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BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Project No.

OREGON LNG & WASHINGTON : CP09-6-001 & CP09-7-001

EXPANSION PROJECT : CP13-507-000

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Kent Senior Activity Center
600 East Smith Street
Kent, Washington 98030

Monday, September 14, 2015

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting, pursuant to notice, at 6:00 p.m., Robert Kopka, the moderator.

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

2 MR. KOPKA: Good evening. On behalf of the
3 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC, I want to
4 welcome all of you to the public comment meeting on the
5 Draft Environmental Impact Statement or Draft EIS for the
6 Oregon LNG Terminal and Pipeline Project and Washington
7 Expansion Project.

8 Let the record show that the Draft EIS comment
9 meeting began at 6:05 p.m. on September 14th, 2015 in Kent,
10 Washington. My name is Robert Kopka and I am an Assistant
11 Environmental Project Manager for these projects at the
12 Office of Energy Projects which is an office within the
13 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC.

14 Out at the table where you came in Medha Kochhar
15 is the Environmental Project Manager for this project who is
16 also with the FERC. Also here tonight we have Dennis Ritter
17 who is with the Washington Utilities and Transportation
18 Commission sitting in the back in the tan shirt. He also
19 has a badge on.

20 And the Washington Utilities Transportation
21 Commission is an interstate agent for the U.S. Department of
22 Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety
23 Administration or PHMSA. So Dennis will be here if you have
24 any questions after the formal part of the meeting regarding
25 pipeline safety.

1 Also with me at the table is Patricia Terhaar.
2 Pat is from HDR, our third party contractor that is
3 assisting FERC staff in our environmental analysis of the
4 projects. In addition we have Matt Hutchinson also from HDR
5 at the side end table.

6 In addition we have representatives from
7 Northwest Pipeline, LLC here tonight at a table at the door
8 just outside the room so if you would like to discuss the
9 project with them or take a look at maps they are putting
10 out maps.

11 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army
12 Corp of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of
13 Energy, U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S.
14 Environmental Protection Agency are participating as
15 cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS. If any
16 representatives from those agencies are present you could
17 raise your hand, I don't see anyone. They may come out for
18 some other meetings in the next couple of weeks.

19 I would like to thank the cooperating agencies
20 for their continued assistance with the NEPA review. I am
21 going to go through a short Power Point presentation on the
22 FERC process and briefly describe the projects.

23 Tonight the purpose of the meeting is an
24 opportunity for you to provide comments on the Draft
25 Environmental Impact Statement specific to the proposed

1 project and the Draft EIS and also to explain the FERC
2 review process. FERC is an independent regulatory agency,
3 FERC regulates the rates for interstate transmission of
4 electricity, natural gas and oil and also is responsible for
5 the siting of interstate natural gas and hydro-electric
6 facilities and LNG import/export facilities.

7 The Department of Energy approves the export of
8 LNG. FERC is the lead federal agency for NEPA review, the
9 National Environmental Policy Act Review and EIS
10 preparation. FERC is an advocate of the environmental
11 review process, not the projects.

12 We sent out a Notice of Availability of the Draft
13 EIS that was issued on August 5, 2015 that within the Draft
14 EIS the Notice of Availability is listed as the party
15 address letter in the front of the document which tells you
16 how to go about filing comments and the Draft EIS comment
17 period ends October 6, 2015.

18 Comments during the scoping period will be
19 addressed in the Final EIS. The EIS is not a
20 decision-making document. The FERC Commissioners determine
21 whether the project should be approved based on the review
22 of the environmental information in the EIS, public comments
23 and also the engineering market and rate information for the
24 project.

25 What is the EIS? The EIS is an analytical

1 document that takes a hard look at the environmental impacts
2 of the project and compares alternatives. The EIS addresses
3 environmental issues identified by the public and agencies
4 during scoping. Now there are multiple ways to comment --
5 one is at these Draft EIS comment meetings. Also you can
6 send written comments in the U.S. mail.

