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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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Port of Isabel Event and
Cultural Center
309 East Railroad Street
Port Isabel, Texas 78578
Tuesday, August 11, 2015

The afternoon scoping meeting, pursuant to notice,
convened at 12 o'clock noon.

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

2 MR. WILLETT: My first name is Jonathon, last
3 name is Willett W-I-L-L-E-T-T. I'm here today to lend my
4 support for all three LNG projects, proposing terminals here
5 at the Port of Brownsville along the Brownsville Ship
6 Channel. I feel that the infrastructure needs of the Lower
7 Rio Grande Valley would be met with these projects, creation
8 of jobs, support jobs and monies that would come in.

9 With my experience in the maritime industry, I
10 feel that LNG has among one of the safest records, best
11 records of safety in the maritime industry. The lower?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Rio Grande Valley is in need of, as I said
14 before, infrastructure improvements. Our water is lacking.
15 Our electricity is lacking and industry here can help with
16 all those things. So again, I am in support of all three
17 projects proposing LNG facilities here at the Port of
18 Brownsville.

19 (Pause)

20 MS. LIBBY: My name is Aida Libby. My last name
21 is L-I-B-B-Y, Aida is A-I-D-A. I feel that the LNGs are
22 going to be providing a lot of jobs to the area that
23 Brownsville has been needing for many, many years. Growing
24 up in Brownsville, I noticed that we are far behind in
25 development and I feel that any of the LNGs that come in are

1 going to be a great resource for our community and provide
2 plenty of jobs.

3 (Pause)

4 MS. LIBBY: Valerie Libby, V-A-L-E-R-I-E L-I-B-B-
5 Y. I feel that the LNG project is a good opportunity to
6 have jobs for the community so that people can support their
7 families and that stuff. I feel that it's one of the best
8 liquefied gases to use, seeing that it's nontoxic and isn't
9 harmful to the environment. That's it.

10 (Pause)

11 MR.& MRS. LAUXMAN: Our last name is Lauxman,
12 Debbie and Larry, D-E-B-B-I-E L-A-R-R-Y. We are both here
13 because we oppose the LNG for various reasons, but mostly
14 because we don't believe it is going to do anything positive
15 for our particular environment, our community. We believe
16 that it's definitely going to help somebody who is going to
17 make a lot of money getting it sent to another foreign
18 country. Makes no sense to us. Opposed 100%. That's it.
19 Thank you.

20 (Pause)

21 JUDGE SEPULVEDA: My name is Pete P-E-T-E,
22 Sepulveda S-E-P-U-L-V-E-D-A. I am the County Judge for
23 Cameron County and I would like to register my support for
24 the project on behalf of Cameron County. We understand
25 there is a regulatory process that the company needs to

1 abide by, but we also understand the economic benefits that
2 his project will bring, not only to Cameron County but the
3 entire Rio Grande Region and South Texas, and so once the
4 company goes through the regulatory process and is able to
5 get whatever regulatory permits or environmental permits
6 that are required by the different cooperating agencies.

7 Again we feel the economic benefits outweigh any
8 environmental concerns. We feel that environmental concerns
9 can be properly mitigated by the company and thus we are in
10 strong support of this project. Again, I am here
11 representing Cameron County.

12 (Pause)

13 MR. MAYA: The reason I'm here, and I was not
14 planning to really be here, because I already asked, and
15 they already told me what I wanted to know. The reason I
16 came here is because I thought that these three companies
17 were going to you know, like SpaceX? I thought it was going
18 to be the same. Like "Hey guys, we need suppliers. We are
19 going to need you now, this, this and that, so submit your
20 information because we want to consider you in our database.
21 So we have you when we need something of this type, we are
22 going to call you."

23 So they told me that until 2017 they are going to
24 start building the facilities, right? In the meantime, they
25 told me that I can like try to submit our company's

1 information to them so that when the time arrives they can
2 consider us, because that is what we are looking for,
3 business opportunities.

4 So, I think that this is going to be awesome
5 because this is going to bring a lot of jobs, which I think
6 we need those around in this area. For us as a company it
7 will be like a super opportunity in case we might get
8 something with them. So I think it's going to be good.

9 Are you writing what I'm saying? Wow, because I
10 see them over there as well. I see those in juries where
11 there is a lady 'tick-tick-tick' something like that.
12 Basically that is all I wanted to say because I wanted to
13 know the ladies over there and the guys explained to me that
14 so for me it was good, it was worth it to come and we just
15 need to get ready as a company and hopefully they make it
16 because we need something like that around here. I think
17 that is it.

18 Luis L-U-I-S Maya M-A-Y-A.

19 (Pause)

20 MR. BOTHWELL: My name is Robert Bothwell, I have
21 a doctorate in psychology. The last name is spelled B-O-T-
22 H-W-E-L-L. I live on South Padre Island. I've been retired
23 for five years and I have lived there.

24 I'm opposed to this project because -- well, for
25 a number of reasons: It is within the three mile radius

1 that's considered to be safe. There is a high school here
2 and there are residents here. It's also going to be located
3 in a wildlife area, that's not cool. It's a fishing area
4 that a lot of recreational sportsman participate in.

5 I understand that here might be safeguards
6 against pollutants into that area but who knows? I think
7 that the environmental risk greatly outweighs the economic
8 types of benefits that the community may get from this
9 project.

10 I just want to voice my opposition to it. On a
11 scale from one to ten my opposition is at a ten. I'm very
12 opposed to it. That is all I have to say.

13 (Pause)

14 MR. GARD: Paul Gard, G-A-R-D. My statement is
15 you've already ruined Galveston and Corpus, what's the
16 point? The issue with us is my wife has COPD and we think
17 from what we've read, we may have to move if this comes in
18 so that's really all I have to say.

19 (Pause)

20 MR. MARTINEZ: My name is Hymen Martinez. All I
21 wanted to come out for is just to show support for really
22 all the LNG projects that are proposed for the area. I
23 think it's great to bring out employment opportunities for
24 not only Brownsville but for the region. I definitely think
25 it's a positive thing and it's actually also a good thing

1 that our people who go to school here or they are looking
2 for jobs won't have to leave Brownsville or even the Valley
3 to get a good-paying job locally instead of being shipped
4 off somewhere else. That's it, sir. Thank you.

5 (Pause)

6 MS. RECIO: My name is Margie Recio, R-E-C-I-O.
7 Basically, I support actually all three projects; Annova
8 LNG, Texas LNG and Next Decade LNG. I believe even landing
9 just one, even if we don't land all three, even just one
10 will go ahead and be a big impact, here not only in
11 Brownsville but also our region. It will provide lots of
12 jobs. We have a lot of citizens here that go outside of the
13 Brownsville area to go look for employment because there is
14 not much employment here. I think these facilities will
15 not only bring back some of those people that go out to look
16 for employment but will also keep other citizens here as
17 well. So that's really what I think. That's it.

18 (Pause)

19 MR. MARTINEZ: Mauricio Martinez, M-A-U-R-I-C-I-O
20 Martinez, representing the Propeller Club of Brownsville.
21 We wanted to voice our support, wholehearted support for the
22 LNGs coming in. They'll be a tremendous boost to the
23 economy and to the area, and we've been following their
24 capabilities and their performance factors throughout the
25 coast of Texas and New Orleans and Florida.

1 So far, so good. No major catastrophes or
2 contaminates, which is what we want. We definitely need the
3 development of the area, so the Propeller Club is here to
4 support and give our voice.

5 (Pause)

6 MR. FLORES: Thank you. My name is Dan, middle
7 initial B like in boy, Flores F-L-O-R-E-S. I'm here in
8 support of Texas LNG. I own a private security firm in
9 Brownsville. I believe one of the biggest things that we're
10 looking for is wages to better our community. I think that
11 a group like LNG can do that for us, so I'm in total support
12 of the organization and I'm in total support of the project.
13 I can be reached at 956-371-5161 for any further questions
14 the FERC program might have. Thank you.

15 (Pause)

16 MR. LEWIS: Okay, my name is Robert Lewis, L-E-W-
17 I-S. Well, I've been hearing about this Texas LNG project
18 for a while, and ultimately I think it would be a greatly
19 beneficial thing for the Rio Grande Valley. After coming
20 back from Iraq I saw several friends of mine, one in
21 particular who had a Purple Heart from the deployment in
22 Iraq, come home and end up in either acute financial stress
23 or, in the man with the Purple Heart's case, outright
24 homeless because of lack of jobs down here in the Rio Grande
25 Valley.

1 A lot of those guys, if you're lucky you end up
2 in the oil rigs. If you're smart you go to college. Some
3 of them go to be police officers, but the oil business was
4 drying up at the time; and you know there is an outright
5 lack of jobs down here. It's difficult to see my friends go
6 through that. You know, having so many veterans in the Rio
7 Grande area, such a high concentration of veterans, I
8 believe that this would ultimately be a greatly beneficial
9 thing to put not only the service men and women to work but
10 also the greater population of the Rio Grande Valley.

11 (Pause)

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name is Tony
13 Rodriguez, R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z. I am a citizen of
14 Brownsville, Texas and I actually support all three
15 projects. I think they're going to create a great quality
16 of life, be an economic impact of the regions, not only
17 Brownsville but the whole Rio Grande Valley is going to
18 have. It's going to create jobs. I think that's what, at
19 the end of the day we are hoping that is what it's going to
20 do, and we support all three projects. Thank you.

21 (Pause)

22 MS. VILLARREAL: My name is Yendi Villareal, Y-E-
23 N-D-I V-I-L-L-A-R-R-E-A-L. I'm a citizen of Brownsville
24 and I support Texas LNG.

25 (Took cell phone call.)

1 (Pause)

2 COMMISSIONER COWEN: My name is Ralph R-A-L-P-H
3 Cowen C-O-W-E-N. I have the distinct pleasure of being the
4 Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Brownsville
5 Navigation District, and I am here to voice my support for
6 the LNG industry to be established at the Port of
7 Brownsville in our channel.

8 I believe it to be safe because I have faith in
9 FERC and their process, the EPA and their process, the Texas
10 Land Office and their process, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the
11 Texas Natural Resources Commission and all the other twenty-
12 six or so agencies that will have to be vetting all of these
13 projects.

14 To give you an analogy, if I were a public
15 official on South Padre Island where they have high-rise
16 condominiums, I would need, even if we gave our approval to
17 build a high-rise condominium project through the planning
18 and zoning regulations, the engineering and the safety of
19 this would be regulated by the engineers and all the
20 agencies, the Windstorm Commission and all of the agencies
21 that have to do with those public safety issues, and make
22 sure that the building would not fall down the first time we
23 had a little wind, and we're in adjoining houses and all,
24 environmentally all of the things that they would have to
25 be.

