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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

- - - - -x

Southwest Washington Fairground

2555 N National Avenue

Chehalis, Washington 98532

Thursday, September 17, 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 (6:06 p.m.)

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

9 Let the record show that the Draft EIS comment
10 meeting began at 6:06 P.M. on September 17, 2015 in
11 Chehalis, Washington. My name is Robert Kopka and I am an
12 Assistant Environmental Project Manager for these projects
13 with the Office of Energy Projects which is an office within
14 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC.

15 To my left is Pat Terhaar who is with HDR who is
16 our third party contractor. Joe Subsits who is with the
17 Washington Utilities Transportation Commission which is an
18 interstate agent for the U.S. Department of Transportation
19 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration,
20 PHMSA.

21 Also Medha Kochhar who is also with FERC she was
22 at the sign-in table in the back and we also have Matt
23 Hutchinson from HDR who is over to the left in the back. In
24 addition we have representatives from Northwest Pipeline LLC
25 here tonight at the table in the back. They have maps and

1 will be around after the meeting to answer any specific
2 questions on the projects that you might have.

3 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army
4 Corp of Engineers, U.S. Coastguard, U.S. Department of
5 Energy, U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S.
6 Environmental Protection Agency are participating as
7 cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

8 I would like to thank the cooperating agencies
9 for their continued assistance with the NEPA review. I am
10 going to go through a short power point presentation on the
11 FERC process and briefly describe the projects.

12 The purpose of our meeting tonight is to provide
13 you an opportunity to provide comments on the Draft
14 Environmental Impact Statement specific to the proposed
15 projects and Draft EIS and explain the FERC review process.
16 FERC is an independent regulatory agency that sets the rates
17 for interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas and
18 oil and is responsible for the siting of interstate natural
19 gas and hydroelectric facilities and LNG import and export
20 facilities.

21 The Department of Energy approves the export of
22 LNG and FERC is the lead federal agency for NEPA review and
23 EIS preparation. FERC is an advocate of the environmental
24 review process not the projects.

25 The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS was

1 issued August 5, 2015 and the Draft EIS comment period ends
2 October 6, 2015. Comments received during that time will be
3 addressed in the Final EIS. The EIS is not a
4 decision-making document. The FERC Commissioners determine
5 whether a project should be approved based on a review of
6 the environmental information in the EIS, public comments
7 and the engineering market and rate information for the
8 projects.

9 The EIS is an analytical document, the DEIS takes
10 a hard look at the environmental impacts of the projects and
11 compares alternatives. The EIS addresses environmental
12 issues identified by the public and agencies during scoping.
13 There are multiple ways to comment during the comment
14 period, you can comment at these EIS comment meetings, you
15 could also file written comments with the U.S. mail, we have
16 a comment form on the back table that you can use to fill
17 out and give to us this evening or mail in.

18 You could write your own letter and mail it in.
19 You could provide written comments through FERC's e-library
20 or click-comments which is also on e-library. Written
21 comments are given the same weight as spoken comments.

22 The Oregon LNG Project consists of an
23 import/export LNG terminal in Warrenton, Oregon. It also
24 has an 86.8 mile long 36 inch diameter bi-directional
25 pipeline. It also has 140 megawatt, 48,000 horsepower

1 electrically-driven gas compressor station.

2 You can see on the map of the Columbia River the
3 triangle near the mouth of the Columbia is the location of
4 the LNG import/export terminal -- the pipeline will
5 catty-corner Clatsop County, cross Columbia County, cross
6 the Columbia River into Chehalis County, Washington where it
7 will connect to the Northwest Pipeline.

8 And the Northwest Washington Expansion Project
9 consists of 140.6 miles of 36 inch diameter pipeline in ten
10 non-contiguous segments between Sumas and Woodland,
11 Washington. It would also involve the addition of 96,000
12 horsepower of additional compression at 5 existing
13 compressor stations and the abandonment and removal of the
14 existing pipeline and above-ground facilities.

15 The Northwest Pipeline kind of follows the
16 Interstate 5 corridor from the Canadian border down to the
17 Columbia River. It's a little hard to see on this map, the
18 ten segments Northwest is proposing to build but we do have
19 a better map or Northwest has a better map at their table in
20 the back so you may want to take a look at that.

21 Identified public concerns thus far have been
22 safety and geologic hazards, the export of natural gas,
23 impacts on aquatic resources, wildlife, listed species and
24 water quality, forest clearing, cumulative impacts and
25 alternatives, LNG carrier traffic impacts, air emissions,

1 visual impacts and cultural resources.

2 Tonight during the meeting please turn off your
3 mobile phones, summarize your main points and submit
4 additional information in writing, refrain from personal
5 attacks, do not interrupt speakers and any disruption will
6 only restrict your fellow citizens ability to speak.

7 Speaker procedures -- please come up to the
8 microphone when your number is called, speak clearly into
9 the microphone, spell your name for the court reporter and
10 we won't have any time limits tonight if there are any
11 speakers.

12 Briefly and most of you have seen this before
13 through many of the mailings we have done, the FERC process.
14 We are getting closer to the end where FERC issues the
15 Draft EIS and holds public comment meetings which is where
16 the red arrow is at the moment.

