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

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Florida Southeast Connection, LLC Docket No. CP14-554-000
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line
Company, LLC Docket No. CP15-16-000
Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC Docket No. CP15-17-000
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SOUTHEAST MARKET PIPELINES PROJECT

Albany Civic Center
100 West Oglethorpe
Albany, Georgia 31701
Monday, September 28, 2015

The public comment meeting, pursuant to notice, convened
at approximately 6 p.m., before a Staff Panel:

JOHN PECONOM, Environmental Project Manager,
Office of Energy Projects, FERC
With: BILL BRAUN, Merjent, Inc.

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

2 MR. PECONOM: Good evening. My name is John
3 Peconom. I am a member of the Commission Staff and I am the
4 Environmental Project Manager responsible for the Southeast
5 Market Pipelines Project environmental review. With me
6 tonight is Mr. Jim Martin, Chief, Gas Branch Three, Harry
7 Jetti and Jane Zalinski are in the back, environmental
8 staff; Mayo Driscoll, Director of Media Relations and Bill
9 Braun, Mitch Shields and Monica Hagita-Davis.

10 On behalf of the five members of the Federal
11 Energy Regulatory Commission, we would like to thank you for
12 participating in tonight's public comment meeting on the
13 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southeast
14 Market Pipelines Project.

15 Before we proceed my manager, Mr. Jim Martin,
16 would like to say a few words.

17 MR. MARTIN: Thank you again for coming tonight.
18 It's good to see all of you. We've spent a couple of years
19 really getting to this point; compiling information,
20 gathering data, listening to comments. We think we've got a
21 pretty comprehensive document, but we're also sure that it's
22 not perfect. The purpose of this meeting and the others
23 that we'll be holding over the next week or two will be to
24 get feedback on that draft Environmental Impact Statement
25 from you guys to let us know what you think we may or may

1 not have hit correctly. So thank you for coming. We look
2 forward to your input.

3 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Jim. As Jim mentioned,
4 the purpose of tonight's meeting is to receive comments from
5 you the public on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
6 that was issued by the Commission September 4, 2015. The
7 Southeast Market Pipelines Project or the CMP project is
8 actually three separate but connected natural gas
9 transmission pipeline projects with facilities in Alabama,
10 Georgia and Florida.

11 The Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, Sabal
12 Trail Transmission and the Florida Southeast Connection have
13 designed the SMP Project, which would include about six
14 hundred and fifty miles of natural gas pipeline, associated
15 facilities and six new compressor stations to transport up
16 to 1.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from
17 Alabama to Florida.

18 In Georgia, Sabal Trail proposes to construct and
19 operate approximately one hundred and sixty two miles of
20 pipeline across Stewart, Webster, Terrell, Lee, Dougherty,
21 Mitchell, Colquitt, Brooks and Lowndes Counties. This
22 pipeline would be collocated with existing infrastructure,
23 primarily the Southern Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline,
24 for approximately one hundred and twelve miles.

25 As many of you know, the major deviation from the

1 Southern Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline would be here
2 through Dougherty County. Additionally, Sable Trail
3 proposes to construct one new natural gas compressor station
4 west of the city of Albany. Lastly, Sabal Trail proposes to
5 construct two takeoff points in Dougherty and Mitchell
6 Counties. These takeoffs could facilitate future natural
7 gas-related development and service.

8 In view of the one thousand comments we received
9 on this project, many of them expressed concern about the
10 use of natural gas in Georgia. Georgia is the thirteenth
11 largest consumer of natural gas in the United States and as
12 of 2013 produced no natural gas. Natural gas consumption in
13 Georgia is supplied by the Interstate Natural Gas
14 Transmission System.

15 The National Environmental Policy Act requires
16 the Commission to require an environmental review of all
17 interstate natural gas transmission pipeline projects. The
18 SMP draft EIS was prepared in response to applications filed
19 by the three companies in the fall of 2014. The Commission
20 Staff worked for over ten months to prepare this draft EIS.
21 These ten months are in addition to the year spent working
22 on the pre-filing process.

23 An environmental impact statement informs the
24 Commission about the potential impacts on human and natural
25 environments that would result from construction and

1 operation of the projects. An environmental impact
2 statement describes the environment as it exists today, the
3 potential impacts on the environment, assesses comparable
4 alternatives and includes staff recommendations to avoid,
5 minimize and mitigate potential impacts.

6 Specifically, the draft EIS includes an executive
7 summary, an introduction which described the purpose and
8 need of the project as well as the purpose and scope of the
9 environmental review, descriptions of the proposed actions
10 including proposed facilities, land requirements,
11 construction procedures, and environmental compliance
12 monitoring, environmental analysis, geology, Karst, soils,
13 water resources, groundwater, aquifer, wetlands, vegetation,
14 wildlife, migratory birds, fisheries and aquatic resources,
15 special status species, threatened or endangered species,
16 land use and visual resources, socioeconomics, impacts on
17 property values, environmental justice, cultural resources,
18 air quality and noise compressor station emissions,
19 reliability and safety, pipeline integrity, safety standards
20 and cumulative impacts, alternatives, conclusions and
21 recommendations, fourteen appendices including maps,
22 drawings, construction plans and references. It is a very
23 comprehensive document.

24 As I said before, the Commission issued the SMP
25 draft EIS on September 4th, 2015. This began a 45-day

1 comment period which closes on October 26, 2015. Written
2 comments are viewed the same weight as verbal comments.
3 That is part of the public review process, is for you to
4 give us written comments. As I said, written comments are
5 given the same weight as verbal comments. The comments that
6 we receive tonight and during the comment period will be
7 incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Statement.

8 There are several ways for you to give us input,
9 one is to speak here tonight. Two is to send us letters,
10 written hard copy through the U.S. Mail, or electronically
11 at FERC s website, www.FERC.gov to the Commission's eLibrary
12 System. Again, I want to stress, written comments are given
13 the same weight as verbal comments.

14 Many people ask, what is the next step in the
15 FERC review process? After receiving comments on the Draft
16 Environmental Impact Statement, the next step in the FERC's
17 review process is to prepare a final Environmental Impact
18 Statement. As I said before, the comments we receive
19 tonight will be incorporated into the final Environmental
20 Impact Statement. The EIS draft or final is not a
21 decisional document.

22 Ultimately, the FERC Commissioners will determine
23 whether or not to approve the SMP Project. This decision
24 will be made after careful review of the applications and
25 will consider all public comments submitted on the project.

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That concludes my presentation and introduction about the SMP Project. We will now begin receiving public comments on the project. Speakers will be called in the order that you were given a number. I believe we have twenty-five speakers tonight.

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In order to get this meeting done at a reasonable hour, we will have a three minute time limit. We have with us tonight a light to help you be mindful of the three minutes. At two minutes and thirty seconds the yellow light will flash and just at three minutes the red light will flash.

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I don't want to cut anybody off, so at three minutes I will allow you to finish your thought or if you're not done, I ask you to be mindful of other speakers. A lot of people feel very passionate about this project and would like to speak tonight. I want everyone to have the opportunity to speak tonight. This meeting is scheduled to conclude at 8 o'clock but I have spoken with the building management, and if we need to go longer we can.

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After the meeting concludes, myself as well as the rest of the FERC staff will be able to answer your questions as best we can. Again, the three minute time limit will be enforced. There is no yielding of time, no giving time to anybody else. To make this meeting go

1 faster, the next two speakers, for instance, if I call
2 number one if numbers two and three could prepare
3 themselves; and we have prepared some on-deck seats here in
4 the back so number two could grab a seat and number three
5 could grab a seat so we can keep it moving.

6 I understand people are taking time out of their
7 lives. You have families and things that you'd rather be
8 doing, so I want to make sure this goes as quickly and
9 efficiently as possible for everybody else. Hopefully, we
10 can get you out of here before 8 o'clock. If we need to go
11 longer at some point, the court reporter may need a break so
12 at that point we will take a ten minute break.

13 I want to point out that your comments are being
14 recorded for the record tonight. See our court reporter
15 here to my right, your left; all your comments will be
16 entered into the Commission's administrative record. This
17 is done so in case I don't make it home, your comments make
18 it to the record and my replacement can make sure they are
19 addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

20 So with that, we'll begin. When you come up to
21 the microphone, please make sure you adjust it accordingly.
22 Please spell your first and last names clearly and just
23 remember the three minute time limit. I'm going to give you
24 a little flexibility to finish your thoughts. So thank you
25 very much. We will now call number one up.

1 MR. REVILLS: Good evening. Thank you to the
2 FERC Staff. My name is Apostle Felix F-E-L-I-X Revills R-E-
3 V-I-L-L-S and I stand before you as a leader of the faith-
4 based community here in Albany, Dougherty County. I'm also
5 a business and entrepreneur leader and just a concerned
6 citizen. I'm also a father who has educated all of his
7 children, which I still have a couple of children in the
8 Dougherty County School System.

9 I wanted to just have a few words on this
10 particular issue and I base it on Ecclesiastes 301 from the
11 Bible says that, There is a time for everything, for every
12 season and there is a time for every purpose under Heaven,
13 and then it also goes on to say that, There is a time to
14 keep silent and also there is a time to speak. I do believe
15 that this is a time, this particular issue is something that
16 has raised many, many concerns, not only in my congregation
17 but in several across this Southwest Georgia Region.

18 We would ask you to reconsider if you have
19 already made a decision to go ahead and allow this
20 particular Sabal Trail pumping station to be built and
21 erected in this particular county in this area, to cast it
22 down. We don't want it in our community, our children we
23 have looked at some of the studies. Our children could
24 possibly be adversely affected in their health and in other
25 ways. That is a major, major concern of mine and several

1 other adults and people in this Southwest Georgia region.

2 Also, the fact that we do not recognize any
3 sustained economic growth or positive economic impact for
4 our area as well. So this pumping station will be put in
5 place and all the way down the line this does not
6 necessarily mean that this would be a positive impact for
7 this community. So we appreciate the time and we ask you
8 again if you would, not allow this pumping station to be
9 built and to cast it down if at all necessary. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number two.

12 MR. MARIETTA: My name is Roger Marietta. I am a
13 City Commissioner of Ward 4, and this is affecting my area.
14 You know, when this first came to Albany, we talked about an
15 electrical compressor station, and that was summarily
16 rejected out of hand by Sabal Trail and continues to be
17 rejected, and I feel like your draft Environmental Impact
18 Statement is prejudice toward Sabal Trail on many occasions.