1 So I have great faith in the process, and I would
2 like, and if one of them proves to be in the wrong place for
3 it to be safe for the public, then we will not give them a
4 lease. Currently they have simply an option to lease. If
5 they don't meet those qualifications, then they will not be
6 granted a lease. So we have a say-so in there as well.

7 Thank you. (Pause)

8 It is my fiduciary duty, along with the rest of
9 my port Commissioners, to get income from our land that we
10 are held as trustees for. We are the largest land-owning
11 public port authority in the United States. We own some
12 forty thousand acres of land. We are the poorest region
13 economically in the United States. The demographics and the
14 statistics just came out again.

15 So we're faced with either leasing land and
16 providing the income and increasing the cargo and the fees
17 and the jobs that those provide, and the construction and
18 all the other things for the people in our district to be
19 able to make the transition from poverty to prosperity.
20 That path is through jobs, good paying jobs and money
21 circulating in the community.

22 I cannot in good conscience keep everything as
23 status quo and have our citizens be landscapers and yardmen
24 and maids, and day laborers. It may be nice for people that
25 want to move down here and live like English lords, but I

1 can't do that. I was elected to represent them to help make
2 this a better place for everybody to live. Total respect to
3 people moving here; we are not against anybody moving here.
4 We are a progressive and we're a very business-friendly
5 port, but we're not a residential port. We're not a
6 residential area or a resort area.

7 We are an industrial port. We are a maritime,
8 deepwater port, the only one that sits on the Mexican
9 Border, U.S.-Mexico border. Thank you.

10 (Pause)

11 COMMISSIONER REED: John Reed, R-E-E-D. I'm a
12 Commissioner of the Brownsville Navigation District. I'm a
13 lifelong resident of Brownsville, Texas. I've been in
14 banking over thirty years. I currently run a bank on South
15 Padre Island for the last eight years, and I fully support
16 the LNG plants coming to the Port of Brownsville. I have
17 the utmost confidence in the Federal Government vetting them
18 properly and making sure they meet all of the requirements,
19 EPA requirements, safety requirements.

20 They definitely will enhance the area, enhance
21 the Port and bring much-needed jobs to our area. The area
22 will definitely benefit by this.

23 (Pause)

24 MR. SWIDER: My name is David Swider, S-W-I-D-E-
25 R. I'm a Port Isabel resident, and I vehemently oppose this

1 new project for a great many reasons. First, as a preface
2 to my comments, Port Isabel is a tourist town. It is one of
3 the three poorest towns in the United States and that
4 Cameron County itself is one of the three poorest counties
5 in the United States. Port Isabel supplies the manpower to
6 the hotels on the island, South Padre Island.

7 Now to my, I have to add one more item. We are
8 geographically located on the Gulf of Mexico with a
9 predominantly southeast breeze nearly year round, which is a
10 prime attraction to the tourist industry.

11 Now for my concerns. If there are going to be
12 processing plants on the Brownsville Ship Channel south and
13 east of town, and there are gas leaks and there will be a
14 small associated with the processing of five plants
15 proposed, and that will then kill the tourist industry in
16 this vicinity. A shame. It's a shame economically, it's a
17 shame morally for what we have here.

18 Another concern is in the ship channel. It is to
19 be used at the end of the processing, and when these ships
20 depart there is going to be a hazard going very close to
21 Port Isabel and South Padre Island, the city of. We should
22 not be subjected to that.

23 A third concern is the areas surrounding their
24 proposed locations are environmental areas, and I'm sure
25 this is going to be looked at and approved but nonetheless,

1 they are environmentally sensitive and to have gas leaks, et
2 cetera, in the area is not what I would favor.

3 Another objection that I have is that the
4 benefits are very few to Port Isabel. Various agencies here
5 have decided they don't want this project so close to us,
6 namely the water district, the City of Port Isabel is
7 forming a written objection, and I believe South Padre
8 Island is forming an objection to this. I think those are
9 my major concerns.

10 {Pause}

11 MS. DELUCCA: My name is Joyce Delucca. I live
12 in Port Isabel. I have been here for forty years. I am
13 totally against the LNG Project. I haven't heard anything
14 yet to convince me one hundred percent to think it was good
15 and that's all I have to say.

16 (Pause)

17 MS. POYTHRESS: Okay, I'm Marianne, one word, M-
18 A-R-I-A-N-N-E. Last name is Poythress, P-O-Y-T-H-R-E-S-S.
19 I'm a resident of Laguna Vista.

20 My biggest concerns are the cumulative effects of
21 the joint pipeline and LNG projects. Basically, I believe
22 when looking at a cost/risk benefit analysis, that the
23 people of Cameron County, the residents of Cameron County
24 has the cost and risk and no benefits. The benefits are for
25 anonymous shareholders and investors of the LNG and Pipeline

1 LNG companies.

2 So, what are the supposed benefits to the people
3 of Cameron County and the Rio Grande Valley? Jobs is the
4 number one item that has been promoted as a benefit and the
5 current number I have seen in terms of non-short-term
6 construction jobs are in the hundreds. What specific job
7 titles? What are the qualifications? How much will it pay,
8 and how many people who are current residents of Cameron
9 County or have been a resident for the past three years
10 actually qualify for these jobs?

11 In other locations, the higher paying jobs like
12 those that have been told to us are 70K, require ten years
13 of experience with LNG. No one currently residing, meaning
14 not part of this project, is likely to have experienced,
15 since they live here and there is no LNG. I would like to
16 see an analysis of the local, native Cameron County
17 residents who might actually be the beneficiaries of these
18 jobs. How many people qualify for those jobs?

19 A second supposed benefit is taxes. Rumors were
20 put around that the proposed LNG LLCs would be contributing
21 to the tax base of Cameron County, which is one of the
22 poorest counties in the U.S. Already, Annova LLC has
23 requested a ten-year abatement of Cameron County and the
24 Port Isabel School District. It is suspected that others
25 will follow.

1 This is a question: Would FERC please require
2 the LLCs to publically declare their request for and
3 intention to request abatements from the taxing entities
4 prior to award, and then to have a moratorium on abatements
5 for five years following the award. Point being, they must
6 declare or they can't seek an abatement until five years
7 after the project is going.

8 It's only fair that the residents of Cameron
9 County know that they will receive no benefits via tax base
10 or tax relief from these LNG projects. Why would any
11 responsible commissioner or school board member defer tax
12 revenue for one of the poorest counties in the U.S.?

13 Benefits to the United States: The cumulative
14 project does not benefit the United States Energy
15 Independence Objectives. It does not benefit the public,
16 the people of the United States. Instead, it benefits the
17 LNG and pipeline LLC investors and shareholders.

18 Question: Please name the top largest five human
19 shareholders in each of the LNG and pipeline LLCs.

20 Question: What percentage of each LNG and
21 pipeline LLC in terms of investment share held is held by a
22 foreign investor?

23 Another question: Please provide a model or
24 models developed by an independent reputable source on
25 natural gas and energy markets to predict the four

1 following: How long will the in-ground natural gas reserves
2 in the U.S. be available?

3 How long will fracking-sourced natural gas
4 reserves at Eagle Ford be available?

5 How long does the pricing model that makes
6 liquefying natural gas and exporting natural gas profitable?
7 When will that model no longer be profitable?

8 How long before these companies shut down the
9 plants due to profitability or availability reasons? So
10 what are they saying their timeline is? So that's the end
11 of the benefits section.

12 Now I am going to the cost/risk section. So
13 currently we have the following job-base in the region here,
14 in Cameron County. First, beach tourism which is a three
15 hundred million dollar a year business with four thousand
16 jobs. Eco-tourism, which is a four hundred sixty-three
17 million dollar a year and it has six thousand, six hundred
18 and thirteen employees.

19 Fishing and boating has one thousand, three
20 hundred and twenty-seven jobs. Shrimping has one thousand
21 seven hundred and ninety-one jobs, and then the winter Texan
22 revenue is eight hundred million. These sources of revenue
23 and jobs require a clean beach, clean water, clean air,
24 night skies so that you can see stars, and quiet. The
25 proposed projects bring noise, lights seen at a great

1 distance given our location, one-hundred and ninety-foot
2 industrial Gotham-look structures, and then health and
3 environmental issues that I will go into further later.

4 This area, Port Isabel is the largest commercial
5 fishing port in Texas. It is critical to our economy and
6 these projects threaten it.

7 Next, water. These projects are requesting water
8 from Cameron County. The water coming down the river is
9 governed by International Treaty. There is no flexibility
10 in terms of rerouting water. The water comes in here,
11 either goes to drinking, goes to farming or goes to existing
12 businesses. Any diversion from that is going to be by
13 denying residents water to drink or current businesses the
14 water they need for their current income.

15 To date I understand the Brownsville water people
16 have denied Annova water, and just this past week the Laguna
17 Madre Water District voted against the LNG projects and
18 would deny water as well, because they understand their
19 limits in terms of they cannot manufacture water to satisfy
20 someone new without denying existing people.

21 Electricity, new topic. The projects will
22 require ERCOT, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas,
23 has traditionally had issues with the Valley. Issues in
24 terms of electrical islanding because of the few lines
25 coming down here and the few production sources locally.

1 Those have changed recently by more lines allowing in and
2 out and the construction of a new electrical facility and
3 the wind turbines.

4 My question is, given the projected consumption
5 of electricity by these different facilities and the current
6 electricity available or projected by the new plant being
7 built, will ERCOT have concerns about not having sufficient
8 electricity to handle islanding during peak usages such as a
9 hot summer?

10 Okay, next topic is health. The Port Isabel High
11 School is in the blow of Texas LNG and to some degree, Rio
12 Grande LNG air-based discharges. The Port Isabel High
13 School has been named one of the top high schools in the
14 U.S. by U.S. News and World Report just recently. These
15 children do not need to be at risk health-wise as they get
16 an education.

17 Current estimates of the plant's particulate
18 releases are three hundred and thirty-seven tons a year.
19 The releases of mercury, nitric oxide, carbon monoxide. Any
20 release directed at our high school is a risk to the area.
21 These children do not need to be worried about their health.
22 Their parents shouldn't be worried about their children's
23 health while at school.

24 Next is safety issues. The Washington State
25 explosion of 2014 and a recent Yemen terrorist attack on

1 Listening, and the two pipeline breeches at Falfurrias and
2 Cuero are specific concerns about the volatility of this
3 transportation and liquefaction of natural gas.

4 Given that these are LLCs, which are specifically
5 limited liability entities, a fund needs to be developed by
6 these companies to cover the worst-case scenario developed
7 by an independent organization such as Sandia, and have the
8 funds set aside until they stop functioning here.

