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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

Columbia High School
469 SE Fighting Tiger Drive
Auditorium
Lake City, Florida 32025
Thursday, October 1, 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 everybody. My name is
3 John Peconom. I am a member of the Federal Energy
4 Regulatory Commission Staff. I am the Environmental Manager
5 Responsible for the Southeast Market Pipelines Project or
6 SMP Project environmental review. With me tonight are Harry
7 Jetti in the back, Commission environmental staff, Bill
8 Braun, Mitch Shields and Monica Hagita-Davis. On behalf of
9 the five members of the Federal Energy Regulatory
10 Commission, we would like to thank you for participating in
11 tonight's public comment meeting on the draft Environmental
12 Impact Statement for the SMP Project.

13 I understand many of you would prefer that this
14 meeting be held in either Hamilton or Suwannee Counties;
15 however, we were unable to locate the facilities that we
16 thought would adequately support the size audience we
17 anticipated. As I will discuss later, the comment meetings
18 are just one of three methods available to provide comments
19 on the SMP Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

20
21 The purpose of tonight's meeting is for us, the
22 Commission Staff to receive comments from you the public on
23 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement we prepared for the
24 SMP Project. The SMP project is actually three separate but
25 connected natural gas transmission pipeline projects that

1 will involve facilities in Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

2 The Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, Sabal
3 Trail Transmission, and the Florida Southeast Connection
4 proposed to construct and operate about six hundred and
5 fifty miles of natural gas pipeline, associated facilities
6 and six new compressor stations to transport up to 1.1
7 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from Alabama to
8 Florida.

9 In Florida, Sabal Trail and Florida Southeast
10 Connection propose to construct and operate approximately
11 three hundred and fifty-eight miles of pipeline across
12 Hamilton, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Alachua, Levy, Marion,
13 Sumter, Lake, Osceola, Citrus, Orange, Polk, Okeechobee, St.
14 Lucie, and Martin Counties. Additionally, Sabal Trail
15 proposes to construct three new natural gas compressor
16 stations in Suwannee, Marion, and Osceola Counties.

17 Additional information about the SMP Project and
18 its components can be found on the FERC's website,
19 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 is also accessible from the FERC website.

23 eLibrary also contains copies of our
24 correspondence with other federal and state agencies,
25 comments and letters submitted by affected landowners and

1 concerned citizens, and our requests to the applicants for
2 additional environmental information.

3 The National Environmental Policy Act requires
4 the Commission to conduct an environmental review of all
5 interstate natural gas transmission pipeline projects. The
6 SMP Draft EIS which was issued on September 4, 2015 and sent
7 to over six thousand individuals and parties was prepared in
8 response to applications filed by the three companies in the
9 fall of 2014.

10 Commission staff worked for over ten months to
11 prepare this Draft EIS. These ten months are in addition to
12 the year spent working the pre-filing process. In total,
13 almost two years have been spent on this environmental
14 review.

15 An environmental impact statement is an
16 informational document, it is not a decisional document. A
17 decision about this project has not been made. The EIS's
18 purpose is to inform the Commission about the potential
19 impacts on the human and natural environments that could
20 result from construction and operation of the project. An
21 environmental impact statement describes the environment as
22 it exists today, the potential impacts on the environment,
23 assesses and compares alternatives, includes Staff
24 recommendations to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential
25 impacts.

1 Specifically, the draft EIS includes an executive
2 summary; an introduction which describes the purpose and
3 need of the project as well as the purpose and scope of the
4 environmental review, descriptions of the proposed actions
5 including proposed facilities, land requirements,
6 construction procedures; and environmental compliance
7 monitoring.

8 The environmental analysis contained in the Draft
9 Environmental Impact Statement contains a review of geology;
10 specifically Karst, soils, water resources; groundwater,
11 aquifers, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, migratory birds,
12 fisheries and aquatic resources, special status species;
13 threatened and endangered species; land use and visual
14 resources, socioeconomics; impacts on property values,
15 cultural resources; air quality and noise; compressor
16 station emissions; reliability and safety; pipeline
17 integrity; safety standards and cumulative impacts,
18 alternatives; and as I've said before, it includes our
19 conclusion and recommendations, fourteen appendices, maps,
20 drawings, construction plans, and references.

21 This Draft EIS summarizes our comprehensive
22 environmental review of the project and includes our
23 conclusions and recommendations concerning the potential
24 impacts of the project.

25 As I said before, the Commission issued the Draft

1 EIS on September 4, 2015. This began a 45-day comment
2 period which closes on October 26th. In addition to the
3 comments we will receive later this evening, I expect the
4 Commission will receive numerous written and electronic
5 comments. Comments received, whether they be verbal,
6 written or electronic are treated the same. There is no
7 preference given to one type of comment over the other.

8 All comments received will be addressed in the
9 Final Environmental Impact Statement. Comments may result
10 in additional analysis and revisions to the EIS. As a
11 reminder, comments can be provided verbally tonight, in
12 written form and submitted via U.S. Mail to the Secretary of
13 the Commission or electronically via the FERC website
14 www.FERC.gov. For your convenience, we also have also
15 provided comment forms in the back that you may fill out and
16 leave with us tonight.

17 After receiving comments on the Draft
18 Environmental Impact Statement, we will prepare a final
19 environmental impact statement. Ultimately, the FERC
20 Commissioners will determine whether or not to approve the
21 SMP Project. This decision will be made after a careful
22 review of the applications, the final environmental impact
23 statement, and will consider all public comments submitted
24 on the project.

25 As stated in the meeting notice issued along with

1 the Draft EIS, in order to make this meeting as fair and
2 efficient as possible, we will be enforcing a three minute
3 time limit. The minutes will start when you begin speaking.
4 At two minutes and thirty seconds, the green light will
5 change to yellow; at two minutes and forty-five seconds, the
6 yellow light will turn to red; and at three minutes an alarm
7 will sound.

8 I recognize the choice each of you have made
9 tonight to be here, taking away time from your lives, your
10 families, and your other responsibilities. Therefore, if you
11 are still speaking when the alarm goes off, I will allow you
12 to finish your thoughts and conclude your comments. I
13 believe time will allow this evening, so after everyone who
14 has signed up to speak has spoken, I will provide an
15 opportunity for other speakers, and an additional three
16 minutes for folks that have already spoken.

17 Your comments are being recorded and will be
18 entered into the Commission's administrative record. If you
19 would like a copy of tonight's meeting you can speak to our
20 reporter after the meeting or you can download a copy once
21 it has been placed into the Commission's record.

22 Before we hear from the first speaker, will
23 everyone please silence their cell phones. When you come up
24 to speak, please remember to spell your first and last names
25 for the record.

1 With that, we will now call our first speaker.

2 Number one, Mr. Joseph Hanratty.

3 MR. HANRATTY: Thank you. My name is Joseph
4 Hanratty, and this evening with me is Jeffrey Pardue, Senior
5 Vice President of Breedlove, Dennis. We are here on behalf
6 of AZ Ocala. They are an intervener in this matter, an
7 affected property owner along the pipeline. AZ Ocala is
8 also represented by William Massey of the Covington Firm in
9 D.C.

10 AZ Ocala is located in Marion County immediately
11 southeast of compressor number six. AZ Ocala is not a
12 Johnny-come-lately to these proceedings. We participated in
13 the pre-filing process under Docket 14-01, and as recently
14 as August 19, 2015 filed with FERC our reroute request that
15 we are here to discuss tonight in order to supplement the
16 record.

17 Jeff and I are here to present a report that
18 evaluates three separate routes. On this diagram, which is
19 included in the handout, AZ Ocala is this large property
20 here. The new compression station is located on this
21 property just over here. The current route that was filed
22 with the EIS on September 4th is this route that goes like
23 this. As of last night, Sabal Trail has filed a route
24 realignment, and their route realignment is to request to
25 follow the route along this route here (holding up and

1 indicating).

2 AZ Ocala is requesting that FERC consider our
3 route request, which is this route here. It's exactly
4 identical in length to the Sabal Route, and it is one
5 hundred percent collocated along the route, whereas the
6 Sabal Trail proposed route is only thirty-five percent
7 collocated and it goes across multiple property owners.