19 On pages forty-eight to fifty-three where they
20 discuss alternative locations for the compressor station,
21 one of the objections Sabal Trail had to an alternative
22 compressor station location outside the city limits was that
23 they would have to build a one mild road, a one mile surface
24 road. To me, that's trivial out of the hundreds of billions
25 that they're going to make out of this project to object to

1 building a one mile surface road to move this away from
2 people.

3 Now, we have done a lot of research and we've put
4 in a lot of comments, but since the Draft Environmental
5 Impact Statement was issued, there is another study, a
6 scientific study that came out of the State of New York on a
7 gas compressor station that is one-fourth the size of the
8 one proposed. This one was thirteen thousand horsepower in
9 New York and this one that is proposed here is forty-three
10 thousand horsepower. Within one mile of that compressor
11 station in New York, they recorded health effects as asthma,
12 nose bleeds, headaches and rashes; within one mile.

13 It's another objection I have to Sabal Trail
14 saying 'Oh, nothing will be bad within a half-mile.' We've
15 got plenty of scientific studies on the Internet that have
16 shown in other locations that the circle of problems is
17 beyond one mile; the noise and the health effects.

18 There is also elevated levels of carcinogens in
19 the study in New York, increased mortality rate for persons
20 over 65. And this is scary to me: it doubles the risk of
21 autism in expectant mothers in the third trimester.

22 Now all this money that Sabal Trail is going to
23 make and Spectra Energy, how much is one case of autism
24 going to cost the taxpayers and the people? Then we throw
25 in some other studies that show that property values will be

1 decreased in the area. So to us in the city limits, we feel
2 like it's a bad deal for us. Sable Trail is not interested
3 in the people and FERC seems to be more concerned about
4 gopher tortoises than people, and I just think that's wrong.

5 (Applause)

6 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number three.

7 MS. NEW: My name is Betty New, B-E-T-T-Y N-E-W.
8 Since nothing is one hundred percent guaranteed, just
9 because it has not happened does not mean it will not
10 happen. Therefore I would like to have three questions
11 addressed, since they were not addressed in any of the
12 materials that I have read.

13 The first one is, who will assume financial
14 responsibility if ever there is an explosion in the
15 neighborhood near the pipeline and compressor station, which
16 is supposed to be coming through the city limits of Albany,
17 Georgia? What if lives and property are lost? Who will be
18 responsible for this?

19 The next one, who will be responsible for
20 confirmed medical care of residents who live near the
21 proposed pipeline and compressor station such as respiratory
22 problems as a result of these proposed items?

23 Again, who will pay the insurance if the people
24 not financially able to have insurance? The last one is, on
25 the CD it has, under socioeconomics, it states that property

1 values may be impacted in the pipeline and compressor
2 station area, therefore there is no guarantee that property
3 values will not be affected. Then, what happens to the
4 homeowners? It seems to me that what we are going through
5 is not a win/win. A win maybe for the Sable Pipeline but a
6 lose for the residents of Albany.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am. Number four.

9 MR. WARBINGTON: Yes, my name is Chad Warbington,
10 that's C-H-A-D Warbington W-A-R-B-I-N-G-T-O-N. I stand to
11 talk to you today in my time really about the five
12 compressor stations that you have designed, or was designed
13 by Sabal Trail. I am a mechanical engineer, so in my trade
14 I design many pumping systems. Simply, you're pumping
15 something from point A to point B. So when you design a
16 pumping system in an office, obviously you can place the
17 pumps exactly in a perfect scenario.

18 Then, as an engineer, you walk out to the site
19 and you say 'Hmm, that may not be the best place for this
20 pump, may not be the best place for this pump,' and you've
21 got room in all of your calculations and equations trying to
22 get something from Point A to point B to move the pumps
23 that's between point A and point B. So when I look at the
24 five compressor stations, there's one compressor station
25 that stands out that is drastically different from all the

1 other five, and that's the compressor station here in
2 Albany, Georgia.

3 If you simply look at Alexander City, that's up
4 in Alabama, population fourteen thousand. If you look at
5 Hildreth, there actually is no census data because it's so
6 small. You look at Dannelin, population one thousand seven
7 hundred, you look at reunion, population five thousand and
8 then you look at Albany Georgia with a population of
9 seventy-six thousand. It's not even on the same magnitude
10 with population density, population magnitude, but yet one
11 of the compressor stations is placed right in the city
12 limits of Albany, Georgia.

13 Any engineer with common sense would say 'Hmm, I
14 could simply move it a little north, move it a little south
15 to possibly get away from the seventy-six thousand citizens
16 that I'm affecting." So obviously that's one solution. The
17 other solution is an electric compression station. If you
18 take the one compressor station that is affecting the most
19 people and you turn it into an electric powered compressor
20 station, you eliminate the emissions, you eliminate the
21 negativity, part of the negativity of the compressor
22 station.

23 So my challenge to you as an engineer, when you
24 look at the compressor stations if there is one area that
25 needs to be addressed it's the compressor station in Albany,

1 Georgia. So really that's my key thing is I look at it,
2 five compressor stations. There is obviously one think that
3 stands out completely different from the other five, and
4 that's the Albany Georgia compressor station; and I ask that
5 we revisit that scenario and revisit why we put it where it
6 is at. Thank you very much for your time.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number five.

9 MS. PRIMROSE: Good evening. I am Louise
10 Primrose, L-O-U-I-S-E capital P-R-I-M-R-O-S-E. I'm a
11 concerned citizen and a registered nurse of thirty-two years
12 in retirement from Phoebe-Putney Hospital. I am here today
13 to call attention to what happened in the event of a
14 disaster caused by this pipeline during and after the
15 completion of the project.

16 As you see and well know, Albany only has one
17 medical facility. There is a shortage of both physicians
18 and nurses in this area. Since this Project started, what
19 medical interventions have been put in place regarding fire
20 department, emergency medical services, and the Red Cross?
21 What special training has been implemented? It is
22 imperative that we stop this project to protect present and
23 future generations.

24 The side effect of the pipeline has already been
25 discussed. But that is not the complete list. The list of

1 side effects is endless. Albany is not equipped to handle
2 such a disaster of this magnitude. Lives do matter. Don't
3 put a price on a life -- and I thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number six.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening. My name is Joyce
7 Evans, that's J-O-Y-C-E E-V-A-N-S. It has been mentioned
8 that this compressor station would be in a residential
9 neighborhood in the city limits, and that's my issue. Why
10 would you build a compressor station in the city limits of
11 Albany when you have two subdivisions, several churches,
12 several schools in that area? It seems to me that they can
13 find an isolated or remote area to do that. Think about us.
14 We do matter.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am. Number seven.

17 MR. VARGO: My name is Ron Vargo V-A-R-G-O and I
18 have my written statement here.

19 In your last CD, you still do not show any proof
20 of performance that a facility like this has ever been built
21 by Sabal before. Again, in other previous documents, Sabal
22 and FERC continue to tap-dance and rope-a-dope around the
23 issues of noise and pollutant issues. Please read PDF page
24 29 or ES5. To me you are using this project as a guinea pig
25 to build, to use us as guinea pigs to build this as an

1 experimental test bed and continue to tweak it while on line
2 in hopes of getting it right.

3 FERC continues to say they will analyze
4 contractor data to see how well everything is working and
5 adjust/tweak accordingly. It looks to me like this is the
6 same process we had with the Iranians and the nuclear
7 program. The Iranians will do their inspection and we are
8 expected to believe what they are telling us in their
9 reports.

10 I'll remind you of the latest court case in
11 Albany where a peanut butter CEO/Producer was sentenced to
12 28 years in prison for falsifying documents, that they
13 showed that he was shipping tainted peanut butter. To make
14 matters worse, we will bear the cost to move gopher turtle
15 nests and be sensitive to Executive Order 13186 to mitigate
16 for migrating bird population, but find it not cost
17 effective to build a small road as to move the compressor
18 station away from the thousands of residents and move the
19 pipeline away from the city wellhead.

20 (Applause)

21 This arrogant attitude is appalling and
22 unacceptable, especially the twisted logic you used to
23 justify why the pipeline is going through Georgia. See PDF
24 page 27 ES3. We don't want you here. We don't need your
25 gas. And no amount of taxes that you pay that will ever

1 erase the scar in our memories for years to come. You have
2 touched our Governor, the State Chamber of Commerce, and
3 possibly even our local leaders; how would you ever expect
4 us to believe anything you say, I know not.

5 (Applause)

6 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number eight.

7 (Man holding up poster.)

8 MR. ROGERS: 'I'm sure you are all familiar with
9 that photograph. I'm going to show it to you all and we'll
10 have a copy of that photograph and some materials that we
11 submit. My name is Gordon Rogers, G-O-R-D-O-N R-O-G-E-R-S.
12 I'm the riverkeeper for the organization by the same name,
13 Flint Riverkeeper.

14 We are based here in Albany; we have about three
15 thousand members and we work from East Point, Georgia down
16 to the Florida line including all of the tribs of the Flint.
17 I am here tonight to stand in solidarity with the citizens
18 of Dougherty County. I don't live in Dougherty County, but
19 if this were next to the church that I attend or the schools
20 that my kids go to or the neighborhood that I lived in, I
21 would be equally irate and I share those feelings with the
22 people in the audience and the people that aren't here
23 tonight.

24 We've renamed this pipeline project; it's the
25 sinkhole pipeline project. There are hundreds of sinkholes

1 that have been identified by your own consultants along the
2 route of this pipeline project. The geology in downtown
3 Little Rock, which shows an explosion that happened on the
4 same company's pipeline in May of this year, is not
5 limestone Karst geology. It's not as risky there as it is
6 here. But it blew up in Downtown Little Rock. Luckily it
7 was in the river and not in somebody's back yard.

8 This energy company has a dismal safety record.
9 It's available for anybody to see. We can talk about the
10 animals and the plants and the river bottom and all the
11 things that river folk care about, but Flint Riverkeeper is
12 just as much about people as it is water or the animals,
13 because people are who enjoy the water and the animals and
14 make a living here in Dougherty County using the water and
15 the animals.

16 There are at least seven instances in your draft
17 EIS, page H7, three times; page H8 once, pages H18 and H19
18 figure three on page H9 and on page H12 where this Karst
19 geology is mentioned and the risk of building is noted as
20 being very high. This is in the appendices of the draft
21 EIS, noted by your own contractors, and I guess approved by
22 staff to circulate. So I would draw your attention to that
23 and then contrast that with the fact that these items and
24 the ones that we have submitted have been dismissed in
25 virtually all cases in the EIS as being unimportant.

