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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

Colquitt County High School  
Withers Auditorium  
1800 Park Avenue  
Moultrie, Georgia 31776  
Tuesday, September 29, 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 Federal Energy Regulatory  
4 Commission Staff and I am the Environmental Project Manager  
5 responsible for the Southeast Market Pipelines Project  
6 Environmental Review. With me tonight are Harry Jetti and  
7 Jenny Zalinski, Commission Environmental Staff; Bill Braun,  
8 Mitch Shields and Monica Hagita-Davis.

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

14 The purpose of tonight's meeting is for us, the  
15 Commission Staff to receive comments from you the public on  
16 the draft Environmental Impact Statement we prepared for the  
17 Southeast Market Pipelines Project.

18 The Southeast Market Pipelines Project or the SMP  
19 Project is actually three separate but connected natural gas  
20 transmission pipeline projects that would involve facilities  
21 in Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

22 The Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, Sabal  
23 Trail Transmission and the Florida Southeast Connection  
24 proposed to construct and operate about six hundred and  
25 fifty miles of natural gas pipeline, associated facilities

1 and six new compressor stations to transport up to 1.1  
2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from Alabama to  
3 Florida.

4           In Georgia, Sabal Trail proposes to construct and  
5 operation approximately one hundred and sixty two miles of  
6 pipeline across Stewart, Webster, Terrell, the Dougherty,  
7 Mitchell, Colquitt, Brooks and Lowndes Counties. This  
8 pipeline would be collocated with existing infrastructure,  
9 primarily the Southern Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline,  
10 for approximately one hundred and twelve miles.

11 Additionally, Sable Trail proposes to construct one new  
12 natural gas compressor station in the City of Albany.

13           Lastly, Sabal Trail proposes to construct two  
14 takeoff points in Dougherty and Mitchell Counties. These  
15 takeoffs could facilitate future natural gas related  
16 development and service.

17           Additional information about the SMP Project and  
18 its components can be found on FERC's website, at  
19 [www.FERC.gov](http://www.FERC.gov). The FERC's eLibrary is the Commission's  
20 administrative record and contains copies of the three  
21 applications and all supplemental information provided.  
22 eLibrary also contains copies of our correspondence with  
23 other federal and state agencies, comments and letters  
24 submitted by affected landowners and concerned citizens, and  
25 our request to the applicants for additional environmental

1 information.

2           In the over one thousand comments we received on  
3 this project, many of them expressed concern about the use  
4 of natural gas in Georgia. Georgia is the thirteenth  
5 largest consumer of natural gas in the U.S. and as of 2013  
6 produced no natural gas. Natural gas consumption in Georgia  
7 is supplied by the Interstate Natural Gas Transmission  
8 System.

9           The National Environmental Policy Act requires  
10 the Commission to conduct an environmental review of all  
11 interstate natural gas transmission pipeline projects. The  
12 SMP draft EIS, which was issued on September 4, 2015 and  
13 sent to over six thousand individuals and parties, was  
14 prepared in response to applications filed by the three  
15 companies in the fall of 2014.

16           The Commission Staff has worked for over ten  
17 months to prepare this draft EIS. These ten months are in  
18 addition to the year spent working on the pre-filing  
19 process. In total, almost two years have been spent on this  
20 environmental review. Its purpose is to inform the  
21 Commission about the potential impacts on the human and  
22 natural environments that could result from construction and  
23 operation of the project.

24           An environmental impact statement describes the  
25 environment as it exists today with the potential impacts on

1 the environment, assesses and compares alternatives, and  
2 includes Staff recommendations to avoid, minimize and  
3 mitigate potential impacts.

4           Specifically, the draft EIS includes an executive  
5 summary, an introduction which describes the purpose and  
6 need of the project as well as the purpose and scope of the  
7 environmental review, descriptions of the proposed actions  
8 including proposed facilities, land requirements,  
9 construction procedures, environmental compliance  
10 monitoring, environmental analysis that covers geology,  
11 soils, water resources, groundwater, wetlands, vegetation,  
12 wildlife, fisheries and aquatic resources, special status  
13 species, land use and visual resources, socioeconomics,  
14 impacts on property values, environmental justice, cultural  
15 resources, air quality and noise, compressor station  
16 emissions, reliability and safety, pipeline integrity,  
17 safety standards and cumulative impacts, alternatives,  
18 conclusions and recommendations and fourteen appendices,  
19 maps, drawings, construction plans and references.       This  
20 draft EIS summarizes our comprehensive environmental review  
21 of the project and includes our conclusions and  
22 recommendations concerning the potential impacts on the  
23 environment resulting from construction and operation of the  
24 proposed SMP Project.

25           As I have said before, the Commission issued the

1 SMP draft EIS on September 4, 2015. This began a 45-day  
2 comment period which closes on October 26th. In addition to  
3 comments we will receive later this evening, I expect that  
4 the Commission will receive numerous written and electronic  
5 comments.

6           Comments received, whether they be verbal,  
7 written or electronic are treated the same. There is no  
8 preference given to one type of comment over the other. All  
9 comments received will be addressed in the final  
10 environmental impact statement. Comments may result in  
11 additional analysis and revisions to the environmental  
12 impact statement.

13           As a reminder, comments can be brought in  
14 verbally tonight, in written form submitted via U.S. Mail to  
15 the Secretary of the Commission or electronically via the  
16 FERC website, [www.FERC.gov](http://www.FERC.gov). For your convenience, we have  
17 also provided comment forms in the back of the room that you  
18 may fill out and leave with us tonight.

19           Once again, I want to emphasize that written  
20 comments are given the same weight as verbal comments.

21           After receiving comments on the Draft  
22 Environmental Impact Statement, we will prepare a Final  
23 Environmental Impact Statement. Ultimately, the FERC  
24 Commissioners will determine whether or not to approve the  
25 SMP Project. This decision will be made after a careful

1 review of the applications, the Final Environmental Impact  
2 Statement, and will consider all public comments submitted  
3 on the project.

