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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects

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Texas LNG Brownsville, LLC Docket No. PF15-14-000
Texas LNG Project Docket No. PF15-14-000
Annova LNG Project Docket No. FP15-15-000
Rio Grande LNG Project Docket No. PF15-20-000

Brownsville LNG Projects

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LA Quinta Inn & Suites-Raymondville
128 North Expressway 77
Raymondville, Texas 87580

Monday, August 10, 2015

The afternoon scoping meeting, pursuant to notice,
convened at 3 p.m.

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

2 MS. POYTHRESS: Okay, it's Marianne, one word, M-
3 A-R-I-A-N-N-E. Last name Poythress, P-O-Y-T-H-R-E-S-S.

4 THE REPORTER: Okay.

5 MS. POYTHRESS: Do you need an address or
6 anything like that?

7 THE REPORTER: No.

8 MS. POYTHRESS: You've got it out there.

9 Okay, I am a resident of Cameron County, and the
10 pipeline will go through closely to my house, not real close
11 but close enough; so I have a concern in that as well as the
12 total package. My most immediate impact is I am southeast
13 of the set of facilities, so I'm in the prevailing wind. So
14 that raises a number of concerns.

15 In terms of the pipeline itself, I have a concern
16 about eminent domain; that the Fifth Amendment limits it to
17 public use, and I don't believe that this project is to the
18 public benefit nor for public use. So the fact that eminent
19 domain can be invoked for this pipeline, a for-profit set of
20 companies with anonymous investors and owners does not meet
21 my definition of public use. They are not adding to energy
22 independence of the United States. Instead they are
23 shipping our limited resource out for profit.

24 Second is a concern about the safety of the gas
25 in the pipeline as well as the gas once it reaches the

1 terminal and is exported out. There are a couple parts to
2 that. I know there have been two issues in the Eagle Ford
3 area -- Cuero was one of them at the moment and I don't
4 remember the other one, recently. So there are problems
5 transporting natural gas through pipelines.

6 Given that the companies are LLCs -- which is
7 intended to limit the liability of the investors -- one
8 concern I have is, unlike BP who is going to pay for the
9 effects of a natural-occurring incident or a terrorist
10 incident and the damage done -- I would like to ask that
11 FERC require the participants in this project to set aside
12 monies that would cover the worst case incident before the
13 project begins, and the incident can be defined by Sandia
14 Labs and what they think the cost is or whatever independent
15 voice can speak to that. It's the only assurance we have
16 that these LLCs won't collapse and walk away with their
17 profits.

18 Next, I have a concern about the life of this
19 project, given that natural gas is a limited resource, and
20 some estimates suggest that Eagle Ford only has a few years
21 left of gas; that this project, where some companies have
22 already requested for a ten-year tax abatement, will they
23 even be around to start paying taxes after the ten years is
24 up? And then all the cost has been borne by, in the case of
25 Cameron County, the poorest county in Texas has been asked

1 for an abatement.

2 So I would like FERC to provide a realistic
3 independent assessment of how long natural gas from Texas is
4 going to be flowing through that pipeline. The cost of
5 development, the cost to the environment, the cost to the
6 landowners far outweighs any benefit to the people that this
7 joint project is affecting their land, their water, their
8 air, the creatures that live around, the black thorn
9 environment that they will be crossing through. All for who
10 knows how many years.

11 I have a general concern that this project is
12 ignoring important issues that should be addressed such as
13 the fact that this is fossil-fuel based, and it is a very
14 short-sighted way to approach our energy problems when we
15 have practically in view here wind power solutions -- and
16 obviously in this area solar is a wonderful option because
17 we have so many days of sun -- that to put this impact in
18 our area when it is an outdated source of energy. A
19 dwindling source of energy is not in the best interest of
20 the people who live in the Rio Grande Valley.

21 Let me see, I have a couple of other questions to
22 ask. So, Valpurious was the other town that had the leak.

23 All right, so let me address another safety
24 issue. Part of this project is very close to the border of
25 Mexico, and the border patrol station that is one of the

1 major, a secondary source of stopping illegal aliens -- some
2 of them could possibly be terrorists -- I forget the number
3 that have been identified so far as suspected, is on the
4 other side of Raymondville.

5 So you have a huge area that this pipeline is
6 going to be going through and the facility down in Port of
7 Brownsville, where you are close to illegals of all
8 varieties who could in fact attack it, so you increase the
9 risk by having it in this location as opposed to, I think
10 what you said, Port Arthur was where the other meeting was.
11 You know, at least further up the coast you are not that
12 close to that kind of vulnerability.

13 Okay, so a question is: who are the five largest
14 shareholders -- who are human beings not LLC or other
15 entities -- that are in Rio Grande LNG? How many investors?
16 What percentage are being held by foreign investors? What
17 are the actual job titles of the jobs that will be created?
18 What qualifications are they seeking? What is the estimate,
19 number of people in the Rio Grande Valley who would in fact
20 be qualified for those jobs?

21 All right, that's all from that list.

22 I'm going through my short list and that's
23 probably good enough for now.

24 (Pause)

25 MS. FUNK: Well, my first thing is that I just

1 really am not interested in it. I don't care whether it
2 goes through or not. They talk about hiring three hundred
3 people in this letter in today's paper, that's not even
4 going to touch very many people. I just don't want our
5 valley destroyed by something coming in here that we won't
6 get no benefit whatsoever out of. It's going to benefit
7 this company, is going to make all the money out of it.
8 They'll pay us to dig that ditch and put that pipeline in
9 there, but what it's going to do over the years, I don't
10 know.