1 So I ask you to revisit this to examine the risk,
2 and I would also add my voice to the chorus of "move this
3 compressor station." Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number nine.

6 MS. HALL: Good evening, my name is Dinorah Hall,
7 D-I-N-O-R-A-H H-A double L, and I'm speaking on behalf of
8 the Kyoki Plain (ph) Group in regard to the sinkhole trail
9 pipeline. By the way, this is not a slip of the tongue,
10 because FERC's own consultant drew a map, covered with
11 yellow triangles showing the potential for sinkholes along
12 the entire route through Dougherty and Lowndes County. FERC
13 required more analysis of Karst and potential sinkholes for
14 the Atlantic Sunrise Project in Pennsylvania. That has less
15 potential for sinkholes than Georgia.

16 The sinkhole trail project should not be allowed
17 to proceed without the same level of analysis here. We
18 understand that FERC's regulation 380 15 says 'special
19 attention must be given to these projects' impact on
20 landowners'. Yet, the DEIS does not mention the scientific
21 data and opinions presented by Greenlaw and his experts, and
22 it has failed to respond to opposing viewpoints and provide
23 reasons for rejecting viable project alternatives.

24 Instead, FERC has provided only vague
25 explanations such as, and I quote two quotations. One,

1 "Therefore we determine this alternative is not preferable
2 to the proposed action." Two, "In evaluating alternatives
3 we consider and address as appropriate the numerous comments
4 provided to the Commission about possible alternatives."

5 Further, FERC did not discuss the intensity and
6 scope of project impacts in Albany in the DEIS, such as
7 allowing the applicant to use the heavy hand of federal
8 condemnation power of Greenfield Properties to disrupt the
9 environment for generations to come when our proposed
10 alternatives avoided disturbance of pristine land and
11 enhanced maximum collocation.

12 Two alternatives comparison tables apparently
13 were based on desktop analysis, not actual field data. If
14 we are correct, we are demanding that actual field data be
15 used. Further, FERC one, approved the only route on the
16 table which is the applicant's preferred alternative without
17 any modifications. Two, apparently relied on the
18 applicant's cost and convenience factors more than the
19 environment. Three, FERC is approving a compressor station
20 at least initially. It is approving a compressor station in
21 an urban, residential, environmental justice community that
22 would violate NAQS, that's National Ambient Quality
23 Standard, when there are alternative locations.

24 Our request, FERC, is: By any chance can we have
25 FERC's reassurance that an explosion will not happen in

1 Albany just like it did in Arkansas? Second, that our
2 citizens' health would not be jeopardized and negatively
3 impacted by the pollutants from a massive compressor
4 station.

5 And then to conclude, FERC's process does not
6 work for the people but it works for the applicant. As
7 currently proposed, the applicant's project places Albany as
8 collateral damage. Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am. Number ten.

11 MR. WOODALL: Thank you. My name is Mark Woodall
12 M-A-R-K Woodall is W-O-O-D-A-L-L. I'm the Vice-Chairman of
13 the Sierra Club's Georgia Chapter and I'm here today on
14 behalf of our ten thousand members in Georgia and twenty-
15 five thousand members in Florida, 2.5 million members and
16 supporters across North America to say we oppose this
17 pipeline, and if you think this pipeline needs to be built
18 then certainly the alternatives that have been presented to
19 the location of this compressor station and the location in
20 Dougherty County are much preferable to what we've seen
21 issued in this draft EIS.

22 I was up there in Taylor County on the Flint
23 River minding my own business twenty-five years ago when the
24 Governor of Georgia said that we were going to have a --
25 State of Georgia Hazardous Waste Management facility in

1 Taylor County on top of my cousins. When we started
2 fighting that thing, they told us we couldn't fight the
3 Governor, we couldn't fight the EPD, and we couldn't fight
4 the garbage companies.

5 But after five years, the State of Georgia
6 Hazardous Waste Authority was abolished, and the EPD
7 director resigned. So I'm here to let everybody know that
8 this is not over, that the people can win and we're just
9 about in I guess the top of the fifth inning here so we've
10 got a long way to go.

11 (Applause)

12 One of the most interesting things we heard
13 during that five year fight up there in Taylor County was
14 from Lois Gibbs from Love Canal. Lois Gibbs is a lady whose
15 family built a house on top of the Hooker Chemical Site
16 outside of Niagara Falls, and she's regarded as the person
17 that got the hazardous waste law passed, the Federal RCRA
18 Law. What Lois Gibbs told us was that these big
19 corporations will come in here and they'll take away your
20 health, they'll take away your family's health and they'll
21 take away your property values, all for money.

22 She was talking about the Hooker Chemical and the
23 garbage companies at that time, but that applies just as
24 well today to Florida Power & Light and Duke Energy. Now
25 this pipeline is for over three thousand megawatts of new

1 energy for Florida Power & Light and Duke. Doesn't do
2 anything for the State of Georgia, so it's just these giant
3 corporations coming into Georgia and taking away our
4 property values and our health and our families' health and
5 it's not right.

6 What we find in Florida is, Florida Power & Light
7 and Duke Energy went to the Florida PSC recently and killed
8 solar power and did away with all the energy efficiency
9 rebates down in Florida. We hope the Florida Supreme Court
10 will help us out with a ballot initiative we started down
11 there for people to be allowed to put solar panels up
12 themselves and get third party financing.

13 What's going on here is these giant corporations,
14 these big monopoly utilities would rather build these giant
15 natural gas stations. Three thousand megawatts is
16 equivalent to the, is's about the size of the largest coal
17 burner in the United States, Plant Scherer over here in
18 Macon. So they can make more money doing those big stations
19 than they can letting people provide their own power with
20 solar power.

21 So, in conclusion, I hope that you folks will
22 take another look at these alternatives and do the right
23 thing. Thank you.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number eleven.

1 MR. LAYER: My name is Matt Layer, M-A-T-T L-A-
2 Y-E-R. I speak on behalf of the members of the Kyoki Flint
3 (ph) Group. We are a landowner. We are outside of the city
4 limits so our position is a little different. We are very
5 concerned about the ecosystem and the habitat. The
6 Environmental Impact Statement states that they do not
7 foresee any long term effects. Well, all things manmade
8 fail at some point or another.

9 We have Karst terrain and we have water quality
10 issues that we are concerned about, and if this pipeline
11 leaks and pollutes the ground and goes unnoticed for how
12 long then what will that do to our water quality and our
13 neighbors' water quality? We worry about an explosion,
14 close proximity to homes in the area, and furthermore the
15 land was put into a conservation easement to protect the
16 ecosystem so that it wouldn't be intruded by these
17 technologies for the future, to save it for our future
18 generations.

19 That's about all I have. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number twelve.

22 MR. MARKS: Good evening. My name is Josh Marks,
23 J-O-S-H last name is M-A-R-K-S. I'm an attorney
24 representing Nonami Oglethorpe, LLC., owner of Nonami
25 Plantation, a nearly nine thousand acre plantation here in

1 Albany. I'm also an attorney for Countrywide, which is a
2 mobile home park community directly adjacent to the
3 compressor station.

4 The draft Environmental Impact Statement is
5 deeply flawed for a number of reasons. First, it admits the
6 significant risk of sinkholes but fails to thoroughly
7 investigate them. Secondly, it fails to fully consider
8 Spectra's track record, including the collapse of the
9 Spectra Pipeline in the Arkansas River as Gordon mentioned
10 earlier, and it fails to acknowledge and properly evaluate
11 the true and valid impacts to the environmental justice
12 communities from the compressor station and the pipeline.

13 I want to focus my brief time on the sinkhole
14 issue that Gordon and some of the others have mentioned.
15 The EIS itself says that southwest Georgia is of particular
16 importance due to the prevalence of Karst topography and is
17 the most sensitive area in the entire state that the
18 pipeline route crosses. Why then would FERC decide to
19 permit a gas pipeline through this area?

20 Areas of particular concern in Dougherty County
21 are in the vicinity of Albany where sinkhole development is
22 pronounced. Approximately a hundred and sixty-three
23 sinkholes were identified in the pipeline corridor,
24 stretching from Terrell County down to Florida. This is all
25 in the EIS. Sixty-eight sinkholes were identified in

1 Dougherty County alone and the figure on the left shows
2 yellow triangles which pretty much cover up the entirety of
3 the pipeline.

4 It looks like the yellow brick road to me, but
5 instead of going to Oz, it's going somewhere more sinister,
6 I think. In addition, Albany Gas, Water and Light
7 Commission's wellfield, located southeast of Albany, has
8 seen the formation of approximately thirty or more sinkholes
9 during the operation of the wellfield with six of the
10 sinkholes forming during 2009. That's the figure on the
11 right.

12 It seems again that you can't pick a riskier or
13 more dangerous area to put a pipeline or compressor station.
14 I would argue that this project is neither necessary nor
15 convenient. It is risky and dangerous. In conclusion, we
16 urge FERC to protect the community, protect the environment
17 and deny the application for the new name of this project,
18 the sinkhole trail pipeline. Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number thirteen.

21 MR. GRAIL: Good evening. Hi. My name is Kevin
22 Grail, K-E-V-I-N G-R-A-I-L. I'm the president of Grail
23 Management Group. We are the management agent for
24 Countryside Village Mobile Home Park and I represent the
25 owners there and I don't represent but I speak for many of

1 the homeowners in the park that I've come to know over the
2 past several months.

3 One of the things that you may or may not know is
4 that Countryside Village is literally in the backyard of the
5 proposed compressor station. There are fifty homeowners
6 there, where a hundred and thirty-five people live and these
7 are among the most vulnerable people that you will find in
8 all of American Society. They are sixty-eight percent
9 Black, twenty-five percent white, seven percent mixed race
10 or other minority. Seventy percent of the people that live
11 there earn household income, not per person, household
12 income of less than thirty thousand dollars.

13 I don't think anyone here would like to have this
14 compressor station in their backyard. I'm really not sure
15 why because when I think about it I thought 'Gee, the
16 compressor station might be really nice, because it would be
17 kind of like living on the ocean where you have that
18 beautiful sound all the time pounding away,' except it's not
19 really like that. It's like this horrible sound that never,
20 ever stops and 'Oh, by the way, it might explode someday.'