4           Before we hear from the first speaker, will  
5 everyone please silence their cell phones.

6           As stated in the meeting notice, issued along  
7 with the draft Environmental Impact Statement, in order to  
8 make this meeting as efficient as possible we will be  
9 enforcing a three-minute time limit. Your three minutes  
10 will start when you begin speaking, at two minutes and  
11 thirty seconds the green light will change to yellow. At  
12 two minutes and forty-five seconds the yellow light will  
13 turn to red, and at three minutes an alarm will sound.

14           I recognize the choice each of you have made  
15 tonight to be here and I respect the fact that you are  
16 spending time away from your life, your families and other  
17 responsibilities to participate in this meeting. Therefore,  
18 if you are still speaking when the alarm goes off, I'll  
19 allow you to finish your thoughts and conclude your  
20 comments.

21           The Commission values your comments, and I want  
22 to make sure everyone has an opportunity to comment. I  
23 think time will allow, and after everyone that has signed up  
24 has spoken, I'll provide an opportunity for other speakers,  
25 and an additional three minutes for folks that have already

1 spoken.

2           Your comments are being recorded and will be  
3 entered into the Commission's administrative record. If you  
4 would like a written copy of tonight's meeting, you can  
5 speak to our reporter after the meeting, or you can download  
6 a copy once it has been placed in the Commission's record.

7           Again, I want to make sure everyone has a chance  
8 to have their comments heard. With that, I will now call  
9 the first speaker.

10           Number one, Mr. Alton Paul Burns. Please come  
11 up, thank you, sir. Just a reminder, please spell your  
12 first and last names for the court reporter.

13           MR. BURNS: My Name is Alton Paul Burns, A-L-T-O-  
14 N P-A-U-L B-U-R-N-S. My name is Alton Paul Burns and I am a  
15 lifelong resident of Thomas County. I thank you for  
16 allowing me the opportunity to come here and express my  
17 concerns.

18           You tell us that the adverse effects to the  
19 environment of this pipeline will be less than significant.  
20 Spectra tells us that the safety record is better than  
21 average but every time that there is a pipeline rupture or  
22 an explosion, you tell us that you're sorry and you don't  
23 understand how this could happen; and it happens again and  
24 again and again.

25           These pipelines have thousands of gallons of PCBs

1 injected to lubricate the inside of the pipe. The product  
2 they carry have contaminated billions of gallons of water to  
3 extract the gas from deep within the earth. There is no  
4 denying the devastation that is caused by the coal, oil and  
5 gas industries every day in this country. So why should we  
6 the people of Alabama, Georgia and Florida accept the risk  
7 of destroying our good drinking water for the profits of  
8 this private company from Texas?

9           Truly I say to you that our water, soil and air  
10 is worth more than your gas. We do not need this dangerous  
11 pipeline. There is no public convenience or necessity, only  
12 hazards that this project will pose to the communities  
13 through which it will traverse. Five counties and two of  
14 the largest cities in Georgia that lie in the path of it  
15 have passed resolutions against this pipeline. I stand with  
16 thousands of other citizens against it and ask you to place  
17 the safety and public health of the citizens above the  
18 corporate profits of this foreign invader, to deny  
19 permission to Sabal Trail Transmission.

20           There are safer alternatives. There is renewable  
21 energy like wind and solar. We can even harness the energy  
22 from the waves of the ocean and the currents beneath the  
23 sea. A lot of good jobs there, no doubt. I was so moved by  
24 this that I had a 7KW solar panel array system installed at  
25 my home this year. It pollutes no air, no water and it

1 doesn't pollute the soil, and it created a lot of green  
2 jobs.

3 I encourage everyone to follow my lead on that.  
4 The time is now to curb our carbon emissions and to protect  
5 our precious water and soil, then all future generations  
6 will know that we left a legacy behind that, just like  
7 myself came and spoke in defense of the earth and tried to  
8 warn you. Even the Pope just came from halfway around the  
9 world to warn you.

10 In closing, I'm going to say to you that this  
11 earth does not belong to us and we must be the change that  
12 we wish to see in this world. I thank you.

13 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Burns.

14 Mr. John Quarterman.

15 MR. QUARTERMAN: I'm John Quarterman and it's  
16 spelled J-O-H-N Q-U-A-R-T-E-R-M-A-N, like quarterback  
17 except Quarterman. Right. I'm the president of WWALS  
18 Watershed Coalition. That one's harder, WWALS for  
19 Withacoochie, Willacoochie, Alapaha, Little, and Upper  
20 Suwannee Rivers. I can spell those for you later.

21 This pipeline proposes to cross, I say our as it  
22 is in WWALS territory, it starts in Moultrie, Okapilco  
23 Creek, which runs into our Withacoochie River, which this  
24 pipeline also proposes to cross, and our Suwannee River.

25 WWALS' members have been successful in getting

1 Sabal Trail to move off of the Withacoochie River in Florida  
2 but all that did was far as the Suwannee River was move it  
3 upstream. I thank John Peconom for going down to Florida  
4 and talking to the affected landowners and looking at some  
5 of the sinkholes; however, they're not just at the locations  
6 that you looked at. Of course I don't know, maybe you went  
7 down to the Suwannee and looked as well, but let's go back  
8 to Georgia for a moment.

9 (Displaying posters)

10 In Georgia -- you saw this yesterday in Albany,  
11 but the audience has not. In Georgia there is a plethora of  
12 sinkholes in Dougherty County, Mitchell County, Brooks  
13 County and Lowndes County according to one of the documents  
14 that was produced that's in this DEIS Appendix H, I believe.  
15 It lists a long series of sinkhole risks on the pipelines in  
16 those counties that I mentioned; Dougherty, Mitchell, Brooks  
17 and Lowndes.