9 Cameron County is too poor to recover from leak
10 or terrorist -- doesn't matter which -- destruction, death,
11 harm, and pollution from these companies. My concern is
12 that without this fund, Cameron County will bear the burden
13 as they will shut their doors, tuck tail and leave us with
14 that responsibility.

15 Okay, the environment. As mentioned before, the
16 livelihood of the area is based upon many environmental
17 criteria such as shrimp for the shrimping industry, fish,
18 and the unique wildlife and habitat that is found here. The
19 LNG's facilities bring the Bahia Grande Wetlands Restoration
20 Project. The light and noise, water pollution, air
21 pollution will discourage the natural activities of the
22 wildlife and will discourage the tourists who come to view
23 them in a natural environment.

24 The Bahia Grande is in the process of opening up
25 a visitor's center and hike and bike paths for visitors to

1 come and view these interesting and endangered species in
2 their natural habitat. The industrial look, noise and light
3 pollution will deter the eco-tourists from taking advantage
4 of what was a very lovely environment.

5 The wetlands provide a multitude of benefits to
6 the industries currently in operation such as the shrimp and
7 fishing business. They provide nurseries for fish and
8 shrimp. They also provide basic benefits such as water
9 filtration and they prevent coastal erosion. This region is
10 also known for its blackthorn habitat, which is a unique
11 environment that is located here.

12 Given that these companies are working with
13 fossil fuels and that this is a limited resource it is not
14 the future, it is the past. This beautiful environment here
15 and the very close community and the unique aspects of the
16 region need to move into the future with clean, supporting
17 economic opportunities -- not backward technologies and
18 energies where they receive little if any benefit.

19 Once again, the cost/benefit ratio is against the
20 people and communities in this area, and I would ask for a
21 careful cost/benefit analysis to be done to confirm my
22 estimates and to deny these projects unless someone else can
23 come up with some benefit that isn't obvious based upon the
24 review of all the materials we have so far. The end.

25 (Pause)

1 MR. LEWIS: My name is Charles Lewis, spelled L-
2 E-W-I-S. I live at 2918 Emerald Lake Drive, which is in
3 Harlingen, Texas H-A-R-L-I-N-G-E-N, which is in Cameron
4 County Texas. I am here with my wife Mary, and I think she
5 wants to give a statement after I do. I have just recently
6 retired as a federal prosecutor doing organized crime cases,
7 a career I had for some forty years.

8 I've been a property owner in Cameron County --
9 Cameron is spelled C-A-M-E-R-O-N; that's the county we're in
10 -- I've been a property owner in Cameron County since 1974,
11 and that includes property on South Padre Island, and then
12 later we acquired residences in Brownsville, Texas and the
13 home where we live in Harlingen, Texas; so we've been
14 longtime real estate owners in Cameron County.

15 I'm also an avid Bay fisherman. I've had four
16 different boats that I've operated in Cameron County along
17 with three kayaks. I'm happy to say I don't currently own a
18 boat but I do own three kayaks, which I used most recently
19 in June. I am for the liquid natural gas proposals, the
20 various plants that are proposed to be built along the ship
21 channel, and I'm not going to list all the reasons why I
22 think it should be or why it's a good idea.

23 I want to focus on one of them that I think might
24 be overlooked. We have real estate, my wife and I, in
25 central Texas in the San Antonio area, and we are up there a

1 lot. There is a tremendous amount of oil exploration and
2 production going on in Central Texas in what is called the
3 Eagle Ford, E-A-G-L-E second word is Ford, shale S-H-A-L-E,
4 Eagle Ford Shale oil play and because of the success of that
5 activity in the Eagle Ford Shale there are -- I don't know
6 the number but it must be thousands of flares that are in
7 the Eagle Ford Shale area that's flaring natural gas because
8 there's no commercial use for it.

9 For the readers of this statement, I don't know
10 if they've ever stood next to a flare, of this flare of
11 natural gas. I have. It sounds like you're standing next
12 to a jet engine.

13 The gas is pouring out of the earth at such a
14 speed or such a rate and those flares, they only from a
15 distance they only look like they are an inch long, but when
16 you get up next to them there is a tongue of flame that is
17 ten to fifteen feet long. As I mentioned, there are
18 thousands of these flares as a result of the success of the
19 Eagle Ford Shale operation.

20 Just one of them puts a lot of heat in the
21 environment, in the atmosphere. Thousands of them put, and
22 to me, an incalculable amount of heat and other substances
23 into our Texas environment.

24 It seems to me that by liquefying this natural
25 gas instead of flaring it off, we're doing and that and in

1 and of itself does a positive good for the environment,
2 because to the degree that we are liquefying and selling
3 this natural gas to somebody in the international market, we
4 are flaring that much less of it into the environment up in
5 the central Texas area.

6 So that's the one point I wish to make that I
7 thought might be, I think, might be overlooked; and that is
8 that this would reduce to some extent the flaring and it
9 might be the wasting of natural gas that's going on in other
10 parts of the State of Texas.

11 I am an avid sports fisherman, a Bay fisherman,
12 especially kayaking and because of that I am fairly familiar
13 with the Bay fishing activities of the Lower Laguna Madre.

14 For my experience, which goes back decades, that
15 type of fishing, the Lower Laguna Madre fishing, is
16 primarily done in shallow water. The fish that are caught
17 or sought, trout, red fish, flounder, drum, other species as
18 well, especially the prize fish, are caught in shallow
19 water. The LNG plants are not near shallow water. They are
20 on, the proposed locations are on the ship channel, which is
21 a deepwater maritime highway that goes out to the ocean.

22 The biggest fish that I catch are probably at
23 about twelve inches of water in areas that are not anywhere
24 near where these proposed sites are. So I don't think that
25 these plants are going to have an adverse effect on the Bay

1 fishing in this area because that Bay fishing is done
2 primarily in shallow waters and not on the Intercoastal
3 Waterway or the Brownsville Ship Channel where these plants
4 would be located. So that's the statement that I
5 wanted to make. I'm for, I'm in favor of the LNG and I do
6 not believe it's going to have an adverse effect on the
7 shallow water Bay fishing that is so popular and successful
8 in South Texas and in the Lower Laguna Madre. That's the
9 end of my statement and I'll ask my wife if she wants to say
10 anything.

11 (Pause)

12 MRS. LEWIS: So, I'm Mary Lewis and I've been a
13 resident of Cameron County for about twenty-five years, and
14 I think that the LNG plant would bring jobs, all kinds of
15 jobs, technical jobs. I think that they would probably work
16 with the University of Texas at Brownsville, kind of like
17 the SpaceX is doing, which enhances the education down here.
18 So, I'm in favor of it for that reason.

19 I'm also in favor of it as a landowner of a place
20 in the Eagle Ford Shale that I inherited from my parents,
21 and we do happen to have on our land the flaring going on,
22 and it is pretty amazing to be there and listen to the roar
23 of the gas being flared off. You think about that being in
24 our atmosphere and moving and you know. Whereas with this
25 technology, they would take the liquid gas and condense it,

1 ship it overseas and make use of it.

2 I think in a way that would be kind of like
3 sweeping the environment at least in that Central Texas
4 area, south Central Texas, more Atascosa County to be
5 specific, where our land is that I think that would help the
6 atmosphere, clean up the atmosphere some. I just see that
7 it's a win/win situation in many ways for the Valley and
8 therefore I am for it.

9 (Pause)

10 MR. SMITH: My name is David A. Smith. I'm a
11 native Houstonian. It's had the pleasure and God's blessing
12 to spend a great deal of time here in the Lower Rio Grande
13 Valley since 1965.

14 I would like to start my comments by saying 'Dear
15 gentlepersons at FERC, there is nothing environmentally
16 sustainable about these LNG projects. They slowly poison
17 children and pregnant mothers and water wells. That is our
18 future, neighbors. The overall operation including fracking
19 creates great pollution and profits, while warming our
20 planet and collectively jeopardizes our families. Why would
21 corporations want to do this?

22 Wise men used to say things like 'better safe
23 than sorry.' Samuel Clemens, Mark Twain, said 'It's not
24 what you don't know that gets you into trouble, it's what
25 you know for sure that just ain't so.' Pope Francis is a

1 wise man who is concerned about humanity and preserving life
2 on our warming planet. He is also a chemist and in his
3 recent Encyclical stated 'Dear Texas, man has slapped nature
4 in the face.' He joins ninety-seven percent of the world's
5 climate scientists.

6 I am a South Texas Lutheran and have been a part
7 of this slapping, but I stand here today with Pope Francis.
8 A recent peer review study has linked birth defects to the
9 presence of fracking within a ten-mile radius of the
10 mother's home. This important study, conducted by
11 researchers at Colorado School of Public Health and Brown
12 University, found an association between the density and
13 proximity of natural gas wells within a ten-mile radius of
14 maternal residence and prevalence of congenital heart
15 defects, as well as possible links to defects of the brain
16 and spinal cord.

17 The Rio Grande Valley already has one of the
18 world's highest rates of anencephaly -- A-N-E-N-C-E-P-H-A-L-
19 Y -- that is children born without brains or partial brains.
20 How will you be voting or who will you be voting to protect?
21 I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to hear my
22 comments. God bless you all. Sincerely I remain, David
23 Smith.

24 (Pause)

25 MR. HOENES: Okay, my name is Bill Hoenes.

1 That's H-O-E-N-E-S. I live on South Padre Island. I moved
2 down here about five years ago full time. I've been coming
3 down for at least ten to fifteen years kite-boarding. I'm
4 concerned about the impact that any of the LNG export
5 terminals will have. I've done some research and understand
6 that there's going to be attempts to try and minimize any
7 impact to the environment but minimize doesn't really cut it
8 with me.

9 I think they should try and do more than just
10 mitigate it through areas away from here. There's very
11 special resources that we have here, the Rio Grande; just
12 that the whole area is more environmental and tourist
13 destination. I am very concerned that we'll lose a lot of
14 that and the impact would be more negative than positive.

15 True, we might get some jobs, but I think there
16 might be an offset in loss of jobs also. So I am against
17 the process and I just wanted to put that on the record.

18 (Pause)

19 MS. NIELAND: Good afternoon. My name is Carolyn
20 B. Nieland. I'm a resident of Alamo, Texas, a ten-year
21 resident of the Rio Grande Valley with a degree in art
22 education earned many years ago. Nieland is N-I-E-L-A-N-D.

23 Safety concerns are among my most serious
24 considerations. The proposed LNG locations are very close
25 to the causeway. If there was an accident and possibly a

1 pool fire, how could any of the South Padre population and
2 visitors be evacuated safely? If there is any kind of
3 adverse event at an LNG facility, what is their safety
4 contingency plan? Are they planning on help from local fire
5 departments from which they ask a ten-year tax abatement to
6 support? Will the Cameron County taxpayers be asked to
7 maintain the roads to their facilities gratis for ten years?