21 The other thing is, there's no compensation for
22 these people, neither for the owners of the park or for
23 these most vulnerable people. They are likely to see, this
24 is my area. I am not an environmental scientist but I know
25 that all of these people that own homes there are going to

1 lose value. They will probably not be able to sell. They
2 will be stuck there. They are going to lose thirty to fifty
3 percent of the value of their homes.

4 The owner of the park is going to lose thirty to
5 fifty percent of his investment and by the way, he has not
6 taken a penny. In the three years that the owners bought,
7 they have put every penny back into that park, every penny
8 and more. They have not taken a dime out of it. These are
9 not people that are trying to make a bunch of money. We are
10 trying to build a beautiful park for these nice people and
11 Sabal Trail wants to come along -- et al. -- and take their
12 profits on the backs of these hard-working, vulnerable
13 Americans.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number fourteen.

16 MR. PEARCE: My name's Ray Pearce, R-A-Y P-E-A-
17 R-C-E. I'm manager of Nonami Plantation here in Albany.
18 One thing I can speak about is the prevalence of sinkholes
19 in our area. I mean we're prone for it, and I've been
20 managing Nonami for twenty-two years and in those twenty-two
21 years we've found, repaired over one hundred sinkholes on
22 Nonami Plantation.

23 We have found, most recently three weeks ago we
24 found a new formation of a sinkhole just three weeks ago.
25 They can happen anywhere at any time. The only predictable

1 thing about sinkholes is they will happen, but where and
2 when and how big is just a crapshoot. You never know. The
3 size of these holes can vary, I mean it can be just a small
4 hole. It can be a twenty-five foot wide, twenty-five foot
5 deep hole as we'd seen after the flood in '94. We had
6 floods in '94 and '98. After those floods, tremendous
7 amount of sinkhole activity.

8 When you get that much rain and water on the
9 property, sinkholes open up, the crust gets moist and there
10 they go. I mean, you can go several years and not have very
11 many at all and you can have some big rain events and then
12 there you go. One more thing, I don't have a whole lot of
13 time but I would like to talk about air quality and how it
14 relates to the plantations and how we do business.

15 In Georgia, we have counties around Atlanta,
16 Macon and Savannah that you can't burn. There are burn bans
17 in those counties due to population. All the businesses and
18 our pollutants are already in the atmosphere. If we allow
19 this pumping station in Dougherty County, that's going to
20 increase our pollutants in the atmosphere of Dougherty
21 County. Dougherty County's population gets us close to
22 nonattainment already just due to our population, and that
23 means a burn ban.

24 Quail thrive on a fire-driven ecology. You can't
25 replicate it, you can't spray, you can't mow, you've got to

1 burn. If you don't burn these properties, you cannot have
2 quail and all these quail properties in South Georgia, who
3 we've talked about the economic impact of our quail
4 plantations in the area and they're immense. In the greater
5 Albany area, you're looking at a twenty-five million a year
6 economic impact, and that's a study done by Tall Timbers and
7 it's proven. So anything we do that would increase our
8 chances of nonattainment would be a disaster for Albany and
9 Dougherty County and for our plantation community. Thank
10 you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number fifteen.

13 MR. HALLMAN: My name is Ed E-D, last name
14 Hallman H-A-L-L-M-A-N. I'm an attorney. I represent the
15 Graham Family and the Graham properties, about seven
16 thousand acres significantly used for quail hunting and
17 other uses that are consistent with the environment. As a
18 lawyer I like to deal in facts and the law, and when you
19 look at the facts in the draft EIS and you look at the
20 supporting documents, I as a lawyer come to the only
21 conclusion that building the Sabal Pipeline is reckless,
22 inherently dangerous, a profound threat to human health and
23 welfare and the environment.

24 This is FERC's own findings, which it didn't
25 reach in the draft EIS but it's the only conclusion you can

1 reach when you look at the supporting documents. That is
2 stunning and shocking, and I don't know if your support
3 staff is failing you, I don't know what the issue is. I had
4 to answer my clients and say it's either incompetence or
5 politics or money, and that's not healthy. That is not
6 healthy for FERC, it's not healthy for the government. I am
7 just telling you that.

8 Now the interesting thing about failures of
9 pipelines is they have occurred previously, and the similar
10 situation to this one occurred in Alabama. It involved
11 Southern Natural Gas and a ten-inch pipeline -- whereas this
12 is going to be a thirty-six inch pipeline -- and it was put
13 in Karst soils. Several years later the pipeline was just
14 catastrophic.

15 It failed throughout the distance in Alabama.
16 Had to be moved. It left damages to buried cables, personal
17 property and highways, all of which occurred after the
18 decision to build it.

19 The other thing that's very interesting and it
20 was brought up earlier and Mr. John, I may have misread you
21 but I think you acted shocked about the Pennsylvania Project
22 because we were shocked when we looked at it because there
23 is significant geological geophysical engineering testing
24 being required by FERC on a Karst area which is not nearly
25 as significant as the one we've got here.

1 So the question for me, I'm a Georgia resident,
2 is the interest of Pennsylvanians of higher priority than
3 the interest in Georgia because that type of testing, that
4 type of study has to be done here. There is no other way to
5 know or to prevent the catastrophic results and the issue of
6 the Atlantic Sunrise Property is so important for purposes
7 of concluding the right decision here and that is that this
8 pipeline cannot be built.

9 There have been other catastrophic failures,
10 there have been all sorts of things in history. The Titanic
11 is probably the greatest, 'Oh, no problem. It will not
12 sink' and it sank. FERC is saying 'Oh, no problem, putting
13 this pipeline in these Karst soils will not cause a
14 problem.' In your own document, the supporting information
15 for it proves that that is categorically a false conclusion.
16 Thank you very much for your patience and thanks to FERC.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number sixteen.

19 MS. JONES: Hello, my name is Gladys G-L-A-D-Y-S
20 Joyce J-O-Y-C-E Jordan Jones, okay.

21 I'm here on behalf of myself and ninety-two
22 thousand-plus residents of Dougherty County. I am my
23 brother's keeper; that's why I'm here. I go from door-to-
24 door and I've done that for months. I talk to people. I
25 talk to people who go out and sit in their backyards and

1 they watch the deer, the rabbits and the squirrels as they
2 play.

3 When you guys come here, all of them are going to
4 pack up their nuts and leave.

5 (Laughter)

6 Okay? We have four elementary schools. Live
7 Oak, Robert Cross, Alex Coachman, Westown that will be
8 affected. I believe that children are our future. I
9 believe we're going to have some messed up children when you
10 all come here. The other thing is, we have one junior high
11 school, Southside Middle School. Those are our children.
12 They belong to this community.

13 This community has done just fine with the
14 poverty, with the crime, with the pollution that we have
15 here and now you guys are going to come here, too, and bring
16 sinkhole pipeline? Just what we've been looking for. So
17 I'm upset and a lot of people are upset. I'm surprised that
18 this place is not filled and people are not running down the
19 street.

20 I've knocked on thousands of doors and elderly
21 people are very upset. There have been people that came to
22 the door with hoses to their mouths because they had
23 respiratory problems. A mom talks to me with four children.
24 All of them have respiratory problems. They live right at
25 India Creek. The people in Winterwood are afraid. The

1 people in Country Club are afraid. A lot of people in
2 Dougherty County who know about this sinkhole pipeline are
3 afraid. I am my brother and my sister's keeper.

4 In all the years, twenty-three years of college,
5 I said I would come home and fight against injustices
6 against my people. I'm here. That's why I'm here. This is
7 an injustice and it's unfair to us. Please don't bring that
8 pipeline here because it's not going to be like taking candy
9 from a baby. It's going to be like taking candy from a
10 Flint River gator. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am. Number
13 seventeen.

14 MR. CUTTS: Good evening. My name is K-E-N-N-E-
15 T-H C-U-T-T-S and I'm Congressman Sanford Bishop's District
16 Director. Congressman Bishop asked me to attend this
17 meeting this evening and say a few words on his behalf. He
18 would have been here himself but he has votes in Washington
19 this evening. Both of us, Congressman Bishop and myself,
20 have attended numerous Town Hall meetings and open houses
21 throughout the 2nd Congressional district to hear concerns
22 about the pipeline.

23 We have had meetings on this issue, both in
24 Washington, D.C. and in our district office in Albany,
25 Georgia. Congressman Bishop has written two letters to the

1 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, on in November of 2014
2 and one in May of 2015, raising serious concerns about the
3 route of this pipeline through Southwest Georgia. He never
4 received a response from the May 2015 letter and the
5 response to the November 2014 letter was perfunctory at
6 best.

7 In the May 2015 letter Congressman Bishop
8 expressed serious concerns that the pipeline will travel,
9 that you've already heard through many miles of Karst
10 terrain, rife with sinkhole activity and we all know that
11 such terrain would increase the risk of a pipeline collapse,
12 leading to explosions, fires and groundwater pollution.
13 This is a legitimate concern given Spectra Energy's poor
14 safety record as evidenced in part by the recent explosion
15 of this natural gas line as you've already heard under the
16 Arkansas River in May of 2015.

17 The route would also cross the City of Albany's
18 drinking water wellfields that supplies fresh drinking water
19 to over thirty-five thousand residents. The 2000 page draft
20 Environmental Impact Statement as you've already seen has
21 yellow triangles all across it. It seems to say that
22 there's no problem with these sinkholes despite the fact
23 that there's a similar pipeline being built in Pennsylvania
24 that has the same issues, and it's called the Atlantic
25 Sunrise Project and there's a much more detailed

1 geotechnical and geophysical analysis of this particular
2 project.

3 Why is it not the same analysis for this project?
4 That's a question that needs to be answered. I see that my
5 time is up but the Congressman would like a response to his
6 concerns in writing. Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number seventeen -
9 - eighteen, excuse me.

10 MR. TAYLOR: Good afternoon, everybody. My name
11 is Tracy Taylor T-R-A-C-Y T-A-Y-L-O-R and I am a candidate
12 running for Mayor of Albany, Georgia. I stand here on
13 behalf of the citizens today to represent them in this
14 fight. To me, my personal opinion is that this is about
15 politics. We got a Republican Governor and you've got a
16 Republican Governor in Alabama, Republican Governor in the
17 State of Florida. I feel like our citizens and our
18 residents, we should have put the pressure on the backs of
19 our State Representatives to address our Governor in the
20 General Assembly about this issue.