18 A few weeks ago in Lowndes County, a sinkhole  
19 opened up next to Shiloh Road that was big enough that it  
20 was a concern whether it would eat the road or the nearby  
21 buildings. It was very similar to a sinkhole that had  
22 opened up a couple years ago, another road, Snake Nation  
23 Road - we've got these great names in these parts.

24 It did eat a road. It cost the country a half  
25 million dollars to replace it. These are in straight line

1 with another old sinkhole call Shadrick Sink, which is the  
2 one that caused the Valdosta to have to sink its water wells  
3 twice as deep than it originally intended.

4           So a pipeline drilling through this kind of area  
5 could cause another sinkhole which could cause similar kinds  
6 of problems. It doesn't have to be, the problems don't have  
7 to be near where the pipeline is. In Florida, the Suwannee  
8 River Water Management District did a dye test where it put  
9 in dye on one side of the Suwannee River in Suwannee County.  
10 So the dye came up in Madison County, on the other side of  
11 the river next to the Withacoochee River in the spring and  
12 some of it came up in springs right near where this pipeline  
13 proposes to go.

14           I'm going to say one more thing and then I will  
15 leave it to the next which is, the Florida Department of  
16 Environmental Protection recently did a study in which it  
17 looked at what's coming out of water wells throughout the  
18 State of Florida and it finds salts and sulfates and other  
19 solids dissolved coming up far inland from the sea, not just  
20 a few miles but tens of miles, which indicates that things  
21 move a long way underground.

22           So some of these PCBs for example that Alton was  
23 talking about, which Spectra's own SEC annual statement says  
24 'may contaminate gas going through these pipelines.' If  
25 some of those got into the aquifer through a break, a

1 sinkhole, there's no telling what it might contaminate.

2           The pipeline is a bad idea. I know you said your  
3 DEIS is not a decisional document, but that means he's not  
4 ever going to recommend cancelling it. But if you put  
5 enough of this stuff in there, perhaps the Commissioners  
6 would actually come to this decision on their own. Thank  
7 you.

8           MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Quarterman.

9           Mr. Mark Woodall.

10          MR. WOODALL: Hi, my name is still Mark Woodall,  
11 like it was last night; M-A-R-K W-O-O-D-A-L-L and I'm still  
12 representing ten thousand members of the Sierra Club here in  
13 Georgia. Twenty five thousand members in Florida and 2.5  
14 million supporters nationwide and we still say that this  
15 pipeline is not necessary and it is certainly not  
16 convenient, and the more folks I talk to in Southwest  
17 Georgia it becomes clear just how inconvenient it is.

18          As to the need, when I was driving down here I  
19 came through Taylor County, Georgia where over two thousand  
20 acres of solar panels are going in. The largest is nine  
21 hundred acres, one hundred and thirty-one megawatts being  
22 built by AKA BMC. Georgia Power will have over one thousand  
23 megawatts installed by the end of 2016 thanks to the  
24 advanced solar initiative of the Georgia Public Service  
25 Commission. So Georgia is going light years ahead of

1 Florida on solar power which seems odd.

2 But what's going on here is Florida Power and  
3 Light and Duke Energy would build over three thousand  
4 megawatts of new fossil fuel generation with this pipeline  
5 if it's approved. Across the country next year apparently  
6 Florida Power and Light has installed some ten thousand  
7 megawatts of solar and wind, more than any other utility,  
8 but in Florida where they have the monopoly they pretty much  
9 squashed solar power and energy efficiency at the Florida  
10 PSC. So because of profit, they are not going forward with  
11 the alternatives.

12 Secondly, we would say that putting a thirty-six  
13 inch pipeline through Southwest Georgia through all this  
14 Karst terrain with over one hundred and fifty potential  
15 sinkholes identified by the contractor, we would say that is  
16 reckless.

17 Thirdly, since last night we've been doing some  
18 more research on the contractors. It appears that Merjent,  
19 M-E-R-J-E-N-T is a lead contract on this environmental  
20 impact statement.

21 We can't find where they've been paid directly by  
22 Spectra but they have done work for Transco, which as you  
23 know is building the Hillabee Expansion in Alabama to which  
24 what we call the sinkhole trail pipeline will be connecting.  
25 What we would call that is a conflict of interest. This is

1 what the Merjent website says: 'Pipelines remain the most  
2 widely used method of transporting oil and gas resources in  
3 North America. We route them, we survey them, permit them,  
4 inspect them and provide operations and maintenance support  
5 services. We know pipelines and have supported all aspects  
6 of constructing new and maintaining existing pipeline  
7 systems across North America.'

8 We would say that that appears to make this  
9 company a biased outfit when it comes to doing the EIS for  
10 the people of the United States. At least we thought that  
11 FERC was supposed to be representing the people of the  
12 United States.

13 Secondly, Cardno Entrex is a contractor, a direct  
14 contractor for Sabal Trail - Spectra, Spectra rather, and  
15 they have done significant work on the pipeline design and  
16 Karst analysis. Cardno provided Appendix H from which these  
17 sinkhole maps were taken so it seems inappropriate for us  
18 for the Spectra contract to be supplying this.

19 So I guess we just say, we're kind of wondering  
20 if FERC is doing an objective review of all this considering  
21 it appears all the documents are being supplied by people  
22 that are paid by the industry. Thank you.

23 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Woodall.

24 Mr. Daniel Dunn.

25 MR. DUNN: Yes, my name is Daniel Dunn. That is

1 D-A-N-I-E-L D-U-N-N. I would request permission, I know  
2 we have three minutes, but the speaker behind me is Harrison  
3 Isaacs and he's got three minutes also. Can we combine it  
4 and make six minutes?

5 MR. PECONOM: So, you're going to do six minutes?

6 MR. DUNN: Yes, but if I don't finish in six  
7 minutes, then we would finish the rest afterwards.

8 MR. PECONOM: Three for you and three for him?

9 MR. DUNN: Yes.

10 MR. PECONOM: That's fine. That's what we're  
11 doing. and then keep in mind, if you don't finish we'll  
12 open it back up later on.