8 The report evaluates the routes for ecological
9 protected species, cultural resources and NEPA viewshed
10 compliance. I'd like to put a copy of the report into the
11 record and distribute copies to the members and staff.
12 Again, as we indicated on the map. Now since the filing of
13 the new route, I am just going to discuss the two routes.

14 Am I out of time? Should I come back?

15 MR. PECONOM: You're okay.

16 MR. HANRATTY: I'll be real quick. As we said,
17 alternative one is one hundred percent collocated and it
18 does not sever any property lines, it does not go through
19 any Greenfields. It is adjacent to other linear facilities
20 including existing roads that are paved and unpaved, buried
21 fiber optic lines and electric utility distributions.

22 Alternative two, however, is only thirty-five
23 percent collocated and in this area right here on the map,
24 which is between stations 20631 plus 30 and 2684.30 on the
25 September 30th filing, this area right in here, we found

1 cultural disposition, materials and artifacts. Clearly, we
2 believe that the alternative that we are proposing and that
3 was submitted to FERC on August 19th is the superior route
4 and we would request FERC to adopt that route.

5 We are still in discussions with Sabal. We first
6 presented this route to Sabal at a meeting at my office on
7 June 9th. We met again with Sabal on June 31st. We've had
8 two phone conferences on August 13th and September 28th and
9 we have been advised that Sabal is considering our route,
10 but the main concern that they had was notification to the
11 new property owners in this area which is called Florida
12 Highlands.

13 We would request that FERC ask Sabal to give
14 notice to the property notice along the Florida Highlands.
15 We would also ask that we filed along with our request on
16 August 19th a motion to intervene. If you have not granted
17 our motion to intervene, we would also request that you
18 would do that and again we would request that you approve
19 our route, which is a one hundred percent collocated route
20 with abutting owners at least ninety-five to one hundred and
21 fifteen feet to the edge of their property to the proposed
22 pipeline location.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

25 Number two, Mr. Jim Tatum.

1 MR. TATUM: Mr. Peconom. Representatives of the
2 Commission, my name is Jim Tatum, J-I-M T-A-T-U-M. I live
3 at 914 Southwest Riverland Court, and I am a historian for
4 Our Santa Fe River, Incorporated, Ft. White.

5 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice
6 my opinion tonight, and my opinion is that this pipeline
7 about to be authorized and realized is not necessary, is not
8 safe and is not wanted. The pipeline is not necessary
9 because the current pipes one of which, the Southeast Supply
10 Header System, was just completed five years ago, and these
11 are not running near their capacity.

12 Electricity demand peaked in 2007 and has
13 declined since then. Logic would dictate that this pipe was
14 wanted, needed, destined not to fulfill a need for power to
15 South Florida but to carry gas to Florida to export on the
16 world market. The USA has a surplus of oil and gas at this
17 time and infrastructure and permits are in order for this
18 gas to be exported. Sabal Trail may have no plans to export
19 but they can sell it and the buyer can export.

20 The DEIS report says, I quote 'constructing and
21 operating Sabal Trail Project in South Georgia and North
22 Florida could induce sinkhole development, alter spring
23 characteristics and impact local groundwater flow and
24 quality.' Page four, volume one. Yes, I agree. It
25 certainly could. If it does, what will Sabal Trail and FERC

1 do then? The pipeline is not safe for people, nor springs,
2 nor rivers, nor wildlife.

3 During the scoping meetings, many people cited
4 specific examples of the poor safety record and huge fines
5 levied against Spectra. No need to repeat all that. I will
6 just say that Spectra's sloppy maintenance policies and
7 accident record is well-documented and proven. The fact
8 that this company has an abysmal accident record is even
9 more meaningful when we consider that local emergency
10 responders headquartered in small towns in rural North
11 Florida are not equipped for a pipeline disaster.

12 So the solution is this. This is FERC's
13 disclaimer in the report. I quote again: Sabal Trail
14 Transmission has prepared this spill prevention control and
15 countermeasure plan for a construction project in the United
16 States. The purpose of this plan is to reduce the
17 probability and risks of a potential spill or release of oil
18 or hazardous spills by the company or contractor during
19 construction related activities by providing training to the
20 company and contractor and expediting spill response and
21 cleanup.

22 This is not good enough. Not wanted. The
23 pipeline is not wanted. FERC received over 1,000 letters
24 and 410 form letters from 300 individuals and affected
25 landowners and one hundred and 199 oral comments at the

1 scoping meetings. The study does not break these down into
2 favorable/unfavorable, but the huge preponderance is
3 unfavorable.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

6 Our third speaker, Ms. Pam Smith.

7 MS. SMITH: Good evening, my name is Pamela
8 Smith, P-A-M-E-L-A S-M-I-T-H. I am the current President
9 of Our Santa Fe River, Inc., a nonprofit, to protect the
10 land adjacent to the river, its springs and its aquifer.
11 I'm also a property owner on the Santa Fe River and I'm very
12 blessed to be able to see the river, look out and see the
13 river and see how it flows in its health every day, and most
14 importantly third, I'm a grandmother.

15 In January I retired from commercial real estate
16 so I am no stranger to development; and I decided in this
17 chapter to advocate for a beautiful part of the world, our
18 river, that cannot advocate for itself.

19 We are sister rivers to the Suwannee, to the
20 Ichetucknee. Our mother is the aquifer, the Floridian
21 aquifer that runs under these rivers. It has taken a
22 billion years to develop the aquifer to its perfection, and
23 we are seeing already the challenges to our rivers and our
24 aquifer due to water extraction and chemical pollutants.
25 Our springs are flowing at fifty percent capacity, and to

1 add an additional risk factor to this incredible natural
2 resource is just abominable.

3 You don't see pipelines going through Yosemite.
4 Well we are just as fabulous as Yosemite. We do not want
5 this pipeline going through this area because just the fact
6 that we are here discussing an environmental impact study
7 shows you that there are impacts to our environment. I'm
8 thankful that you as a committee have been able to do some
9 work because can you imagine where we would be if you
10 weren't there to at least safeguard us?

11 In business, I learned that you should always
12 have a win-win situation. Well, right now I am looking at a
13 win-loss. I'm looking at, so they say South Florida getting
14 natural gas, they win. I'm looking at very large energy
15 companies winning by making profits from this but I'm
16 looking at our area of the world as a loser in this deal
17 because once you impact it, the aquifer, it will never be
18 back. I mean very difficult; I'm not that technical, but
19 why go through an area that you could potentially destroy
20 when it's one of the few things we leave for our
21 grandchildren? We are already fighting other aspects, then
22 this becomes an additional one.

23 I think it jeopardizes our area as president of
24 this organization, giving the voice of the river, as a
25 property owner there and most importantly as a grandmother.

1 I ask you to really consider the long-term impacts of this
2 situation and not to bring the pipeline through our area.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Ms. Smith.

5 Number four, Mr. Chris Mericle.

6 MR. MERICLE: My name is Chris Mericle, C-H-R-I-S
7 M-E-R-I-C-L-E. I live in Hamilton County.

8 I would like to comment to you tonight about
9 Karst terrain, springs and our water resources. In Sabal's
10 Karst mitigation plan, they state a few things that they've
11 found in doing their research.

12 Number one: Karst Mitigation Plan Section 2.3
13 HDD Crossings. Quote: 'Areas of karst activity pose
14 increased risks to the successful installation of pipelines
15 by HDD.' Section 2.31 Lost Drilling Fluid Returns. Quote:
16 'Cave systems and spring conduits could be intersected.'
17 Sabal's best drilling practices plan, Section 2.4, HDD
18 Contingency plan states: 'Three different attempts with
19 multiple holes on each attempt could occur.' That could be
20 possibly nine holes, three to four foot in diameter. You
21 damage that Karst terrain you cannot mitigate that.