21 I have not yet heard any stance from our Governor
22 on this particular issue due to the fact that Spectra had
23 contributed to his campaign when he ran last year. It's
24 just a big political issue and it's all about politics and
25 like I said, we need to take it to the General Assembly and

1 boycott, address it however we need to address it because
2 the residents in Dougherty County, we just got a small
3 stick. The Governor, he has a big stick, and when he swing
4 his stick I think some people are going to move and duck out
5 of his way.

6 That's just my stance on it and I don't want to
7 see this pipeline ran through Dougherty County. Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number nineteen.

10 MR. WOSLAGER: Good evening. My name is Jim
11 Woslager, J-I-M W-O-S-L-A-G-E-R, and I'm a member of the
12 Pipeliners 798 Tulsa, Oklahoma. We construct pipelines. and
13 I just recently come off a job for Spectra Energy up in
14 Wellsville, Ohio; and I can tell you personally they went
15 above and beyond the call of duty for my safety. Mine.
16 They made me feel like I was important out there so I don't
17 want to hear nothing back about Spectra Energy.

18 I want to thank the FERC Commission, too, for
19 putting this on. This is your taxpayer dollars at work,
20 folks and I appreciate everybody coming out. It shows the
21 love, care and concern you have for your community, children
22 and grandchildren.

23 We need the jobs, we need the energy
24 independence, and if it wasn't for the foresight of the
25 Commissioners like you we wouldn't have two dollar gas. I'm

1 sure everybody's enjoying that, I hope they do because I do.

2 I just would like to address the integrity of the
3 pipeline. The welds that we make, our welders are some of
4 the best in the world. The repair rate is the lowest in the
5 world. I'm sure some of the lines do have some problems,
6 but most -- ours don't, and I would just like everybody to
7 not take their energy needs for granted and reconsider their
8 ways, that's all. Thank you.

9 ('Go home' and booing from the audience.)

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Please be
11 respectful.

12 Everyone's entitled to their opinion and their comments.

13 Number twenty.

14 MS. SMALLWOOD: Hi. I'm Cassandra Smallwood, C-
15 A-S-S-A-N-D-R-A S-M-A-L-L-W-O-O-D. With all due respect to
16 the previous speaker, unless you put this in your own
17 backyard where your children live, it's like at night
18 sometimes I have sleepless nights because I don't know
19 what's going to happen next. This community is in limbo
20 because I don't know if I should keep my house, should I
21 sell my house? It's like, if I had known this I might not
22 have even bought it, because I don't know what's the next
23 move that's going to be made.

24 We're just trying to look out for the best
25 interests of our children in our community because if we

1 don't, no one else will. I understand, but we're worth more
2 than two dollar gas.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am. Number twenty-
5 one.

6 MR. WRIGHT: Good evening. William Wright, and
7 you spell that W-I-L-L-I-A-M W-R-I-G-H-T. First of all, I
8 would like to say I represent a lot of poor people, myself
9 and anyone else that's listening/watching. One of the
10 things that I would say is in looking at the draft EIS, I
11 spent some time looking through that. It occurred to me in
12 looking at the analysis that FERC had come to that
13 everything was beautiful.

14 That is, when I was going through the statement,
15 it indicated in every category of the layers of the
16 environment that either the applicant had properly addressed
17 those issues or there was no significant impact. I would
18 just like to say first of all from an environmental justice
19 point of view, looking at Executive Order 12898 and
20 'disparate impact adverse selection has been previously
21 noted.' Let me tell you a little bit about the Karst
22 topography and looking at that, one of the things that made
23 mention in your EIS was the composition of the limestone and
24 the dolomite.

25 Some of you may be familiar with dolomite, but

1 I'm not talking about the movie, I'm talking about --

2 (Laughter)

3 The dolomite is the one that lends itself to that
4 Karst topography and creates these sinkholes. But here
5 again, according to FERC's analysis, the Applicant had
6 either addressed it or there was no significant impact. My
7 grandpa used to tell me, he said 'Boy, let me tell you
8 something. Anytime something appears to good to be true --'
9 Now, he said 'it probably ain't' so. There's too many
10 things in looking at the statement. When we look at the
11 environmental adverse selection about the poor when we're
12 looking at this, most of the time poor people do not have
13 anyone to fight for them so we have to do that for them.

14 In looking at the breakdown of those people that
15 we're getting ready to run over, seven percent are in the
16 less than fifty thousand, some fifty-five percent earn less
17 than thirty-five thousand, forty-three percent earn less
18 than twenty-five thousand. You're talking about some
19 twenty-five percent earn less than fifteen thousand dollars.
20 That means these people do not make seven dollars and
21 twenty-five cents an hour when you get to that lowest layer.

22 So one thing that could be done, looking at the
23 billion cubic feet per day, that's roughly a trillion cubic
24 feet every three years and for the useful life of this
25 facility you are talking about fifty years, that's seventeen

1 trillion cubic feet. Blip! Well, I will send my other
2 comments to you electronically. Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number twenty-two.

5 MR. JAMES: My name is Harry James. I am the
6 District Five County Commissioner for Dougherty County, the
7 district that the compressor station and the gas line will
8 be going through. So I stand here as County Commissioner
9 for District Five, I represent ten thousand twenty-eight
10 voters of that district, and all ten thousand twenty-eight
11 voters of that district says no.

12 I would like to go backward if I could. Here is
13 a report done by EPD, Georgia Environmental Protection
14 Division, September 27, 1999, and it says in the second
15 page: 'As a result of this study, the aquifer in limestone,
16 this study are in classified as the most recharged area in
17 Georgia -- not Dougherty County, as Georgia -- to our
18 Floridian aquifer. In District Five, nowhere in the
19 Southern States is this aquifer closer to the surface than
20 in Dougherty County.

21 In September of 1995 -- September just seemed to
22 always have a ring there -- EPD notified the City of Albany
23 of the case of their biosolid permit. In June 27, 1996 they
24 issued to the City of Albany the stop order on land
25 application of the biosolid and started an investigation.

1 That investigation determined that there was twice the limit
2 of maximum contamination level in the groundwater.

3 So when you talk about if, when and how,
4 contamination has already happened to District Five. Under
5 that contamination, it cost the City and the County and the
6 citizens of this County one million, four hundred fifty-
7 nine thousand, two hundred and forty-eight dollars to
8 rectify that problem, and that was only the ones that was
9 effected by the contamination twice the level. The ones
10 that was below the level still have those problems, so they
11 don't go away once they hit the water system.

12 In consideration to that, we conclude with that
13 the compressor station is in that twenty-five mile area of
14 study that was done in 1999, so we ask you to move it.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number twenty-
18 three.

19 MR. FUNDERBURK: How are you doing today? First
20 of all, my name is Jerry Funderburk, that's J-E-R-R-Y F-U-
21 N-D-E-R-B-U-R-K and I am an owner in Countryside Village.

22 First of all, I've got a couple of questions to
23 ask if you don't mind. The first question is: If we do
24 bring this here, who's going to pay us to move our homes?

25 Second of all, who's going to pay for my

1 children's doctor bills if they end up getting sick and we
2 end up staying?

3 Third of all, like some other people have said,
4 there are four schools in a five-mile radius and my children
5 attend one of those. Me, myself, I have respiratory
6 problems. My children themselves have severe allergic
7 reactions. As a matter of fact today I just got back from
8 the dermatologist because of that situation.

9 I can understand about the gas prices being low
10 but I'm going to let you know, me and probably if you would
11 take a good look out in the crowd, I'm not going to stand
12 for this one bit. I've been working closely with some of
13 the Commissioners and everything else and I'm planning to
14 fight this until the end. This is something that we do not
15 need at all.

16 I don't know if you all have rode around Albany.
17 Albany is a beautiful place to live. We have some very nice
18 places to attend and we want to keep it that way. It might
19 be a small town, but we're living a big city life, I'm going
20 to be straight up with you.

21 You know, I'm just asking you, please deny this
22 situation. This comes from my heart. I hope you'all see it
23 in you'alls heart to deny it because we just can't do this,
24 It's scaring a lot of people, it really is. I understand he
25 says that you've been good to him, to the previous speaker,

1 but I mean are you going to be good to us? That's the
2 question.

3 (Applause)

4 That's all I've got to say because I could go on and on and
5 on. All right. Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number twenty-
8 four.

9 MR. DELOACH: My name is Paul DeLoach, P-A-U-L
10 D-E-L-O-A-C-H. I'm very proud of all the people who come
11 here tonight and all of those of you have spoken. I know
12 most of you, many of you, and to hear the voice of a
13 community rise to the top, pretty much at the same voice,
14 the same level, the same concerns; their children, their
15 livelihood, their future. The decisions you make about
16 placement of the pipeline, the compressor station, the
17 damage you could do to the Karst, our water, our livelihood
18 in this South Georgia Region.

19 I ask you to give very careful consideration to
20 these comments, to these people. They've come here to speak
21 from their heart about the concerns they live closest to.
22 For you not to hear everything and listen to everything that
23 has been said tonight, and I know you will. But there'll be
24 changes in your EIS. We will see a difference in the kind
25 of communication we've gotten from the draft EIS. There

1 will be more due diligence paid. There will be more effort
2 placed on safety and health. We are depending on you to be
3 our voice, our eyes and a part of our conscience.

4 We stand together tonight. You've heard various
5 concerns but there is no one in this room who has any less
6 value for each other, of our environment and for our
7 futures. Listen carefully, listen with your mind and listen
8 with your heart. These are people who care about their
9 community, who care about their future, their health, their
10 children. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. PECONOM: Number twenty-five.

13 MR. EVANS: Hi, my name is Tommy Evans, T-O-M-M-Y
14 E-V-A-N-S, and I'm here tonight because we're all in this
15 thing together. There's no big thing, no little thing, no
16 rich man, no poor man. Albany is one. If anything happens
17 to one, it has happened to all. It's going to affect us all
18 in Albany and we will not allow this to happen. I have
19 respiratory problems. I'm asthmatic. I have to carry an
20 asthma pump everywhere I go. Even if I don't live where
21 this gas is at, I smell it and it don't take much.

22 It ain't nothing that you can build that is safe
23 that is solid rock, because everything is going down except
24 for the word of God. Anything manmade will fail us. We are
25 here today and gone tomorrow and there's so many people out

1 there that are fighting against this right here. and we are
2 going to continue to fight against this right here. We do
3 not need no pipeline running through Albany, Georgia because
4 we have children that have health problems. Our
5 grandparents have health problems and we look at the people
6 that are trying to run this pipeline, the only thing they
7 can think about is a dollar bill.