13 MR. DUNN: Well, thank you for hearing us  
14 tonight. I'm here on behalf of G.B.A. Associates, LLC and  
15 Mr. Gregory K. Isaacs. Unfortunately, there has been little  
16 to no effort on the part of Sabal Trail to communicate with  
17 us. They have continued to not respond to our request for  
18 information and requests for meetings. We have made these  
19 requests directly with Sabal Trail with filings with FERC.  
20 Sabal Trail continues to operate under the darkness of  
21 misinformation. We have documented these efforts and Sabal  
22 Trail's lack of response. These will be available in coming  
23 litigation.

24 On page 3-134 of the draft EIS, FERC directed  
25 Sabal Trail to communicate and work out these routing

1 issues, which they have not done. No updated alignment  
2 sheets have been provided. On page 4-30 the map figure 4.3-  
3 2.2 is the first time we've seen these routes, as Sabal  
4 Trail has not supplied this information. These options  
5 should be researched with transparency and in good faith  
6 discussion, which has not happened.

7           It appears that variation that detours south of  
8 the city limits would be the best other than the collocated  
9 route. They appear to only be concerned about themselves  
10 and what they can conquer. It makes me think of a bull in a  
11 china closet. There is no way for a for-profit corporation,  
12 there is no reason for them to conduct business like this.

13           On page 3-134 of the draft EIS, Sabal Trail  
14 states, 'Moultrie Community Planning Department were not  
15 aware of our development.'

16           While the Planning Department may not know of the  
17 discussion, members of the Development Authority and real  
18 estate agents in the community are aware, and please  
19 understand the process of site selection for a retail  
20 development does not require the Planning Department at this  
21 stage of the negotiations. We have invested thousands of  
22 dollars to get to this point with the development. The very  
23 reason we purchased the property was because of the tract  
24 being the best retail development opportunity on the south  
25 side of the Moultrie city limits.

1           We also supplied the Sabal Trail appraiser the  
2 maps, renderings and details of the development. We then  
3 filed a complaint, 201506085102 on the FERC docket to  
4 correct this information. The statement that no one knows  
5 of this development is false and untrue. We have repeatedly  
6 requested FERC and Sabal Trail to return to the preferred  
7 collocate route with the SONAT Pipeline.

8           As SONAT has stated, the route appears to cross  
9 and deviate from where Sabal Trail is having difficulty with  
10 landowners and collocated route. We have asked Sabal Trail  
11 repeatedly where any obstruction is located that requires  
12 such an expensive Greenfield reroute, of which Sabal Trail  
13 has not come forth in good faith to discuss the specific  
14 location of such an obstruction.

15           In the filings, Sabal Trail has indicated  
16 residential and commercial development. There is no  
17 commercial development impacted and the only residential  
18 obstruction to be one small vacant house on Bell Trace Court  
19 Southeast. Let me repeat that. There is no commercial  
20 development impacted, and the only residential obstruction  
21 appears to be the one vacant house on Bell Trace Court  
22 Southeast.

23           We have requested Sabal Trail to use other  
24 methods of their own choice to get through this area such as  
25 necking down, dragging in the pipe for installation. We

1 understand that boring method can also be used as well as  
2 horizontal and directional drilling. These are normal  
3 requirements for pipeline construction. Also the small  
4 foreclosed house that is mentioned could be purchased for  
5 some sixty thousand dollars or less, then removed for  
6 pipeline installation. This is the best route, collocated  
7 with SONAT. Let me repeat that. This is the best route,  
8 collocated with SONAT.

9 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Dunn, I want to interrupt you  
10 for just one second. Is Mr. Isaacs going to continue his  
11 comments or? I just want to be fair to everybody and you  
12 know if you give him.

13 SPEAKER: I will give him my time.

14 SPEAKER TWO: He yielded his time to him so.

15 MR. PECONOM: I just wanted to make sure I'm fair  
16 to everybody in giving them the three minutes. If you are  
17 going to give him your time, I will let him finish and then  
18 have that total be six.

19 SPEAKER: So I need to speak now, is that what  
20 you're saying?

21 MR. PECONOM: The three of you all signed up to  
22 speak, right?

23 SPEAKER: Right.

24 MR. PECONOM: And you are going to not speak and  
25 give your three to him?

1           That's fine. Okay.

2           MR. DUNN: Sabal Trail has been purchasing right  
3 of way on Greenfield route and they are now biased and  
4 incapable of making the correct decision to return to the  
5 SONAT collocate. As the Commission has long recognized,  
6 collocation can have significant benefits by reducing  
7 impacts to the environment and surrounding communities as  
8 well as safety of pipelines and its operation. As we have  
9 reached an impasse with Sabal Trail on routing issues, we  
10 had requested the use of FERC's Advanced Dispute Resolution  
11 process to allow for some honest communication.

12           Sabal Trail has refused to come to the table in  
13 good faith and has refused to participate in the ADR  
14 Process. Sabal Trail forced their way on our property with  
15 a statute we feel was not intended for building a huge  
16 interstate pipeline, it is for local utilities and energy  
17 companies doing business in their communities, to expand and  
18 service their local communities here in Georgia.

19           Sabal Trail does not have any active customers we  
20 know of in Georgia and they are not designated as an  
21 operating utility at this point. It's confusion how a state  
22 statute is used to gain access to private property here in  
23 Georgia, when Georgia citizens receive no benefit. They  
24 should be using Federal Statutes and Federal Court if  
25 they're going to condemn Georgia landowners. We have filed

1 an excepted motion to intervene 20150203-5076 with FERC, and  
2 have asked and requested FERC's assistance.