7 We do have a comment form available where you
8 signed in. Also you could mail letters to FERC and those
9 directions again are in the party address letter in the very
10 beginning of the DEIS or in the Notice of the Availability.
11 You could file comments via e-library or quick comments also
12 via e-library.

13 Written comments are given the same weight as
14 oral comments. A brief description of the Oregon LNG
15 Project: there is an import/export LNG terminal proposed in
16 Warrenton, Oregon and an 86.8 mile long 36 inch diameter
17 bi-directional pipeline. There will also be a 1 megawatt
18 48,000 horsepower electrically driven gas compressor
19 station.

20 And also in this slide you can see Oregon LNG
21 will tie into the Washington Expansion Project in Cowlitz
22 County, Washington crossing the Columbia County in Oregon
23 through Clatsop County and up to Warrenton near the mouth of
24 the Columbia River.

25 The Washington Expansion Project consists of

1 140.6 miles of 36 inch diameter pipeline loop in ten
2 non-contiguous segments between Sumas and Woodland,
3 Washington. It also includes 96,000 horsepower of
4 additional compression at five existing compressor stations,
5 the abandonment and removal of existing pipeline and
6 above-ground facilities.

7 In the map for the Washington Expansion Project
8 it is a little hard to see, there are ten segments
9 highlighted in red which again is hard to see on this map,
10 but in general the Williams Pipeline does follow the
11 interstate pipe corridor north to south through Washington.

12 Identified public concerns thus far cover safety
13 and geologic hazards, export of natural gas, impacts on
14 aquatic resources, wildlife, listed species and water
15 quality, forest clearing, cumulative impacts and
16 alternatives, LNG carrier traffic impacts, air emission,
17 visual impacts. Okay for the meeting tonight I ask that you
18 please turn off mobile phones and if you are making comments
19 please summarize your main points and if you don't get to
20 everything you could always submit additional information in
21 writing or if you do not comment tonight you could do that
22 as well.

23 Please refrain from any personal attacks, do not
24 interrupt speakers and any disruption will only disrespect
25 your fellow citizen's ability to speak. Speaker procedures

1 -- we would like you to come up to the microphone to the
2 podium when your number is called, speak clearly into the
3 microphone, spell your name for the court reporter and
4 tonight we will not have any time limits so we will just let
5 you speak your mind.

6 And again please do not interrupt the speaker.
7 Okay the last slide is the schematic of the FERC pre-filing
8 and CP filing environmental review process and most of you
9 have probably seen this throughout the process since we have
10 been sending out project updates.

11 At this point we are as I said before, conducting
12 public comment meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact
13 Statements. The next step would be to respond to comments
14 received and issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement.
15 At that point the Commission would issue an Order or
16 authorization if the projects are approved. After that any
17 parties to the proceeding can request FERC to re-hear any
18 decision that it makes and if approved the project sponsors,
19 Williams and Oregon LNG would have to submit any outstanding
20 information to satisfy conditions of the Commission Order
21 and authorizations.

22 Not until after receiving all federal
23 authorizations would FERC issue any Notice to Proceed with
24 construction. As I stated before I am going to go ahead and
25 put the screen up.

1 As I said before we have arranged to have a court
2 reporter to transcribe this meeting so that we have an
3 accurate record of this public comment meeting. This
4 transcript of this meeting will be placed in the public
5 record after a few weeks. If you would like a copy of the
6 transcript before that you may make arrangements with the
7 court reporter following this meeting.

8 For the Oregon LNG Project they have requested
9 authorization under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act to
10 site, construct and operate an import/export liquefied
11 natural gas, LNG terminal in Warrenton, Oregon. Oregon LNG
12 also requests a Certificate of Public Convenience and
13 Necessity pursuant to Section 7C of the Natural Gas Act to
14 construct and operate a natural gas pipeline for the
15 proposed LNG terminal to an interconnect with the interstate
16 transmission system of Northwest near Woodland, Washington.

