  
18 poorest in the nation, making environmental justice a  
19 serious issue to examine.

20 Based on published emissions for Sabine  
21 Pass LNG, Next Decade's facility will be the largest  
22 polluter in Cameron County. Estimated pollution includes  
23 per year 5,790 tons of nitrogen oxides, 8,837 tons of  
24 carbon monoxide, 300 tons of volatile organic compounds,  
25 8,416 tons of greenhouse gasses, 24 tons of sulfur

1 dioxide and 372 tons of particulate matter.

2                   LNG plants with flare towers more than 100  
3 feet tall, along with bright lights, visible emissions  
4 and dust will blight our communities and degrade our  
5 quality of life. The entire value train must be  
6 considered in approval of Next Decade's -- Next Decade's  
7 facilities from exploration, extraction, pipeline  
8 delivery, processing and liquefaction, shipping,  
9 regasification and pipeline delivery in foreign markets.

10                   The entire value train will have an impact  
11 on the quality of life and public health of the citizens  
12 in the Rio Grande Valley. As an example, fracking in the  
13 Eagle Ford Shale area has already led to devastating  
14 consequences, such as water depletion, contamination,  
15 pollutions, sickness as a result of pollution and  
16 increased seismic activity.

17                   An increase in fracking activity supplied  
18 to Next Decade LNG will increase the effects on the  
19 environment and public health. Next Decade poses risks  
20 to public safety. LNG relies on an inherently risky  
21 technology. Public safety is an utmost concern due to  
22 the close proximity of population centers and the large  
23 amounts of LNG that will be stored, in addition to other  
24 highly flammable and explosive fuel, such as propane and  
25 ethylene.

1                   As one example, an explosion in March 2014  
2 at a smaller LNG plant in Washington State demonstrates  
3 that accidents can and will happen. Next Decade's  
4 proposed location puts the public of Port Isabel at risk.

5                   Next Decade's Rio Grande LNG liquified  
6 natural gas terminal will be built 2.7 miles from Port  
7 Isabel, which is in violation of the three mile hazard  
8 zone recommended by chemical engineer and LNG safety  
9 expert, Dr. Jerry Havens.

10                  An explosion in March -- sorry.

11                  LNG tankers are a risk to public  
12 safety. The route is near populated areas and tourist  
13 destinations, such as Isla Blanca Park and Schlitterbahn  
14 Water Park. Hazard zone two, recommended by the Sandia  
15 National Laboratories extend into the shrimp basin, Jaime  
16 Zapata Boat Ramp and the Isla Blanca Park beach.

17                  Likewise, hazard zone three extends into  
18 much of South Padre Island and Port Isabel. Next Decade  
19 will put our local environment and wildlife habitats at  
20 risk due to destruction of wetlands and coastal prairies  
21 and large amounts of pollution.

22                  Roughly half of the proposed site is made  
23 up of wetlands that would be filled in. Wetlands are  
24 critical for aquatic nurseries, water filtration and for  
25 preventing coastal erosion. Areas that are not wetlands

1 are coastal prairies and native brush that will be  
2 destroyed from bulldozing and paving. Coastal prairies  
3 provide habitat for numerous fauna and buffer inland  
4 areas from storm surges and flood waters.

5                   Pollutants will contribute to climate  
6 change and sea level rise that threaten our coastal  
7 communities. Next Decade will conflict with local, state  
8 and national efforts to restore the Bahia Grande. Next  
9 Decade's proposed location is next to the Bahia Grande,  
10 the largest wetlands restoration project in North  
11 American.

12                   Industrialization next to the Bahia Grande  
13 conflicts with continued restoration efforts that began  
14 in 2000 with a partnership of more than 65 groups at the  
15 local, state and national in addition to private citizens  
16 and land owners.

17                   The goals of restoring the Bahia Grande  
18 include: (1) restore, enhance, conserve and protect  
19 habitats; (2) restore, replenish and protect living  
20 coastal and marine resources; (3) restore, improve and  
21 protect water resources; (4) restore and enhance natural  
22 processes and shorelines; (5) restore and revitalize gulf  
23 economy; (6) restore water quality; and (7) promote  
24 natural resource stewardship and environmental education.

25                   These goals will be undermined and negated

1 due to destruction of wetlands and prairies, large  
2 amounts of pollution, large amounts of lighting and  
3 noise, all of which will disrupt the wildlife corridor,  
4 as wildlife will no longer be able to travel the Bahia  
5 and the river.

6                   Next Decade will have negative impacts on  
7 local industries and economy, all of which need to be  
8 researched and calculated. Any economic benefits Next  
9 Decade provides will be negated, putting a greater  
10 burden on some of the poorest citizens in the country.  
11 The goal of restoring the Bahia Grande is an increased  
12 contribution to the local economy through increased  
13 nature tourism.

14                   Next Decade's location to the Bahia Grande  
15 is a conflict of interest and continues efforts towards  
16 the restoration with economic benefits. The -- the Bahia  
17 Grande will no longer be a wildlife refuge with large LNG  
18 industrialization.

19                   The environmental degradation caused by  
20 Next Decade will have serious impacts on the Rio Grande  
21 Valley's vibrant industries of nature and beach tourism  
22 and commercial fishing. Ecotourism and recreational  
23 tourism will be negatively affected in Port Isabel, South  
24 Padre Island and the Bahia Grande.

25                   Year round, tourists visits the Rio Grande

1 Valley for clean, undisturbed beaches, beautiful  
2 landscapes and views capes, bird watching, water sports  
3 and recreational fishing and more, adding hundreds of  
4 millions of dollars in local economy.

5 A study by Texas A&M in 2012 revealed that  
6 nature tourism brought in 463 million that year. In  
7 addition, South Padre receives nearly half a million  
8 visitors, adding millions more. Thousands of jobs and  
9 millions of tourist dollars in tax revenue will be  
10 threatened by industrialization, pollution and view scape  
11 by Next Decade.

12 The fishing industry will be impacted  
13 negatively due to sea grasses and marine life that will  
14 be affected due to carbon dioxide deposition, raising the  
15 acidity levels in the water and due to destroying of  
16 wetlands, which many types of fish, oysters, shrimp and  
17 crab depend on.

18 Analysts have determined that exporting  
19 natural gas will raise domestic gas prices, in which turn  
20 will cause home energy rates and prices for consumer  
21 goods to increase and will discourage U.S. manufacturing.

22 Our citizens, among the poorest in the  
23 country, will be further burdened with higher costs for  
24 goods and services negatively affecting our economy even  
25 further.

1                    Additionally, health care costs due to the  
2 effects of pollution in the future will add insult to  
3 injury and even further burden the citizens of the Rio  
4 Grande Valley. Public health costs will negatively  
5 impact the local, state and national economy.  
6 Brownsville is one of the poorest cities in the nation  
7 and 93 percent Latino. Port Isabel is also a majority  
8 minority community. This population will bear a  
9 disproportionate share of negative environmental  
10 consequences, making environmental justice a serious  
11 issue to examine.

12                    Lastly, with concern to pollution, public  
13 health, public safety, quality of life and environmental  
14 impact and environmental injustice, the cumulative impact  
15 of multiple LNG facilities, including Next Decade, with  
16 also Annova and Texas LNG and possibly two others all in  
17 one ship channel in close proximity must be taken in --  
18 into account in the approval process of Next Decade.

19                    The following summative risks and impacts  
20 of multiple LNG facilities needs to be researched and  
21 accounted for. These risks include summative pollution,  
22 summative risks to public health, summative risks to  
23 public safety, summative environmental impacts, summative  
24 negative impacts on local economies to include  
25 recreational tourism, ecotourism, recreational fishing

1 and commercial fishing.

2                   Summative risks to other industries,  
3 including those in the ship channel. Summative risks to  
4 state and national economies due to increased cost of  
5 goods and services from LNG or exportation. Summative  
6 impact posed from fracking that is necessary to extract  
7 the natural gas to supply all proposed LNG facilities in  
8 the port of Brownsville and based on full production  
9 capacities and export of production of each company.

10                   Summative environmental impact of all the  
11 pipelines each company will build from Eagle Ford Shale,  
12 Corpus Christi and elsewhere necessary to deliver the  
13 natural gas. Summative impact of tankers, to include  
14 safety, traffic in the ship channel and pollution posed  
15 by tankers.

16                   I opposed Texas LNG due to the following:  
17 pollution and impact on public health and quality of  
18 life, risks posed to public safety, destruction,  
19 pollution and risks to environment and wildlife habitats,  
20 conflicts with local, state and national efforts to  
21 restore the Bahia Grande, more negative impacts on local  
22 industries and economy than benefits, cumulative impact  
23 on LNG industries.

24                   The effects of pollution on public health  
25 and quality of life will be detrimental to residents in

1 the RGV. Dangerous emissions will threaten the health of  
2 our most vulnerable citizens and of whom many are the  
3 poorest in the nation, making environmental injustice a  
4 serious issue to examine.

5                   Based on the published emissions for  
6 seeping past LNG, Texas LNG will admit per year 351.16  
7 tons of nitrogen oxides, 540.16 tons of carbon monoxide,  
8 17.4 tons of volatile organic compounds, .5 million tons  
9 per year of greenhouse gasses, 1.2 tons of sulfur dioxide  
10 and 22.7 tons of particulate matter.

11                   LNG plants with flare towers more than 100  
12 feet tall, along with bright lights, visible emissions  
13 and dust will be a blight on our community and degrade  
14 our quality of life. The entire value train must be  
15 considered in the approval process of Texas LNG  
16 facilities from exploration and extraction, pipeline  
17 delivery, processing and liquefaction, shipping,  
18 regasification and pipeline delivery in foreign markets.

19                   The entire value train will have an impact  
20 on the quality of life and public health of citizens in  
21 the Rio Grande Valley. As an example, fracking in the  
22 Eagle Ford Shale area has already led to devastating  
23 consequences, such as water depletion, contamination,  
24 pollution, sickness as a result of pollution and  
25 increased seismic activity.



1 much of South Padre Island and Port Isabel. Texas LNG  
2 will put our local environment and wildlife habitats at  
3 risk, due to destruction of wetlands and coastal prairies  
4 and large amounts of pollution.

5                   The Texas LNG site contains numerous  
6 wetlands that will be filled in. Wetlands are critical  
7 for aquatic nurseries, water filtration and for  
8 preventing coastal erosion. Areas that are not wetlands  
9 are coastal prairies and native brush that will be  
10 destroyed from bulldozing and paving. Coastal prairies  
11 provide habitat for numerous fauna and buffer inland  
12 areas from storm surges and flood waters.

13                   Pollutants will contribute to climate  
14 change and sea level rise that threaten our coastal  
15 communities. Texas LNG will have negative impacts on  
16 local industries and economy, all of which need to be  
17 researched and calculated. Any economic benefits Texas  
18 LNG provides will be negated, putting a greater burden on  
19 some of the poorest citizens of the country.