3 We will be looking forward to your help in the  
4 coming future. With the existence of these issues of  
5 misinformation, corporate misbehavior and lack of good faith  
6 negotiation, we request the following: In the event  
7 Variation Three is adopted or any route through the property  
8 of G.B.A. Associates and Mr. Isaacs, then FERC would preempt  
9 and not allow the rights of eminent domain and condemnation  
10 on these properties alone.

11 Let me repeat that. In the event a Variation  
12 Three is adopted on any route through the property of G.B.A.  
13 Associates and Mr. Isaacs, then FERC would preempt and not  
14 allow the rights of eminent domain and condemnation on these  
15 properties alone.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you  
17 tonight.

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Dunn. Mr. Isaacs.

19 MR. ISAACS: I gave him mine.

20 MR. PECONOM: Greg Harrison.

21 (Audience remark off the record)

22 MR. PECONOM: Okay. Ms. Sandra Jones.

23 MS. JONES: Hi. Thank you all for coming. My  
24 name is Sandra S-A-N-D-R-A Jones J-O-N-E-S.

25 This pipeline is coming through two tracks of

1 land that I own in Colquitt County. The first one is the  
2 family farm. My comments tonight, I apologize to the crowd,  
3 are going to be very personal and direct and specific to my  
4 situation.

5           Okay, the farm has been in my family, it's about  
6 a one hundred and fifty acres, for over a hundred years.  
7 October the 9th this year it's going to be recognized at the  
8 Georgia State Fair in Perry, Georgia for being inducted into  
9 the Georgia Centennial Family Farm Program, because seventy  
10 acres of the original farm that my great grandfather started  
11 in the late 1800s is still in operation today. This  
12 pipeline is going to cut right through the middle of that  
13 farming operation.

14           The other site is a twenty-five acre site where  
15 my home is. To get through here, this pipeline is going to  
16 come through my backyard but it's going to cross the  
17 wetlands and the branch that runs behind and beside my home.  
18 This wetlands is on the National Wetland Inventory. It  
19 originates in that spot. It is an uplands recharge area for  
20 the Colotony River. This wetland flows into a pond less  
21 than a mile away, flows out of that into Little Creek and  
22 then into the Colotony River.

23           In cutting their right-of-way for this pipeline,  
24 they're going to take out a hundred feet wide of oaks and  
25 virgin pine that are over a hundred years old. I have been

1 trying desperately to work with these people to come up with  
2 reroutes. I have proposed approximately seven reroutes.  
3 They've all been off-rejected. The first four are referred  
4 to as Moultrie deviation 1, 2, 3, and 4, but these people  
5 are not acting in good faith, just the way Mr. Dunn said.

6           They make promises. They promised to send out  
7 engineers. I never saw an engineer. They are using old  
8 maps and they are submitting in incorrect data. The  
9 pipeline now, even though they're rejecting mine, they  
10 accepted my neighbor's and now they are going to come  
11 underneath the SONAT line within fifty feet of my back door  
12 and sixty feet of my well, and come right down the property  
13 line.

14           I ask you to help us. They need to move this  
15 line further north and east to avoid the wetlands and the  
16 centennial farm. They also need to take seriously the  
17 reroutes. That's the last reroute I gave them came through  
18 the farm but at a different point, and when we were under  
19 court order survey, the agent sat in my backyard and said  
20 the last reroute you gave me was one hundred percent off  
21 your line. I said 'you know what, you haven't even looked  
22 at it.' It came straight across the property line within my  
23 property. So we need your help, guys. Thank you.

24           MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Ms. Jones.

25           Mr. Greg Yarborough.

1                   MR. YARBROUGH: Hi. My name is Gregory  
2 Yarbrough. It's G-R-E-G-O-R-Y Y-A-R-B-R-O-U-G-H. Sandra  
3 Jones is my mother, and definitely am concerned about the  
4 route that it is taking through the family farm. But I want  
5 to speak tonight, some of the considerations that have been  
6 given to Spectra by the county as far as minimum coverage.  
7 The County Commissioners, when they were first discussing  
8 the pipeline with Spectra, they were promised that we would  
9 be able to do a five foot minimum coverage through  
10 agricultural land because of our subsoiling farming  
11 techniques.

12                   My understanding is they have now reneged on that  
13 and it is up to each individual landowner to negotiate that  
14 point. They have just chosen to ignore the promises that  
15 were made. The other thing I want to speak about real quick  
16 is SONAT is very uncomfortable with all of the line  
17 crossings that Spectra has put forth, is my understanding.

18                   I understand that seventy-four being proposed at  
19 the moment. The Georgia Department of Natural resources  
20 recommended a hundred foot separation of both of these lines  
21 when it crossed rivers and other environmentally sensitive  
22 areas. We would like to see a hundred foot no-cross  
23 situation instead of this seventy-four times that it is  
24 going back and forth. We actually feel that the line  
25 crossing that is adjacent to my mother's property is a

1 retaliatory thing for them for us not submitting to their  
2 authority to come and do their survey.

3           We definitely have some issues with the old line;  
4 Georgia DNR recognizes some issues with the old line. We  
5 want FERC to recognize those issues, and let's maintain some  
6 minimal distance and let's maintain the minimal coverage  
7 that Spectra first agreed to.

8           Thank you very much.

9           MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Yarbrough.

10          Mr. Jonathan Waters.

11          MR. WATERS: Good evening. My name is Jonathon  
12 Waters, J-O-N-A-T-H-O-N W-A-T-E-R-S. and I'm the attorney  
13 for several landowners in Mitchell County and in Colquitt  
14 County. First, I just want to put on the record that I  
15 object to everyone being limited to three minutes. I know  
16 FERC can limit it to three minutes when there's a large  
17 amount of people and we've been allocated two hours. We're  
18 only thirty minutes into it. I want the record to reflect  
19 there's twenty people in the audience here tonight and  
20 there's eleven speakers. So I object first to it being  
21 limited to three minutes.