8 But we will not sell out. We will not be like
9 Judas, sell out for any type of money. There is no money
10 that is worth my health. I would rather have my health and
11 strength and broke and on the street than to have a pipeline
12 killing me. Birds have nests, fox have holes, the Son of
13 Man had nowhere to lay his head, and we did not work as hard
14 as we have, in our lifetime to build houses to have a place
15 for our children to have a place to lay their head when
16 we're dead and gone for someone to come here and destroy is
17 with a pipeline.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number twenty-six.

20 MR. EVANS: Twenty-five was the last one.

21 SPEAKER: We got twenty-eight here.

22 MR. PECONOM: How about twenty-seven?

23 SPEAKER: Yes.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. PECONOM: It is my understanding that we have

1 thirty speakers.

2 MR. A. WILLIAMS: Protocol has been established.

3 I would like to know who lives at this residence, if you
4 permit me -- this is where I think the compressor station --
5 914 Locket Station Road, 914 Locket Station Road.

6 Would you raise your hand? (speaking to the
7 audience) I don't have a name. I just have an address.
8 It's a brand new house at the corner of Locket Station and
9 Oak Ridge Drive. This is new construction. Now right
10 across the street is the proposed clearing of land. I don't
11 know what it is, but it's a big area.

12 For the record, my name is Arthur Kay Williams,
13 A-R-T-H-U-R K-A-Y W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. I'm a former elected
14 official in Ward 4. Sabal Pipeline, now known as the
15 sinkhole project. My concern is all of the linkup with
16 Florida Power and Duke Energy. These are big dollars. It's
17 already been pointed out that these are three states or four
18 states already a governor of my opposing party, the party of
19 the rich. This area is being impacted.

20 The Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act,
21 conferred by the 113th Congress, enabled the Federal Energy
22 Regulatory Commission. Now I understand your time through
23 this act has been speeded up, you only have twelve months.
24 Is that correct? To make a decision, to approve. Well,
25 according to the Act, it says: -- and I sure didn't read it

1 wrong -- You have a deadline to approve or reject the
2 permit. This is FERC. The whole process makes the citizens
3 affected by the proposed pipeline location and the necessary
4 ancillary equipment kind of leary. I've heard conflicts.

5 It is very involved in reading Federal Guidelines
6 and have the oversight. Now I prefer Federal oversight more
7 than I prefer state because I'm a product and a victim of
8 state rights. I am not supposed to be standing here, the
9 Federal Government enacted. Now as an elected official I
10 have represented people pro and con and I have a problem
11 with any elected official who was appointed by the Governor
12 who does not voice the concern of the constituents they
13 represent. I have a concern about that.

14 The reason you were appointed elected official or
15 elected was for representative government. You government
16 employees, you wouldn't have a job if it wasn't for the need
17 of the people. You have an ardent responsibility. Now the
18 fact have to be gathered properly. As an elected official
19 here in 1994 we had a problem and we were told that we
20 couldn't build a wall to prevent flooding in the areas
21 because of Karst sediment rock. Now we also -- it's been
22 said -- now we are an artesian city, one of the only cities
23 that have a natural reclaiming its water from our aquifers.

24 I grew concerned when Bubba Pippens farm sold
25 land, right across from the water field. I am concerned now

1 at Locket Station. Now that's a lot of wooded area. And my
2 concern is if I had built my home and bought the property
3 from Cecil Muskgrove, those are small houses there but they
4 are a lot of land.

5 MR. PECONOM: I'm giving you an extra minute. If
6 you could wrap up and if there is time at the end I will let
7 you come back up.

8 MR. A. WILLIAMS: My conclusion in the wrap-up,
9 my concern is why Water, Gas and Light, the Utility Board
10 did not explain the advantages that they had, and I think
11 the city has been involved in this, whether they admit it or
12 not, because we are Water, Gas and Light Utility Board. My
13 question is, will Albany receive one tap or two taps and at
14 what cost? If Sabal Pipeline is running through my yard, I
15 don't expect I should be the one responsible for paying for
16 the tap if they want for me to be a customer.

17 Now Water, Gas and Light did have two natural gas
18 shaving sites, one in East Albany and one in West Albany. I
19 understand that those have been sold.

20 MR. PECONOM: Sir, I have given you two minutes.
21 I am going to have to cut you off here.

22 MR. A. WILLIAMS: Thank you and my concern is
23 that these things, my question is whether Water, Gas and
24 Light is going to receive -- this was an amendment to bring
25 this through the city. I am in opposition with the state

1 officials, local officials not informing their public in a
2 timely manner. Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you. Number twenty-eight.

5 MR. SMITH: My name is Hampton Smith, H-A-M-P-T-O-
6 N S-M-I-T-H. Now, I thought our government was for the
7 people and by the people. That's not happening. We have
8 two U.S. Senators. I have not heard one thing from them.
9 Now you voted them into office, but I have not heard one
10 thing, they could have stopped this. Now, they'll treat us
11 like we are a soccer ball, being kicked around by big bully
12 oil companies because the bully oil companies financed those
13 campaigns.

14 Now, here's the incident I had, these are live
15 incidents. They burned some targets on Oak Ridge, thirty
16 yards from Colonial Pipeline. They said you couldn't do it.
17 Now if that's detrimental, talking about a thing eight feet
18 down in the ground, what do you think about a thirty inch
19 pipeline coming through here? Number two, I had three
20 sinkholes in my backyard, not fifty yards from my house.
21 The attorney came out and said 'This is the 2nd largest
22 aquifer on the face of the Earth and that pipeline is going
23 right by that ground water.'

24 I got a filtering system because of that, going
25 right by it and you'll be drinking it and you don't know it.

1 You may wake up with your neck turned around or going back,
2 but really, I'm stating facts. Now over in Little Water,
3 they had a rupture over there and they are moving people out
4 of the community real fast. Now what if this had happened
5 with a thirty-six inch pipe? Ruptured 2 o'clock in the
6 morning. It's going to be a lot of dead people. And what's
7 going to happen?

8 So I am telling you, if you are the Committee who
9 run that pipeline down 65 to Florida, either go in the Gulf
10 or go East on 10, and don't put Georgia in that equation.
11 That's what I'd recommend --

12 (Appause)

13 -- and I recommend you get on top of those two U.S.
14 Senators, David Purdue and Isakson. I haven't heard
15 anything from them, and I challenge them, and I challenge
16 you to be concerned about people's health here.

17 We have a large incidence of cancer. Now I got
18 dry skin, I live there. That pumping center is going to be
19 five miles from my house and I got this skin problem here.
20 Some of us have nose problems, nose bleeds, we got all of
21 that. So I challenge you to recommend to send that pipeline
22 down 65 in Alabama and not here in Georgia and causing a lot
23 of, all kinds of health problems. See Georgia used to have
24 an environmental problem anyway. Thank you.

25 (Appause)

1 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number twenty-
2 nine.

3 MR. BLACK: My name is Samuel Black and I am a
4 resident of Dougherty County. Doing my research I see that
5 this pipeline is not just going to go through Dougherty
6 County but I see these different counties here. We've got
7 Brooks County, Colquitt County, Dougherty County, Lee
8 County, Lowndes County, Mitchell County, Stewart County,
9 Terrell County and Webster County.

10 Now one thing I've understood about these type of
11 meetings is when you've put a lot of money into doing
12 blueprints that means that somebody has made a lot of money
13 already designing the pipelines. There's somebody that's
14 already set behind a board to design this pumping station.
15 I hear a lot of people talking, I'm just a concerned parent.
16 I don't represent any organization, I just represent my
17 children and the future children and many of us, we moved to
18 Albany Georgia where they call it the 'good life city'
19 because of the big life feel of a small country town that's
20 close to Tallahassee, that's close to big time cities.

21 When you guys go home tonight, I pray that you
22 sleep and that you think about what you're doing, because
23 it's just like pros and cons. Hey, I survived the gas
24 prices of 3.75-4.00 dollars so to me my health is much more
25 important than two dollar gas at the pump.

1 (Applause)

2 My children's health is a lot more important than
3 saving two dollars at the pump.

4 So I'm just coming to say that by this pipeline,
5 I head a young man say the proposed clearing, the land has
6 already been cleared. They've actually had a truck in my
7 front yard early one morning, and it was cutting the trees
8 down. I thought it was just the tree company until I saw
9 them come back again. So there was no regard for my
10 personal property, they just came and cut the trees down
11 during school hours when kids are supposed to get on the
12 bus, you have these big trucks hauling trees and kids are on
13 the bus stop.

14 Then I rolled by the proposed place again and I
15 noticed that the trees were growing but I really got
16 concerned when I saw that it was cleared off again. So I
17 hear the work 'proposed', I hear the word 'there are some
18 problems,' I hear the word there is 'some problems with the
19 pipeline' but I don't hear the definite answer of the safety
20 of the pipeline; because it seems to me that I hope this
21 meeting is not just a formality so we could say that we just
22 had a meeting just to have a meeting.

23 (Applause)

24 When you go home tonight or you talk to the CEO
25 or those stakeholders, those people who tend to make a lot

1 of money, I always try to teach my kids that you have to
2 live life with integrity and character and you have to do
3 the right thing for people. Not just do things to line your
4 own pocket because in the end the same people who you think
5 that you are not going to need are going to be the same
6 people that you need. So let's just consider what we are
7 trying to say.

8 (Applause)

9 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Number thirty.

10 MS. WATERS: Good evening everyone. My name is
11 Kwajalein Waters and that's K-W-A-J-A-L-E-I-N, Waters W-A-T-
12 E-R-S. Now my concern, I am a 13-year cancer survivor.
13 Now, we have children, my grandson has asthma, my
14 granddaughter has asthma. This pipeline is not going to be
15 secure enough to tell me that their asthma, my asthma, my
16 cancer as a survivor, that I will not receive any other type
17 of medical issues.

18 All right, they said that the oil line was secure
19 and it leaked in the Pacific. It killed wildlife. So what
20 makes you think that this line will not leak and kill us?
21 You know, we are here and we have homes here. I was born
22 and raised in Albany, served in the military, retired from
23 the military and yet the security of our families is what we
24 live for every day.

25 We are here because we have a vested interest in

1 our lives here in Dougherty County and we make sure that our
2 children are safe and our homes are safe. That's why we
3 applaud the APD and all the police departments and everybody
4 for securing us and making sure that we are okay. We just
5 want you to make sure that we are okay here too. You're
6 supposed to look out for our interests and this is our
7 interests we are talking about.