8 I fear that the economic gains from eco-tourism
9 will be lost to economic exports that will have little
10 benefit to local residents. I fear pollution effects on
11 visitors' and residents' health and the paving over of
12 paradise. I personally have worked at birding fairs for
13 which people from Europe come to see the biodiversity that
14 we find here in the Rio Grande Valley.

15 One company, Annova, owned by Excelon of Three-
16 Mile Island fame, has a terrible record of pollution of
17 groundwater in Illinois nuclear power plants. How can a
18 measly fine make right the damage from corporate decisions?
19 I support being proactive and denying these LNG companies
20 the permit to operate in the unique environment of the Rio
21 Grande Valley.

22 Thank you for considering my comments.

23 (Pause)

24 MR. BAGUIO: My name is Michael Baguio, spelled
25 B-A-G-U-I-O. I'm a resident of Lake Buena Vista here in the

1 Rio Grande Valley, and I just wanted to make some comments
2 about the processing of LNG here in the Rio Grande Valley.
3 I'm basically opposed to it. Basically because of the
4 environmental impact and the possible toxic emissions,
5 habitat loss, and basically the decline in tourism that this
6 process would bring. Most of all, the impacts on the
7 fishing.

8 It seems to me that I was told the exporting of
9 LNG will drive the gas prices here in the U.S. up; so that's
10 basically my concern for this whole process, and I'm just
11 hoping that it doesn't go through. I learned that one of
12 the companies, they're thinking about building a hundred and
13 thirty-five mile line from Corpus Christi down to here for
14 LNG or liquid nitrogen gas to process down here, so it kind
15 of get me, set me wondering about why they would want to do
16 that. They could just as well do it up in Corpus Christi
17 rather than down here in the Rio Grande Valley.

18 Basically, I'm just opposed to the building of
19 this LNG plant in the Rio Grande Valley for those reasons.
20 That's it.

21 (Pause)

22 MS. FRY: My name is Pearl Fry, F-R-Y. I am a
23 realtor with Superior One Realty and I'm a member of the
24 Brownsville South Padre Island Board of Realtors. I'm very
25 concerned about these LNG plants coming in. I know that

1 they're going to affect the tourist industry and the tourist
2 industry directly relates to my industry, because if the
3 values of properties on South Padre Island dies, Padre
4 Island is going to turn into a slum.

5 But that's not my main concern. My main concern
6 is the safety concern. The safety concern being that all of
7 these plants, but especially the one being built closest to
8 Port Isabel is a mile and a half away from Wal-Mart, H-E-B,
9 all of the populated areas and in some cases even closer.
10 There are some public housing units that are even closer
11 than that to Annova's site.

12 In case of an emergency, in case of an explosion,
13 in case of a fire, in case of anything where they have to
14 close down radius surrounding the plant there is no way out.
15 We are locked in. Because there is only one way into Port
16 Isabel, well there's two ways in; Highway 48 and Highway
17 100. But both of those ways would be in the danger zone.
18 And coming from Padre Island, there's the causeway. Padre
19 Island is only five miles away from the nearest plant.

20 So from Padre Island, everybody on Padre Island
21 would have to evacuate through the bridge, through the
22 causeway, and then they would have to go through Highway one
23 100 or highway 48 which would be closed because it's in the
24 danger zone and there's no way out. We are trapped. We are
25 trapped because there is no other way out. We don't even

1 have ferry boats or anything. It's not like we could take a
2 boat and go down to Laguna Madre. There is no way out.
3 We're trapped.

4 That's my main concern. Besides that, the
5 shrimping industry is going to suffer. There's going to be
6 air pollution. They say that there are, I mentioned to the
7 plants myself, to the people representing the plants, I've
8 spoken to them and I've said that there's no way a company
9 like yours, a facility like yours can operate without any
10 hazardous waste, without producing any hazardous waste.

11 They said 'Well, yes we will, but it's not going
12 to be that bad. The wind will carry all of these emissions
13 away. You're not even going to notice.' The wind is not
14 going to carry the emissions away. It's going to carry it
15 right into our lungs. We have clean air, we have clean
16 beaches, we have clean food. Why are we going to sacrifice
17 all of that for a hundred and fifty or two hundred jobs? In
18 the meantime we are going to lose all of the jobs of the
19 tourist industry, all of the jobs of the shrimping industry.

20 So no, it's not worth it. They can go build
21 their plant somewhere else. They're not going to build it
22 here. They're not welcome. We don't want them here, none
23 of them. All of them are going to be, the other ones are
24 going to be too close to Highway 48 and there's just not
25 enough space for four or five LNG plants. As far as I'm

1 concerned there's not enough space for one LNG plant.

2 I don't want them here, nobody wants them here.
3 It's not worth the one hundred and fifty or two hundred jobs
4 they are going to bring, and I certainly hope that the
5 Federal Government does not cave in to their half-truths
6 about how safe these places are, because they are not safe.
7 All we need is one accident. As long as no accidents happen
8 we are safe, but all we need is one bad thing to happen and
9 all the money in the world is not going to clean up our
10 environment or won't for years and years and years.

11 We don't want to sacrifice ourselves for LNG or
12 for anybody else for that matter. Thank you.

13 (Pause)

14 MR. NEWTON: My name is Eric Newton, and I fully
15 support the proposed projects here for all three facilities.
16 The economic impacts will be very beneficial to the Rio
17 Grande Valley, and it is apparent that all environmental
18 precautions and safety concerns have been addressed.

19 That's all I have. Thank you.

20 (Pause)

21 MR. BEST: Bill B-I-L-L, B as in Boy, last name
22 Best, B-E-S-T -- and like the opposite of worst. Shall we
23 just go ahead and proceed? Thank you, sir.

24 My name is Bill Best. I am a practicing attorney
25 and a thirty-year resident of South Padre Island. I would

1 like to hereby state my opposition to the proposed LNG
2 plants and I would like to go ahead and make my statement.

3 The proposed LNG plants will be processing LNG
4 that is about ninety-two percent pure. In order to liquefy
5 it for specialized tankers, the proposed LNG plants must
6 bring it to a minimum of ninety-nine percent pure. This
7 means that about seven percent of the raw gas pipeline into
8 the facilities, the proposed plants, which contain
9 impurities and carcinogens and volatile organic compounds
10 will have to be burned and vented into the air by flare
11 stacks, which will not be able to remove all of the
12 impurities.

13 The gas is released and the impurities which will
14 be released into the air estimated to be literally tons per
15 year. With our prevailing winds, these carcinogenic gases
16 will blow over populated areas. The southern Rio Grande
17 Valley is already known as a cancer hot zone, which will
18 become even worse. The Annova Corporation, which is a
19 subsidiary of Excelon Corporation for which we have to thank
20 for the Three Mile Island debacle, and for which has
21 recently been fined over a million dollars for pollution, is
22 one of the first of the LNG plants proposed. It will be on
23 track to be one of the largest, if not the largest polluter
24 in Cameron County.

25 These proposed plants and their flare stacks will

1 be located within a couple of miles of populated areas,
2 wildlife refuges and wetlands which provide a primary source
3 of food for birds, fish, shrimp and other wildlife. Annova
4 LNG has not reported their expected air pollution emissions,
5 but we know that all liquefied natural gas export terminals
6 are major sources of hazardous air pollutants.

7 We can roughly estimate the level of Annova LNG's
8 pollution by comparing its planned production capacity with
9 that of other LNG export terminals currently under
10 construction in the United States. The emissions associated
11 with Annova LNG's .93 billion cubic feet per day production
12 of LNG is nitrogen oxides in the amount of approximately one
13 thousand two hundred and nine tons per year; carbon monoxide
14 in the estimated amount of one thousand eight hundred and
15 sixty tons per year. The latter of which will affect people
16 with heart disease who are especially susceptible to this
17 particular poison.

18 Also on the list are volatile organic compounds
19 known as VOCs in the amount of approximately sixty tons per
20 year. VOCs are carcinogens and neurotoxins. There is no
21 safe level for VOCs. Also on the list are greenhouse gases
22 at approximately 1.7 million tons per year as well as sulfur
23 dioxide in the amount of approximately four tons per year,
24 and particulate matter PM10 and PM2.5 in the amount of
25 seventy-eight tons per year. This is with regard to the

1 pollution these plants are expected to produce.

2 Next I would like to touch upon the issue of
3 jobs. The jobs these corporations and politicians who tout
4 these corporations tell us the LNG plants will bring are not
5 what they lead you to believe. Construction of the LNG
6 sites may employ construction workers for a limited amount
7 of time; the time it takes to build these things. Many of
8 these jobs will employ specialized skilled workers from out
9 of this area.

10 After they are built, the plants will employ only
11 a couple hundred specialized skilled operator employees who
12 will be shipped in and who will for the most part not be
13 hired from our local labor force. The local economy is
14 driven by tourism and commercial fishing. Thousands of jobs
15 here in the Rio Grande Valley depend on clean air, clean
16 water and high quality fish and wildlife habitat. The
17 lights and fiery flare stacks will light up the sky within
18 sight of South Padre Island's beach front hotels and
19 condominiums and restaurants, and smog-producing emissions
20 will foul the air.

21 Those are not the sights and smells that draw
22 tourists. It is likely that many more jobs will be lost
23 than will be gained. Tourists come from all over the
24 country to enjoy our pristine environment. They come to
25 fish, to see the migratory and local wildlife and birds,

1 they come for eco-tours and the beautiful beaches, the
2 wildlife refuges and the pristine ecosystem that is unique
3 to this area. They even come from Corpus Christi and
4 Houston because we do not have the refineries and
5 industrialization located in those cities.

6 So ultimately, we are looking at greater job loss
7 than job creation. People will not be as attracted to this
8 area if the air quality is compromised and the water quality
9 is degraded. Industrialization and pollution can and will
10 erode economic drivers such as commercial fishing, shrimping
11 and beach and nature tourism.

12 With regard to taxes, the LNG plants will not
13 help the local schools and municipalities by increasing tax
14 revenues. They have requested and have been given tax
15 abatements from the Cameron County Commissioners. These are
16 the same Cameron County Commissioners who tried to take Isla
17 Blanca Park and give it to a private corporation. They're
18 the same commissioners who green-lighted construction to two
19 different condominium complexes that ultimately had to be
20 torn down because they were in violation of state and
21 federal regulations.

22 These are the Cameron County Commissioners who
23 just last week had a twenty-one million dollar verdict
24 levied against them for allowing county lands to be used to
25 build a hotel in violation of an agreement into which they

1 had previously entered. And we, the local populace will
2 have to pick up the slack and pay an increased tax burden
3 because of the taxes these plants will not have to pay. We
4 will not get tax breaks. The corporations will.