22 Karst Mitigation Plan Section 2.3.3 states 'HDD
23 Operations could trigger or reactivate sinkhole activity.'
24 Karst Mitigation Plan 2.3.2 'Tooling and mainline pipe is
25 strong enough to remain intact in voids up to fifteen feet.'

1 Now they just said all this operation could trigger or
2 reactivate sinkhole activity. How are they going to know if
3 these sinkholes grow underneath this pipeline to much larger
4 than fifteen feet? How are they even going to know if they
5 are larger than that when they install it?

6 In the hydrology report by Florida Certified
7 Geologist David Brown on the proposed Withacoochie crossing
8 in Hamilton County, he concluded that because of all the
9 items I just listed above, listed just there, that the
10 installation and operation of the propose pipeline would
11 have catastrophic consequences and that's all in the FERC
12 record. How can this be in the public's interest?

13 It's hard for me to understand how FERC, knowing
14 all this, just this, has come to the conclusion in their
15 draft EIS and this is, quote: 'This project would not result
16 in a significant impact on the environment.' I don't
17 understand that. Thank you.

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mr. Mericle.

19 Mrs. Deanna Mericle.

20 MRS. MERICLE: Hi. My name is Deanna Mericle, D-
21 E-A-N-N-A M-E-R-I-C-L-E. I am a member of WWALS Watershed
22 Coalition and I am a citizen of Hamilton County.

23 I first became aware of the of the Sabal Trail
24 Pipeline about a year and a half ago when survey markers
25 showed up near the Withlacoochee River near where I live in

1 Hamilton County. I have learned a lot about natural gas
2 pipelines since then.

3 After much effort and personal expense, a small
4 group of us were successful in convincing Sabal Trail and
5 FERC to move the route away from the Northern Withlacoochee
6 River in Florida. At that time I was very relieved and
7 believed that right had prevailed. However, as time has
8 gone by I realize that the same fragile limestone geology
9 and springs that were at risk from the pipeline on the
10 Withlacoochee River are still at risk at the other river
11 crossings.

12 People like me have stood up in front of you and
13 reminded you that the citizens in these counties that the
14 pipeline will go through will get no benefit from this
15 pipeline and yet they are the ones that will bear the
16 consequences of water and spring degradation, explosions and
17 sinkholes that the pipeline is likely to cause. The people
18 who live south of Orlando and in the Crystal River area will
19 get more electricity by burning the methane gas carried in
20 this pipeline.

21 We as Americans already consume more energy per
22 person than most if not all other countries. Our leaders
23 should not be encouraging more energy use but rather
24 conservation and clean renewable sources of energy.

25 As you know, this pipeline is huge. It's three

1 feet in diameter. It will be passing through an area in
2 Florida known as the Springs Heartland. It will be passing
3 through the area where our Floridan aquifer is considered to
4 be the most vulnerable to contamination. It will pass under
5 our outstanding Florida waters, the Suwannee and Santa Fe
6 Rivers. Experts from the United States Environmental
7 Protection Agency, the Florida Department of Environmental
8 Protection and the Suwannee River Water Management District
9 have all stated that this area should be avoided by the
10 pipeline. But it seems to have fallen on deaf ears and
11 seems to still be slated to cut through this very
12 environmentally sensitive and fragile area.

13 I can only conclude that the reason it is still
14 going through this area is that the pipeline and power
15 companies have enough money and political clout to influence
16 the political decision makers to ignore the public's
17 opposition and our genuine concern and proceed with this
18 project.

19 Someone has got to stand up for the earth and for
20 clean water. That is what I am trying to do. We can't
21 continue to exploit our resources and pollute our waters for
22 the sake of profits and consumption. Please find the
23 courage within yourselves to stand up for what is right. I
24 am challenging you to use whatever power you have to get
25 this pipeline stopped.

1 Thank you for your time and attention.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Mrs. Mericle.

4 Number six, Ms. Laura Dailey.

5 MS. DAILEY: I'm Laura Dailey, it's L-A-U-R-A D-
6 A-I-L-E-Y. I live on the Ichetucknee River and I'm a member
7 of the Board of Directors of the Rivers Estates Property
8 Owners, and also was until we were able to get Sabal Trail
9 to change their mind, one of the owners of a previous piece
10 of property that was proposed for a pipeline transition
11 under the Ichetucknee River.

12 And here we are, almost a year since our first
13 meeting with the FERC, almost two years since I've been
14 working with other members of my community to see how we can
15 resolve this.

16 It appears that even with tons, literally tons of
17 facts and information we still have not really been able to
18 get your attention. What do we need to do to get you to see
19 that your bosses, the FERC, have got to stop building more
20 fossil fuel infrastructure and step back for a bit so you
21 can take a wider view of the future, which clearly lies in
22 renewable energy resources with a sustainable, inexpensive
23 and much less dangerous outcome.

24 I admit, we still need some fossil fuels while we
25 make these transitions to a sustainable means. Even if we

1 start today, this transition will take decades, maybe two if
2 we are really good at it. we could get it done in twenty
3 years, forty years. But with lead times like that, we need
4 to start now and we need to rely on the FERC, and you are
5 our window to those people.

6 It doesn't make me feel warm and fuzzy, that the
7 FERC not terribly recently, not too long ago was found
8 guilty in a federal court of violating the National
9 Environmental Policy Act by number one, allowing
10 segmentation of projects, much as the Sabal Trail Pipeline
11 has been segmented into three different, we're now calling
12 it three different pipeline events but it's one pipeline.

13 That segmentation that the FERC themselves made
14 happen, was made to avoid the cumulative impacts in your EIS
15 analysis. So that we can take one section of the pipeline
16 and say 'Eh, minimal damage here.' We can take another
17 pipeline and say 'no damage there' and another section
18 saying 'minimal damage' because if we put it all together it
19 won't pass muster. So I really want you to consider that.

20 Three points, and I'm going to make them really
21 quick. Number one: What the oil and gas industry already
22 knows. Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson is the leading fracking
23 revolution guy, just not in his back yard, because recently
24 Mr. NIMBY Tillerson, a vocal proponent of hydraulic
25 fracturing for natural gas filed a lawsuit to prevent the

1 construction of a tower on his property, his fancy horse
2 ranch in Texas that will store water for fracking.
3 Tillerson and his neighbors are concerned that the fracking
4 tower will devalue their properties and adversely impact the
5 rural life-style that they seek to enjoy where they live.

6 His attorneys are claiming emotional harm,
7 irreparable harm to property value, fear, apprehension,
8 offense, loss of peace of mind, visual blight, and it goes
9 on and we feel the same way. He is one of your industry
10 leaders, one of the oil and gas industry leaders.

11 Your EIS, and I'm going to paraphrase here, says:
12 Based on Sabal Trail's mitigation plans, there's minimal
13 environmental risk when there's an accident, if mitigation
14 plans filed by Sabal are followed.

15 Sabal Trail is a division of Spectra Energy. A
16 bit of Spectra's track record, just quickly, let's start
17 with Seckman Ridge. Two years ago, residents living near
18 that facility called 911 in response to firecracker-like
19 noises and what appeared to be smoke coming from the
20 company's compressor station. Fire trucks rolled to the
21 scene. Spectra Energy's first response to residents from
22 Mary Lee Hanley, its then Director of Stakeholder Outreach,
23 was 'Nothing was released, there was no smoke, there was no
24 incident.'

25 By the next day, Spectra admitted that there was

1 a release of methane and other hydrocarbons and they sent
2 Andrea Grover, another director of stakeholder outreach who
3 is now at Sabal Trail, to mitigate. She claimed only a
4 small volume was released, and to this day the company
5 refuses to say how much was released. But through their own
6 efforts, the property owners learned that Spectra Energy's
7 uncontrolled release and the amount was in fact 431.5
8 thousand cubic feet of natural gas vented over a two day
9 period. Hardly a small volume.