8 If you are elected or appointed or put in the
9 position that could make a difference, then that is your
10 job, to make sure that you make a difference for all of us,
11 not for the ones that are talking about they got a job.
12 Because there are other jobs you could do is clean yards.
13 You could make money cleaning yards. There are a lot of
14 yards that need to be cleaned. But the security of our
15 health is the main focus and our children's lives. They are
16 so much our future and we don't need to kill them off right
17 now. Enough killing is already in the streets. We don't
18 need a pipeline to kill us off.

19 So I applaud and I plead to you, to make sure
20 that this doesn't happen in this area. I own a home, my
21 mother owns a home, my sister owns a home in this area, and
22 my daughter. So we are all in this area and we want to know
23 that we are safe and that's what we put our money in Albany,
24 Georgia for.

25 (Applause)

1 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am. It's my
2 understanding that was the 30th speaker, and the last person
3 to grab a ticket.

4 SPEAKER: You have one more. Number thirty-one.

5 MR. PECONOM: Oh. Number thirty-one.

6 SPEAKER: Excuse me, how much time do we have?

7 MR. PECONOM: Three minutes.

8 SPEAKER: Have you already started?

9 MR. PECONOM: Just now.

10 SPEAKER: All right, restart.

11 (Laughter)

12 SPEAKER: Because I really have more than three
13 minutes' worth of things to say. This is what, basically
14 from our position is that this will be detrimental to our
15 community, first of all from an environmental impact. Many
16 people have spoken to the fact that in Albany we are on the
17 aquifer and we have so many sinkholes. There is no way that
18 you know when one of these shifts might occur. It if occurs
19 and we have an impact on the water supply here, Georgia is -
20 - the leading industry in our state is agribusiness, and it
21 is in the Southwest Georgia area where the overwhelming
22 majority of this takes place.

23 If something happens to the aquifer here in this
24 community it would be devastating not only for our community
25 but our entire state. It would have a greater impact in our

1 community because so much of the area that's around us is
2 dependent on that. There is also the health concerns. If
3 you were to look at the research of the cancer cases that is
4 in our particular area, it is higher here than any other
5 place in the state.

6 We don't know why that that is the case, but I
7 will assure you it is probably because our community has
8 been somewhat of a dumping area for people who have had, who
9 wants -- for environmental issues. It occurs here. We are
10 concerned with it as far as the safety is concerned. Sabal
11 is not a model citizen when it comes to conducting these
12 kinds of activities. They have problems all over the
13 country. Someone sent me an article the other day of
14 something that they had in Arkansas, and then to subject the
15 people in our community to something like this is just
16 unacceptable.

17 It is unacceptable to us and I hope that you can
18 see that it is unacceptable to you. But one of the other
19 issues we have is this. It's an economic one. The leaders
20 in our community are working very diligently to try to
21 overcome the economic impact that has happened to our
22 community. Everybody else is coming out of the recession.
23 We lost so many jobs, so much of our community was adversely
24 impacted by the Great Recession.

25 It has ended in many places but it is even more

1 pervasive here. Some say that our poverty level in our
2 community exceeds thirty percent, thirty percent, so when
3 you end up bringing in a pipeline and you bring it in to
4 these communities, it is going to have an adverse impact on
5 just the value, peoples' value in their homes. Some studies
6 say that you can lose as much as fifty percent of your value
7 because a pipeline has come through. The city has made
8 millions of dollars in investment in that particular area to
9 develop the land for any water, utilities because it's a
10 nice place.

11 Now all of a sudden, Sabal comes in, puts up a
12 six-story compression station within the city limits. If I
13 wasn't living it I would swear I was dreaming. That just
14 seems like for someplace, it just doesn't seem right. Then
15 for them to come in and dump on our community while we are
16 trying to fight ourselves to a position where we can provide
17 a quality of life for the people here. It's just not right.
18 It is not right.

19 Now some say the decision has already been made.
20 I don't subscribe to that because I know if it was your
21 home, or if it is was in your community, and you had the
22 leaders in your community struggling to try to see if we
23 could enhance life quality issues when it comes to health,
24 when it comes to poverty, when it comes to education and
25 then you have someone, a multimillion dollar firm. That's

1 what we're up against, and they know where we are. If they
2 don't, they know it because I've told them and I'm telling
3 you.

4 I want to thank you for coming. I hope that some
5 of the things you've heard here this evening will have some
6 impact in your decision as to whether or not Albany,
7 Georgia, or Southwest Georgia in general is the place to
8 bring the Sabal pipeline. You see, Alabama has the gas,
9 Florida needs it. Why are you coming through Georgia?

10 (Applause)

11 MR. PECONOM: We really appreciate everyone
12 coming out tonight and providing their comments. You've
13 given us a lot to think about. What I would like to do right
14 now is break from the protocol just for a few minutes. If
15 there is anybody in the audience who hasn't spoken who would
16 like to get up and speak you should be welcome to do so and
17 if you've spoken already and you'd like to speak again we
18 will give you another three minutes because I think it's
19 important to hear everybody's comments. We're a
20 little ahead of schedule in terms of what we had planned for
21 the meeting. Is there anybody, just a quick show of hands
22 who would like to speak or would like to speak again? Okay,
23 so there's one. We have at least one person. Two. So
24 maybe a couple of people. If you all wouldn't mind just
25 hanging out for a few minutes, we will go ahead and just

1 come on up one at a time and just please give us your
2 comments. It's a very important subject and we do want to
3 hear from you.

4 MR. ROBERTS: Willie Roberts, W-I-L-L-I-E R-O-B-
5 E-R-T-S. I've brought written letters. I've make comments
6 and I said I would listen tonight but the other speakers
7 have said it all and I agree with them totally but one thing
8 I would like to say is this pipeline is coming across my
9 property. I have two pipelines already on the lot beside my
10 house. They're going to bring this pipeline beside my
11 house, within fifty feet of my house. I just don't see how
12 you all could let them do that.

13 It would be more acceptable on the other side of
14 the lot where the other pipelines are. Now they are going
15 to run the pipelines on both sides. What can I do with this
16 lot? Consider that. Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. If you would just
19 state your name again for the record.

20 MR. HALLMAN: Ed Hallman, for the record. I
21 mainly want to just speak in an addendum fashion about
22 what's going to happen in the future if this pipeline is
23 built, and I've observed this in my practice and that is
24 that you won't be here because you don't have any reason to
25 be here. You will have no responsibility and that's why

1 your responsibility is so critical now. I have represented
2 a family where the father saw his son incinerated by an
3 explosion, and the pipeline company admitted that the
4 pipeline was three inches below the surface but said that
5 that was the farmer's responsibility.

6 So in the future I predict that if this pipeline
7 is put in and you have sinkhole activity and voids created
8 by the pipeline, the pipeline company is going to say 'Well,
9 it's the soils and the soil is the responsibility of the
10 landowner and therefore it's no responsibility of ours.' So
11 they are going to turn around on these people exactly the
12 problem that is the reason why these pipelines should not be
13 built, this pipeline should not be built, and that is that
14 the most important thing here is the fact that in the
15 future, and I've seen it over and over and over again.
16 There is no exception:

17 Pipeline companies blame the landowner for any
18 incident. They blame the property for any incident and they
19 play a very tricky game and you say 'Well, they'll stand up
20 and be accountable' but they won't be and I just wanted to
21 indicate that to you in a strong voice based upon
22 experience.

23 The other thing that's so important here is that
24 the Exxon Valdese matter and the BP release in the Gulf of
25 Mexico were horrific situations caused by incompetence and

1 negligence. Those companies have paid dearly but the
2 landowners are continuing to pay, and even if there is
3 compensation for destruction of lands through these
4 properties, it won't be sufficient to pay these people back.

5 The last thing I want to say is the most bizarre
6 aspect of this is that FERC and this pipeline company would
7 want to put a thirty-six inch pipeline through sensitive
8 Karst soils and create new sinkholes by doing so and that's
9 exactly what'll happen. There is no signs to the contrary.
10 They will create voids. They will create new bases around
11 which sinkholes could occur and under which sinkholes can
12 occur and there is no support.

13 If you build a house on sinkhole property you
14 have to have pilings all the way to bedrock and you cannot
15 use sinkhole property to build on without doing that kind of
16 structure. Nothing like that has even been considered here.
17 But I would just like for you to consider the future and
18 what the outcome is going to be when these pipeline areas
19 fail. The blame will be put on the property owner in some
20 form or fashion and it will cost millions in litigation
21 costs. Thanks.

22 (Appause)

23 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Would anybody
24 else? Yes, sir.

25 MR. JAMES: For the record, Harry James. What I

1 would like to add to what was said previous is that this
2 report is not a report of some agency that does not have the
3 stakeholders in place. This is a report from the agency
4 that is a part of this, and when the impact study does not
5 reflect this. In this report, it talks about sinkholes in
6 the area within a mile of the compression station. It said
7 that they filled an 150-foot diameter sink hole. It also
8 filled a 350-foot diameter sinkhole.

9 So this is an agency that participates in this
10 that has a report that has already said that the perc in
11 this area is below thirty, which means that whenever it hits
12 the top of the soil goes through the soil faster and
13 contaminates the water faster than any other part of this;
14 and this was a study done in a twenty-five mile area which
15 includes the compressor station area.

16 Within a mile of the compressor station area is a
17 test well that they test the water; to this date that is
18 still done. So when you know that this is going on and
19 being done, how can you say that it does not have an impact?
20 Because once the citizens of that area lose their ability to
21 drink water, then where do they get water from? And water
22 is a product that, as stated earlier, that's one of the
23 calling cards for industry to come to this area in the
24 middle of trying to rebuild.

25 So when you look at that, I ask you to not take

1 my word, take the department of protection division study in
2 1999 when the water in that area was contaminated then. So
3 it's not an if it can get contaminated; it already has been.
4 So we ask you to look at that and consider that at that
5 point.

6 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

7 MR. GRAIL: My name is Kevin Grail once again. I
8 wasn't certain if, when I spoke to you earlier, if I had
9 made the point clearly enough that our concern is an
10 environmental justice concern. Thank you. Seventy percent
11 of residents that the compressor station is in the back yard
12 of are minority residents. Seventy percent of them have
13 household incomes of less than thirty thousand dollars. I
14 think all of us realize that we need energy in our country
15 and that it has to get from place to place somehow. It just
16 seems to, I think, most of us here that there are other ways
17 that it can be done and that the pipeline can be done but
18 maybe not in the current route and maybe with an electric
19 compressor station. So there are alternatives to have a
20 lesser impact on the good people of our neighborhood. Thank
21 you.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Anyone else?