20                   The environmental degradation caused by  
21 Texas LNG will have serious impacts on the Rio Grande  
22 Valley's vibrant industries of nature and beach tourism  
23 and commercial fishing. Ecotourism and recreational  
24 tourism will be negatively affected in Port Isabel, South  
25 Padre Island and the Bahia Grande.

1                   Year round, tourists visit the Rio Grande  
2 Valley for clean, undisturbed beaches, the beautiful  
3 landscape and view scape, bird watching, water sports and  
4 recreational fishing and more, which adds hundreds of  
5 millions of dollars in the local economy.

6                   A study by Texas A&M in 2012 revealed that  
7 nature tourism brought in 463 million that year. In  
8 addition, South Padre receives nearly a half a million  
9 visitors, adding millions more. Thousands of jobs and  
10 millions of tourist dollars in tax revenue will be  
11 threatened by industrialization, pollution and view scape  
12 from Texas LNG.

13                   The fishing industry will be impact  
14 negatively due to sea grasses and marine life that will  
15 be affected due to carbon dioxide deposition, raising the  
16 acidity levels in the water and due to destroying of  
17 wetlands, which many types of fish, oysters, shrimp and  
18 crab depend on.

19                   Analysts have determined that exporting  
20 natural gas will rise -- will raise domestic gas prices,  
21 which in turn will cause home energy rates and prices for  
22 consumer goods to increase and will discourage U.S.  
23 manufacturing. Our citizens, among the poorest in the  
24 country, will be further burdened with higher costs for  
25 goods and services, negatively affecting our economy even

1 further.

2                   Healthcare costs due to the effects of  
3 pollution by Texas LNG will add insult to injury and even  
4 further burden the citizens of the Rio Grande Valley.  
5 Public health costs will negatively impact the local,  
6 state and national economy. Brownsville is the poorest  
7 -- one of the poorest cities in the nation and 93 percent  
8 Latino. Port Isabel is also a majority minority  
9 community. This population will bear a disproportionate  
10 share of negative environmental consequences, making  
11 environmental justice a serious issue to examine.

12                   Lastly, with concern to pollution, public  
13 health, public safety, quality of life and environmental  
14 impact and environmental injustice from Texas LNG, the  
15 cumulative impact of multiple LNG facilities, including  
16 Texas LNG, but also Annova LNG and Next Decade LNG and  
17 possibly two others all in one ship channel in close  
18 proximity must be taken into account in the approval  
19 process.

20                   The following summative risks and impacts  
21 of multiple LNG facilities, including Texas LNG, need to  
22 be researched and accounted for: summative pollution,  
23 summative risks to public health, summative risks to  
24 public safety, summative environmental impacts.

25                   Summative negative impacts on local

1 economies, include recreational tourism, ecotourism,  
2 recreational fishing and commercial fishing. Summative  
3 risks to other industries, including those in the ship  
4 channel. Summative risks to state and national economies  
5 due to increased costs of goods and services from LNG  
6 exportation.

7 Summative impact posed from fracking that  
8 is necessary to extract the natural gas to supply all  
9 proposed LNG facilities in the port of Brownsville and  
10 based on full production capacities and export of product  
11 at each company. Summative environmental impact of all  
12 the pipelines each company will build from Eagle Ford  
13 Shale, Corpus Christi and elsewhere necessary to deliver  
14 the natural gas. And summative impacts of tankers, to  
15 include safety, traffic in the ship channel and pollution  
16 posed by tankers.

17 Whereupon,

18 MARIA ALMAGUER,  
19 gave her statement:

20 MS. ALMAGUER: My name is Maria Almaguer.  
21 M-a-r-i-a A-l-m-a-g-u-e-r. I live here in Port Isabel  
22 within the two mile radius of the evacuation zone.

23 I currently have problems with breathing.  
24 And this is going to be a big problem, not only to  
25 myself, but to other people that have respiratory

1 problems. I am totally against it, because what it's  
2 going to do to the environment, to our community, to all  
3 the beautiful things that we have left in south Texas.

4                   Because north of here, there is nothing  
5 left. I lived in Houston for 40 years and I am very  
6 familiar with the gas and the oil and what it does. And  
7 the flaring. And I cannot believe that they want to do  
8 this, knowing that SpaceX is going to come in and have  
9 rockets going up near oil -- I mean, near gas lines,  
10 which is, like, that's not going to leave us -- that's  
11 like a ticking time bomb. Leave us any chance to even  
12 evacuate if it -- if there was a problem.

13                   And so with that being said, I just don't  
14 see there's any benefit, other than destroying what  
15 little we have of the endangered species that are left  
16 that are just here in this part of The United States.

17                   So -- and it's going to devastate the  
18 community, our tourism, everything. It's going to turn  
19 this into another Port Arthur. That's how I feel. So I  
20 am really against this. And very upset, to say the  
21 least. Very upset.

22                   And when -- I mean, if this comes it's --  
23 it's going to -- it's not helping us. I've -- I've been  
24 through west Texas and I've seen what it has done to west  
25 Texas. And that flaring -- I can't even stand the oil

1 down the street in Brownsville. The oil tanks that they  
2 have. When I pass through there, I cannot breathe. So  
3 it's going to be a hardship for myself and I believe for  
4 everybody else. And it's going to destroy everything  
5 that we have here.

6 So that is what I have to say.

7 Whereupon,

8 Margarita Boyd,

9 gave her statement:

10 MS. BOYD: My name is Margarita Boyd.

11 M-a-r-g-a-r-i-t-a B-o-y-d. And everybody knows me by  
12 Maggie.

13 Ready? Okay. So my name is Maggie Boyd.  
14 I live at 1914 -- that's 1-9-1-4 -- Old Port Isabel Road  
15 in Brownsville. I'm part of the Cameron County. And my  
16 family has been in the Rio Grande Valley for centuries.

17 I was born in Brownsville, but I was  
18 raised in New York on Long Island. So I am accustomed to  
19 the environment of fishing, clamming, water, swimming.  
20 And so one of the things that I'm most concerned about is  
21 the environment.

22 I'm opposed to the proposed LNG terminals,  
23 dockets PF15-14, PF15-15 and PF15-20, the Brownsville  
24 Ship Channel for the following reasons:

25 Number one, the liquefied natural gas

1 export terminals are major sources of hazardous air  
2 pollutants. These emissions include nitrogen oxides,  
3 carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds or VOCs as  
4 they're known, greenhouse gasses, sulfur dioxide and  
5 particulate matter. All of these emissions will dirty  
6 our air and endanger the pollution's health, especially  
7 the elderly and the children.

8                   Of particular concern to me is the fact  
9 that Annova's parent company, Exelon, owns a three mile  
10 island nuclear plant with its associated problems. And  
11 in addition, the company had multiple instances of  
12 failing to report chemical leaks into the groundwater in  
13 several Illinois nuclear power plants.

14                   Number two, I'm aware that most of the  
15 area politicians have endorsed these planned LNG export  
16 terminals; however, I feel it is imperative -- very  
17 imperative -- that the FERC examines the expected losses  
18 in jobs and other huge economic industries for the area,  
19 such as our commercial fishing, shrimping and beach and  
20 nature tourism. That includes the birding, especially  
21 the fishing and the clamming, because I do a lot of that.  
22 That really concerns me.

23                   Sight of the fiery flare stacks and clouds  
24 of pollution will not be the sites that will continue to  
25 attract people to visit our beaches here in South Padre.

1 And ecotourism will no longer decide to visit the area.

2 I have a lot of friends that are in the  
3 birding industry that they come down here from all over  
4 the country, Mexico also, and they have already told me  
5 if that happens that it is going to affect the birding  
6 industry.

7 The argument -- and argument number three,  
8 an argument usually raised for support, is that of an  
9 increased tax base. Yet we know that at least one  
10 company has already approached the Cameron County  
11 commissioner's for a ten year tax abatement. That means  
12 residents in the poorest city -- in the whole United  
13 States, we're the poorest city -- will be subsidizing  
14 these companies and discounts their claims of being good  
15 corporate neighbors.

16 Number four, the risk of accidents is very  
17 real. A March 2014 explosion at an LNG plant in  
18 Washington State forced an evacuation of hundreds of  
19 people within a two mile radius. The LNG refrigeration  
20 process also uses fuels such as propane and ethylene to  
21 cool the gas. And these are much more volatile than  
22 methane.

23 Considering that this facility is built  
24 along a busy, well traveled highway and the fact that the  
25 ship channel where these tankers would travel to get out

1 into the open waters is very close at range to Port  
2 Isabel and the beaches of South Padre Island. It is  
3 imperative that these risks be properly evaluated.

4 And those are my main concerns.

5 Whereupon,

6 DAVID GARCIA,

7 gave his statement:

8 MR. GARCIA: Yes, my name is David Garcia.  
9 D-a-v-i-d G-a-r-c-i-a. And I am the county administrator  
10 for Cameron County, which basically means I oversee and  
11 administer the day-to-day operations of the county, a  
12 county of over 400,000 people. The largest cities in the  
13 county are Brownsville, Harlingen, San Benito, the  
14 island; South Padre Island, Port Isabel.

15 And as a part of my experience in over 25  
16 years I've been involved in numerous infrastructure  
17 projects. And this one being just another one of the  
18 many that I've been involved in. And I'm here to support  
19 and to offer my support to all three projects, the Annova  
20 project, the Next Decade Project and the Texas LNG  
21 project. The projects that will be along the ship  
22 channel and along the port of Brownsville.

23 I believe it's important for the  
24 community, for our area, for the many things that are  
25 going on in our area with regards to growth, wages, the

1 future of our economy and the future of our children to  
2 provide good paying jobs and an industry that is going to  
3 allow us to move forward on various fronts.

4                   And so I'd like to register my support  
5 once more to the projects that are being discussed today  
6 at this scoping meeting.

7 Whereupon,

8                                   LAURIE HOWELL,

9 gave her statement:

10                           MS. HOWELL: Okay. Laurie Howell.

11 L-a-u-r-i-e. The last name is Howell, H-o-w-e-l-l.

12                           Okay. I -- I just want to make some  
13 general comments to be considered in the process, to be  
14 sure that everyone is aware of -- of the socioeconomic  
15 situation of the Port Isabel area and the families that  
16 live there. That this is a very low socioeconomic area.  
17 Most of these are hardworking people. A lot of them are  
18 in the seafood business or working on South Padre Island  
19 in the hotels, where tourism would -- if it's affected at  
20 all, could greatly affect the people that work in the  
21 industries that are there, the hotels, the motels, the  
22 restaurants.