5 Next subject, risk of fire and leakage. LNG is
6 an odorless, colorless gas. When it leaks and vaporizes in
7 the air, it can become highly combustible. We know leaks
8 can happen. There was a leak two weeks ago from a fifteen-
9 inch LNG pipeline outside of Falfurrias, Texas that caused
10 the evacuation of some one hundred residents, reportedly
11 injured two people, and shut down a portion of a Texas
12 highway. Last year in 2014, an LNG plant much smaller than
13 those proposed, which was located in Washington State,
14 caught fire and actually blew up.

15 So we know leaks and explosions can and do occur.
16 It is recommended that there be a three-mile buffer safety
17 zone around these plants but in the proposed LNG plants for
18 this area they will be within three miles of the City of
19 Port Isabel along with its schools, high school, elementary
20 school, junior high school, close to Wal-Mart, H-E-B grocery
21 store and residential neighborhoods as well as Laguna
22 Heights and surrounding communities.

23 The route the tankers that will be used to
24 transport the LNG product to Korea, as I understand, will
25 bring them within a couple of hundred yards of Isla Blanca

1 Park and the City of South Padre Island. The recommended
2 safety buffer zone for the routes of these tankers is 2.2
3 miles, not two hundred yards.

4 The issue of profitability. Profitability is
5 very questionable. The cost of producing LNG currently is
6 greater than the price it will fetch on the global market.
7 Bear in mind that the LNG will be produced by the proposed
8 plants here, will be sent off for sale in other countries,
9 not for use here locally. That will in turn actually
10 increase the cost of LNG here locally, which in turn will
11 increase the cost of electricity here and the very cost of
12 living.

13 So the true benefit will go to the corporate
14 shareholders and not the local residents who will have to
15 pay more for everything from the cost of their electricity
16 to the cost of groceries. Based on these considerations, we
17 see that the questionable benefits from the proposed LNG
18 plants are greatly outweighed by the known detriments and
19 the known hazards.

20 These LNG plants are being opposed by the Texas
21 Parks and Wildlife and Laguna Madre Water District. We have
22 one of the last pristine coastal environments in Texas.
23 That's what brings people here. Why risk it? Why destroy
24 it for questionable and speculative corporate profit? You
25 don't see eco-tours in the Corpus Christi or Houston ship

1 channel.

2 I appreciate you listening to this or reading
3 this statement and I would like to attach to it Exhibit A
4 which is a letter from the Surfrider Foundation, which I
5 would like to be incorporated by reference to my statement.
6 Thank you, sir.

7 (Statement of Mr. Best follows:)

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1 MS. SALDIVAR: Teresa Robles Saldivar, S-A-L-D-I-
2 V-A-R. I oppose LNG, all three projects coming into the
3 valley and setting up in the Port of Brownsville. I oppose
4 the damage it will do to the wetlands, the ocelot corridor,
5 the wildlife corridor that exist currently. The emissions
6 are unacceptable. The lighting that will detrimentally
7 affect the nocturnal wildlife in our area. I oppose that.

8 I just oppose the whole thing. By the way, I
9 have not been paid to make this comment, nobody paid me to
10 come here today, unlike some others that have showed up
11 today. So, that's it. I guess I just wanted to say that I
12 oppose all three projects for health and safety reasons.

13 (Pause)

14 MS. SIMPSON: My name is Sybil Simpson. I'm a
15 lifelong resident of Cameron County and for over twenty
16 years I've ranched adjacent ranchlands adjacent to where
17 this project is supposedly going in, and having been on that
18 land for that long a time I have come to understand the
19 delicate nature of the grounds out there.

20 There's a lot of wildlife the rancher gets
21 privileged to see; most people passing down the highway
22 don't. Any project, any vehicles driving in and out of
23 there to begin their project would unravel the land. It
24 would decimate the land. The topsoil is so delicate. If
25 you drive a vehicle one time over the vegetation, the

1 vegetation is gone for at least ten to fifteen years before
2 it recovers, and you can always see that tire track that was
3 laid down one time. Very delicate land.

4 Very few ocelots left. They traverse that
5 property, that area and I just don't think any kind of
6 project would be wise. Just because it's idle land does not
7 mean that it's useless. It's a home to many, many critters
8 and creatures that belong there that live nowhere else.

9 I'm opposed to any project in that area. Thank
10 you.

11 (Pause)

12 MAYOR VEGA: Joe E. Vega, and I'm your friendly
13 Mayor from the Great City of Port Isabel. I strongly
14 support economic development and I strongly support
15 protecting our environment and wildlife. I'm here to let
16 the public know that I'm not here to discriminate against
17 the environmentalists that are against this project or
18 against the LNG plants that they want to build here at our
19 Port of Brownsville.

20 I would like for the process to take its place,
21 for the permitting process to take its place. This permit
22 is going to be evaluated by mainly federal and state
23 agencies, I'm sure it's going to be evaluated by Texas Parks
24 and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the National Wildlife
25 Federation, NOAA Fisheries, the EPA, TCEQ, Texas General

1 Land Office; and I'm sure the list of federal and state
2 agencies go on.

3 If for some reason one of those agencies come
4 back and says that this project is going to affect our
5 environment, that this project is going to affect our
6 wildlife and this project is going to be a hazard to the
7 community of Port Isabel and the surrounding communities, I
8 will be the first one to fight against this project. But
9 like I said, let the process take its place. Let the
10 experts evaluate the permitting process.

11 I am not an environmentalist. I don't have any
12 expertise in environmentalist. I do believe in economic
13 development. I believe in growth for our community. I
14 believe in bringing in more jobs to our community,
15 especially good paying, but like I said, I am not an
16 environmentalist. I don't have any expertise. I have
17 worked on a lot of wetland restoration projects, for example
18 the Rio Grande Restoration Project, but I repeat again I
19 want to see what the experts, the agencies have to say or
20 comment about this project. I guess that's it.

21 (Pause)

22 MS. MERZ: My name is Evelyn E-V-E-L-Y-N, the
23 last name is Merz, M as in Mary, E-R Z as in zebra. I would
24 like to continue now with my comments. These are initial
25 comments submitted on behalf of the Conservation Committee

1 of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and also my
2 personal comments. I will be submitting more detailed
3 written comments by the September 4th deadline. These will
4 apply to all three of the LNG proposed plants.

5 First, although FERC is requesting scoping
6 comments on LNG facilities, the cumulative impacts go beyond
7 the footprint of the LNG terminals. They include the
8 environmental impacts of all pipelines built supplying the
9 plants. First, hydrology and hydrodynamics. In the future
10 I will abbreviate this as H&H for hydrology and
11 hydrodynamics.

12 The EIS should cover how the H&H of Bahia Grande
13 and the South Bay are affected by the placement of the
14 facilities during both construction and operation. There
15 should be at least a two-dimensional model, an ecological
16 evaluation that addresses the effect on tidal flow. Bahia
17 Grande was a lauded restoration project. What effect would
18 the LNG facilities have on effective tidal exchange at Bahia
19 Grande? Any modeling done should be a hypersaline model,
20 not a more freshwater model but a hypersaline model.

21 H&H effects considered should include the
22 cumulative impacts from all three LNG facilities under
23 consideration pertaining to the delivery pipelines, the
24 processing, the creation of docking facilities, the turning
25 basin and any channel alteration and maintenance dredging.

1 Safety: the EIS should look at projected ship
2 traffic resulting from cumulative impact at all LNG
3 facilities. It should address from the standpoint of impact
4 to the convenience of existing users and the safety of
5 multiple LNG carriers using the waterways. What is the
6 likelihood of the channel being widened and deepened,
7 especially widened for safety and the effect on the
8 hydrology and ecology?

9 Loss of wetlands: this requires a proper wetland
10 function assessment by qualified wetland scientists,
11 included but not limited to salt flats, mangroves, salt
12 marsh and sea grass beds. This includes an assessment of
13 the loss of wetlands due to the construction and operation
14 and maintenance of the pipelines, facilities, docking and
15 dredging. Not only the actual destruction of wetlands but
16 also the loss of functionality. This can include changes in
17 species composition of sea grass beds resulting from
18 turbidity effects of maintenance dredging and the continual
19 disturbance of ship traffic.

20 Habitat and wildlife; the H&H model should be
21 used to estimate the impact on estuaries and in turn on the
22 invertebrates and fisheries dependent upon them. This in
23 turn impacts commercial fishing and shrimping and the
24 recreation industry. All should be covered in the
25 Environmental Impact Statement.

1 The impact on the endangered ocelot is of
2 critical importance. The draft Ocelot Recovery Plan, U.S.
3 Fish and Wildlife and Texas Parks and Wildlife should be
4 consulted on the acreage of suitable habitat necessary to
5 support a sustainable population, a United States population
6 of breeding ocelots in contiguous areas connecting and
7 extended from the two national wildlife refuges, Laguna
8 Atascosa and the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife
9 Refuges.

10 That figure -- that is calculated --to sustain a
11 breeding U.S. population should be compared to the amount of
12 suitable habitat in that corridor that would be lost if one,
13 two or three LNG plants were built and operated. Not only
14 the footprint but the effects of noise and light should be
15 considered when calculating the amount of habitat lost in
16 the contiguous corridor.

17 Then there should be an assessment made by
18 independent wildlife scientists not paid by the LNG
19 applicants what the likelihood of ocelot recovery would be
20 if the projects were approved. The United States should not
21 depend upon Mexico to take care of endangered species on its
22 own soil. The effects of increased ship traffic upon marine
23 mammals and sea turtles should be examined, as also
24 especially noting the green sea turtle which requires a
25 longer time on land in its juvenile stage.

1 The effect upon wildlife dependent upon the lomas
2 should be discussed and a calculation of loss on loma
3 habitat should be made. Although only a few species are
4 noted in the oral comments that I am giving here today, the
5 Environmental Impact Statement should examine the effects on
6 wildlife for both the Federal and the Texas State Endangered
7 and Threatened Species List as well as effects that are on
8 rare and unique species in the Hidalgo and Cameron Counties.

9 In discussing cumulative impacts of one or more
10 LNG plants, it should be noted that no LNG plant operates
11 only within its footprint. Every plant will rely upon a
12 pipeline, having emissions itself as well as the gas
13 production facilities, the well production facilities with
14 their own impacts on local air and water. A calculation
15 should be made of the estimated input requirements of each
16 plant at one hundred percent capacity and then extrapolate
17 the water usage required and productions emissions based on
18 the latest well production data to determine the full
19 environmental and human health effects of keeping one, two
20 or three new LNG plants supplied.

21 These again are my personal comments and those of
22 the Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club Conservation Committee,
23 and I was not paid to do this.