22          MR. PECONOM: I'm going to give you another three  
23 at the end here.

24          MR. WATERS: Okay. My family has been in South  
25 Georgia since 1783. South Georgia is an area not uncommon

1 for generations of families to grow up here; for founders of  
2 churches, their families still to be going to churches.  
3 There is a litany of issues to do with this pipeline that  
4 three hours wouldn't do it justice. The EPA did a review  
5 that basically stated there was no benefit to the State of  
6 Georgia, though innumerable costs to the state.

7           You mentioned tonight in your PowerPoint  
8 presentation that there's going to be a compressor station  
9 is Albany - Dougherty County, there's now going to be a tap  
10 in Mitchell County, basically responses to objections made  
11 years ago when the pipeline first was going to come here.  
12 But I would put it to you all that those are not active  
13 customers of this pipeline. The capacity for this pipeline  
14 was created for Florida Power & Light, and it's a redundant  
15 pipeline.

16           I saw a letter from the director to a  
17 Congressman, and not on this pipeline, another; but  
18 basically was stating what it does when it reviews the EIS  
19 and creates the EIS. It said 'We look at the law, the facts  
20 and the science', okay and I just think that in this  
21 situation if you look at the law -- a gentleman spoke today  
22 about eminent domain statute in Georgia. They are using one  
23 for a local utility which is what they are doing. Even in  
24 the EIS, it states that a lot of people in South Georgia  
25 have been complaining about the eminent domain and how it's

1 done and in the EIS, FERC states it's the certificate being  
2 issued that gives eminent domain through the Natural Gas Act  
3 to Sabal to do the things that they need for eminent domain.

4 That would appear to me to be a position by a  
5 quasi-judicial proceeding with FERC that gives a statement  
6 saying that this is what the law is on this issue. Yet,  
7 Sabal is going around as a bully through South Georgia,  
8 suing individuals in these various counties over this very  
9 issue.

10 You all may not know how Belgium got in World War  
11 One. The Germans wanted to send troops across Belgium in  
12 World War One. The Germans said 'Hey, we will pay you to  
13 allow us to send our troops across Belgium in World War  
14 One.' The King of Belgium said 'We're a country. We're not  
15 a road.' South Georgia is a home. It is not an easement  
16 for a pipeline serving people in Central Florida. Thank  
17 you.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

20 Mr. Waters was our last speaker who signed up, so  
21 as I said before I'm going to go ahead and open it up for  
22 any new speakers who didn't sign up previously. Is anybody  
23 interested who hasn't spoken?

24 SPEAKER: I'll make a comment.

25 MR. PECONOM: Okay, please don't forget to spell

1 your first and last name for the court reporter.

2 MR. ISAACS: Harrison Isaacs, H-A-R-R-I-S-O-N I-  
3 S-A-A-C-S.

4 MR. PECONOM: After Mr. Isaacs speaks, I will go  
5 ahead and give anybody who'd like to again speak another  
6 three minutes.

7 MR. ISAACS: You could go on what Ms. Jones said  
8 about the trees that they were taking out. That is one of  
9 the concerns that we have with Sabal Trail's pipeline coming  
10 through G.B.A.'s property and we've got the, I understand  
11 that Sabal Trail is going to use the Federal courts and  
12 Federal statutes to overrule local statutes. but we did have  
13 the local tree committee file with FERC about the oak trees  
14 on our property which would be removed if the pipeline was  
15 put in place, and I just wanted to make a comment on that.

16 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

17 Anybody who has spoken previously and would like  
18 to speak again you are welcome to now. Just go ahead and  
19 come on up. Yes, sir.

20 If you wouldn't mind just stating your name for  
21 the record.

22 MR. WATERS: Jonathan Waters again. I will just  
23 state one or two things. The Bells, which have property in  
24 Mitchell County whom I represent. They have a piece of  
25 property that they have placed in timber, okay. It also is

1 a location for gopher tortoises. Gopher tortoises reside on  
2 this property. The gopher tortoise is a keynote species.  
3 That means there are over sixty different other animals that  
4 use gopher tortoise holes.

5           So if FERC, which is of course a federal agency,  
6 but it looks at the science, if you looked at just the  
7 science of that, that fact alone, it would be a reason not  
8 to site this pipeline across the Bells' property. There's  
9 property values issues. Okay, you've got property values,  
10 I'll give you an example. Wells Fargo, I think a year ago  
11 or two years ago released basically a mortgage lending  
12 criteria, that if you had a home and let's say they build  
13 this pipeline and you have a home in Southwest Georgia, and  
14 you go and you want to get a mortgage from Wells Fargo for  
15 that home, if there is a pipeline across your property,  
16 they're not going to lend money on it. You're not going to  
17 be able to get a mortgage on it.

18           Wildlife displacement, secondary pipeline issues,  
19 seventy-four times it crisscrosses the other pipeline. What  
20 huge environmental risks that that alone creates with the  
21 potential for an explosion in the pipeline, the second  
22 pipeline, just a huge potential for a disaster in an area.  
23 Why should Southwest Georgia shoulder this burden when they  
24 don't get a benefit? Like I said, there is a litany of --  
25 Mrs. Jones Centennial Farm. Like I stated, numerous

1 families down here have farms.

2           This is a great farming area. We rank first in  
3 peanuts. We rank high up in pecans. Crash row crops,  
4 broccoli and things like that that are grown in Southwest  
5 Georgia. You just run such risk. I mean, I've got a degree  
6 in agriculture from the University and a Master of Science  
7 in Water Resources from the University of Georgia. The  
8 aquifer under this area is priceless and just the risk you  
9 run of affecting that. I mean, that alone, the aquifer here  
10 is a reason not to site the pipeline here when there is  
11 other routes. The initial route I think that was proposed  
12 was through north Florida. Another proposed route was  
13 through the Gulf of Mexico.