23                           And so the other piece is -- is that there  
24 are -- one of these projects, Annova, is going to be  
25 situated directly across from the entrance to the Bahia

1 Grande, which is the largest wetland restoration project  
2 in The United States, I believe. And we have spent years  
3 bringing it back from being dried up. And have received  
4 money from the state to widen the channel going in there  
5 so that we can bring back the plants and the wildlife.

6 In addition, the northern -- or the  
7 southern part of the tip of Texas is the northern most  
8 nesting beaches for the kemp's ridley sea turtle, which  
9 is the most endangered sea turtle in the world. And so  
10 it might be affected by this.

11 The shrimping industry that a lot of the  
12 boats are either in Port Isabel or at the shrimp basin at  
13 the port of Brownsville. And my question that no one has  
14 been able to answer is will these big ships coming in  
15 affect the ability of the shrimp boats to egress --  
16 ingress or egress from the port so that it could affect  
17 them if they have to keep running their boats. Fuel is  
18 expensive for them. If they can't get their product in  
19 when it's needed. A lot of things. This is -- we were  
20 the shrimp capital of the world at one time, and so the  
21 shrimp industry as a whole is very important to our  
22 region.

23 Oh, the ocelot is also an endangered  
24 species that there is a corridor right through the U.S.  
25 Fish and Wildlife properties. We're trying to protect

1 the ocelot.

2                   And then the other piece is the port of  
3 Brownsville has been a safe harbor in the past when  
4 hurricanes were in the Gulf of Mexico. And this is a  
5 place not only for shrimp boats from all over the state  
6 of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, anywhere else, but also  
7 Mexican, international shrimp boats. And when there is a  
8 hurricane in the Gulf and they open the port of  
9 Brownsville, those boats have to find safe haven.

10                   And so what happens if there are LNG boats  
11 in the vicinity and they have security zones or they're  
12 in the port of Brownsville? And so all of these things I  
13 just want someone to consider and look into and make sure  
14 that -- that they're considered when they make these  
15 decisions. Because the location of the plants that I've  
16 seen, the three, all appear to be located close to Port  
17 Isabel, closer to Port Isabel than to Brownsville.

18                   And the -- the community is right there.  
19 People are living in houses. And so anything that they  
20 do, whether it's by noise or sound -- sound or visual,  
21 will be affecting the community of Port Isabel.

22                   I want that all taken into consideration.  
23 And I'm happy to answer any other questions or visit with  
24 anyone. I just want this to be a very fair process and  
25 the concerns that -- of people and animals that have been

1 here long before LNG are considered in the process.

2 Thank you.

3 Whereupon,

4 MARY VOLZ,

5 gave her statement:

6 MS. VOLZ: Mary Volz. That's spelled V  
7 like in Victor, o-l-z like in zebra.

8 I hope the FERC commission will deny  
9 permits for all three of the liquid natural gas companies  
10 being proposed to be built in the port of Brownsville. I  
11 know several area politicians have endorsed these export  
12 terminals, but the majority of people that live here do  
13 not. And for these reasons:

14 They cause hazardous air pollutions. They  
15 cost us more jobs than they will bring. They will make  
16 our electric and gas bills go up, along with everything  
17 else, because of that increased price. The risk of  
18 accidents are very real. And finally, the destruction of  
19 irreplaceable wetlands and fragment habitat of endangered  
20 species will be impossible to litigate.

21 Once those areas are gone, they are gone.  
22 These LNG export terminals should be built in areas that  
23 already have industrialized sea ports. The pipeline  
24 could be reduced in length to closer ports, such as  
25 Corpus Christi or Port Lavaca.

1                   Our area is the last pristine beach on the  
2 Texas Gulf Coast and I hope to keep it that way. I am  
3 opposed to all three liquid natural gas companies being  
4 proposed to be built at the port of Brownsville.

5 Whereupon,

6                   ERIC EHRAMJIAN,

7 gave his statement:

8                   MR. EHRAMJIAN: Okay. My name is Eric  
9 Ehamjian. The first name is E-r-i-c. Last name is  
10 spelled E-h-r-a-m-j-i-a-n. I am a resident of Weslaco,  
11 Texas.

12                   I am aware that there is the desire to put  
13 these liquid natural gas facilities near South Padre  
14 Island and I do not like the idea of ruining what we have  
15 on the island as far as peaceful, natural habitats.

16                   I'm afraid that what they're saying in  
17 regards to these facilities being safe and nondisruptive  
18 is not going to come true. And I'd like to stop it  
19 before it's proven. Thank you.

20 Whereupon,

21                   WILLIAM JASON FRY,

22 gave his statement:

23                   MR. FRY: All right. My name is William  
24 Jason Fry. I am a resident of Brownsville, Texas and  
25 also a property owner on South Padre Island, Texas.

1                   I am opposed to all the development the  
2 LNG facilities want to bring to the port of Brownsville.  
3 In my opinion, that land is vital to our habitat and our  
4 wildlife of the area. And our wildlife from the area is  
5 responsible for a lot of jobs and -- and fishing. And  
6 it's vital to the economy.

7                   So I feel that if the LNG plants come in  
8 the way that they are proposed, that this will have a  
9 devastating effect on the wildlife population of our  
10 area. And that will greatly affect the economy of our  
11 area.

12                   It will also be able to be visible from  
13 South Padre Island, which is a resort situation. And  
14 this is going to affect the people that come and rent my  
15 condominium on South Padre Island.

16                   So I am 100 percent against this project  
17 being proposed along the ship channel of Brownsville,  
18 Texas.  
19 Whereupon,

20                                   JULIET VALLEJO,  
21 gave her statement:

22                   MS. VALLEJO: My name is Juliet,  
23 J-u-l-i-e-t, Vallejo, V, as in Victor, a-l-l-e-j-o.

24                   I have concerns over all of these LNG  
25 facilities, mainly for the distance that they are in --

1 from the coast, as well as the communities nearby, Port  
2 Isabel and Brownsville, as well as Laguna Heights and all  
3 of the living communities.

4                   It -- I've read research recommending that  
5 for LNG facilities to be within at least three miles from  
6 a community. These LNG facilities are within the three  
7 miles, meaning their evacuation, the safety, it concerns  
8 me. It concerns -- the safety as well as the health  
9 concerns of all the emissions that they're having on the  
10 children, on the elderly, how much the health risks are  
11 going to rise with the construction of these facilities  
12 and their long term effects.

13                   Also, the approximation to wildlife.  
14 There's a lot of wildlife sanctuaries. There is the U.S.  
15 Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife corridors, as well as  
16 the Bahia Grande, as well as other nature conservatories  
17 around that area, one which is just right next to the  
18 pipeline that they're planning to construct.  
19 Particularly, Rio Grande LNG.

20                   And if any errors, anything happens,  
21 anything -- anything occurs, any -- it's -- we're all  
22 human. There's -- mistakes happen. Mistakes have been  
23 reported on other LNG facilities. If any of these occur,  
24 it's going to affect the wildlife and the people that  
25 live nearby.

1                   Going back to affecting the people, the  
2 safety zone. If there -- anything occurs, if there's a  
3 rupture within one of the holding tanks and the natural  
4 gas ignites, this area is high temperature. It -- there  
5 is also the fact that natural gas -- if one of those  
6 ruptures, one of those holding tanks ruptures, it's going  
7 to burn. It's -- it's not going to burn out. And that  
8 is a big safety concern.

9                   Also, the approximation of the fact that  
10 SpaceX has already been approved. They already have  
11 their environmental impact statement out. And if they  
12 start construction and they start their rocket launching,  
13 it's already been known and reported that some of the  
14 rockets explode.

15                   The debris from those rockets, there is a  
16 high chance of it hitting one of the holding facilities.  
17 Or in case that ever happens, what would be -- what would  
18 be the safety? How -- how could we even prevent that?  
19 The only way to prevent it is not building it. That is  
20 one of my main -- one of the concerns.

21                   Also, the distance of the LNG facilities  
22 from Mexico. Have -- is it within the boundaries that we  
23 have with the Mexican consulate? Has the Mexican  
24 consulate been spoken to about the LNG projects? We  
25 haven't been informed of that, whether we're within too

1 close range of the Mexican border. Has any talks between  
2 the two countries been mentioned? Or the companies to  
3 the country?

4                   As SpaceX was so close to the border and  
5 the -- pretty much the Mexican consulate was not informed  
6 of such project and the distance and the -- they weren't  
7 informed. And I know that that usually causes stress  
8 within the relations between the two countries.

9                   Also, the sea traffic within -- that's  
10 going to increase due to the shipping of the LNG  
11 containers. Increasing of ship -- ship traffic means  
12 that there's going to be an increase of probable  
13 accidents occurring within the coast.

14                   If that occurs, if any of the fuel, any  
15 liquids, any kind of not natural contain -- contaminants  
16 enters our waters, it can kill our -- it can do fish  
17 kills. It would kill our natural estuaries that we have  
18 here, our fish population, our crab, our shrimp. Pretty  
19 much all of our fisheries would be gone if anything ends  
20 up harming those.

21                   Perfect example is the Galveston/Corpus  
22 Christi area. Their waters, their fisheries, it's not as  
23 great as here in south Texas, here on this coast that we  
24 have here in Post Isabel and South Padre Island.

25                   The Laguna Madre is a big nursery. If



1 gave his statement:

2 MR. DIAMOND: Yes, my name is Stuart  
3 Diamond. S-t-u-a-r-t, Diamond D-i-a-m-o-n-d. I am a 25  
4 year resident of South Padre Island. I am a home and  
5 business owner. I am also an attorney. This applies to  
6 all three of the projects.

7 I'd first like to state that with no  
8 disrespect to the kind lady who's the court reporter, I'm  
9 kind of offended that there's no public hearings. I  
10 believe that something of this magnitude that can affect  
11 my life, my family's life, our home investment and  
12 everything else deserves to have a personal, public  
13 hearing on it and not written statements, with all due  
14 respect to the court reporter.

15 Major concerns that I have, have to do  
16 with danger to the environment. These two 48 inch  
17 pipelines, which are -- would be coming in the cooling  
18 process and flowing process, are fraught with potential  
19 dangers. The heavy metals that must be extracted from  
20 the water, which I believe include mercury, will have  
21 to be disposed of and transported on our -- on our  
22 highways.

23 The flaring will not burn off sufficiently  
24 all of the hydrocarbons, which will be by the prevailing  
25 winds going through areas of Port Isabel, Laguna Heights,

1 Laguna Vista, where our schools are.

2                   Also, concerns about any waste water  
3 disposal. There will be quite a bit of waste water that  
4 must be disposed of. They're probably going to need to  
5 be a desalinization plant built, which will end up  
6 changing the salinity and the ecosystem on many  
7 environmentally sensitive areas right next to the plants,  
8 the Bahia Grande, also going into the lower Laguna Madre.