10 Now Sabal Trail's Director of Stakeholder
11 Outreach is Andrea Grover, who maintains that it was a small
12 breach. According to PHMSA, the track record of Spectra
13 Energy is not good. Over a seven-year period, 2006 to 2013,
14 twenty-one accidents are listed by PHMSA for Spectra
15 Energy's gas transmission pipelines. The estimated total
16 property damage for those Spectra Energy incidents during
17 just that seven year period is 8.5 million dollars.
18 Thirteen of the twenty-one incident causes are attributed to
19 internal corrosion. That's sixty-five percent. That's
20 unacceptable. Sixty-five percent, to internal corrosion.

21 Five of the twenty-one incident causes are listed
22 as material weld and/or equipment failures. One thing when
23 it comes to pipelines, track record, track record, track
24 record. It's not good with these people. Finally, is it a
25 wise investment? Fossil fuel divestment is gaining strength

1 all over the world as smart investors pull their support and
2 their funds to channel them into renewables, because for the
3 long term that's where smart investors are putting their
4 focus and that's where companies with smart utilities are
5 putting their energy.

6 As of last month, total worldwide divestment
7 pulled \$2.6 trillion out of the fossil fuel industry. The
8 Rockefeller Foundation, built on wealth accumulated from one
9 of the largest oil companies in history, ditched its fossil
10 fuel assets last year. The divestment movement is on fire
11 and both Wall Street and fossil fuel lobbies are feeling the
12 heat. Almost done.

13 Investors have been accustomed to a four hundred
14 to one return on the dollar for their investments in natural
15 gas. They are currently getting about four dollars return
16 on the dollar. Those investors need to ship gas overseas to
17 sell where they can get that kind of return because they
18 simply will never see it again in this country. It will not
19 happen.

20 Meanwhile, we here get the risk and get no
21 return, not gas, not jobs, nada, none, zero. Risk, that's
22 all we get. FERC's own site, their own website
23 lists in its top three priorities the integration of
24 renewables. You all need to get busy and see that FERC does
25 its job and starts consciously working toward a sustainable

1 energy future for us and for your children. That's your
2 job, please, just do it.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Ms. Dailey.

5 Ms. Sue Karcher.

6 MS. KARCHER: Hi I'm Sue Karcher, S-U-E K-A-R-C-
7 H-E-R. I would like to be on record as being totally
8 against the pipeline because it jeopardizes beyond repair
9 our rivers and our springs. Our children and our
10 grandchildren deserve healthy drinking water. I, too, would
11 like to voice my disappointment that this meeting was not
12 held in Suwannee or Hamilton Counties where the pipeline has
13 a direct effect on homeowners. Thank you.

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

15 Ms. Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson.

16 MS. MALWITZ-JIPSON: Hi. I'm Merrillee Malwitz-
17 Jipson. M E-R-R-I-L-L-E-E M-A-L-W-I-T-Z hyphen J-I-P-S-O-
18 N. Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to speak this
19 evening. I have been speaking with you all for several
20 years now and we had a success with you. As a matter of
21 fact, the FERC walked the property with us along the Santa
22 Fe River where it was a Karstic spring-filled environment,
23 and in fact you moved the pipeline for us.

24 We are grateful for that, but from day one we
25 have said our entire region of Florida and the southern end

1 of Georgia is the Florida Springs Heartland. It is full of
2 Karstic terrain, sinkholes and problems that could be
3 attributed or associated with any sort of explosions,
4 digging of a thirty-six inch pipeline through our corridor.

5 This pipeline is going directly through the
6 entire Springs heartland corridor, in the center of it,
7 which raises big concerns for us. I will just briefly lay
8 that out tonight which I think we've said before in these
9 meetings, but we are concerned that once this corridor is
10 built, once you allow eminent domain to take place, once
11 divestments start occurring, once fossil fuel is no longer
12 needed, what will that corridor carry? And it is our fear
13 that it will carry water.

14 It is in the Corridor, it is in the springs.
15 Two days ago I got a changes report from Sabal that was
16 presented to the FERC, the EIS report, and on Table 6.5-1
17 with pages twelve through one eighty-seven, representing a
18 hundred and seventy-five pages of material, approximately
19 seven to twenty-four entries on each page added up to three
20 thousand five hundred entries that did prove in fact that we
21 are Karstic, we are sinkholes. Words such as Karst feature,
22 potential sinkhole, modified sinkhole, sinkhole, potential
23 modified sinkhole, describing regional Karst terrain as
24 fissures, tubes and caverns.

25 Ground cover at ten feet to two hundred feet, ten

1 feet -- we are talking about digging down six feet. Very
2 close to the aquifer. Subsidence sinkholes, clusters of
3 potential sinkholes, solution sinkholes dominate. Another
4 subsection to this was 'sinkholes are hu' it says 'sinkholes
5 are hu, generally shallow and develop gradually.' This was
6 all in 0.25 miles of either side of the Corridor.

7 This wasn't very far out and at three thousand
8 five hundred entries, I'm not exactly sure how many miles
9 this represents because it's from Georgia into Florida,
10 because it's a huge amount of Karstic terrain that has the
11 potential to really experience damage with this pipeline.
12 It went on: sinkholes are really huge and really shallow and
13 develop gradually. Solution sinkholes dominate bare or
14 thinly covered layers here. Closed topo-depressions.

15 The point I've made and I've made over time is we
16 are Karstic, we are a Floridan aquifer where this pipeline
17 is proposing to go. We implore you as we have in the past,
18 either put it somewhere else or actually don't do it at all.
19 Right now in a meeting, in a government meeting right down
20 the street in Columbia County, they're discussing solar
21 options. So towns around the nation are embracing solar.
22 We're ready for it.

23 These types of infrastructures are archaic. We
24 no longer want them, we no longer need them and big, massive
25 companies are divesting and our government needs to divest

1 too. We need to embrace and we need to fund and start doing
2 subsidies for these types of, for solar, for wind or for
3 other types of sustainable energy. Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Ms. Malwitz-Jipson.

6 Number nine, Ms. Patricia Camen.

7 (Audience remark: 'switching')

8 MS. JOHNSON: Debra Johnson, D-E-B-R-A J-O-H-N-
9 S-O-N. First, I would like to point out a few facts about
10 FERC and how this process is done. FERC is tasked with
11 preparing this Environmental Study, which actually, if you
12 go to appendix N of the study, you will find that a
13 subcontracted company named Merjent provided most of the
14 scoping work and so forth for Sabal Trail.

15 Sabal Trail itself is a drop-down company, not a
16 company that has any board members except one, and that
17 board member is from Spectra Energy. So we have an empty
18 company, of paid consultants hiring another company of paid
19 consultants to do an environmental impact study for an
20 agency that is funded by the oil industry; and those are the
21 facts.

22 So I want to bring you down to Spectra Energy's -
23 - let's go through the sinkhole thing again. I would like
24 to do that, with sinkhole distribution and type and the
25 Suwannee River Water Management District has advised --

1 wait, your own DEIS Environmental Study has stated that
2 constructing and operating the Sabal Trail Project in
3 Georgia and North Florida could induce sinkhole development,
4 alter springs characteristics and impact local ground flow
5 and water quality.

6 I would say that would be true according to this
7 geological study that was done. Have you seen it?
8 Everything yellow is Karst, fairly thin as stated before.
9 Lime rock, or no lime rock, just bare. This also is the
10 whole pipeline route. The pipeline route goes entirely
11 through the Karst area. There are plans for a compressor
12 station to be located in Ichetucknee.

13 These will all be owned and operated by Spectra
14 Energy, now that we've established that Sabal Trail is a
15 temporary company to install the pipeline. They have been
16 known to explode. They emit a lot of pollution. Scientific
17 studies have recently surfaced that with people that live
18 within one mile of a small compressor station have
19 experienced asthma, nosebleeds, headaches, rashes, elevated
20 levels of formaldehyde, which is a carcinogen, increased
21 mortality rate of people over 65, double the risk of autism
22 in expectant mothers in the third trimester. These same
23 health issues are comparable with the pattern of symptoms
24 near the fracking drilling sites.

25 FERC, your DEIS says again, as has been spoken

1 before, that our aquifer is the most productive aquifer in
2 the world. In the project. It produces 60 percent of our
3 groundwater, okay? So the Karst terrain that the Sabal
4 Trail project will go through is a critical link in
5 controlling the recharge and discharge of the Floridian
6 aquifer system and is the principal reason this system is
7 highly productive.