24 (Pause)

25 MS. BOWARD: My name is Karen Boward, Karen with

1 a k, K-A-R-E-N Boward B-O-W-A-R-D like Howard but with a B.
2 I am commenting on all three projects because some of my
3 comments are generalized for the whole situation. I've
4 lived in the Rio Grande Valley for thirty-eight years,
5 arriving here as a single middle-school English teacher,
6 later became an elementary school librarian. I married here
7 to another teacher, and we raised two sons in Weslaco.

8 One of our favorite weekend vacation spots has
9 always been South Padre Island, loving the clean beaches,
10 wildlife and the Gulf water. We have had two family
11 reunions on the Island just this last year. One involving
12 family flying in from the West Coast, Colorado, Dallas and
13 New Orleans and one with our grandchildren and kids just
14 last month at Schlitterbahn, which is so close now to that
15 ship channel.

16 The area's thriving beach tourism of three
17 hundred million dollars, eco-tourism estimated at four
18 hundred sixty-three million and the fishing and shrimping
19 industry are all based on a clean environment and that's
20 what -- we need to keep it clean and free of industry.

21 My experience in celebrating Earth Week with
22 elementary kids solidified my desire to help with
23 environmental issues. I've become more involved with IGV
24 Birding, I'm a board member and volunteer at Fronterra
25 Audubon, a 15-acre native habitat preserve and historic home

1 in Weslaco.

2 The following are my reasons for standing strong
3 against LNG ports in the Brownsville Ship Channel:

4 Number one, massive industrialization in an
5 ecologically sensitive area. I am basically horrified by
6 this massive industrialization plan proposed in this
7 sensitive biologically diverse area between the Loma
8 Preserve and Bahia Grande. I will never forget my first
9 sighting of an exquisite Red-breasted Merganser along with
10 many other species of shore birds at the Jaime Zapata Boat
11 Ramp on a Fronterra Birdathon Trip in February 2013.

12 That boat ramp area is adjacent to both proposed
13 Annova and Next Decade sites. Annova's lease encompasses
14 six hundred and fifty acres of the Loma Ecological Preserve,
15 a critical part of the wildlife corridor. Recently leased
16 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, it is a critical connection
17 between Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge to the
18 north where there is a population of the endangered ocelots,
19 beautiful wildcats and the Lower Rio Grande Valley National
20 Wildlife Refuge to the south, where there is a territory
21 along the river.

22 An LNG terminal would block the connection
23 between these two areas of habitat. Ocelots need
24 uninterrupted territory to maintain genetic diversity, they
25 travel into Mexico to find breeding partners. In addition,

1 the 24/7 bright lights and the noise of jet engines would
2 discourage animals to even approach.

3 Pollution. LNG export terminals are major
4 sources of hazardous air pollutants including nitrogen
5 oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds which
6 are carcinogens, and neurotoxins and articulates that are
7 harmful to those with asthma. If approved and built, these
8 LNG facilities would be the largest single sources of air
9 pollution in Cameron County. These pollutants would blow
10 with prevailing southeasterly winds towards Los Fresnos, La
11 Buena Vista, and Port Isabel.

12 In addition, these processing sites are run 24/7,
13 with bright lights and noise of multiple jet engines adding
14 to the environment's pollution. When it comes to greenhouse
15 gas emissions and the climate, exporting liquefied natural
16 gas is actually just as polluting as coal. The U.S.
17 Department of Energy found that by the time natural gas was
18 extracted by fracking, piped to the export terminal,
19 processed and liquefied, transported to Asia and then re-
20 gasified and burned in a power plant, it's carbon footprint
21 was just as bad as coal.

22 Bad for us economically. If LNG companies are
23 buying huge quantities of natural gas to export, the price
24 is expected to increase here for us in Texas where it is
25 coming from. How can these multi-billion dollar LNG

1 corporations even suggest a ten-year tax abatement?

2 Destroying habitat, creating pollution and a tax break, too?

3 Safety; I first learned of the proposed safety of
4 LNG not being flammable if spilled from a video presented to
5 community groups by an LNG representative to prove that LNG
6 is harmless. LNG turns back into gas, and when that gas
7 mixes with enough oxygen, becomes highly flammable. If LNG
8 is so safe, why are the huge tankers that carry it and the
9 export terminals considered terrorist targets? The Coast
10 Guard is charged with the huge task of escorting LNG tankers
11 in and out of the ship channel for a reason.

12 Question: What will become of these massive
13 industrial sites when our cheap natural gas is not so
14 plentiful? Will they be demolished and cleaned up at the
15 expense of the responsible corporations? Or abandoned,
16 leaving the taxpayers to pay the bill?

17 (Pause)

18 MS. JO MEYER: My name is LaVina Jo Meyer. L-a
19 capital V I-N-A JO capital M E-Y-E-R. I would like to
20 register my comment concerning the LNG projects which are
21 proposed to go into the Bahia Grande. All of them, all of
22 the combined projects. I believe they are wrong and I do
23 not believe they should be placed in this area. I believe
24 they are wrong economically, I believe they are wrong
25 environmentally. I believe they are wrong in so many ways.

1 I have lived on South Padre Island for twenty-
2 three years, and the reason I love where I live and the
3 reason that people visit our Island and this area is because
4 the beach is pristine, the area is pristine. Having
5 refineries like the LNG plants will mar our landscape, will
6 create air pollution, will create visible pollution and the
7 perception that our visitors will have when they come to
8 this area instead of seeing it as an untouched beautiful
9 beach that they can enjoy, they will see it in the same
10 light that they see other developed areas like Galveston and
11 Corpus Christi, among many others.

12 One of the main reasons we attract tourists from
13 Houston and San Antonio and even Galveston, they have to
14 drive farther to get to our beach than they have to go to
15 the beach at Galveston or the beach at Corpus Christi, but
16 yet they choose to come here because our beach is so
17 beautiful. Our Rio Grande Valley area is so beautiful.

18 The LNG plants will change that entire formula.
19 It will change that entire perspective. I feel that I will
20 be fearful for the air that I will be forced to breathe once
21 the LNG plants are in place. I feel that the number of jobs
22 that has been said or printed by LNG plants about how many
23 jobs are going to come to this area, I feel that is
24 erroneous. I feel that there might be a few jobs initially
25 but then as few as twelve people will be employed per LNG

1 plant which will certainly not make an advantageous
2 difference in our economy. When you couple that with the
3 detrimental effect of having a smokestack and refineries so
4 close to South Padre Island, I think any economic benefits
5 will be negated. In addition, I have read that LNG plants
6 have asked for and received ten years of tax abatements. So
7 in order for our school district or any of our public
8 entities to receive any tax benefit from these plants, ten
9 years will have to go by, and by that time it is extremely
10 possible our air will be polluted and our environment will
11 be damaged, the property surrounding the LNG plants will be
12 damaged, and in the end those taxes will be for naught.

13 Many years ago, before they flooded the Bahia
14 Grande, there was a constant sandstorm in areas of Port
15 Isabel and in what is now known as Long Island Village.
16 After much effort from our county and from our Federal
17 Government, a huge environmental reclaiming took place and
18 they flooded the Bahia Grande so that Port Isabel was not
19 subject to these sandstorms and so once again, the wildlife
20 and the birds and the wetlands could try to flourish.

21 The coming of the LNG plants will negate that
22 effect and all of that wonderful, environmentally
23 progressive action that was taken in the past will be for
24 naught. I care very much about the place that I live and I
25 feel extremely disappointed that so many government

1 officials and our Texas elected officials in Austin have let
2 this project come as far as it has.

3 I pray that the Federal Energy Regulatory
4 Commission will listen carefully to every comment that a
5 citizen makes about these projects and will pay great
6 attention to the great damage that will be done if these LNG
7 plants are placed so close to the Town of Port Isabel, to
8 Port Isabel High School, to Laguna Vista and to South Padre
9 Island where I reside. I was a school librarian for thirty
10 years and I know well how important it is to protect the
11 lives of our future citizens and our future lawmakers.

12 So I pray that these plants will not come into
13 being and will not jeopardize our school children, will not
14 jeopardize our environment and will not hinder our way of
15 life, especially when they are doing it under the guise of
16 some kind of economic expansion. I do not think that will
17 take place at all. I believe that they are giving us less
18 than factual information.

19 (Pause)

20 MS. BIRDWELL: My name is Yolanda Garza Birdwell
21 and I live at Laguna Vista, Texas. I was born seventy-five
22 years ago less than one hundred miles from here, in
23 Tamaulipas.

24 I am very aware of the environment activities in
25 this area such as fishing, clean water, birds and our

1 beaches. I am very, very concerned about these three
2 terminals that are trying to establish business here. I
3 have extensively read about the impact in reference to first
4 of all to the environment, second to health issues, and also
5 that these particular companies will not provide the jobs
6 that they are stating that they will provide. They are
7 highly technical and if they provide any jobs they will be,
8 in my opinion, they will be limited or they will be service
9 jobs, and of that we have enough.

10 The economy that we have right now produces more
11 than three hundred million dollars per year. My
12 understanding is that these companies, the average would be
13 thirty-five million but that money will not even stay in
14 this area. But for that reason, it's very important for me
15 at my age to reject and to completely be against these
16 terminals coming to this area.

17 The reason is what I have mentioned, and also
18 because we have to understand that we only have one earth,
19 one water and we all have to share it. We have to get away,
20 from that everything the motive should be for money. Like a
21 Native American stated in a poem: 'When all the water is
22 damaged, when the air is infected, when the dirt cannot
23 produce, we will realize', like my ancestors say -- because
24 I consider myself a Native American from this area -- 'that
25 we cannot eat money. We cannot eat money.'

1 And I owe it to those that don't have a voice
2 here because I do believe that our community, the working-
3 class community in this area is not well represented and I
4 believe also that some of the politicians that represent us
5 are not giving us enough information on this issue. In
6 fact, I picked up some information here that I should have
7 had in my mailbox and I didn't get it. Possibly I didn't
8 get it because they know that I read and they know that I
9 question. It is my job as a member of humanity to speak out
10 against those that want it to come here.

11 I am not against business. They come, but I am
12 against business that comes to damage our community. Our
13 community is not very strong. We do have a lot of working-
14 class people that don't even have time to voice their
15 opinion. That's what I'm saying here. Y lo digo tambien en
16 Espanol. No a toxico de nenguna classa.

17 I thank you sir for recording it. Please make
18 sure that you put this for the next generations, that they
19 need to speak out. This is our land. This just doesn't
20 only belong to the very rich, it belongs to us, too, and we
21 deserve clean water, clean air and we deserve to be able to
22 fish and to be comfortable. Anyway, there is enough money
23 in the world, please corporations need to stop going after
24 money. It's like an obscenity to go after money. Thank
25 you, sir.