14           Thank you for your time.

15           MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Anyone else? Yes,  
16 sir.

17           MR. BURNS: My name is Alton Burns, A-L-T-O-N  
18 B-U-R-N-S. Sabal talks a lot of the transparency but they  
19 don't want to share their information with the other local  
20 pipeline company that's coming through here. They hide  
21 things and don't communicate well with them. If they do  
22 that they don't want to share with us, either.

23           The gentleman said that water is the most  
24 precious commodity that we have on earth. If you don't  
25 believe me, ask somebody from California and what they are

1 going through. Georgia is a very beautiful, green state and  
2 we have to be stewards of the rivers and we have to take  
3 care of our precious water here. We should not have this  
4 here pipeline shoved down our throat.

5           With eminent domain, you know, that's bullying  
6 people and pushing people around, people that own their  
7 centennial farms or people who have lived there all their  
8 life and it's just not fair that a private company from  
9 Texas or any other state in the United States can be allowed  
10 to do that. So I'm asking what would it take for FERC to  
11 change their mind or go against the Sabal Trail Pipeline  
12 when there are so many safer alternatives. You know we must  
13 protect our water and that's something I'm very passionate  
14 about and why I came here tonight. So thank you.

15           MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

16           Yes, sir.

17           MR. YARBROUGH: Thank you, John. Greg Yarbrough  
18 again. One thing about the minimum coverage that we talked  
19 about before, you know fifty years ago when the SONAT  
20 pipeline was put down, thirty inches seemed reasonable.  
21 Now, five feet seems reasonable to us, but farmer practices  
22 in the future may change that even more. So I definitely  
23 think that is something that we need to consider as far as  
24 minimal coverage.

25           The other thing that I would like to be sure is

1 on the record is the EPA study of the pipeline, sister  
2 agency to FERC, was against FERC allowing the pipeline to  
3 come through Southwest Georgia and North Florida primarily  
4 because of all the Karst features, the different limestone,  
5 potentials for a sinkhole to occur in or around the pipeline  
6 area and cause a rupture. So just the very nature of our  
7 ground makes it not nearly as suited as some other  
8 alternative routes.

9 Thank you, sir.

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you. In my opening remarks,  
11 I try to emphasize the word draft, because that is what this  
12 is, a draft. As I said before, it is not a decisional  
13 document. I wanted to clarify that because many people  
14 think a decision has been made and in fact it has not.  
15 Ultimately the Commission will decide, but they have not  
16 decided at this time.

17 A draft is what this is. I stood up a year ago,  
18 down the road a year ago and I've spoken with many of you  
19 before, and told you that you are, and I still believe this  
20 today, the experts on this area. You all know this  
21 property and land better than we do.

22 If we didn't quite capture it, didn't get it  
23 right. That's why these meetings are important for you to  
24 tell us these things. I am very happy to make revisions to  
25 this document to look at issues again. I think based on the

1 comments we received last night and tonight we will be doing  
2 that. So again, I just want to emphasize that this is a  
3 draft.

4 Your comments are very helpful. I don't claim to  
5 be perfect. I am primarily responsible for writing this  
6 document. Your comments are helpful. I appreciate them.

7 If there is anybody else who would like to speak? You want  
8 to come up and make some additional comments?

9 MR. QUARTERMAN: I would like to say something,  
10 please.

11 MR. PECONOM: Yes sir, Mr. Quarterman. I am  
12 trying to be fair with everybody. I don't mean to be  
13 nitpicky, but just timing, and who's first.

14 MR. QUARTERMAN: I've brought another visual aid,  
15 with the spelling of Withacoochie.

16 I'm still John Quarterman, J-O-H-N Q-U-A-R-T-E-  
17 R-M-A-N and I'm still President of WWALS Watershed  
18 Coalition, but mostly I am speaking for myself at the  
19 moment.

20 I remember a year ago when John Peconom told us  
21 all that FERC could require more top cover on top of the  
22 pipeline. FERC could require more top cover on top of the  
23 pipeline and had done so in other states. I can go back and  
24 check the video I took at the time. I'm pretty sure that's  
25 what you said.

1           Now that's not exactly a promise, but I didn't  
2 see that in the draft EIS anywhere, so that's one thing you  
3 could have done but you haven't. And I don't know if you  
4 all are aware that other landowners have been told that  
5 Sabal Trail can drill horizontally under their trees. Sabal  
6 Trail didn't tell you that? FERC didn't tell you that? I'm  
7 not really surprised that you're finding Sabal Trail is not  
8 very cooperative.

9           WWALS Watershed Coalition is fighting the same  
10 Florida Department of Environmental Protection that came out  
11 with, as I mentioned the study, actually I didn't mention  
12 this one. The same DEP came out with a study showing that  
13 the most vulnerable area of the Floridian aquifer in Florida  
14 is exactly where Sabal Trail wants to go through the Central  
15 Florida Springs heartland. That geography does not stop at  
16 the state line.

17           It is the same geography in the Valdosta Lime  
18 Sink where those recent sinkholes that I mentioned, and  
19 where the older ones that you saw the picture of earlier  
20 were. The same DEP proposes to give a permit to FERC to  
21 drill under the Suwannee River. WWALS is fighting that and  
22 Sabal Trail is trying to quash all discovery, saying we  
23 can't ask them or DEP to give us anything. They're also  
24 trying to quash, I forget, I think it's five major areas of  
25 evidence that we want to bring in this case.

1           If this pipeline is so good, why is the evidence  
2 being quashed? One thing that has been quashed all along is  
3 the landowner list. This is being quashed because of the  
4 FERC rule which was put in place because of fears of  
5 terrorism after 9/11, yet Sabal Trail is claiming in this  
6 case in Florida that any risks of terrorist acts on this  
7 pipeline are purely speculative. They are hiding behind a  
8 FERC rule that was instituted because of fears of terrorism.