8 Sabal Trail's restoration and construction
9 methods as well as their training and inspection procedures
10 for hazardous materials were found to be sufficient to
11 protect the groundwater. Sabal Trail is the ghost company
12 of the industry consultants owned by Spectra Energy. So we
13 go back to talking about Spectra Energy, and I think that
14 enough people have spoken about their accident problem.
15 Their EPA violations are some of the worse in history, okay,
16 with toxic spills and so forth.

17 They also had an explosion of the Spectra
18 Pipeline in an Arkansas River. Spectra claims that they
19 will monitor the Sable Trail pipeline twenty-four hours a
20 day for ruptures, leaks or any problems.

21 (Holding up photograph)

22 Well, in Arkansas, this happened and twenty-four
23 hours later a tugboat operator reported it. Spectra never
24 knew about it. That doesn't make me feel good. I doubt it
25 makes anyone else feel good along with the PHMSA violations.

1 You know, we're not willing to, and should not be required
2 to accept the risk on promises made by a company that's
3 solely concerned about profits.

4 To be truthful, it's obviously for exports. I
5 know you don't deal with that but that's what's going to
6 happen. This gas is coming down, supposedly for FPL and
7 Duke Energy, both of which are invested in the pipeline and
8 along with NextEra, all of which are invested in fracking.
9 Of course they want an outlet for their fracked gas; and of
10 course that outlet for fracked gas may be in Martin County,
11 Citrus County and in Jacksport export stations.

12 So why should we be put at risk? Why should our
13 water, you're talking about our water for millions of
14 people. A beautiful, unique aquifer and unique terrain
15 being put at risk. I want to remind you that one of your
16 duties with FERC is to, you are tasked with determining if a
17 public need or necessity exists when approving pipelines as
18 well as consideration of public study, am I correct there?

19 There is no public need or necessity for the
20 Sabal Trail Pipeline in Florida, Georgia or Alabama. And
21 public safety is at risk if the Sabal Pipeline, Spectra
22 Energy Pipeline is allowed to go through. We are just not
23 willing to accept it. Thank you for your time.

24 Thank Laurie McRaney for her contribution to the
25 paper, and thank you for the Suwannee Democrat for their

1 contribution. Thank you, gentleman.

2 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Ms. Johnson.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. PECONOM: Ms. Patricia Tayman.

5 MS. TAYMAN: Good evening. My name is Patricia
6 Tayman, P-A-T-R-I-C-I-A T-A-Y-M-A-N. I'm sure that most of
7 you remember the BP Deep Water Horizon, the oil spill that
8 happened April 20, 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico. It leaked
9 for eighty-seven days and dumped two hundred and ten million
10 gallons of oil. Eleven men died on the rig. People's lives
11 and environment were forever changed.

12 This was not supposed to be possible. After all,
13 there would be safeguards in place. It was to be monitored
14 daily, inspected regularly and most of all, a cutoff valve.
15 Nobody saw this catastrophe or tragedy coming. BP is still
16 paying lawsuits five years later. Excuse me, I get
17 emotional as you can see. In contrast, we know what to
18 expect with gas pipeline. It has already happened.
19 Compressor stations exploding, ruptured lines and most
20 recently a leak under a river in Arkansas.

21 Statements are being made, like Sabal Trail's
22 restoration and construction methods as well as their
23 training, inspection and storage procedures for hazardous
24 material were found to be sufficient to protect groundwater
25 in this area. Really?

1 FERC, John, the Federal Energy Regulatory
2 Commission has concluded that approval of the SM Project,
3 which is the Southeast Market Pipelines Project, would have
4 some adverse environmental impact. I really like this one.

5 However this impact would be reduced to less than
6 significant levels with the implementation of the
7 applicants' proposed mitigation and the additional measures
8 recommended in draft by the Environmental Impact Study.

9 With all due respect to the representatives of FERC, Sabal
10 Trail and the real corporations that are really behind this
11 pipeline, you just don't get it, or maybe you do and just
12 don't care.

13 This area is limestone. There is unpredictable
14 flooding. Tomorrow in the paper it will be headlines of
15 flooding in this area, but most of all we have sinkholes.

16 In closing, I strongly suggest you reconsider
17 your plan. Surely you won't have enough time or money to
18 endure fines and years of litigation after the inevitable
19 occurs. Mankind must always be mindful, he will never win
20 against Mother Nature. Thank you very much for the
21 opportunity to voice my opinion and please, I beg of you,
22 reconsider this. This is total insanity. Thank you.

23 (Appause)

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

25 Number eleven, Mr. Daniel Kurczi.

1 MR. KURCZI: Hello. My name is Daniel Kurczi, D-
2 A-N-I-E-L K-U-R-C-Z-I. I am here on behalf of the men and
3 women of LIUNA, the Laborers International Union of North
4 America, because our members believe that when pipelines are
5 built correctly with properly trained employees that
6 catastrophe, spills and damage to the property can be
7 avoided.

8 LIUNA Members belong to an organization with more
9 than a century of experience safely building pipelines in
10 virtually every state and province in the United States and
11 Canada. Over the past five years, LIUNA Members have worked
12 over eighty million hours in the pipeline sector. LIUNA
13 works with contractors who specialize in HDD, Horizontal
14 Directional Drilling, the type of drilling that Sabal Trail
15 will utilize. We are the most experienced at this work in
16 the country.

17 LIUNA invests about one hundred million dollars a
18 year in construction skills training through more than
19 seventy mobile and fixed training centers. These centers
20 offer one hundred and sixty-four hours of pipeline-specific
21 instruction and we will be recruiting members where the
22 project happens and training them for employment
23 opportunities because we believe that the local jobs created
24 from this type of project should go to local people.

25 Pipeline work can be a lifeline to good jobs with

1 family-supporting pay, healthcare and retirement benefits
2 when quality contractors are selected. We are experts in
3 the pipeline industry and our safe and skilled workforce.
4 We are trained to restore land to as good or better
5 condition than it was before the Project happened. We think
6 many of the contractors under consideration do use best-in-
7 class training facilities which is a reassuring sign. We
8 urge FERC to consider the experience and qualifications of
9 the selected contractors in their review of the Sabal Trail.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

12 Number twelve, Mr. Larry Jordan.

13 MR. JORDAN: My name is Larry Jordan, L-A-R-R-Y
14 J-O-R-D-A-N. I am a retired member of Local 673 Operating
15 Engineers, and as my brother put it from the Labor Union
16 that we are training operators. All of our operators are
17 skilled operators. We have never had an accident. All of
18 the union pipelines that it went through, and we request
19 that everyone concerned with the pipeline be union, because
20 it's better skilled, better craftsmen that goes along with
21 that.

22 I thank you.

23 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir. Mr. John

24 Quarterman.

MR. QUARTERMAN: I'm John

25 Quarterman, JOHN Q-U-A-R-T-E-R-M-A-N. Hasn't changed since

1 the last two times I spoke. I'm President of WWALS
2 Watershed Coalition, that's our banner hanging over there
3 that's our Withacoochie, Willacoochie, Alapha, Little and
4 Upper Suwannee River, that banner is old and doesn't have
5 Suwannee, but we have a new one and well,

6 First of all, do you all feel insignificant yet?
7 Because that's what FERC's DEIS tells us, we're all
8 insignificant. But WWALS didn't feel insignificant because
9 when the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
10 decided, it posted in the newspapers a 'Notice of Intent to
11 Issue a Permit for Sabal Trail to Drill Under the Suwannee
12 River and otherwise Use Wetlands and Submerged Lands in the
13 sovereign State of Florida.'

14 Now, we filed a petition to oppose that and the
15 DEP said 'Oh, you didn't do that quite right, so we amended
16 it and sent it back and then something happened that
17 everyone told us would never, ever happen. Everyone who
18 ever dealt with the DEP on a thing like this said 'You'll
19 never even get a hearing.' Frankly, I believed them. I
20 even misread the response. I thought that's what it said.
21 It wasn't; we got a hearing.