24 MS. JONES: Good evening. I am Mirian Gains
25 Jones, fifth generation here in Albany, Georgia, and as you

1 look at all the people that are here, my question is how
2 many of you have lived in Albany all of your life? Stand
3 up.

4 (Group standing)

5 How many of you moved to Albany, Georgia? Let us
6 see you. Stand up, don't be afraid. This is your
7 opportunity.

8 (Group standing)

9 How many of you want to remain in Albany Georgia?
10 Thank you.

11 I come to you tonight because as you can very
12 well see that Albany is our home. We love this place. Our
13 fore-parents lived here. Blood sweat and tears, they built
14 this place. They made a living for us. We have colleges
15 here. Albany State University. We have Darden College now,
16 which is a University. We have all of our elementary
17 schools. Our middle schools.

18 My question to you tonight is you've been working
19 on this for a while but have you actually visited any of
20 these places in the City of Albany? Have you actually taken
21 the time to see our children at work, to see our families at
22 work, to see our community at work? This is where we live.
23 This is our home, and as you can very well see most of us
24 are of age. I think most of us, I know I'm over fifty, a
25 lady never tells her age but I'm going to tell you that

1 much, and I came back to Albany to buy a home.

2 This is my home, moved away but came back here
3 because of the price of homes versus Atlanta and I could
4 afford one down in this area and have plenty of land space,
5 enjoy the trees, enjoy the deer running in the backyard.
6 This is home, enjoy the churches, the community, the
7 entertainment. This is what we live for. We worked hard to
8 buy homes.

9 Homes are not just given away. You have to work
10 hard for them and it's a lifetime investment. My question
11 is, do you plan to move us to homes? Do you plan to pay us
12 out of our homes? Pay us out for what it's going to cost us
13 as far as our love for this place and what we're going to be
14 losing? What is it you have to offer us? Now, there is a
15 lot to be gained by the person who is bringing it in, but
16 what about us?

17 I don't know if any of you have children but
18 think about our children. Think about our grandchildren.
19 Think about our elderly parents, those who are still with
20 us, those who love this community. This is a retirement
21 area. People come to Albany to retire, to live, to get away
22 from the hustle and bustle of city life. This is where they
23 come. Quail hunting, deer hunting, fishing, you name it.
24 Wildlife is here and this is the things that the people in
25 this area enjoy.

1 Think about it, pray about it, please don't make
2 a hasty decision. Let your conscience be your guide because
3 we live here. Put yourself in our place. When you leave
4 this place I know it's been a lot that has been said, but
5 please consider everything that has been said, the lives
6 that are going to be affected by it for years to come. And
7 ask yourself will it be worth it, the decision that you make
8 because whatever decision you make is going to be one you
9 will have to live with the rest of your life. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am. We've got time
12 for one more speaker and then I would like to conclude the
13 meeting. Maybe two, it looks like.

14 MR. HOLEY: My name is Ezekiel Holey E-Z-E-K-I-E-
15 L H-O-L-L-E-Y and I live in Terrell County, the adjacent
16 county to Dougherty County. I live in one of the poorest
17 counties in the State of Georgia next to the Delta, the
18 151st district is a very poor area. We have to come to
19 Albany, Dougherty County to use the hospital. We come to
20 Dougherty County to shop, but we're concerned about the
21 environment. Our school system, we have approximately two
22 thousand students that are in the public schools, and these
23 children have a right to breathe clean air.

24 We must be concerned about others
25 as well as ourselves. I wonder why this pipeline has got to

1 come through Georgia, because it's going to have an impact
2 on the environment. I represent the National Association
3 for the Advancement of Colored People, and the NAACP always
4 has been concerned about pollution. They've been concerned
5 about the quality of life for all people.

6 Seemingly, this pipeline is focused on the low
7 income, the low populated areas that it's coming through and
8 it's going to have an impact. I know it takes me probably
9 three minutes to kind of clear up my thought and take a text
10 but I'm not going to take a text today. But Jesus said one
11 thing in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew: 'Whatever you
12 do unto the least of mine you do it unto me.'

13 (Applause)

14 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

15 Mr. Representative.

16 REP. DUKES: How you doing? You can get up here
17 with me, too, if you want to. Look, I'm going to be point
18 blank. I'm not going to sit here and plead with you
19 anymore; but I got a couple questions to ask and maybe you
20 can answer me.

21 My first question is: What is it going to take
22 for you all to understand we do not want this here? I mean,
23 what is it going to take? Is it going to take for millions
24 of people to stand here and look at you? Because let me
25 tell you something, we got through a major disaster in '94,

1 which was the '94 flood. We can get through this, too,
2 together.

3 My second question is, just like they were
4 saying, Are y'all considering people's lives here? Are
5 y'all considering what we do here and what we are about
6 here? I meant what means the most to us? Some of us have
7 lived here all of our lives. I want to remain here and I
8 want my kids to grow up here and I want my kids' kids to
9 grow up here. Just please find it in your heart, that's all
10 I'm asking. I think you all will make the right decision so
11 that's all I want to know.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

14 MS. PRIMROSE: I'm going to make mine real quick.
15 I talked about the medical profession when I was up here
16 earlier. Louise Primrose. I just want to remind you of
17 this. Remember the story of David and Goliath? The giant -
18 - David slew the giant. We may be small, but we have not
19 lost yet. There is a higher power that we all have to
20 answer to. Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am.

23 REP. DUKES: I'm sorry. I had to yield for all
24 of those people, they are my constituents, they vote for me.
25 Have to pay the rent. But this is the thing that I want to,

1 probably that gives me the greatest concern. It is almost a
2 nine hundred mile pipeline, even the one that is proposed.
3 Why would you put it, your compression station, in a city?
4 Within the city limits?

5 It seems like in nine hundred miles you could
6 have been able to shift it ten miles this way or fifteen
7 miles the other way, but you bring it to the most populous
8 city on the route, one of the most populous cities on the
9 route, and you put a compression station. I just really
10 can't fathom it. It just kind of blows me away. Now these
11 people have not dealt with us fairly.

12 They will lie like a rug. They got on TV and
13 told everybody this was the best thing to happen to Albany,
14 Georgia since we missed '75. Now how can a three foot
15 pipeline and a six-story compression station be the best
16 thing for us? They didn't have a tap in at all, noplac in
17 Georgia. The only reason they put a tap in was so that when
18 they went to court they could say that it added a benefit
19 for Georgia because Georgia's statute says that you cannot
20 operate on the eminent domain, take people's property,
21 unless it provides a benefit.

22 (Appause)

23 They have no intention of selling gas in Georgia
24 or in Albany. From what I understand, the gas has already
25 been sold. So what they have done with that is to, in a

1 position of nullification, they have come and defied and
2 evaded the law. We know who we are, we know who we are. We
3 are the ninth poorest district, Congressional district in
4 the country but people here are proud of what they have. We
5 are not the richest people in the world and we know who we
6 are against. We know who we are fighting.

7 We need somebody to look at this objectively and
8 say this is not right, this is not fair to the people that
9 are there. If it's about money, I understand. They have
10 plenty, we have little but I don't think you all operate
11 from that premise. I would hope that you operate from a
12 premise of universal fairness. Is this the right thing to
13 do for this community? Is this the right thing to do? To
14 address the energy concerns in our country, is there another
15 way?

16 This is a nine hundred mile pipeline, and to
17 bring it into the city, a six-story compressor system --
18 they took it out of the county. It is almost like they said
19 we are going to move it from the county and we're going to
20 show you. We are going to put it in the city. That was
21 wrong.

22 (Appause)

23 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Last one.

24 MR. BENSON: I just want to say that I'm not from
25 Albany, and to be honest I'll probably never live here but

1 the reason that I am at this meeting is because the medical
2 issues that have been discussed that this compressor station
3 might bring, I've lived through them. I've had asthma, I've
4 had breathing problems and it's hard. I even had nose
5 bleeds. I bring tissues and napkins with me everywhere
6 because if I have a nosebleed it would be embarrassing to
7 just have it everywhere.

8 If I had the opportunity to prevent just one
9 person from having to go through the awful things that I
10 have experienced, I would like to take that chance. I would
11 ask you tonight, when you're trying to go to sleep, just
12 imagine how awful it would be if you could not go to sleep
13 because you were having to continuously catch your breath.
14 You might have been laying there for hours, but it would
15 feel like you just finished running a 5K race.

16 Just imagine next time you're in a board meeting
17 at work if you're about to do a presentation and you have a
18 nosebleed and you have to awkwardly exit. Now imagine you
19 had the chance to make sure that happened to no one else,
20 wouldn't you do it?

21 (Applause)

22 MR. PECONOM: May I just ask your name for the
23 record?

24 MR. BENSON: It's Jacob Benson. J-A-C-O-B B-E-
25 N-S-O-N.

1 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. I first came to
2 Albany for this project two years ago and I want to state
3 personally that I was impressed at the time with the
4 passion, the thoughtfulness and civility of the way everyone
5 that I met and spoke with expressed themselves. I have
6 experienced that multiple times since then. I have been
7 here three other times to visit with you and to talk to you
8 and hear your concerns about the project.

9 I want to leave you with three or four points.
10 One, no decision has been made on this project. I want you
11 to be able to tell your neighbors this because I know a lot
12 of people couldn't stay this late so again, no decision has
13 been made. This is a draft Environmental Impact Statement,
14 draft meaning that it can be changed. I can tell you that
15 your comments we will be looking at the compressor station,
16 the route, the health issues, Karst terrain, groundwater,
17 all these things that you have brought up tonight will be
18 reexamined as we go forward.

19 Comments matter, so for those of you that spoke
20 tonight, thank you very much. For those of you who are
21 going to send us written letters, thank you in advance.
22 Again, please tell your neighbors and other folks in the
23 community to send us those comments because those comments
24 are important and those comments matter.

25 As the Project Manager, and Jim is my supervisor

1 here, we will be assessing the draft Environmental Impact
2 Statement and making changes as necessary. So thank you
3 very much for coming and I hope that everyone has a good
4 night. We will be here to answer questions and speak with
5 you for as long as you want to. Thank you again. Good
6 night.

7 (Whereupon, at 8:06 p.m., the public comment
8 meeting adjourned.)

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