9           So I'm really not surprised about any of this.  
10 That I do think, this is what we don't want. (Showing  
11 graphic) This is one example. This is one of Spectra's  
12 pipelines blowing up under the Arkansas River in Little Rock  
13 in May of this year. This was a smaller pipeline. It  
14 wasn't even in use. You saw this yesterday, I bet. That's  
15 just one of the examples. I bring that one up because I  
16 deal with rivers.

17           The whole idea of this pipeline coming through  
18 here for profit for some people from Houston, aided and  
19 abetted by the so-called Federal Energy Research Commission  
20 -- which is actually one hundred percent funded by the same  
21 companies it supposedly regulates. Look on their own  
22 website. Look at their annual report to Congress.

23           They call it, I think, 'full cost recovery,' with  
24 a contractor sitting up there, nothing personal. I am  
25 talking about the company. The contractor sitting up there

1 that was selected in response to a request for proposals  
2 that FERC won't reveal, is one of three proposals that FERC  
3 won't reveal, and as you just heard it probably being paid  
4 by one of the other pipeline companies involved in this  
5 project. I don't see how someone involved in this kind of,  
6 I can't think of a really appropriate word.

7 SPEAKER: Extortion.

8 MR. QUARTERMAN: That's not a bad word. I was  
9 actually thinking of collusion. I don't see how someone can  
10 come here on our land and give us our time for a pipeline to  
11 object to a pipeline that would pollute our air at the  
12 Dougherty compressor station and our water and our rivers  
13 and our aquifer. This is not right, and it should be  
14 stopped. Shell Oil just gave up on drilling in the Arctic.  
15 Even the biggest ones can be stopped.

16 Mark Woodhall is very modest, but the Georgia  
17 Sierra Club had a lot to do with stopping coal plants in  
18 Georgia. Everybody said that would never be stopped. Sabal  
19 Trail can be stopped. The bigger they are, the harder they  
20 fall.

21 (Applause)

22 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Quarterman.

23 MR. BELL: My name is James Bell, J-A-M-E-S B-E-  
24 L-L. I owned a farm on, well I own one now and I owned one  
25 earlier. I gave both to my children. Sabal Trail is coming

1 through one of them, and they were court ordered to notify  
2 us before they did any surveys and so forth, which that is  
3 still being contested. A few weeks ago we were notified  
4 that they were going to come out and do an Environmental  
5 Impact Study, so after an hour and a half sleep, I got up  
6 and went and met them that morning. They were of course  
7 late.

8           When they got there, it became obvious they were  
9 not intending to survey the land, but I told the gentleman  
10 in charge of the pipeline that I was going to be there to  
11 watch them do it. He said 'We'll call you when we leave the  
12 property'. I said 'There'll be no need to, I'll be sitting  
13 on the other end when they get there.'

14           So they slowly began to walk down, at one time  
15 they told us they were going to utilize as much as three  
16 hundred feet in case they needed it, and they wanted one  
17 hundred feet in order to construct the pipeline.

18           I rode down the road and sit on the highway.  
19 They had eight people lined up to go down there. They kept  
20 watching me to see if I was going to leave, and I didn't  
21 leave so they finally started into the thick grove there.  
22 The furthest two on the left flank were two young ladies and  
23 they crept and crept and got not out of sight, maybe ten  
24 foot onto our property. Then they more or less stopped and  
25 they finally disappeared into it.

1           I went -- left, they thought I'd left -- I went  
2 down to the other end of the property and came back up the  
3 right-of-way and sit at the first rise and started taking  
4 pictures. They never went three hundred feet. They in my  
5 opinion didn't go one hundred feet. They were supposed to  
6 be looking for gopher tortoises and other things. Well, I  
7 could hear them talking. They had switched sides, put the  
8 two girls up on the clear right-of-way, and someone -- it  
9 was a little further on down there.

10           But they didn't look for three hundred feet.  
11 They didn't look a hundred feet and they walked as fast as  
12 they could until they saw me, and then they stopped and  
13 started doing a little better search. I'm offering to you  
14 that all they did there was just summarily go out and  
15 supposedly fulfill their obligations to look for endangered  
16 species and so forth.

17           They did not, in my opinion. And they did not  
18 look at all on the other side of the pipe. They were  
19 supposed to see three hundred feet proposed on each side, a  
20 hundred on each side access. They looked at none whatsoever  
21 on the west side of our property, of almost three thousand  
22 feet of pipeline. So you know, if that was in this  
23 environmental impact study -- and I'm sure they did the same  
24 thing on other people's property as they did to ours -- they  
25 did not fulfill what they were supposed to; and whoever came

1 out there with them was shocked that I was still there when  
2 they left.

3                   They weren't going to do it. They did not intend  
4 to do it. They were just fulfilling whatever obligations  
5 they felt they had and I'm sure they've done the same thing.  
6 If they are the ones who provided this and prepared this  
7 environmental impact study, it's a farce. Thank you.

8                   MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

9                   Ys, ma'am.

10                  MS. JONES: I would like to add to what Mr. Bell  
11 just said concerning their survey. Quite, quote: When they  
12 came out under court order to survey my property, they did  
13 the surveying and the environmental all in one fell swoop  
14 over a two day period.' It turned out that the surveyors  
15 are not licensed surveyors. They do not hold licenses in  
16 Georgia or in Florida. The environmental surveyors are not  
17 environmentalists.

18                  They appear to be college kids, frankly. Most of  
19 them, there was one older one. I asked all of their names,  
20 I asked their qualifications. I asked if they were members  
21 of the Audubon Society. I asked if they were members of  
22 anything. They were not. That's why I'm telling you, these  
23 reports are a hoax. Thank you.

24                  MR. PECONOM: Thank you, ma'am. Any additional  
25 speakers at this time?

1 (No response.)

2 With that, I would like to thank you for coming  
3 this evening. We will be available after the meeting to  
4 talk with you about the DEIS if you would like. Thank you  
5 very much and have a good night.

6 (Pause)

7 (Whereupon, at 7:18 p.m., the public comment  
8 meeting concluded.)

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