22 Now this hearing is apparently scheduled for the
23 19th through the 22nd of October in Jasper, or in Live Oak
24 if they can't get the courtroom in Jasper. There is some
25 possibility the judge may decide to move it up, because

1 Sabal Trail is asking for a summary hearing, which the judge
2 has already said you can have that, unless we can come up
3 with a better argument, why not.

4 Sabal Trail is also trying to quash all sorts of
5 evidence. All of these safety issues we have heard about
6 and there are far, far more. For example, that fifty
7 million dollar record EPA fine. The Commonwealth of
8 Pennsylvania fined Spectra eighteen million for those same
9 PCB spills and made them pay two hundred million in
10 cleanups.

11 I've heard industry reps make excuses about
12 Spectra's Edison, New Jersey apartment fire, which made
13 thousands of people evacuate and hundreds homeless; and I
14 could keep talking about a whole bunch of those, but the
15 point is, Spectra doesn't want us to talk about those. Now,
16 they say that safety is solely a Federal matter. Be that as
17 it may, there may be other reasons to bring up these issues
18 but Spectra doesn't want us to.

19 Spectra also doesn't want to talk about the risk
20 of terrorism at the pipeline. What better target than a
21 five hundred mile long improvised explosive device, and in
22 lots of other countries in the Middle east, in Columbia,
23 they are targets as evidenced in many reports. I've got the
24 report which I read from yesterday that meanwhile, if you
25 looked at any of the FERC documents that have been filed

1 from Sabal Trail, you notice that a lot of them say CEII,
2 which means Critical Energy Infrastructure Information.

3 When FERC promulgated that rule in 2003 in the
4 aftermath of 9/11, the text of their rule said it was about
5 terrorism. So on one hand you have Sabal Trail saying in
6 the DEP proceeding that terrorism is merely speculative, you
7 can't talk about that. Yet they are hiding behind a FERC
8 rule which was explicitly for terrorism. In both cases they
9 are trying to suppress information about their pipeline. If
10 the pipeline was so great, why are they trying to suppress
11 all this information?

12 Now, I do want to say just one word about the
13 significance of this case, which is -- as an example of why
14 Sabal Trail, I think they take it seriously. They have four
15 highly paid lawyers on their side; DEP had their cheap
16 attorney and now they've added another one, that's six
17 attorneys facing our tiny little non-attorney per se
18 operation. You've seen all three of those right here.

19 So why are they piling on all those attorneys?
20 Because they know, without that permit the pipeline can't
21 cross the Suwannee River. If it can't cross the Suwannee
22 River, every one of Sabal Trail's routes that are proposed,
23 preferred, alternate, whatever -- every one of them would
24 cross the Suwannee River. So if we win this case, there is
25 no pipeline.

1 Now, there's other ways to win, but I bring this
2 up because a lot of people think this is a done deal, it's a
3 juggernaut, there's nothing you can do to stop it. There
4 are ways to stop it. This is one of the ways. Things that
5 have been brought up about that compressor station and the
6 compressor station in Albany, Georgia, those are other ways.
7 There's an Army Corps of Engineer process going on right now
8 where you have until October 11th to file comments or to ask
9 for a public hearing.

10 We can stop this pipeline. If even Shell Oil
11 would give up on drilling in the Arctic after wasting seven
12 billion dollars, Sabal Trail can be stopped and we can stop
13 it. Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Quarterman.

16 Number fourteen, Mr. Harry Patterson.

17 MR. PATTERSON: Good evening, ladies and
18 gentleman. My name is Harry Patterson, H-A-R-R-Y P-A-T-T-
19 E-R-S-O-N. I'm with the Alachua County Green Party and the
20 Green Party in Florida. I am currently serving as the State
21 Treasurer for Green Party of Florida, and the proceeding
22 speakers have eloquently made the case against the need for
23 this pipeline and I'd just like to go on record as saying
24 the Alachua County Green Party and the Green Party of
25 Florida stands in strong opposition to this unwanted,

1 unneeded and unsafe project. Thank you for your
2 consideration.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

5 Number fifteen. Billie Jo Benedict.

6 MS. BENEDICT: My name is Billie Jo Benedict, B-
7 I-L-L-I-E J-O B-E-N-E-D-I-C-T. I'm a resident of High
8 Springs and I'm also a member of our Santa Fe River, and I'm
9 really just here to oppose the Sabal Trail.

10 Everything might look good on paper but the
11 reality of this pipeline in my opinion is it's dangerous,
12 destructive and unwanted. We all know that shortcuts will
13 be taken during the construction because that is what's
14 considered standard these days, as sad as it is.

15 It's all about the profits for the greedy and
16 naughty people who don't even live here. Shame on them and
17 those who don't care about our future in regard to Florida's
18 aquifer, and it's just to line their pockets. To be clear,
19 leave our state alone. Find your money in doing good for
20 the environment through renewable energies should be where
21 your focus is. Please do not allow this to happen. If you
22 want to be and feel successful, then be upstanding. You
23 have a responsibility to Mother Earth, yourself, your
24 children, your grandchildren and your pets.

25 Again, I'm opposed to this. Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Ms. Benedict.

3 Number sixteen, Mr. Harry Gentes.

4 MR. GENTES: Good evening. I'm Harry Gentes. I
5 live in Live Oak, Florida; Harry H-A-R-R-Y Gentes G-E-N-T-E-
6 S. My schedule simply opened up to allow me to be here
7 tonight, and I would like to speak in opposition to the
8 pipeline project. I feel like it's ludicrous to gamble
9 water against energy.

10 I recall a close friend of mine many years ago
11 who was a state fire inspector in propane in the State of
12 Florida, Al Bibler. We were discussing the use of methane
13 gas and Al said 'You can't use it. It's too corrosive.
14 You've got to put it in stainless steel pipe.' Well, I
15 guess they found pipe-liners and ways around that. How long
16 is that going to last, I don't know.

17 I know the boring is phenomenal. It's cool what
18 they can do boring, but you're boring through rock. You're
19 going to put explosive gas under the river. It's not going
20 to work. It's inevitable. We're going to have a leak.
21 It's just a matter of time. Who's going to replace our
22 water? What are we going to feed our cattle? What are we
23 going to put on our crops? It's just not worth the risk.

24 The chafing, what are you going to do about the
25 wave of floodwater when the Suwannee floods and she is over

1 her banks and there's a pipe underneath, and the rock --
2 sitting there rubbing on the rock. It's just a matter of
3 time, you are going to blow that pipe. The methane, which
4 smells so lovely, is going to be all in our water system.
5 What's it going to do to tourism? I guess we'll just be
6 poor Floridians.

7 I'm just speaking from my heart. I'm not
8 prepared as some of these hundreds of numbers. I just want
9 to say please, don't ruin Florida. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Sir.

12 Number seventeen, Rocky Stewart.

13 MR. STEWART: Good evening. My name is Rocky
14 Stewart, R-O-C-K-Y S-T-E-W-A-R-T. I am a homeowner in
15 Suwannee County by Boys' Ranch. I currently do not live
16 there. I live in Corpus Christi. I'm sure some people here
17 may regard me as the enemy, but I'm in total opposition to
18 what you all have planned.

19 My profession, I'm what's known as a mudder,
20 drilling fluids engineer. I've been drilling wells since
21 1981 and in all likelihood some of what they propose to move
22 through the pipeline is coming from wells that I helped
23 drill. I just spent the last eighteen months drilling up in
24 Northeast Pennsylvania, in the Marcellus. Also up in Eagle
25 Ford down around Cuero, Texas.

1 What you all have proposed is total insanity.
2 Areas where we were drilling, minimal impact on the
3 environment, and could easily be mitigated. When we do
4 horizontal drilling, we're drilling with an eight and a half
5 inch bit. I have dealt with lost circulation, I've dealt
6 with blowouts. Lost circulation in itself can take weeks,
7 if not months, to mediate. Experts, I have no faith in
8 experts because experts lie. I have lied in my job because
9 that's just the name of the game.