9                   Another concern that I have is to provide  
10 transportation, these ships -- the ship channel will need  
11 to be dredged. It will be need -- it will need to be  
12 dredged to at least -- from what I've heard -- 60 feet.  
13 I have various issues with this, one of which is that the  
14 dredge material is normally one of the primary resources  
15 for beach re-nourishment for the town of South Padre  
16 Island and South Padre Island, the entire area.

17                   That this will basically take away any  
18 potential beach re-nourishment for the South Padre Island  
19 area, and they will have to find other, much more  
20 expensive material for beach re-nourishment. Cost of  
21 transportation for this material will be enormous.

22                   Another concern that I have is when you go  
23 to a depth of that in the ship channel or between the  
24 jetties, that the chances of dredge materials containing  
25 heavy metals, which will need to be disposed, will make

1 it unsuitable for beach re-nourishment. And to dispose  
2 of those dredge materials into the Gulf will just be  
3 releasing these heavy metals back into the ecosystem.

4                   Also, the -- speaking of the jetties, from  
5 what I understand, these thousand foot boats which will  
6 be coming in will be escorted. They will be escorted --  
7 I have been told -- by armed escorts. And that the  
8 authorities will have the authority to close off the ship  
9 channel and the jetties area, which is the only entrance  
10 from the Gulf to the bay. At times these vessels are  
11 coming in. This will have an adverse effect on  
12 recreational fisherman, recreational boaters, the shrimp  
13 industry, the cargo industry, which all support this  
14 area.

15                   Okay. A concern I have also is with  
16 the safety, in addition to the vessels, that any  
17 accident/catastrophe, there is a zone of at least three  
18 miles which will be devastated, as the -- I believe last  
19 year there was an explosion at a -- at a plant in  
20 Washington State. That was from the pipes. There are to  
21 be these two 40 inch pipes. The process of cooling the  
22 liquefied natural gas to be able to put it onto the  
23 vessels can contain times of hazard.

24                   I have a friend in the industry who  
25 actually -- we disagree about many things, but he did

1 call the ships that carry this back and forth basically  
2 floating bombs.

3                   Another problem I have is that this  
4 billion dollar industry will be receiving at least ten  
5 years of tax rebates. As a home owner and property owner  
6 and tax payer here on -- in Cameron County, I find it  
7 quite offensive that they will be able to get tax rebates  
8 for at least a ten year period, when I am never offered  
9 anything along those lines.

10                   Also, as to contributing to our economy,  
11 in addition to the not having to pay property taxes,  
12 other than the construction, it is estimated there will  
13 only be 160 jobs with these three plants. The largest  
14 hotel on South Padre Island, the East La Grande itself  
15 employees approximately 160 people. But those are all  
16 people who live in this area and contribute every day to  
17 the economy.

18                   Concerns I have also are the -- into the  
19 destruction of the environment, environmentally sensitive  
20 areas. We are privileged down here to be the home of  
21 many endangered species. There is the ridley sea turtle  
22 nesting period. There is the ocelot. We are also a  
23 major bird and migratory stop off between North and South  
24 America.

25                   Between the change to the environment due

1 to the waste water, the change in the environment from  
2 the air pollution, the destruction of Wetlands around the  
3 Bahia Grande, which is right next to this area, is  
4 potentially hazardous to these endangered species and  
5 wildlife. It is a breeding ground for -- and a nesting  
6 ground for many species. And the potential hazard to  
7 many of our existing industries, such as shrimping,  
8 fishing and ecotourism can be devastated by any problems.

9                   In closing, I'd just like to state that in  
10 my opinion there are other places much more suitable to  
11 this than here. There are areas that already have the  
12 infrastructure and ability to handle the heavy  
13 transportation load involved with this.

14                   Oh, and then finally there's one other  
15 area that I forgot. Because of this, it's been estimated  
16 that our own electric rate will rise while we receive  
17 nothing to benefit. Thank you very much.

18 Whereupon,

19                   RAFAEL SALAZAR,

20 gave his statement:

21                   MR. SALAZAR: My name is Rafael Salazar.  
22 R-a-f-a-e-l. Last name S-a-l-a-z-a-r.

23                   And I am here to speak in opposition of  
24 the LNG facilities that are being proposed in the local  
25 area. My concerns are about the safety of the citizens

1 that live here and that live in the area.

2 My concern is about terrorist attacks and  
3 that these are floating bombs going through our port  
4 every single time that they go through here. Our  
5 proximity to the Mexico border as well and the weapons  
6 that they have available in their arsenal if they decided  
7 that they wanted to attack one of these facilities.

8 My other concern is about the fact that  
9 there will be rockets launched from Boca Chica Beach from  
10 SpaceX, which everyone is well aware that there was the  
11 Falcon 9 rocket that exploded in mid-air after a launch  
12 and can leave debris that will fly back down to good old  
13 planet Earth. And could actually strike one of their  
14 tanks and then cause a fissure and then can actually  
15 create a leak that could create a vapor cloud and can  
16 find an ignition source and could be a really terrible  
17 threat to the citizens here in this area.

18 My other concern is their use of natural  
19 resources, like water. We are in a drought prone area  
20 and they plan on using water from the area as well.  
21 Their piecemeal tactics of information is not informing  
22 the community enough. And I feel that they're really not  
23 doing their job telling people what exactly that their  
24 plans are.

25 And I believe that's -- that's the end of

1 my statement.

2 Whereupon,

3 JOYCE HAMILTON,

4 gave her statement:

5 MS. HAMILTON: All right. I'm Joyce

6 Hamilton. And do you need by address or -- okay.

7 Spelling. J-o-y-c-e. Hamilton, H-a-m-i-l-t-o-n.

8 My -- here's my comment: the Annova LNG  
9 plant proposed for the Highway 48 Boca Chica Beach and  
10 the Bahia Grande wetlands area has virtually no value  
11 to us. It has no value to the wildlife, the soil, the  
12 water, the marine life, the shrimping industry,  
13 ecotourism, beach tourism, our health or the economy.

14 In fact, the evidence is very strong that  
15 it will devalue all of the above. The purpose of all  
16 three of the plants proposed for the Rio Grande Valley is  
17 to process fracked gas from the Eagle Ford Shale and then  
18 export it, ship it across the Atlantic to other  
19 countries.

20 The profit will accrue to the applicants,  
21 the companies selling this liquefied natural gas and  
22 their partners and investors. What's in it for the RGV;  
23 the Rio Grande Valley, the city of Brownsville, Cameron  
24 County and, more importantly, Port Isabel, South Padre  
25 Island and for all of us who visit the island for so many

1 reasons? Very little.

2                   According to Annova, their plant will  
3 bring jobs. On closer analysis the majority of these  
4 jobs will be short term, construction related jobs gone  
5 as soon as the plant is complete. The executive team  
6 will come from headquarters in Houston and engineers will  
7 most likely come from outside the Valley.

8                   The relatively small number of jobs to  
9 employ our young people will be unequal payment for the  
10 destruction of one of the most fragile ecosystems in the  
11 country, and we will be left with a decimated wetlands  
12 area, permanently damaged beach and dunes area and a sad  
13 future for the stretch of fragile land between  
14 Brownsville and South Padre Island.

15                   Destroying this ecosystem will in turn  
16 damage not just beach tourism and the shrimping industry,  
17 but the ecotourism industry that draws hundreds of  
18 millions of dollars from bird watchers and nature lovers  
19 who come every year for the Rio Grande Valley birding  
20 festival and then continue to come back throughout the  
21 year because of the stellar national and international  
22 reputation we've established through the festival's 22  
23 years.

24                   It is also impossible to think of South  
25 Padre Island without the images of dolphins, sea turtles

1 and the endangered ocelot, which will be without question  
2 further endangered by this project. These are not  
3 cartoon characters or fun things for the kids. These  
4 animals are an indicator of a healthy or unhealthy  
5 ecosystem.

6                   Picture too the beautiful sunsets on the  
7 bay against a backdrop of smoke stacks, flares, foul  
8 odors and the bright lights of an enormous plant shining  
9 24/7. And the entire image of the island jewel of the  
10 valley will soon be a distant memory. And I do not think  
11 this is an exaggeration by any means.

12                   I strongly encourage the city of  
13 Brownsville to reconsider any support for the Annova LNG  
14 plant. And here I'm focusing specifically on the Annova  
15 LNG plant, although I am opposed to all of them.

16                   It's a terrible idea for all of us. And I  
17 send my fervent plea to the Federal Energy Regulatory  
18 Commission members that they consider the health of the  
19 people, the vibrant economy of beach and ecotourism and  
20 this very fragile environment before approving something  
21 that is not wanted by the people of this region. Thank  
22 you.

23 Whereupon,

24                                           SARAH LOWE,

25 gave her statement:

1 MS. LOWE: My name is Sarah Lowe.

2 S-a-r-a-h L-o-w-e. I am a citizen of the community  
3 Laguna Vista, Texas. I am also a teacher here and I am a  
4 parent of three children, who I am raising by myself to  
5 be upstanding citizens and to take care of our planet.

6 I'm concerned today about what is  
7 happening, because we are a haven for wildlife. We are a  
8 haven for nature. I am progressive. I am about moving  
9 forward. But I feel that by LNG building plants in our  
10 area, we can have catastrophic results, whether being  
11 from someone with malintention or an accident, wildfires  
12 that can go out of control because of the southern winds  
13 that come very frequently through our area.

14 We have turtles that only come to our  
15 island to reproduce. We have ocelots. We have native  
16 creatures that we take care of and that we work as a  
17 community to keep safe. And I feel that this could ruin  
18 their habitat and our children's habitat, my habitat, our  
19 air.

20 We don't want to see these huge towers  
21 with fires burning for hours and days at a time. The  
22 smoke that comes from them. The interference of vessels  
23 that make a living off of fishing in our community, which  
24 we make -- a lot of people make a living doing.

25 I don't think that they have our community

1 at heart, our welfare. They don't want to be taxed,  
2 which means what? We benefit -- not only are they going  
3 to be messing up our habitat and putting us in danger,  
4 they're not going to want to add to our economy  
5 monetarily, which makes me feel that they're very selfish  
6 and greedy.

7                   Those are my main concerns. Also, we  
8 thrive on tourism. If it's not people coming down for  
9 the summer for six months at a time from colder regions  
10 to be in what they call paradise, what I call paradise,  
11 they're not going to want to come anymore. People in  
12 college that need a break, they don't go to Galveston.  
13 They don't go to Corpus or Houston. They come down  
14 because we have a beautiful environment that is very  
15 untouched by organizations like this one.

16                   I know that maybe my voice is small, but  
17 I'm hoping that there will be enough for there to be a  
18 stop to this situation in the future.

19 Whereupon,

20                                   JAMES HUNTER,

21 gave his statement:

22                   MR. HUNTER: My name is James Hunter and  
23 I'm a fourth generation Brownsvillian. And I am familiar  
24 with the economy. And I've looked at the various  
25 projects.