11 I really am not interested. I don't even want
12 it. And like this woman in the paper talking about some time
13 or another an emission happened down in that Brownsville
14 where they are going to store all this stuff and do all
15 this. Well, all that pollution would hit Harlingen and me
16 here in Raymondville, people that are sick and have asthma
17 and all that stuff, and she's right. If that happens, I
18 don't know if that's going to do that. She seems to think
19 it will, but I don't know.

20 People just don't want -- the Port Isabel and the
21 Island, and our Valley destroyed by somebody coming in here
22 and making a lot of money off of us. The paper here talks
23 about five of them things coming in here. That guy out
24 there in front, he thought this one was more, better
25 regulated than some of the others. They all need to be

1 perfect before they do that.

2 I'm just not interested in it, really; this is my
3 daughter-in-law, she farms it. I don't think she's too
4 interested, either. That's about all I can say. I just
5 don't know that much about it myself but I just know things
6 can happen.

7 THE REPORTER: State your name.

8 MS. FUNK: My name is Sarah Funk S-A-R-A-H F-U-
9 N-K.

10 MRS. FUNK: Okay, you've said your comment. I
11 will be back later as soon as I get some other information.

12 MS. FUNK: Oh Lord, I don't want to comment
13 because the last time I commented my name got in the paper.

14 (Pause)

15 THE REPORTER: Give me your name.

16 MR. HOLMES: My name is Kurt K-U-R-T Holmes H-O-
17 L-M-E-S, and I'm here representing Spall Glass Contractors
18 and we are here to show our support for the pipeline and the
19 LNG projects that are proposing to construct at the Port of
20 Brownsville. We feel very strongly about the positive
21 economic benefits it will bring to our area, and we hope
22 that everyone will see all the positive aspects that this
23 will bring to our community as far as jobs and growth and
24 bring in additional economic development.

25 It is the future, and we feel very strongly about

1 it on a positive side. Thank you.

2 (Pause)

3 MR. RHODES: My name is Dale D-A-L-E Rhodes R-H-
4 O-D-E-S. I'm from Willacy County and I oppose this project
5 one hundred percent. First of all, forty years we have been
6 told -- you're older than me -- that we are out of fuel to
7 run power plants, that we need other options.

8 I've got four boys that have worked for me or
9 that I have raised. One of them has had four tours of duty
10 in Iraq. One of them who he raised and he just got back
11 from Afghanistan. Two more of them are having psychological
12 problems. Every bit of this stuff is caused from when we
13 went to the Middle East because we were going to secure the
14 oil over there. We all know it. This is not something that
15 the general public doesn't know.

16 There's nine thousand dead boys fighting in that
17 war. Now what do you tell them when they come back and
18 they're selling this gas overseas? Okay, they built all
19 these wind turbines, they have trashed this county from one
20 end to the other. They did not do any kind of environmental
21 planning when they put them in. They're right over people's
22 houses. There are sixty-one lawsuits in this county alone
23 in the northern part against them.

24 Also, there's a small school by the name of
25 Sanford Lee in eastern Willacy County, and it has wind

1 turbines built right over the top of it. That is horrible
2 consideration for the people in that town and that school to
3 do it, and they are mad.

4 Okay, this land is so trashed with these wind
5 turbines, it can't be farmed anymore, and putting this
6 pipeline right through the middle of it is even going to
7 make it worse.

8 When you sit here and selling off this gas, what
9 you call not you, but what they call 'excess gas', it's
10 just like that Keystone Pipeline. We don't have the luxury
11 of getting rid of this stuff, just for money for a few
12 oilmen to get rich. This stuff needs to go right on the
13 President's desk in Washington and he needs to understand
14 the corruption in these wind farms, what it has done to
15 these people, because I don't think that he ever sees the
16 bad end of it, and that ninety-nine percent of it is
17 disliked.

18 What is this going to do to the price of people
19 heating their homes in the wintertime? Two years ago if you
20 can remember during the wintertime, the shortage of propane
21 which is made from natural gas and all these people had to
22 pay these exorbitant prices on this natural gas. Here's the
23 key to all of this right here.

24 This needs to be very clear: All of the United
25 States is fertilized with N32, or it is used in all

1 fertilizers. It has been up around four hundred dollars a
2 ton to six hundred dollars a ton. It will go to a thousand
3 dollars a ton. This will affect every consumer in the
4 United States who buys food, because the farmers will not be
5 able to afford this. If I had my book with me, you'd be
6 here for another hour but I don't want to take any more of
7 your time up. These are things that need to be considered.
8 I thank you for your time.

9 (Pause)

10 MS. FUNK: My name is Judy Ruth Funk. I am the
11 producer for R&M Farms, Incorporated on land that is owned
12 by Lloyd Funk Farms Incorporated, Sara Funk - President.
13 This is in reference to five hundred and three acres located
14 at the northeast corner of FM1420 and County Line Road in
15 Willacy County, Texas.

16 The revised pipeline route for the Rio Grande LNG
17 Project will impact much more acreage on this property than
18 the original route. Both the entire west perimeter and the
19 south perimeter of this property as well as all ingress and
20 egress to the land, will be affected. It is unknown how
21 many acres will be impacted and whether these acres will
22 continue to be tillable in the future.

23 The construction phase will be the most
24 inconvenient time for continued farming, and the depth of
25 the pipelines must be deep enough so as not to be a

1 hindrance nor a hazard to machinery and equipment. The
2 overall project seems not to properly address all
3 environmental concerns for not only the land but also any
4 pollutants that may harm humans and wildlife. The natural
5 unspoiled beauty of South Padre Island needs to remain as it
6 is currently. The idea that this project could irreparably
7 damage our area is totally unacceptable. Thank you.

8 (Last commenter of the scoping meeting)

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