1 (Pause)

2 MR. JOPA: My name is Jose Arthur Chopa and I
3 live on South Padre Island. I've lived here going on
4 thirteen years. My concern here, the reason I am here is
5 quite frankly I'm concerned about this facility that they're
6 going to build for this liquid natural gas.

7 I've had opportunities to talk to people that
8 know about the operation on how they go about getting the
9 materials to be able to process their product, okay, and
10 then also what it takes to get it out of the country. In my
11 view, well okay, it's any business looking to make a profit
12 and my concern is that I don't think there's enough, how
13 should I say, benefits for my community here for the
14 building of this facility.

15 The concern that I have is the construction might
16 not be done in a sufficient manner and also inspected by,
17 how should I say, experts to safeguard the well-being of the
18 people who are going to live here. These days, everything
19 is built cheaply, fast and let's get it to market. My
20 concern is if this company's coming in, who is going to
21 regulate it? Is it going to be the State of Texas or is the
22 Federal Government going to ensure that whatever guidelines
23 are under the Federal Government are going to be adhered to
24 and also who in Texas is going to be looking for the welfare
25 of the people.

1 Another concern that I have is the pollution of
2 the waters. We depend on tourism here for the fishing, for
3 the tourist to come and enjoy the beaches and what danger,
4 if any, is going to be present with this facility being so
5 close. We are only thirty-five to forty kilometers away,
6 even closer. We have schools that if a cloud of this
7 emission goes up and I hear that if it meets certain
8 conditions there can be an explosion.

9 I keep hearing from these companies that there is
10 no danger and that I don't believe. As a citizen and as a
11 resident here I will put this in writing and send it to the
12 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. That's it. That's
13 what I have to say.

14 (Pause)

15 MR. CANAS: My name is Jean-Luc Canas, and I
16 spell that out, correct? J-E-A-N dash L-U-C, my last name
17 is Canas, C-A-N-A-S. There is a little squiggly over the n
18 but there is a proper name for that. So my statement.

19 I wasn't really sure what I thought about this
20 until earlier when I started listening to the people
21 outside. I listened to them for a good while first. That's
22 where I got this one sticker and I came inside and I asked
23 people inside what they thought about, what they said.

24 By talking to them and talking to both sides,
25 I've come to put my opinions more towards the side of the

1 people outside. I believe that what they are saying has
2 more of a grounds of saying how a lot of this stuff can be
3 very dangerous and how a lot of these gases that are being
4 burned off; although they are being burned off, they can
5 still be floating around, they can easily go from the sky
6 into the water.

7 Fish get into it. Small fish, you know little
8 planktons eat it, bigger fish eat those, bigger fish eat
9 those caused by, it think it's called, I learned this in
10 biology, biological accumulation and little but little it
11 gets more and more until you have a nice big fish that has a
12 lot of pollutants in it and this nice big fish is caught by
13 a nice big fisherman. It's served out to a whole bunch of
14 people, these people eat it and they get sick.

15 So people get sick from this. This has happened
16 before. Like what happened to the eagles with the
17 pesticides and their eggs started getting soft and they were
18 not able to reproduce; and this could probably happen to
19 humans along with other fish and other wildlife that this
20 happens to through biological accumulation. We might end up
21 having children that are deformed, children that,
22 something's wrong with them. I mean I don't see any of the
23 children that are like that, have anything that's horrible.
24 I love all children.

25 I think the fact that they are going to be

1 burning constantly a lot of fumes and stuff in the air it's
2 kind of something that really upsets me. Also, a lot of
3 these lands that I've seen from the charts and what they
4 show, that it is going to be over swamplands which are
5 really nice lands where a lot of the birdings come by. And
6 birding is one of the largest tourist attractions in this
7 area. With that out of there it is going to take a lot of
8 the money from the people living here.

9 They are saying that they are going to have a
10 good amount of jobs, around three hundred I think that they
11 are going to add here, but a lot of jobs will be lost from
12 the tourist people that you know give tours around, people
13 that work at hotels they are going to have to lay off
14 because not enough people are coming by, and all these
15 people are going to be laid off as well; so there is going
16 to be jobs lost than jobs gained. A lot of, less people
17 come by and I just would put my side against liquefied
18 natural gas.

19 Thank you very much and I hope you have a great
20 day.

21 (Pause)

22 MS. GALONSKY: Nurith, and that's spelled N as in
23 Nancy, U-R-I-T-H and my last name is Galonsky, G as in
24 George, A-L-O N as in Nancy, S-K Y as in yellow. I'm here
25 representing myself. I'm also on the board of the

1 Brownsville Public Utilities Board and also United
2 Brownsville.

3 I am here on behalf of the three projects. I
4 think having LNGs come to our area would be of tremendous
5 economic benefit to our communities. Whatever risk is
6 involved is outweighed by the positive possibilities from
7 having these entities come to our communities. So I'm here
8 just to support their projects.

9 (Pause)

10 CAPT PETTY: My name is Captain Janey Petty,
11 PETTY. I've been a fishing guide on the Lower Laguna Madre
12 for the last thirty-five years. I make my living on the Bay
13 and am very concerned about the ecological issues regarding
14 the impact on the fisheries by any kind of transfer of
15 material that could become leaked or dumped into the ship
16 channel and ultimately into the bay. There are several
17 endangered species in this area that could potentially be
18 wiped out by an event at one of these plants.

19 I fail to see the advantage of building this
20 facility in such an environmentally sensitive location. We
21 would be putting our way of life at risk to enrich people
22 who have no stake in the outcome environmentally of any
23 unintended or negative actions by these companies. They Bay
24 has changed more in the last five years than it has in the
25 last forty years and it is an extremely sensitive ecosystem,

1 and I think that just taking a chance on any negative event
2 in this process by transferring materials from a plant to a
3 ship is putting the Bay at risk. Thank you.

4 (Pause)

5 MR. COBB: My name is C.L. Cobb and I work with a
6 Company called Myriad Global Media. We are a company that
7 has worked in LNG fields all across the world, ranging from
8 Angola LNG to a project we are working on right now with
9 Alaska Listening, but overall on many different continents
10 we have LNG experience that spans twenty-five years.

11 One of the things that we have learned in working
12 with operators such as the three operators whom we have met
13 with independently, the three companies; Annova, Texas LNG
14 and Next Decade and their project, we have found them to be
15 very engaging especially in terms of safety, reliability,
16 and conservation. Our company, it's our job to help them
17 communicate their intent to the public. Especially that
18 they take these areas very seriously because a lot of people
19 just think it's about making money; but our company, we help
20 them communicate these particular ideas, safety,
21 conservation, et cetera.

22 In fact, one of the things that we have noticed
23 in our dialogue with them is the conservation effort. As an
24 example, when we worked with a company in Qatar, on a field
25 for Maersk oil, there was a huge conservation effort for the

1 migratory patterns of the whale shark and we commissioned a
2 documentary on behalf of the oil ministry there, for Maersk
3 as an oil company to help tell the story of the whale shark,
4 to help take the conservation efforts by the conservation
5 groups to another level.

6 We're seeing the same type of scope, if you will,
7 out of these companies to want to take care of the ecology
8 and conservation efforts.

9 From the three town hall meetings our company
10 attended, observing these particular companies we noticed
11 that they were listening, actively listening to a lot of the
12 people, that they would engage in dialog and conversation
13 with who might be against the project, to hear their
14 concerns and let them know that their concerns are heard and
15 that solutions are trying to be met.

16 That is one reason why our company would like to
17 continue to engage in business with these three companies
18 because we have noticed them to hold those particular core
19 values, if you will, you know: high and at the forefront.

20 For the record, we are not active vendors. We
21 have not been paid by this company so it's, I also want to
22 put that out there as well. We're not paid spokesmen for
23 them, we just noticed their particular behavior and condone
24 the behavior.

25 As far as liquid natural gas goes, in every

1 country that we've worked in we have noticed that the
2 companies have been forthright about things that the public
3 might not understand such as protocol, procedures, words
4 like flaring and that kind of stuff and we have noticed that
5 the energy when compared to other energies is cleaner and
6 what have you. So the word that's getting put out there by
7 these companies about the nature of LNG, we have noticed it
8 to be true as well in our dealings with LNG companies across
9 the world and in our twenty-five years.

10 Thank you very much.

11 (Pause)

12 MS. HOLLESCHAU: My name is Karen Holleschau and
13 I'm a teacher here in the Rio Grande Valley and have been so
14 for twenty-eight years. H-O-L-L-E-S-C-H-A-U. I's quite a
15 name, I know. Aside from being a teacher I'm also a member
16 of the Sierra Club and I'm on the board of Estero Llano
17 Grande State Park and Audubon here. I'm just involved in a
18 lot of those kinds of things because that's what I feel is
19 important to me and that's what I love.

20 I'm not addressing my comment to any particular
21 project but all of them. I don't want any of those things
22 to come in here. We like it just the way it is, thank you
23 very much. It's beautiful out there. We drive through and
24 there's people fishing and boating and picnicking and we
25 also have the largest newly restored wetlands right there, I

1 mean right there, and even if they don't build right on top
2 of the wetlands which would be a huge travesty anyway, even
3 having them across the road or next door will disturb any of
4 the wildlife. that we're using.

5 When the wetlands were restored, I mean within
6 weeks they were filled with water birds. It was amazing and
7 beautiful. It was destroyed years ago from the creating of
8 the ship channel and then the Corps of Engineers recently
9 opened it up again so the water could come and go with the
10 tide like it always was supposed to.

11 The Valley was and still is somewhat a poverty-
12 stricken area and eco-tourism is huge here. We have people
13 come from all over the world. I've met people from Japan
14 and Germany and Switzerland with their Leica binoculars and
15 cameras just to see one bird for their life list. They
16 spend a lot of money here on hotels and restaurants. They
17 just bring so much into the local economy and into the local
18 color because when I take my students to one of the natural
19 areas, they're there and they talk to the students and
20 explain things to them about nature, so I would hate to see
21 that ruined.

22 I know that a lot of those people
23 would not come any more to the Bahia Grande wetlands if
24 there are big industrial complexes out there. It would
25 completely take away from the beauty of it. Not to mention

1 that we have an organization called the Valley Wildlife
2 Corridor that is trying to create a corridor of nature so
3 that the ocelots can pass from Laguna Atascosa Wildlife
4 refuge to Mexico, because this is the only place in the
5 continental United States or actually the United States at
6 all where the ocelot lives.

7 The population here is very small because of loss
8 of habitat already. If they can't breed with the Ocelots in
9 Mexico the population here is no longer going to be
10 sustainable. So there is an endangered species right there
11 that needs to be protected as well as the mangrove swamps
12 that are out there along the Port of Brownsville. There are
13 mangrove swamps and those are also highly endangered plants.