1                   And I believe Texas LNG's project is  
2 probably the best. It seems like the safest. I've  
3 gotten a lot of information about it. And so I'm  
4 speaking on behalf of -- in favor of Texas LNG's project.

5                   I think the project will be good for the  
6 local economy and it will create jobs, create revenue for  
7 the lower Valley. And I'm comfortable after looking at  
8 the material that the -- the environmental concerns that  
9 do exist have -- have been minimized.

10                   And that's about all I have to say.

11 Whereupon,

12                                           JOSH BALLENGER,

13 gave his statement:

14                   MR. BALLENGER: Hello. My name is Josh  
15 Ballenger. J-o-s-h- B-a-l-l-e-n-g-e-r.

16                   I'm with the Rio Valley Republicans. I  
17 was asked to speak on behalf of them today. We have  
18 prepared a -- we are in support of all three projects and  
19 we're in support of all economic development into the  
20 region.

21                   Just to start off my statement, Texas'  
22 future is bright, but that's not good enough for Texans.  
23 We want more. And we're proud of that. We have the 12th  
24 largest economy in the world and businesses are flocking  
25 here to create even more jobs. It's no accident, it's no

1 miracle. It's -- it's a proven Texas model.

2                   So when -- just some information about the  
3 Rio Grande Valley. We're one of the poorest areas in the  
4 nation. The average household income, I believe, is  
5 about \$27,000 a year.

6                   With LNG, the jobs that they're bringing,  
7 are a base pay of \$70,000 a year, which is about two and  
8 a half times what the average job is paying or what the  
9 average household income is in the area. This is a  
10 significant economic opportunity for the area. It is  
11 going to raise a lot of money through taxes.

12                   And it -- just all three of the projects  
13 is going to do incredible development for the area. And  
14 I'm really hoping that -- that there's no hiccups in --  
15 in the project itself.

16                   My club has about 60 active members on a  
17 month to month basis and we unanimously support this  
18 cause. We support the -- the building of -- and the  
19 expansion of all liquid natural gas projects in the area.

20                   Unfortunately, we could not have 60 people  
21 come out here and speak on behalf of it, but we are -- we  
22 are here in numbers. I -- I wouldn't know what else to  
23 add. It's going to bring a lot of economic prosperity.  
24 I don't believe for a second any -- any of the -- the  
25 hogwash that the anti-LNG people are saying. I don't

1 think it has -- will mess with tourism at all. I think  
2 where -- it is far enough away that it shouldn't be an  
3 issue.

4 I think that if there was any ecological  
5 devastation, that the public entities that are designed  
6 to prevent that will do so. And they're not saying that  
7 it's going to create ecological devastation. And I think  
8 -- I think we should trust our experts more than -- than  
9 people who are not necessarily certified to be giving  
10 statements that they're giving. And that's -- that's  
11 what I have to say.

12 Whereupon,

13 CECILIA GARRETT,

14 gave here statement:

15 MS. GARRETT: My name is Cecilia,  
16 C-e-c-i-l-i-a, Garrett, G-a-r-r-e-t-t. I am a resident  
17 of Laguna Vista, Texas and I am here today to express to  
18 FERC my support for the protection and preservation of  
19 our Earth's inhabitants present and future.

20 My concerns to you are that the proposed  
21 development of LNG export facilities and transport at the  
22 Port of Brownsville will put at risk all living creatures  
23 in the lower Laguna Madre area.

24 The people of this community thrive on  
25 saving and co-existing with marine life, for example the

1 sea turtles and dolphins, and wildlife, such as ocelots  
2 and migratory birds and butterflies.

3 I have concerns that the construction of  
4 the LNG facilities so near the Laguna Atascosa National  
5 Wildlife Refuge, Bahia Grande Track could impact 16  
6 threatened or endangered species, according to federal  
7 fish and wildlife officials.

8 These officials also have expressed  
9 concerns about placing a highly flammable LNG plant  
10 across the road from the Bahia Grande and it could make  
11 impossible to fight wildfires in the area.

12 Also, the land managers of the Bahia  
13 Grande conduct prescribed burns for the aplomado falcon  
14 and other species to keep their habitat maintained.  
15 Firefighters actually ignite those fires and control  
16 them. By allowing the LNG plant so near to this area  
17 puts at risk the lives of those firefighters and others  
18 whose job it is to maintain the Bahia Grande.

19 Another concern is the transport of a  
20 hazardous fuel such as LNG puts lives and property at  
21 risk. According to the congressional research service  
22 report titled, "Liquefied Natural Gas Citing Safety and  
23 Regulations," dated May 27th, 2004. In there they state,  
24 "Potentially catastrophic pool fires and vapor cloud  
25 fires could arise from a serious accident or attack on

1 LNG infrastructure."

2                   The port of Brownsville ship channel is  
3 where the huge vessels carrying the LNG out to sea for  
4 export will travel. The channel is in close proximity to  
5 residential and recreational populations, especially Long  
6 Island Village in Port Isabel and Isla Blanca Park on  
7 South Padre Island.

8                   If you allow these LNG export facilities  
9 to build here, then it will be putting hundreds of lives  
10 at risk just so another oil and gas corporation can  
11 profit off of our resources.

12                   Furthermore, the LNG corporations are  
13 asking for a tax abatement. So instead of these  
14 corporations caring about the well being of this  
15 community, they want to keep as much of their revenues  
16 for themselves instead of giving back to the people of  
17 Cameron County. That is greed. And once again, an oil  
18 and gas corporation proved that they value profits over  
19 public support.

20                   Another concern specifically deals with  
21 Annova LNG parent company, Exelon. In 2006, it was  
22 revealed that Exelon had covered up multiple spills of  
23 radioactive water over a decade, operating the Braidwood  
24 nuclear generating station in Illinois. Exelon is a  
25 company that deceives the public. This company has

1 proven that they are not a good corporate citizen and we  
2 don't need them or want them in our community.

3                   Finally, it's time to get away from the  
4 profiting off of fossil fuels by the oil and gas  
5 industries and start a real effort towards sustainable  
6 energies, because climate change is a reality. As  
7 President Barrack Obama said recently, "If we don't get  
8 it right, we may not be able to reverse and we may not be  
9 able to adapt sufficiently."

10                   We, the people of the Laguna Madre  
11 community, as you to please consider human lives present  
12 and future when making your decision to let LNG  
13 development move forward in this area. Public safety and  
14 quality of life should be of primary importance to you,  
15 more so than the profits of the corporations.

16                   Consider this: oil and gas industries  
17 will still make their profits if you deny them to develop  
18 LNG export terminals at the port of Brownsville. They  
19 will just go elsewhere and it's no big deal to them.  
20 But if you allow them to go forward, this community will  
21 be changed forever and it will not be good for its  
22 people.

23                   I'll ask you, please, to do the right  
24 thing.

25 Whereupon,

1 Dr. Osbert Haro,

2 gave his statement:

3 MR. HARO: My name is Dr. Osbert Haro. I  
4 was born in Brownsville, Texas, raised in California --  
5 Los Angeles, California. I moved from Los Angeles,  
6 California after I was born in 1973. I moved to  
7 Brownsville, Texas to look for a better future, as well  
8 as to explore and discover my parents' mission.

9 My mom is an immigrant from Mexico and my  
10 father is an immigrant from Mexico, now residents and  
11 also citizens of The United States of America. We are  
12 proud to say that we have been producers of The United  
13 States of America's future. I have a sister who was born  
14 in Hawthorne, California and she is a teacher here in  
15 Brownsville, Texas.

16 I'd like to make some comments on any LNG  
17 plant anywhere in The United States of America, or for  
18 that matter, anywhere in the world. We here in  
19 Brownsville are being asked to export LNG, liquefied  
20 natural gas, to other parts of the country. I'm afraid  
21 to say that this is a mistake. It is a nuclear mistake.  
22 It is an environmental mistake. And it is a mistake  
23 already waiting to happen.

24 We do not need to live under those demands  
25 or circumstances, for that matter. We would like to



1 that if they want to speak about their children's future,  
2 to let go of these projects. To denounce these projects  
3 now. These projects are harmful to our children. They  
4 are harmful to our next generation of children. And they  
5 have proved -- they have been proven risky.

6 I live in Brownsville, Texas. I am also a  
7 witness of what the power of gas and oil can bring to one  
8 individual only or to a society of rich people. I don't  
9 -- I am not blaspheming or defaming rich people. I am  
10 saying that those people who want to ruin our country are  
11 the people who want to ruin our land.

12 This sort of richness is irreversible.  
13 You can only become rich once and you will destroy the  
14 world once only. So I ask that this project again, the  
15 three LNG plants, the ones that are occurring -- I don't  
16 have the docket number here with me. But they are Texas  
17 LNG project docket number P15-14-000, Annova LNG project  
18 docket number PF15-15-000 and Rio Grande LNG project  
19 docket number PF15-20-000 be abolished of any agenda here  
20 in south Texas, and for that matter anywhere in the state  
21 of Texas.

22 I will at this point end my conversation  
23 or my -- my testimony by introducing a report on a -- on  
24 the United States methane hotspot, which is bigger than  
25 expected. It's a report that has been issued by NASA

1 scientists.

2 I believe in NASA scientists. I believe  
3 the future of this country is in NASA scientists. I  
4 believe the future of our next generation will be part of  
5 the scientific world of NASA. I commend NASA for this  
6 report, and I would like for every individual in this  
7 country and in this world, for that matter, to view this  
8 report from NASA.

9 It is a report on NASA. It says the  
10 hotspot in the four corners methane gas, methane  
11 emissions the size of Delaware over the four corners  
12 area. This is a problem, because it traps sunlight 100  
13 times more than normal and it's over the San Juan  
14 Mountains or the Rocky Mountains, which provide the water  
15 necessary to feed the agricultural system, to feed the  
16 people who drink off this water and to feed the  
17 agricultural system of the Texas region and all the way  
18 down to the Rio Grande River.

19 So we -- we need this methane gas in the  
20 air rid of. We hope that this will not be a problem in  
21 the future, but as of right now, we see through the NASA  
22 report that this can affect the water supply of the Rio  
23 Grande River.

24 And I will end this conversation by  
25 introducing this document. Thank you very much.

1 Whereupon,

2                                   STEPHANIE WIERNIK,

3 gave her statement:

4                                   MS. WIERNIK: I am Stephanie Wiernik.

5 Tomorrow I will be legally changing my last name to

6 Just last name. So it's S-t-e-p-h-a-n-i-e. Last name

7 W-i-e-r-n-i-k as of today. As of tomorrow, it will be J-

8 u-s-t. Stephanie Just.