17 Northwest requests a certificate pursuant to
18 Section 7C of the Natural Gas Act to expand the capacity of
19 its existing natural gas transmission facilities between
20 Woodland and Sumas, Washington. The primary purpose of the
21 project is to export an equivalent of about 4.5 -- 456.3
22 billion cubic feet per year of natural gas to foreign
23 markets. The primary purpose of this meeting is to give you
24 the opportunity to provide specific environmental comments
25 on the Draft EIS prepared by FERC staff for the projects.

1 It will help us most if your comments are as
2 specific as possible regarding the proposed projects and the
3 Draft EIS. I would like to again clarify that these
4 projects are being proposed by Oregon LNG and Northwest and
5 FERC is the federal agency responsible for evaluating the
6 application to site and construct on-shore and near shore
7 LNG import or export facilities, as well as applications to
8 construct and operate interstate natural gas pipeline
9 facilities.

10 The FERC therefore is not an advocate to the
11 projects, instead as mentioned throughout this process FERC
12 is an advocate for the environmental review process. During
13 our review of the process we assembled information from a
14 variety of sources including Oregon LNG, Northwest, you the
15 public, federal, state and local agencies, as well as Indian
16 tribes and our own independent analysis. We analyze this
17 information and prepared the Draft EIS that was distributed
18 to the public for comment.

19 All comments received, written or spoken, will be
20 addressed in the Final EIS. I encourage you if you plan to
21 submit comments and have not, please do so here tonight
22 either orally or during the comment portion of our meeting
23 or in writing using one of the forms at the sign-in desk.
24 You may also submit comments using the procedures outlined
25 in the Notice of Availability and the information at the

1 beginning of the Draft EIS which includes instructions on
2 how to submit your comments electronically and written.

3 Your comments will be considered with equal
4 weight regardless of whether they are spoken during the
5 comment portion of the meeting or submitted in writing. If
6 you received a copy of the Draft EIS in paper or CD format,
7 you will automatically receive a copy of the Final EIS. If
8 you did not get a copy of the draft and would like to get a
9 copy of the Final EIS please sign up with the mailing list
10 at the sign-in desk, provide your name and address and we
11 will make sure you get a copy of the Final EIS.

12 I want to differentiate between the roles of two
13 distinct FERC groups. The Commission and the environmental
14 staff -- Medha and I are part of the FERC environmental
15 staff which oversees the preparation of the EIS for these
16 projects. We do not determine whether or not to approve the
17 project, instead the Commission consisting of five
18 Presidentially-appointed Commissioners who are responsible
19 for making a determination of whether to issue an
20 authorization to Oregon LNG and the Certificate of Public
21 Convenience and Necessity or Certificate to Northwest.

22 As I mentioned earlier the EIS is not a
23 decision-making document but it does assist the Commission
24 in determining whether or not to approve these projects.
25 The Commission will consider the environmental analysis in

1 the EIS, public comments, as well as a host of
2 non-environmental information such as the engineering
3 markets and rates in making its decision to approve or deny
4 Oregon LNG's and Northwest's request for an authorization
5 and Certificate respectively.

6 There is no review of FERC decisions by the
7 President or Congress thus maintaining FERC's role as an
8 independent regulatory agency and providing for fair and
9 unbiased decisions. Only after considering the
10 environmental and non-environmental factors the Commission
11 will make its final decision whether to approve or not
12 approve the projects.

13 If the Commission votes to approve the projects
14 Oregon LNG will be required to meet certain conditions as
15 outlined in its authorization and Northwest will be required
16 to meet the condition outlined in the certificate. FERC
17 environmental staff will monitor the projects through
18 construction and restoration to document environmental
19 compliance with applicable laws and regulation, Oregon LNG's
20 and Northwest's proposed plans and mitigation and the
21 additional conditions required by the authorization and
22 certificate.

23 Now we move into the part of the meeting where we
24 will hear comments from audience members. If you would
25 rather not speak tonight or don't get to say everything you

1 wanted in the allotted time, although right now we won't
2 have a time limit, you may hand in written comments tonight
3 using the comment form found at the sign-in table or send
4 them to the Secretary of the Commission following the
5 procedure in the Notice of the Availability or party-address
6 letter in the Draft EIS.