14 I could go on and on and bore you to tears but
15 I'm exhausted, so I'm just going to say that it will break
16 my heart and the hearts of hundreds of people if this stuff
17 comes in here and ruins this area. I speak also for the
18 poor people. Those people who go out there fishing and
19 boating and picnicking because they don't know how to come
20 to these things and speak for themselves. They don't maybe
21 understand what's going on and how they're very close to
22 losing this place where they can go for free anytime of the
23 day with their families and enjoy the area. It will be
24 gone, and I don't think they even realize it although we're
25 trying to get the word to them. I'm sorry, I went on too

1 long. I feel very passionate about this. In fact, I think
2 if they go in, I'm going to retire from teaching in two
3 years. I'm going to move. I don't want to live here
4 anymore if that goes in because the whole nature of the
5 Valley will change. It's right now, it's kind of a simple
6 place. It's simple and even though we're sprawling it's
7 small town-ish and we don't want that to change. It's safe
8 and it's healthy.

9 Yes, we have the border crime, that's a whole
10 other story but it generally doesn't affect regular day-to-
11 day people. It's just the people involved in the drug trade
12 that have the violence along the border. Everybody thinks
13 that the Valley here is just like one big crime scene and it
14 isn't.

15 (Pause)

16 DR. MARHOON: My name is Dr. Donna Marhoon and
17 I'm a resident of Port Isabel, Texas. I'm an educator with
18 the Brownsville Independent School District. I'm extremely
19 opposed to this project or projects on several bases. One
20 of course is the health issue, and I feel that there are
21 going to be extreme issues related to that in terms of the
22 pollution, given our prevailing wind the pollutants will be
23 going directly towards our Port Isabel Schools and my own
24 home, for that matter.

25 I'm also concerned about the danger that these

1 facilities represent to our safety. I know that they're
2 saying that they have not had hazards, which is untrue.
3 They have had leaks other places and explosions other
4 places. I think that if it were to happen here, if there
5 were to be a major fire it would not only block the only
6 route we have into Brownsville, or the most direct route at
7 least, it could destroy business at the Port. It could be
8 disastrous.

9 I am also concerned about terrorism. I think
10 that on the border, and we have a border that as much as we
11 maybe have tried to close it is relatively open. I see a
12 possibility that these facilities can become targets for
13 terrorism. I don't think that our Border Patrol is prepared
14 to deal with that kind of thing. I think that it would take
15 specialized people probably to be able to protect the
16 facilities.

17 I am also concerned about the Coast Guard being
18 able to provide the manpower and the vessels to escort these
19 tankers into port through the jetties; my understanding is
20 that with the danger zone that is showing up on maps we
21 would also probably have to close parts of the beach. It
22 would interfere with the shrimping industry, not to mention
23 recreational fishing and tourism-type things like dolphin
24 watches, and these would be greatly disrupted by this
25 activity.

1 I think this whole project proposal would be very
2 detrimental to our economy. I think that tourism is our
3 major business in this area; and frankly the tourists come
4 here because of the pristine nature of the beaches and the
5 natural habitat that we have to offer and much of this would
6 be gone if these proposed plants come into being.

7 I think that it would also affect our economy,
8 probably contribute to our local economy as the shrimping
9 and fishing industry, and again I think that would be
10 disrupted probably by two things; by the pollution that
11 these plants could cause as well as the disruption by the
12 tankers coming in and the jetties being closed and so on.

13 I really cannot understand, either, why when my
14 tax dollars and the tax dollars from many other people were
15 used recently to restore the Bahia Grande as a wetlands and
16 wildlife area, that now the same lands are going to be
17 disrupted by this industry.

18 I really just find this whole idea ludicrous.
19 There is just no other word that comes to mind. I really am
20 at a loss to express how upsetting this is to myself and
21 many of the local residents that this is even being
22 considered. Frankly, a number of people feel like it is the
23 result of politicians being paid off, which is not unknown
24 in this area.

25 I guess that's it. Thank you for your time.

1 (Pause)

2 MR. SHERMAN: My name is Stephen Sherman. I have
3 lived in the Valley for my entire life. This place is my
4 home. I've gone to a lot of other places and people are
5 nice here, they are very friendly. I really do believe in
6 free trade. I like that. I like people being able to sell
7 stuff when they want, without restrictions.

8 How I feel about what's actually happening and
9 what's actually happening with LNG. I do like the fact that
10 it's something Americans can make money off of. The thing
11 that I don't like about it is that one of the areas that
12 they are doing, I go dirt-biking there all the time and I
13 kind of love dirt-biking. You know, it's not the fact that
14 there aren't other areas but it's the fact that it's a place
15 that I like to dirt-bike. It's going to be private property
16 afterwards.

17 So that's kind of it. I don't have any
18 environmental feel to it. It's just that one place I really
19 like going and that I can't go there anymore. That's it.

20 (Pause)

21 MR. HOLMES: Okay, my name is Kurt Holmes, H-O-L-
22 M-E-S. I'm a lifelong resident of the Valley and I'm here
23 to show my support for the proposed LNG projects that are
24 pursuing the Port of Brownsville as a new location. We
25 think it's going to be a strong economic engine for our

1 local economy; for the Port of Brownsville, for Brownsville,
2 for the entire Valley. I believe it would be a great thing
3 for all of us to see this thing come to fruition and again,
4 I just wanted to be here to show my support. Thank you.

5 (Pause)

6 MR. McALLEN: My name is Roman McAllen, that's R-
7 O-M-A N like Nancy. McAllen like the local city, M small c
8 capital A L-L-E-N and I'm here to leave comments regarding
9 the liquid natural gas projects, really towards all three.
10 What I have to say is just to kind of speak frankly about
11 what I've seen here. I am forty-nine years old right now
12 and I was born and raised in Houston, Texas. But since I
13 was a child I've gone on family vacations to Brownsville and
14 to South Padre Island because my father was from
15 Brownsville, so I had relatives here.

16 So I have all of my life driven down Highway 48
17 between Brownsville and the Island. Largely, that landscape
18 has remained unchanged. I can say that from the perspective
19 too of, in 2011 I got a master's degree in architecture from
20 the University of Texas at Austin. So I went back to school
21 much later in life and am hypersensitive to our built
22 environment. The landscape, through dotted with some
23 industrial uses, and of course you have the shrimp basin and
24 now at this time an active group of companies that deal with
25 ship dismantling, an industry that will not go on in

1 infinity.

2 Beyond the shrimp basin and whatever that last
3 establishment is, you're heading south on 48, you, or is it
4 north, I'm not sure which way that runs, but towards Port
5 Isabel, you do encounter a lot of landscape that's very
6 pristine. My concern for these projects is their impact on
7 the visual landscape, what people will see from Port Isabel,
8 from South Padre Island, from 48. But also of course the
9 impact of all of that impermeable surfacing that will have
10 to occur or that's shown in the renderings as presented at
11 this meeting.

12 I saw in one case a thousand acres of impermeable
13 surface. We all know the impact that concrete impermeable
14 surfaces have on the temperatures that we must live in.
15 There is no question that pavement and surfaces cause heat
16 gain. A natural pristine environment doesn't have that.
17 It's evident if anyone -- being from Houston, I frequently
18 drove down Interstate 10 and also Interstate 10 heading east
19 and also 290 heading east, and as you come into Houston you
20 encounter a very large public park, Memorial Park.

21 If your windows are down any day of the year,
22 especially noticeable in the summertime, when you pull in
23 around sunset, towards Houston, towards downtown you will
24 feel a noticeably probably five to eight degree drop in
25 temperature. It's almost as if the air conditioner has been

1 left on as you pass Memorial Park. It's the only large
2 unpaved surface in Houston Texas.

3 So I have all these very personal tangible
4 experiences and all of them indicate to me that these
5 projects have the potential to have a very damaging effect
6 on our experience down here in the Valley. I work as the
7 Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Brownsville
8 and I'm aware of the public input process, and I'm aware
9 that it may have a very favorable impact on any given
10 project or set of projects.

11 In this case, I think the FERC has to weigh a lot
12 of things, but I think that the damage to the visual
13 condition, the potential damage to wildlife and the
14 potential damage to the environment is enormous. If this
15 project were to go forward, tremendous and thoughtful
16 remediation I guess it's called, or offsetting of negative
17 impacts would have to occur and that again would have to be
18 extremely thoughtful as it is a complicated ecosystem.

19 These are my thoughts on these projects. Thank
20 you very much.

21 (Pause)

22 MR. PETIT: My name is Doug Petit. I live at
23 1118 Pompano, Port Isabel, Texas, 78578. I would like to
24 express that I am opposed to the Texas LNG project, the
25 Annova LNG Project and the Rio Grande LNG project.

1 I moved here from Houston ten years ago to be
2 away from LNG plants, to be away from chemical plants, to be
3 away from oil plants, and I am sure I am not the only one
4 who comes down here or came down here to enjoy the pristine
5 environment for fishing, for birding, for nature; and to
6 have the Federal Government say that they are going to
7 endorse these plants, these Texas plants that are coming
8 down here, these three projects, I am just totally against
9 it.

10 I don't think that the facts they that they are
11 saying, that this is going to be safe for the environment.
12 They have already lied to us about the explosiveness of the
13 LNG. The employment, individuals who -- they say they are
14 going to improve the employment. The individuals who will
15 be constructing the project will be majority low-income
16 individuals from Matamoros who come across the border for
17 day wages and low wages.

18 Very few individuals who reside in Cameron County
19 will be part of the actual building of these plants. The
20 supervision of the building of the plants will be
21 individuals who will be transported down here from either
22 Washington, Oklahoma, or other parts of the country and they
23 will not stay. They will visit while the plant is being
24 constructed and then leave.

25 After the plants have been developed, the next

1 step will be to hire employees to run those plants. They
2 are going to require a majority of them, specific skills and
3 the skill set is not down in this area. They will have to
4 be imported from other areas.

5 Another issue that has not been addressed is the
6 size of the channel. The channel is not wide enough to
7 handle the larger ships that need to be brought in here to
8 take away the LNG. The channel can only be widened so far
9 and it's about as wide as it can get. You can make it
10 deeper but is the cost going to be worth, the money you
11 spend going to be worse than all the money that you make?

12 The danger of bringing the LNG ships through this
13 tiny channel will be an issue that needs to be addressed and
14 I don't think it has been addressed at this point. You have
15 numerous beaches on either side of the channel that if any
16 accident occurs, it will be devastating to the beaches and
17 there will be lots of deaths and lots of injuries.

18 It just doesn't make sense to put this LNG plant
19 down here in an area. It's like putting an LNG plant in
20 Miami Beach. It just doesn't make any sense.

21 (Whereupon, at 8:00 p.m., the scoping meeting in
22 Port Isabel, Texas concluded.)

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