9                                   And I am a resident currently of

10 Harlingen, Texas. I'm originally from Atlanta, Georgia.

11 I have lived in the Valley for almost a year, just about.

12 And I came here to do a residency in spiritual care at

13 Valley Baptist Hospital in Harlingen, Texas. My

14 residency here will be up in about two weeks and I will

15 be going back to Atlanta.

16                                   During the time that I've been here, I

17 have become acquainted with many of the people who live

18 in the Valley, whether through crisis intervention,

19 through talking to people who are going through hard

20 times and also out in the community.

21                                   And I have learned about this project from

22 some of the friends that I've made here. And I'm very

23 concerned about its effects. It seems to me -- I think

24 one of the reasons that I was attracted to this area to

25 do -- to work in spiritual care is because of the

1 demographic here, that it's the poorest place in The  
2 United States. It's full of vulnerable people, children,  
3 families, old people, immigrants, a lot of wildlife.

4                   So -- so the residents of the Valley are a  
5 very vulnerable, very powerless kind of people. And it  
6 disturbs me that this project is coming in. I feel like  
7 I have to talk really loud because I'm not sure how --  
8 how much it picks up.

9                   It just -- it disturbs me how this --  
10 this project has to -- is coming to the Valley, where  
11 currently there are no refineries on the beach. The  
12 first time I came to Texas as an Atlantan -I came from  
13 Atlanta -- I was just astounded by the smog, the smoke,  
14 the refineries along the shoreline. I'd never seen  
15 anything like that.

16                   And as far as I understand, this place is  
17 the only place in Texas that isn't full of refineries on  
18 the shoreline. It's the only -- it's the only natural  
19 place that's left in the entire state along the  
20 shoreline. And so it's really concerning for the health  
21 of the residents, the welfare of the residents, the  
22 welfare of the wildlife and the state of the beaches.

23                   All of those things that are so beautiful  
24 about this place that's a -- kind of a refuge for the  
25 powerless, stand to be destroyed by the introduction of

1 the liquid natural gas refineries and by the fracking  
2 that it would necessitate in the Valley.

3 I'm concerned about health and  
4 environmental issues. And I'm concerned about mishaps,  
5 accidents and various wildlife that could -- that this is  
6 the only place where they can live, because so much of  
7 their habitat has been destroyed.

8 And so that's my comment. Thank you.  
9 Whereupon,

10 VANESSA CASSANDRA ORTEGA,  
11 gave her statement:

12 MS. ORTEGA: Vanessa Cassandra Ortega.  
13 V-a-n-e-s-s-a C-a-s-s-a-n-d-r-a O-r-t-e-g-a.

14 As a citizen of the Rio Grande Valley,  
15 which includes Brownsville, Port Isabel and South Padre  
16 Island, I oppose the construction of all liquefied  
17 natural gas export facilities at the port of Brownsville.  
18 Construction of such facilities raises several concerns  
19 for me as a citizen and for life around me.

20 One of the issues of concern is wildlife  
21 disturbance. These companies would use much land and  
22 would have to disturb in order to construct. And on  
23 these lands there are species that are endangered and  
24 protected, federally protected, like the Texas Tortoise  
25 and the ocelots. Which I have seen Texas Tortoises along

1 Highway 48 and such.

2                   Once these facilities are constructed, I  
3 am concerned that the noise and lights would also affect  
4 the migration of ocelots trying to go from one place to  
5 another, especially because one of the facilities is  
6 near a natural corridor where there is much brush in  
7 comparison to the other areas along the highway.

8                   Not only -- I not only fear for  
9 terrestrial animals, but also aquatic as well, because  
10 of the noise and lights and such. We have a unique,  
11 diverse environment and I feel like it could be affected.

12                   Not only does it raise environmental  
13 issues concerning wildlife, but also safety issues for  
14 the public. I believe that the possibilities -- even  
15 though they have regulations and codes -- of anything  
16 going wrong could pose a threat to beach goers along the  
17 highway or those at the jetties, which is one of the  
18 pathways, I believe, of the tankers -- or the pathway of  
19 the tankers.

20                   We have a delicate system with nature,  
21 economics and recreation down here. If any of these  
22 facilities were to be closed down or if anything were to  
23 happen, it could affect the life of the people here,  
24 which rely on fishing, tourism and things of that nature.

25                   And let's see. It raises a bit of

1 environmental quality concerns, like air quality,  
2 although I know it's much cleaner than coal. But I am  
3 concerned for residents who are sensitive to particulates  
4 or have asthma, which I do -- do have asthma. And I  
5 don't know -- well, I do know how an increase in -- well,  
6 I guess I'll use the broad term chemicals would affect  
7 me. But that's neither here nor there.

8                   So I need one minute. Let me see. I  
9 don't remember. Well, these are mostly my concerns.  
10 Environmental concerns, wildlife. A threat -- possibly  
11 threat to the ship channels, terroristic threat, which is  
12 not impossible. Highly unlikely, but not impossible.  
13 And for these reasons, I oppose the construction of all  
14 liquefied natural gas export facilities. And some more  
15 reasons that I don't recall at the moment.

16 Whereupon,

17                   LUIS GONAZALEZ,

18 gave his statement:

19                   MR. GONZALEZ: My name is Luis Gonazalez.

20 L-u-i-s G-o-n-z-a-l-e-z.

21                   I'm just kind of curious on these plants  
22 and their response times in terms of organization,  
23 oversight, who's in -- who's going to be in charge of any  
24 -- any responsibilities of governmental and public that  
25 needs to be addressed.

1                   The pipeline location mainly between  
2 Los Fresnos and Bayview, how this pipeline is going to  
3 get through these communities into the port area. So the  
4 concern for that pipeline is -- is one of mine that I  
5 want to address.

6                   Road improvements, any construction that  
7 needs to happen in terms of the public access, the roads  
8 that are needed to be -- be used or -- or re-routed.  
9 Obviously, the opportunity that these plants can provide  
10 for the community, I kind of wanted that also  
11 highlighted, along with -- with the -- with the dangers  
12 that come with the company.

13                   I want to know the pros and the cons.  
14 Just because the area of this community the growth has  
15 been stumped. So I think it's a good opportunity. But  
16 at the same time, there are some concerns for companies  
17 like this in our area.

18                   I know it can be done environmentally  
19 sound. I know -- I've seen dredging happen and I've seen  
20 rehabilitation happen without people likely understanding  
21 or knowing. The thing is, I think there needs to be more  
22 public awareness for that, because I know that that's one  
23 of the main concerns.

24                   So the -- while it can be done  
25 environmentally sound, I also want them to make an effort

1 to tell the community how it is going to be done, which  
2 goes to the oversight response. How is this going to  
3 trickle down into our community knowledge of plants like  
4 this? And not only the -- the dangers it can do, the --  
5 but also the -- how well it can be for a community. I  
6 want to see it and I want the community to see it both  
7 sides.

8                   One of my main concerns though is the  
9 proximity to the border, which is one of my response  
10 concerns. We are close to the border. And there are  
11 dangers right across the border and there are spillover  
12 -- spillover violence that does occur. And my main  
13 concern is one of these plants and how well secured can  
14 it be? And whose responsibility would it be to secure  
15 those plants?

16                   The Coast Guard -- you know, there's Coast  
17 Guard station large enough to be able to withstand a  
18 growth of LNG the way these three companies. Do we have  
19 enough man power? Is it something that a federal  
20 government is going to have to consider in moving and  
21 addressing capacity of our -- of our Coast Guard station  
22 and the jobs that they're supposed to be doing?

23                   Because, you know, I know we need to be  
24 out there patrolling the sea. And we also need to be  
25 making sure these ships are leaving our port safely also.

1 And also, just the frequency of the times that these --  
2 these ships are going to be coming in and out.

3                   While I understand it can -- can't --  
4 going to stop all traffic through the port. I'm not too  
5 concerned about that. My main concern is do we have the  
6 infrastructure, the man -- response time and human  
7 services to understand the difficulties of a growing  
8 industry and a community that has very little  
9 infrastructure? That's pretty much it.

10 Whereupon,

11                   MARCOS MUNOZ,

12 gave his statement:

13                   MR. MUNOZ: Okay. My name is Marcos  
14 Munoz. M-a-r-c-o-s M-u-n-o-z.

15                   And I am strongly opposed to the building  
16 of LNG plants in the Rio Grande Valley. I am opposed to  
17 this because I feel that the preparation in case of a  
18 disaster regarding liquid natural gas is -- is something  
19 that we're not prepared for and that the firemen are not  
20 well trained or prepared to deal with a -- a possible  
21 catastrophe that might happen.

22                   I'm also against the long term exposure to  
23 pollutants that would be a -- released by these -- by the  
24 processing of these -- of this liquid natural gas. And  
25 I'm also very much against it because I believe that it





1 part east of the shrimp boat basin, is not an appropriate  
2 location for any LNG facilities. This is an  
3 environmental sensitive area adjacent to two national  
4 wildlife refuges. There are several endangered and  
5 threatened birds and animals living in this area.

6           The LNG facilities would take up wildlife  
7 habitat and wetlands and would disturb surrounding areas  
8 with 24 hour lights, noise and pollution. It would be a  
9 shame to spoil a lovely area with thriving tourism,  
10 ecotourism, wildlife recreation, boating, sport fishing,  
11 commercial fishing and light and medium industry that  
12 depend on clean air, clean water, wetlands, large  
13 expanses of open space and people feeling safe and secure  
14 to pursue these activities.

15           Development will also create blockage to  
16 the wildlife corridor, a -- a national -- one second --  
17 a national wildlife preserve supported organized program  
18 to preserve by various means a continuous stretch of  
19 undeveloped land from the Laguna Atascosa National  
20 Wildlife Refuge to the Rio Grande River and to the path  
21 -- to the Falcon Dam to allow wildlife to roam freely, to  
22 mate and prosper.

23           Nocturnal animals will be limited in their  
24 range by the newly lit large areas along the ship canal.  
25 Even if there are safe passageways under Route 48, where

1 can the animals go when they come out?

2                   This is a scenic area traveled heavily by  
3 local and out of town tourists on their way to Port  
4 Isabel and South Padre Island from Brownsville and the  
5 Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport. If  
6 this area becomes industrial, it will not only repel the  
7 animals that the ecotourists come to see, but will make  
8 the route of the beach and fishing destinations ugly with  
9 walls, fences, lights, flaring towers, 150 feet tall  
10 storage tanks and petrochemical structures.

11                   The Bahia Grande, part of the Laguna  
12 Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, is planning to open in  
13 the future for public use. Will the area still be  
14 attractive to people who want to visit with LNG companies  
15 as neighbors?

16                   The coastal area east of Brownsville is  
17 now a beautiful and thriving area, with a mix of beach  
18 tourism, ecotourism, commercial fishing, recreation and  
19 light and medium industrial activities at the port, which  
20 co-exist well. The LNG facilities will tip the balance  
21 toward heavy industry.