7 Either way your comments will be considered with
8 equal weight. As I said before this meeting is being
9 recorded by a court reporter so all of your comments will be
10 transcribed and put into the public record. We will be
11 calling speakers in order according to the numbers given out
12 during the sign-up.

13 I ask that each speaker first identify themselves
14 and the agency or groups you are representing if
15 appropriate. Also please spell your name for the record and
16 speak clearly into the microphone. My number one rule is to
17 please show respect for everyone that is speaking. We are
18 now ready to call our first speaker so would speaker number
19 one come to the microphone?

20 MS. MART: I'm Veronica Mart.

21 MR. KOPKA: Will you please spell your name?

22 MS. MART: M-a-r-t, last name first name
23 V-e-r-o-n-i-c-a. Our property is situated in 238 Avenue in
24 Snohomish and the comments that I am going to make I have
25 already filed electronically with FERC, we didn't hear

1 anything back yet so -- in regard to any kind of comment
2 from you guys or from --

3 MR. KOPKA: It will be addressed in the Final
4 EIS. We won't -- unless I mean I could talk to you after
5 the meeting about them maybe or about the process.

6 MS. MART: Okay. I am representing also as an
7 individual as well as a company, a small business, Premier
8 Gentle Care which is an adult family home located at this
9 address. It has not been mentioned anywhere in the
10 documents, the existence of an elderly nursing type of
11 facility which a family home is.

12 And that's one of the things. Due to the type of
13 facility and the way the construction goes crossing
14 throughout the property, it is blocking access to the home
15 and besides the fact that we as family cannot have access in
16 and out, there are more regulations, rules and necessities
17 for the facility, the whole facility, 911 access all the
18 time, fire access, emergency access at any time has to be
19 addressed.

20 The other thing that was on our property is a
21 well, it's a private well that's service for homes and the
22 water line needs to be in some way perfected and that's the
23 only form of water for us, the construction would go -- as
24 described now over the line. There are many other things to
25 talk about but I'm kind of outlining just the main things

1 that are our concern and need to be addressed and keep track
2 of it with details of some of the things.

3 Currently the work area, is not very precisely
4 defined, we just have the easement line so there is not --
5 we don't have any information about the work area exactly
6 but according to the plans that we have seen currently it
7 shows that the work will go right by the house and in very
8 close proximity of the building that could affect the
9 structure of the home which is a pretty important feature.

10 On the property -- on the work area, there are
11 lots of old trees and is adjacent to the wetland, the work
12 area is going right by the wetland that is in the immediate
13 of our property, so these are a few things and every one
14 there are more details attached to the document. So I kind
15 of want to mention about that.

16 Part of the work is going to be over the road
17 which is a private road. I'm talking about the road on the
18 street, the street access to 238 Street, it's a private road
19 so this is another an issue -- that is helpful to our area,
20 that's about all I have to say.

21 MR. KOPKA: Have you talked with the Northwest
22 folks specifically about your property?

23 MS. MART: Yeah.

24 MR. KOPKA: Medha, do you know if we have any
25 more speakers signed up? Okay, no one else is signed up to

1 speak. Does anyone else that has not signed up want to
2 speak? Okay since there are no other speakers I guess that
3 will conclude the formal part of this meeting so just to
4 wrap things up within the FERC website, www.ferc.gov there's
5 a link called e-library, if you would type in the docket
6 number for the Oregon LNG Project, C809-6 and C809-7 for the
7 Washington Expansion Project, C813-507 you can use e-library
8 to gain access to everything on the record concerning this
9 project as well as all of the filings and information
10 submitted by Oregon LNG and Northwest.

11 So on behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
12 Commission I want to thank all of you for coming here
13 tonight. Let the record show that the comment meeting
14 concluded at 6:31 p.m. I will be around if you want to ask
15 some questions the Northwest representatives are outside of
16 the meeting room with maps and Dennis is here if you have
17 questions for the Washington Utilities and Transportation
18 Commission so have a good evening.

19 (Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.)

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