10 You have a two thousand page report, put together
11 by nameless people who have absolutely no responsibility and
12 will bear no responsibility to this. Sabal Trail, nobody
13 will bear any personal responsibility. FERC, same thing.
14 If something goes wrong, 'not our problem.' I'm sure you
15 will have geologists who will come out and say 'No, we
16 studied the situation. Nothing we did led to this. It was
17 just a naturally occurring event.' If you lose your home or
18 use of your property, well, if you're old you will be dead
19 before it's settled. If you're young you will be old before
20 it's settled.

21 The experts and the attorneys will have a field
22 day. The companies, they don't care. It's just greed and
23 arrogance.

24 Again, this aquifer, this area was millions of
25 years in the making. If you go through with this you stand

1 a very good possibility of destroying this for the rest of
2 our lifetimes and many lifetimes to come. Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

5 Number eighteen, Ms. Victoria Machado.

6 MS. MACHADO: Hello. My name is Victoria
7 Machado V-I-C-T-O-R-I-A M-A-C-H-A-D-O. I currently live in
8 Gainesville and I am here strongly opposing this pipeline.
9 Many people have mentioned that this area would not even
10 benefit from this energy. South Florida will reap the
11 benefits. I'm originally from South Florida. I actually
12 just moved up here a couple months ago. I worked for
13 several years as an organizer with community and
14 environmental groups all around South Florida; Naples, Ft.
15 Lauderdale, Miami, Florida Keys, Martin County, Indian River
16 County, all over. So I can tell you that they don't want
17 it.

18 People in South Florida are shocked that this
19 pipeline is even being considered. They want renewable
20 energy and they're implementing that down there in various
21 ways. It's only a matter of time before they implement it
22 on a large scale. This is the sunshine state. It is a
23 state so heavily driven by tourism and increasingly,
24 ecotourism. It is unfathomable that we are even considering
25 such outdated forms of energy, so please do not allow the

1 Sabal Trail Pipeline to run the risk of ruining this area or
2 any part of Florida. Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Ms. Machado.

5 Number nineteen, Mr. David Shields.

6 MR. SHIELDS: Hello, I'm David Shields, D-A-V-I-D
7 S-H-I-E-L-D-S. You probably don't know me. I don't know
8 you. I'm from Jacksonville. I have six children. We moved
9 out here to come to a nice area to raise children. We
10 bought some property in the O'Brien area and we're raising
11 an organic farm where we raise livestock in an organic
12 fashion and we're trying to make a living in that way. I
13 have some great neighbors and we are in a really kind of
14 great area.

15 Well, it turns out that my story is taking a
16 tragic turn. One of the proposed compressor station sites
17 is less than two thousand feet from my front door. I'm
18 going to be downwind from the site. My six children, my
19 neighbor to my north is only fifteen hundred feet. He has
20 eight children and a ninth on the way. My other neighbor,
21 just to the east of him has eight children as well. There
22 are twenty-three children amongst us and less than half a
23 mile away from this compressor station proposed site.

24 The incendiary range of the site in case of
25 evacuation is a half mile. This site is in Suwannee County.

1 We have a volunteer fire department. Who is going to
2 respond? That's a real interesting question. The other
3 problem I have is with the compressor station. It's going
4 to be powered by the gas on the line. It's underneath the
5 power line easement; that's interesting.

6 Okay, the problem with that, is the station up in
7 Pennsylvania, there was a study done -- actually it was in
8 New York, about gas-powered compressors, where they don't
9 use electricity, they use gas. They emit things like
10 formaldehyde into the air.

11 They did a study on a small station only within a
12 half mile people were impacted. We have twenty-three
13 children less than a half mile away. It's a significant
14 risk. You know, this is a for-profit venture. These guys
15 are just going to sit in here, make a profit and I have
16 risk, significant risk. I have to look at my children every
17 day. I don't have the means to just go buy land somewhere
18 else and leave this. This is just silly.

19 I mean the risk that we have to the aquifer, the
20 risk to the water, the direct risk I'm going to have to my
21 air, what I breathe every day; I'm downwind from this. I'm
22 going to have to assume that it's safe because they say it's
23 safe, but I can't because I know it's not. I'm into organic
24 farming; I mean, I do that for a reason because I don't
25 trust and believe what people say is safe and what they

1 don't say is safe.

2 I research hard, I look into things, I do my own
3 research and I'm going to do that. I've already done water
4 tests on our property. We are going to do air quality tests
5 and we are going to continue to do that. If this project
6 moves forward, I am going to continue doing that and if
7 there is any deviation, there is going to be a lot of
8 litigation and I'll use every means possible.

9 The gentleman here said I probably won't go
10 anywhere with it, and he's probably right because they don't
11 care about me, they don't care about my family, they don't
12 care about my neighbors. We're just here and we are going
13 to be at risk. I don't see how this is in any way a right
14 thing. If it's not already apparent, I am strongly opposed
15 to this, and I wish you guys to perhaps reconsider this
16 process and maybe think about what we all have to risk here
17 and what's that like.

18 I mean, I'm going to be a face of someone that's
19 going to be in a specific high-risk area. More than just
20 the water supply, which is hugely important but I'm talking
21 about life. An incident at this plant which they say may
22 never happen could kill my family, literally.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. PECONOM: Thank you. Number twenty, Mari

1 Helen Wheeler.

2 MS. WHEELER: I am Mari Helen Wheeler, M-A-R-I
3 H-E-L-E-N W-H-E-E-L-E-R. I am a Gainesville resident but
4 I have been working on water issues with a variety of groups
5 for the last eleven years, so when I say 'we' I will
6 probably be talking about some of those groups.

7 I just have returned from Oklahoma where I spent
8 some time with my relatives there and we spent a great deal
9 of time talking about of course the oil and gas industries,
10 and what the effect is having out there. Also, spent some
11 time with my sister and brother who came in and met us there
12 in Kentucky who reported that the nuns there, the Sisters of
13 Loretta at the Motherhouse were able to block a gas pipeline
14 coming through that part of Kentucky.

15 So I've got those things in my head and so I
16 wrote this so I would stay on track and not get too far off.
17 We've been fighting to protect our fragile Florida
18 environment since we got wind of the planned Sabal Trail
19 pipeline, and our findings that our own state government is
20 more interested in selling off our environmental assets than
21 protecting them. I don't know if you know much about
22 Florida politics, but we wrangle here.

23 We in north Florida find ourselves not only
24 defending our water and lands from the out of state energy
25 corporations but from insiders who've much to gain from that

1 selloff as well.

2 Grassroots conservationists and landowners have
3 joined together to defend ourselves from our own Governor
4 and his appointed Cabinet Members, Water District Managers
5 and EPA. Our recourse then is to appeal to the Federal
6 Government, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to see
7 through the greed and lack of foresight that would allow
8 another giant pipe to carry natural gas through our wetlands
9 of North Florida and South Georgia.

10 Nationally, water is going to be a major concern.
11 We've already seen what is happening along our coastlines
12 and in Miami. Recently, the Mayor of Miami was recorded
13 saying that in the last five years Miami has seen a sea rise
14 of an inch a year. And why should he lie about that? Our
15 Governor refuses to acknowledge the effects that this
16 changing weather pattern is having on our own state.

17 We, the thinking and caring citizens who live and
18 work close to the earth can see with our own eyes what salt
19 water intrusion is doing in our state. Our state leaders
20 had their eyes and ears closed and have had their mouths
21 taped shut by a governor who will not allow the words
22 'climate change' to be spoken. Water is a national concern
23 and therefore should be monitored and protected by the
24 government of the people.

25 As for dealing with Spectra and Duke Energy,

1 corporate domination would be a major issue for Florida. As
2 the dredging of the Miami ports and the Panama Canal open up
3 our waterways to giant tankers waiting to be filled with
4 natural gas that Duke Energy has already admitted it does
5 not need.