22                   Texas already has industrialized the  
23 coastal areas of Port Arthur, Houston and Corpus Christi.  
24 The Brownsville, Port Isabel, South Padre Island area is  
25 still a beautiful, clean, unspoiled area. It cannot be

1 reproduced elsewhere by mitigation on the part of the LNG  
2 companies. Why spoil it? One or two or three LNG  
3 companies could start the area on a slippery slope to  
4 heavy industrialization, which would spoil our  
5 irreplaceable clean air, clean water, wild animals,  
6 birds, fishing and beach.

7                   The port administration says they don't  
8 want it to become an area of heavy industry, but it is  
9 zoned industrial and policies can change in the future.

10                   For Texas LNG, specifically, I am  
11 especially concerned about Texas LNG being so close to  
12 Port Isabel in terms of aesthetics with their 150 feet  
13 high tanks and safety issues of being so close to the  
14 town.

15                   For Rio Grande LNG, specifically, I am  
16 especially concerned about the pollution from their 600  
17 mega watt power generation. Also, the large amount of  
18 land they will use, as well as road and canal frontage,  
19 will be a huge blockage to wildlife movement and will  
20 take up a huge amount of wetland.

21                   For Annova LNG specifically, I am  
22 especially concerned about their being in the zone of  
23 caution for SpaceX. Also, their facilities will destroy  
24 some lomas, which are particularly rare and sensitive  
25 ecological sites. Also, Annova has asked Cameron County

1 for a tax abatement for ten years. This is an insult to  
2 our county and its citizens.

3                   Here are some other questions regarding  
4 the development of all of the LNG plants. Will road  
5 traffic on Route 48 be affected or stopped by the passing  
6 of an LNG tanker in the ship canal? Would the Zapata  
7 boat ramp in the ship canal be closed or affected  
8 temporarily or permanently for security or safety  
9 reasons? Is it safe to have any LNG facility so close to  
10 the SpaceX launch site?

11                   Will -- what will have to be dug up to  
12 make the gas pipeline? The LNG facilities can't function  
13 without a gas pipeline. This has to be considered as an  
14 inextricable part of LNG's impact, even though the  
15 official permission may come from a different agency.  
16 Any area to the north of the ship channel is too  
17 environmentally sensitive to dig up. And if the pipeline  
18 is above ground, it will be very ugly.

19                   Gas pipelines are known for having many  
20 leaks and have a poor record of maintenance. This is  
21 another insult to our environment and is not separate  
22 from the LNG facilities.

23                   Will areas of Port Isabel and South Padre  
24 Island have to have special evacuation plans or need to  
25 stop activities when a loaded tanker travels out of port?

1 Why do we want a target for terrorism in our back yard?  
2 Will FERC check that the companies are being honest and  
3 realistic about possible methane leaks and other  
4 pollution which may be produced?

5 Will any mitigation for loss of wetlands  
6 be done in the port area? Any wetlands removed from the  
7 area will increase flooding risks for the whole area.

8 Will the shrimp boats be able to come and go as they need  
9 to and will they be able to fish in the ship channel  
10 itself, as they do now?

11 Thank you for considering these issues  
12 when you evaluate the applications for LNG facilities in  
13 the port of Brownsville. I also want to add that I'm  
14 disappointed that this was not a traditional open public  
15 meeting with people allowed to speak to the assembled  
16 group.

17 Thank you very much. Laurel Steinberg.  
18 Whereupon,

19 JOSEPH LINCK,

20 gave his statement:

21 MR. LINCK: My name is Joseph Linck.  
22 L-i-n-c-k. And I'm retired. And I've lived in this  
23 community for 30 years. And before I retired, I lived --  
24 before I came here 30 years ago I was a crude oil buyer  
25 for a petroleum refinery in Houston, Texas.

1                   So I'm enough of a chemical engineer to  
2 know that these plants have a zero environmental impact  
3 compared to almost any other industry. And it is absurd  
4 to me the environmental arguments against this plant or  
5 all three of these plants. I'm not in favor of any one  
6 single plant. I'm in favor of all three.

7                   That there should be any concern in our  
8 community about the environmental impact. It would be --  
9 have been better to have this meeting -- or this meeting  
10 that you're having today, would have been better to have  
11 it in Brownsville. You could advertise it as "Help  
12 wanted" or a job fair and you might have gotten thousands  
13 of people here interested. That's the silent majority  
14 that are not going to drive all the way out to Port  
15 Isabel. They don't have the gas money to make the trip  
16 or the time.

17                   But having it in Brown -- having one in  
18 Brownsville would assure that the Rio Grande Valley's  
19 silent majority would show up and voice their support for  
20 economic progress in our community.

21                   And I can't think of anything that's more  
22 exciting for the economic development of our very  
23 economically depressed area than these exciting projects.  
24 400,000 people live in Cameron County. And we have one  
25 of the highest unemployment rates in the whole country.

1 And our biggest export in Brownsville is our children,  
2 because there are no jobs. Certainly no well paying  
3 jobs.

4 So consequently, our kids have to leave  
5 the community, go to Austin, Dallas, Washington, Chicago,  
6 somewhere to get a job. And I'd like to thank you very  
7 much for coming down here and showing an interest in our  
8 community.

9 Whereupon,

10 RENE VANHAAFTEN,

11 gave his statement:

12 MR. VANHAAFTEN: My name is Rene  
13 Vanhaaften. R-e-n-e V-a-n-h-a-a-f-t-e-n. I live in the  
14 area. I live in Brownsville. And I work in the leisure  
15 industry and hope to, yeah, work there for many more  
16 years.

17 I've noticed for years we've been working  
18 hard to attract people to the area. Birding people,  
19 people like to go see birds, birders. People who come  
20 for our cultural tourism, for our historic tourism and  
21 they like it here. They love it here. It's beautiful.

22 And I think that the lot of work that  
23 we've been doing for many years to make this an  
24 attractive place with a beautiful beach and with  
25 beautiful nature, beautiful birding area, our historic

1 city, everything together. We work so hard together  
2 there. And I see it's finally paying off. And I assume  
3 in the future there will be many, many more tourists  
4 coming in our region, because it's unique. It's there to  
5 stay.

6                   If these three companies develop this  
7 area, it will be a massive destruction of beautiful  
8 nature. I think that will be a massive problem for  
9 safety and things like that.

10                   But my main focus is tourism and  
11 attraction for people. And it will destroy employment.  
12 We're working hard to have people work at the different  
13 cultural institutions, the beach and all those places.  
14 And with this, it's a big slap in the face. I really  
15 think that that's what it is.

16                   Apart from that, I think employment for  
17 this -- these projects on a longer basis will be very  
18 limited. It will be just probably some guards and maybe  
19 a few people. So it will be limited.

20                   It will take a lot of tax dollars. Our  
21 plans with developing for ecotourism are way cheaper for  
22 the government. There's hardly any money involved. It  
23 will just require some more infrastructure, like bike  
24 lines and maybe some things like that. But it's very  
25 limited. So it's a lot cheaper to do. It's unique.

1                   Once it's done, we've destroyed the area  
2 for centuries. It cannot go back. It's there now and  
3 should stay that way to -- according to me. So I would  
4 love to see this plan to be cancelled.

5 Whereupon,

6                                   CATHY GARZA,

7 gave her statement:

8                   MS. GARZA: Okay. My name is Cathy Garza.  
9 Did you need my address?

10                   THE COURT REPORTER: No, just spell your  
11 name for me.

12                   MS. GARZA: Oh, Cathy Garza. C-a-t-h-y  
13 G-a-r-z-a. I am opposed to LNG in the port of  
14 Brownsville due to environmental issues, safety issues,  
15 how it will affect tourism on the island.

16                   We have spent our summers at Isla Blanca  
17 RV Park for almost 20 years. This area is too small  
18 populated for this large gas project and there are too  
19 many safety concerns. This can also affect the fishing  
20 industry. It's an all around bad move for this -- for  
21 the area here. That's it.

22 Whereupon,

23                                   JIM CHAPMAN,

24 gave his statement:

25                   MR. CHAPMAN: All right. My name is Jim

1 Chapman. My -- C-h-a-p-m-a-n. I live at 200 East 11th  
2 Street in Weslaco. That's spelled W-e-s-l-a-c-o, Texas.  
3 That's about 50 miles from Port Isabel.

4 And I'm going to give a brief comment  
5 orally now and I'm going to submit longer written  
6 comments later.

7 The comment that I want to make right now  
8 has to do with air pollution. And in particular,  
9 particulate matter air pollution. By the numbers that I  
10 have calculated, there will be approximately 200 tons of  
11 PM 2.5 -- that's the smallest particular -- particulates  
12 -- discharged per year by these companies if they are  
13 built, which is a lot of particulate matter.

14 That's a particular problem for the Rio  
15 Grande Valley, because at certain times of the year we  
16 have among the highest levels of particulates. And  
17 particulate matters are particularly problems for people  
18 with asthma, emphysema and chronic pulmonary disease.  
19 High incidents of childhood asthma here.

20 From the Texas Commission on Environmental  
21 Quality, they have 50 monitor -- air monitoring stations  
22 in Texas, three of which are here in the Rio Grande  
23 Valley. One is in Mission, one is in Brownsville, one is  
24 in Isla Blanca. Isla Blanca is actually about two and a  
25 half miles from where -- where I sit in Port Isabel right

1 now.

2                   In -- for the first seven months of 2015,  
3 the highest single recording -- daily recording of PM 2.5  
4 -- and I'm getting the TCEQ website -- was in East -- was  
5 in Isla Blanca Park on -- on April 25th. The second  
6 highest was in Mission, also in the Rio Grande Valley on  
7 April 26th.

8                   The third highest -- now, this is in the  
9 entire state of Texas. And remember they have 15 -- they  
10 have 50 monitoring sites. The third highest was in  
11 Isla Blanca Park again.

12                   These levels were all in the range that  
13 they list as being hazardous to special groups. And what  
14 that means is people with respiratory illnesses. So we  
15 do not need industries that are going to increase the  
16 amount of particulate matter in our air. That will do  
17 harm.

18                   Most of the year, the air quality,  
19 including particulates, is not a problem here. But there  
20 -- generally April, May, June we do have problems with  
21 high particulate levels.

22                   And that is one reason, but certainly not  
23 the only reason, that I am very much opposed to the  
24 permitting and construction of these three LNG plants.

25 Thank you.

1 Whereupon,

2 JESSE MILLER,

3 gave his statement:

4 MR. MILLER: Okay. My name is Jesse  
5 Miller. J-e-s-s-e M-i-l-l-e-r.

6 And I'd like to make two points. The  
7 first point is that the LRGV, the place where -- where we  
8 live doesn't have many economic opportunities. And so we  
9 really value the ones that we currently have.