17 Our next step would be to respond to comments in
18 the Final EIS which will also be mailed to those on the
19 mailing list. After that the Commission would issue an
20 Order and Authorization if it approves the projects. After
21 that the parties to the proceeding can request FERC to
22 re-hear a decision. At that point if it is approved the
23 companies would have to submit outstanding information to
24 satisfy conditions of the Commission Order or Authorization
25 and after receiving all federal authorizations would a

1 Notice to Proceed with Construction be issued.

2 You will note tonight we have arranged for a
3 court reporter to my right to transcribe this meeting so
4 that we have an accurate record for this public comment
5 meeting. The transcripts for this meeting will be placed
6 into the public record after a few weeks. If you would like
7 a copy of the transcript before that you may make
8 arrangements with the court reporter following the meeting.

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

18 Northwest requests a certificate pursuant to
19 Section 7C of the Natural Gas Act to expand the capacity of
20 its existing natural gas transmission facilities between
21 Woodland and Sumas, Washington. The primary purpose of the
22 projects is to export an equivalent of about 456.3 billion
23 cubic feet per year of natural gas to foreign markets.

24 The primary purpose of this meeting is to give
25 you an opportunity to provide specific environmental

1 comments on the Draft EIS prepared by FERC staff on the
2 projects. You will help us the most if your comments are as
3 specific as possible regarding the proposed projects and
4 Draft EIS.

5 I would like to again clarify that these projects
6 are being proposed by Oregon LNG and Northwest and FERC is
7 the lead federal agency responsible for evaluating
8 applications to site and construct onshore and near shore
9 import or export facilities as well as applications to
10 construct and operate interstate natural gas pipeline
11 facilities.

12 The FERC therefore is not an advocate of the
13 project. Instead as mentioned throughout this process the
14 FERC is an advocate for the environmental review process.
15 During our review of the projects we assembled information
16 from a variety of sources including Oregon LNG, Northwest,
17 you the public, federal, state and local agencies as well as
18 Indian tribes and our own independent analysis.

19 We analyzed this information and prepared a Draft
20 EIS that was distributed for public comment. All comments
21 received, written or spoken will be addressed in the Final
22 EIS. I encourage you if you plan to submit comments and
23 have not please do so here tonight either orally during the
24 comment portion of our meeting or in writing using one of
25 the forms at the back of the room.

1 You may also submit comments using the procedures
2 outlined in the Notice of Availability in the Draft EIS
3 which includes instructions how to submit your comments
4 electronically. Your comments will be considered with equal
5 weight regardless of whether they are spoken during the
6 comment portion of the meeting or submitted in writing.

7 If you received a copy of the Draft EIS in paper
8 or CD you will automatically receive a copy of the Final
9 EIS. If you did not get a copy of the Draft and would like
10 to get a copy of the Final EIS please sign up for the
11 mailing list at the back of the room, provide your name and
12 address and we will make sure you get a copy of the Final
13 EIS.

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

24 As I mentioned earlier the EIS is not a
25 decision-making document but it does assist the Commission

1 in determining whether or not to approve the projects. The
2 Commission will consider the environmental analysis in the
3 EIS, public comments as well as a host of non-environmental
4 information such as engineering, markets and rates in making
5 its decision to approve or deny Oregon LNG's and Northwest's
6 request for an
7 Authorization and Certificate respectively.

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

15 If the Commission votes to approve the projects,
16 Oregon LNG will be required to meet certain conditions as
17 outlined in the Authorization and Northwest will be required
18 to meet the conditions outlined in the Certificate.

19 FERC environmental staff would monitor the
20 projects through construction, restoration to document
21 environmental compliance with applicable laws and
22 regulations, Oregon LNG's and Northwest's proposed plans and
23 mitigation and the additional conditions required by the
24 Authorization and Certificate.

25 Now we will move into the part of the meeting

1 where we will hear comments from audience members. If you
2 would rather not speak tonight or don't get to say
3 everything you wanted, you may hand in written comments
4 tonight using the comment form found in the back of the room
5 or send them to the Secretary of the Commission by following
6 the procedures outlined in the Notice of Availability or
7 party-addressed letter in the Draft EIS, either way your
8 comments will be considered with equal weight.

9 As I said before this meeting is being recorded
10 by a court reporter so that all of your comments will be
11 transcribed and put into the public record. We will be
12 calling speakers in order according to numbers given out
13 during the sign in. I ask that each speaker first identify
14 themselves and if appropriate the agency or group you are
15 representing. Also please spell your name for the record
16 and speak clearly into the microphone.

17 My number one rule is to please show respect for
18 anyone speaking. We are now ready to call our first
19 speaker. Medha do we have any?

20 MS. KOCHHAR: No.

21 MR. KOPKA: Okay since there are no speakers
22 signed up would anyone like to speak? Since there are no
23 speakers tonight that concludes -- since there are no
24 speakers the formal part of this meeting will close. Within
25 the FERC website www.ferc.gov there is a link called

1 e-library. If you type in the docket number for the Oregon
2 LNG Project CP09-6 and CP09-7 and for the Washington
3 Expansion Project CP13-507 you can use e-library to gain
4 access to everything on the record concerning these projects
5 as well as all of the filings and information submitted by
6 Oregon LNG and Northwest.

7 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
8 Commission I want to thank you for coming here tonight. Let
9 the record show that the comment meeting concluded at 6:23
10 p.m.

11 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 6:23
12 p.m.)

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