10 After reviewing the facts and -- and  
11 talking with others, it's -- it's pretty clear that LNG  
12 would -- would harm some of our nature tourism and our  
13 beach tourism by creating pollution, by creating a place  
14 that's -- that's less beautiful and by potentially  
15 harming wildlife that -- that birders come to watch, that  
16 -- that people value around here in creating a natural  
17 space.

18 So any industry that would harm one of our  
19 current industries isn't really something that should be  
20 -- that's something that needs to be taken into  
21 consideration before -- before signing off on. And it's  
22 something that I think most people would not agree to.

23 The second point is more about the FERC  
24 process with these three companies. It's my  
25 understanding that typically FERC holds a -- a public

1 hearing for each filing. If that's not accurate, I'm  
2 sorry. And then also that in reviewing a permit, FERC  
3 typically reviews each permit stand -- as a stand alone  
4 permit, not related to others.

5                   If that's the case, the fact that FERC is  
6 combining these three companies into one public hearing  
7 is proof that -- that, you know, there is a combined  
8 impact. And that these permits should be reviewed as  
9 they relate to each other. That they should not be  
10 reviewed as a stand alone permit. That there is a  
11 realization that if there is more than one LNG facility  
12 that is built, that the amount of pollution, the amount  
13 of noise, the amount of light, the amount of impact is  
14 going to be doubled or tripled or whatever the factor is.

15                   So I think that that is necessary for the  
16 -- the review process as these permits go through their  
17 process. Thanks.

18 Whereupon,

19                   CRYSTAL MARTINEZ,

20 gave her statement:

21                   MS. MARTINEZ: My name is Crystal  
22 Martinez. That's C-r-y-s-t-a-l M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z. This is  
23 my comment to FERC.

24                   So I am born and raised in Texas. And I  
25 love the Valley for everything that it is and everything

1 that it is not, including these companies. I firmly  
2 oppose the proposed LNG projects and actually have  
3 several issues.

4 My main concern, however is the impact  
5 these projects will have on the Bahia Grande. I have  
6 spent the last three years working on my master's thesis  
7 project. So I hold the area close to my heart.

8 It saddens me that an -- that an area so  
9 environmentally and economically important is being  
10 jeopardized by these companies. The area is just  
11 bouncing back and stands to have a strong economic impact  
12 in the years to come. The air, thermal and water  
13 pollution that these companies will produce do not make  
14 sense. There is no way that these problems are worth a  
15 few permanent jobs. I am not willing to sacrifice my  
16 area's natural resource for the future of my children.

17 I will do everything I can to raise  
18 awareness and educate people through community outreach  
19 in my career as an educator. I strongly ask our elected  
20 officials to reconsider our support for this project, as  
21 it jeopardizes what our economy is so dependent on.

22 Whereupon,

23 WILLIAM BERG,

24 gave his statement:

25 MR. BERG: My name is William Berg. I am

1 a resident of Brownsville and have been for 17 years. I  
2 have a series of comments.

3 My first comment is about this hearing,  
4 which is advertised as an open hearing. The Catholic  
5 Church also has an open hearing and it's called  
6 confession. In confession, nobody else hears what the  
7 speaker has to say. This is more or less a confessional  
8 rather than an open hearing where I speak in public.

9 My wise guy comment is that Abraham  
10 Lincoln had a comment about such events. And he said,  
11 "If you call the tail of a lamb a leg, how many legs  
12 would a lamb have?" Okay. The lamb would only have four  
13 legs and a misnamed tail under those conditions. This  
14 hearing is the lamb's tail of open hearings as open  
15 hearings are understood.

16 Now, I wish to address to following  
17 threats of LNG to the ecosystem flora and fauna, to the  
18 wildlife corridor, to bay shrimping, to recreational  
19 activities at the Zapata Boat Ramp, to LNG tankers in  
20 local international waters, to the local environmental --  
21 environment caused by pollution and threats to jobs,  
22 including ecotourism jobs, beach tourism jobs, gulf  
23 shrimping support jobs and bay shrimping support jobs.

24 The following is a comment primarily  
25 addressed to Next Decade. Their LNG through port

1 indicates that they will double the number of ships in  
2 the port of Brownsville to two a day. Right now it's 350  
3 a year. Next Decade indicates that it's going to produce  
4 -- be producing enough liquid natural gas for one tanker  
5 a day, to fill a tanker a day.

6                   The other two will be producing somewhat  
7 less, a tanker every three days or a tanker, I believe,  
8 every ten days. Next Decade is going to fill  
9 approximately 500 more or less acres of wetland, which  
10 currently functions as growing habitat for (inaudible)  
11 and immature shrimp and other marine animals.

12                   These mangrove wetlands serving wildlife  
13 and serving fishermen will be difficult to replace in the  
14 immediate -- in the immediate area. Is the proposal to  
15 include loss of jobs for the independent, entrepreneurial  
16 bay shrimpers and fishermen and the many small businesses  
17 that supply them with bait boats, rigging fishing gear  
18 and other needs considered?

19                   A comment about Texas LNG. The same  
20 comment. They will be filling approximately 250 acres of  
21 wetland. This doesn't include the non-wetland that  
22 they're not going to be filling, but they will be  
23 occupying.

24                   The same thing. They will be destroying  
25 wetlands and mangrove swamps, which are used by marine

1 animals which are fished.

2                   This comment is about Annova. Annova is  
3 going to be destroying three lomas: Loma del Potrero  
4 Cercado, which involves two independent lomas near each  
5 other, and Loma del Divisadero. These are biological  
6 habitats for flora and fauna, some of which may be unique  
7 to each loma. Lomas are over 1,000 years old and each  
8 has developed its own ecology. Exelon Annova is going to  
9 remove these from study forever.

10                   They talk about mitigation. This is a  
11 comment about Next Decade Rio Grande. Next Decade Rio  
12 Grande plans to generate 600 mega watts of electricity on  
13 site, presumably using gas turbine. There is no  
14 information that I've seen regarding using a second  
15 ranking cycle, which increases the efficiency by 30  
16 percent or so.

17                   Either way, whether they use the ranking  
18 cycle combined cycle generators or not, Next Decade will  
19 become Cameron County's largest polluter and largest  
20 producer of greenhouse gasses. It is not anticipated  
21 that the new Brownsville PUB 800 mega watt capacity power  
22 plant will be running at full power 24 hours per day due  
23 to low night time demand for electricity. But the 600  
24 mega watt Next Decade power plant will be running 24/7 as  
25 it were, because their operation is going to be going at

1 full tilt at all times, as I understand it.

2                   Comment for Next Decade. Next Decade  
3 disingenuously advertises its creation of new full time  
4 jobs without disclosing how many of them will be current  
5 local employees and how many of them will be from out of  
6 the area, effectively earning what we call here combat  
7 pay for suffering in the Rio Grande area.

8                   The primary issue of local unemployment is  
9 that locals are unemployed. Creating jobs to be filled  
10 by non-locals hardly addresses the local unemployment  
11 problem. We trust the course of the environmental impact  
12 statement when we fear the number of local jobs that will  
13 be displaced by the presence of Next Decade.

14                   These jobs include the professional  
15 fishing jobs referred to earlier, tour boat jobs,  
16 including recreational fishing and dolphin watch boats,  
17 which will be -- which will experience some curtailment  
18 of service during the time of passage of LNG tankers.  
19 They include all the jobs in small businesses that  
20 service boats and fishermen.

21                   I apologize to you. The -- that comment  
22 applies to all three, not only to Next Decade with the  
23 jobs issue.

24                   The jobs being lost to the tourist service  
25 industry are for four categories of tourists, whose

1 choice of the area for vacations and recreation may be  
2 altered as a result of the visually offensive  
3 industrialization. They include beach tourists, who will  
4 see the visual blight on route from Brownsville Airport  
5 to South Padre Island and who will see it from many hotel  
6 rooms.

7                   It includes the ecotourists, particularly  
8 birders, who will see and register the effects of  
9 industrialization on bird migration routes. The other  
10 two categories are winter Texans, those who own property  
11 or condominiums and may attempt to sell as they see awful  
12 construction happening, possibly lowering property  
13 values. And those who rent spaces in RV parks and in  
14 apartments for a few months each year. These renters are  
15 transient and will find a better place to winter if the  
16 place they love changes unacceptably for them.

17                   Finally, there are the terrible threats of  
18 criminal violence and terrorism. LNG tankers have been  
19 named by Al Qaeda, ten years ago perhaps, as -- as  
20 targets. Mexico is home to a criminal culture that  
21 exports -- excuse me. Start again. Mexico is home to a  
22 criminal culture whose participants expect early death.  
23 And that promotes fearlessness, which in turn allows for  
24 heinous crimes, including massacres and other crimes of  
25 extortion and violence.

1                   Though challenging, it is conceivable that  
2 such a group of criminals could capture a tanker in  
3 international waters and hold it for ransom, with a  
4 choice of outcomes as follows: either getting rich from  
5 the extortion or setting the tanker afire. Either  
6 outcome would end LNG export business at the port of  
7 Brownsville. Who would want to export their LNG business  
8 from a port which has had such an experience?

9                   The FERC requested suggested alternatives  
10 and I have the following: one -- both include  
11 relocation. (1) Relocate the industrial area -- relocate  
12 to the industrial area of the port of Brownsville. There  
13 are hundreds of acres available in the already industrial  
14 areas of the port of Brownsville. The port director  
15 himself has mentioned that the old Union Carbide facility  
16 space is available. Such a relocation would entirely  
17 eliminate threats to the ecosystem, damage to wetlands  
18 and degradation of the view scape, disturbance of the  
19 fishing and tourist industries and the jobs they create.

20                   It would not eliminate pollution nor  
21 greenhouse gas production. It would eliminate the  
22 possibility of terrorists utilizing the Zapata Boat Ramp  
23 as a launching pad. It would not eliminate the threat of  
24 Mexican criminal groups.

25                   (2) Relocation to Kennedy County. All

1 environmental threats in the sensitive Rio Grande Valley  
2 wildlife habitat and ocelot habitat would be eliminated,  
3 as well as other problems mentioned -- all the other  
4 problems mentioned. In addition, the length and cost of  
5 the pipeline would be cut in half. Furthermore, cost of  
6 the Next Decade proposed 80,000 horsepower pipeline  
7 compressor would also be eliminated. That compressor is  
8 to be located by Next Decade in Kennedy County. It  
9 wouldn't be needed if the -- if the -- if Next Decade  
10 were to relocate there. All of them could relocate  
11 there.

12 We trust the wisdom of FERC and the  
13 executive management of Next Decade Rio Grande LNG,  
14 Annova LNG and Texas LNG to guide them to the  
15 understanding that the port of Brownsville's  
16 environmentally sensitive, greenfields, are not the  
17 appropriate venues for the proposed facilities. Thank  
18 you very much.

19 (Public hearing closed.)

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