6 With a boom and bust market, what we see
7 currently affecting the gas and oil industry we can only
8 imagine that with prices dropping. so will with commitment
9 of such pipeline companies to build and properly maintain
10 those pipelines.

11 The Wall Street Journal published an article on
12 September the 29th discussing the merging of pipeline giants
13 to minimize any more loss to their companies. In the
14 article written by Allison Syder, natural gas prices have
15 remained low. The price of the oil companies also transport
16 has tumbled and the outlook for growth in the pipeline
17 industry has dimmed. Continuing: the price of a barrel of
18 oil was hovering at about sixty dollars in June but has
19 since fallen to about forty-five dollars. Natural gas
20 prices has dropped to two seventy from over three.

21 Companies that drill oil and gas have been
22 cutting back leading to declines in production as well as
23 widespread layoffs at oil fields, services, companies.

24 Finally, the article stated that a prolonged
25 downturn would call into question the need for more

1 infrastructure. We are not willing to trade our local
2 environmental economy for this kind of corporate
3 speculation. There has been no evidence offered to any of
4 us that this Sabal Trail Pipeline will serve anyone but the
5 corporations who gamble with the future of Florida.

6 We absolutely oppose the building of Sabal Trail
7 pipeline and are asking the Federal Government instead to
8 declare our springs and wetlands as a Natural Heritage Site,
9 to be protected for the use and well-being of future
10 generations who will require the waters needed to sustain
11 our lives and livelihood.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

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

15 That concludes the list of speakers who signed
16 up.

17 At this time would anybody who has not signed up
18 before like to speak? And let me go through that, is there
19 anybody here who would like to speak who hasn't already?

20 All right. Yes ma'am.

21 Please remember to spell your first and last
22 names for our court reporter. After she has had a chance to
23 speak, I will open it up for those other individuals who
24 have already spoken so just raise your hand and I will call
25 on you to come on up.

1 MS. ELLISON: My name is Donna Ellison, D-O-N-N-A
2 E-L-L-I-S-O-N. I didn't come prepared to speak tonight but
3 I feel that I need to. My husband and I are landowners that
4 this pipeline is going to be going through, eighty acres of
5 our property. It is actually going to be going probably
6 about one hundred yards beside my house. It's also going to
7 be going right through the back yard of my grandchildren's
8 home. So this is very worrisome to me.

9 I live about less than a mile from the Suwannee
10 River and about a half a mile from Falmouth Springs, which
11 is a magnitude one springs, so I live in between both of
12 them. There are several sinkholes all around our area and
13 this is going to be going right through this area. It's
14 very worrisome. Right where they are going to be putting
15 it, we had a small sinkhole in our field just a few months
16 ago. It wasn't a large one, but it was big enough that we
17 lost one of our cattle in it.

18 These things happen, and what is it going to do?
19 This is going besides my grandchildren's home, my home. This
20 is a land that we felt proud, we're going to pass this land
21 down to our children, to our grandchildren. They're not
22 going to want to live here. They're not going to want to be
23 with this here right beside them that could blow up, that
24 could harm them or harm their children. They're not going
25 to want to live there. What are we going to do? It worries

1 us, it scares us to death. Now we just don't know what to
2 do. We just are, we just want you to do something. That's
3 all I've got to say.

4 (Applause)

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

6 MR. HANRATTY: Again, I'm Joe Hanratty, J-O-E H-
7 A-N-R-A-T-T-Y, here on behalf of AZ Ocala located in Marion
8 County, just adjacent to what is going to be compressor
9 station number six. Again, I just wanted to rush through
10 because I wanted to maintain the three minutes.

11 The line that was just recently addressed in the
12 September 30th report adjustment that Sabal has requested.
13 It is referred to as Alternate Two in our report and it is
14 the yellow line that goes through here.

15 Our request is Alternate One in the report and
16 it's this magenta line that comes out of the pressure
17 station following the Duke Energy Corridor; it comes down
18 and follows the property around the Florida Highlands. The
19 major difference is, the Sabal line cuts through the middle
20 of the property in the Greenfield area, whereas our line
21 utilizing the Duke Corridor collocated. The other major
22 difference is the Sabal line goes on the Drake Property
23 which is adjacent to the Withlacoochie Area River, and our
24 line eliminates the need for the Drake Property and
25 maintains that all on our property and thus reduces the

1 overall impact of the one property. I just wanted to make
2 sure I identified the main issue.

3 The third alternative again was what was in the
4 draft EIS which is --. So again we would request that you
5 would consider our line and again request that Sabal notify
6 the property owners in the Florida Highlands area.

7 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

8 Anyone else who has spoken previously who would
9 like to speak again?

10 MR. QUARTERMAN: It's really hard to know what
11 would convince FERC if everything we've already heard in
12 person in these meetings or in the e-comments comments has
13 already convinced them. I would like to try a different
14 tack.

15 You've heard about solar power. There is a plan
16 by Professor Martin D. Jacobson out of Stafford that spells
17 out how to power each and every state, especially Florida,
18 with son, wind and water power and nothing else in about
19 thirty years.

20 That means everything, including automobiles,
21 trucks; and through the more obvious stuff of replacing
22 power for electricity -- less than ten years. You may
23 recall your former FERC Chair Jon Wellinghoff predicted that
24 very thing in 2013. Funny how suddenly there was some
25 conflict of interest that was alleged, and he had to resign;

1 but his prediction so far was too conservative because it
2 depended on the amount of solar power deployed doubling
3 every two years in the U.S. It's going faster than that.

4 Just a little north of you, the State of Georgia
5 is now the fastest growing solar market in the U.S. That's
6 a huge change from just two years ago. I could detail how a
7 bunch of activists started the Georgia Sierra Club and the
8 DEP had a lot to do with that.

9 Things can change very rapidly. Georgia Power is
10 now building solar power farms left and right, just across
11 the state line in Decatur County, Georgia they are building
12 a hundred megawatts of solar power. We can have a gigawatt
13 deployed in about another year.

14 Florida has more sunshine than Georgia.
15 Surprised? There is no excuse for this pipeline. Someone
16 said FERC doesn't do LNG export. Actually, they do. They
17 approved an LNG export station in Maryland not so long ago
18 which would feed off the same Transco Pipeline that Sabal
19 Trail would feed from. They are in the process of a permit
20 application for an Elk Island LNG Export near Savannah.

21 They also have, they didn't tell you about any of
22 this? In North Florida, Kinder Morgan, one of the few
23 pipeline companies even larger than Spectra Energy, has
24 applied to FERC for a pipeline to go from Suwannee County,
25 across North Florida to Jacksonville. The application

1 explicitly says Sabal Trail can connect to it.

2 That would be Jacksonville, which is gearing
3 enough for LNG export with the assistance of for example,
4 the famous oilman T. Boone Pickens, the same guy who said in
5 an interview that the people who exploited the -- got the
6 shale out of the ground, the products of the ground, for
7 example the Marcellus Shale you heard about earlier, they've
8 invested and they're entitled to their profit by exporting.

9 What does that mean about your title to your
10 land? Feel insignificant yet? But you don't have to,
11 because Williams Company, the owner of Transco, they plan to
12 build a pipeline much like Sabal Trail through Kentucky.
13 There was massive opposition and the Kentucky judge said 'no
14 Kentucky eminent domain.' They cancelled it.

15 Even Sabal Trail, even mighty Spectra Energy
16 which -- I learned this from John Peconom last year after
17 harassing him for three months, FERC has actually denied two
18 pipeline permits. That's not very many, but one of them was
19 proposed by Spectra. Even mighty Spectra can lose even if
20 FERC or the legal hearing in Florida, or for a compressor
21 station in Florida or Georgia, and in less than ten years
22 where most of the power if not all for the electrical grid
23 in the U.S. is coming from sun, wind and water, the
24 companies still pushing fossil fuels in the year 2015, and
25 those who are aiding and abetting them will be seen by the

1 people not so far in the future as like the tobacco company
2 executives still pushing cigarettes to children when they
3 knew full well they cause cancer.

4 FERC, I'm talking the Commissioners here. Once
5 again, it's nothing personal. I know you're all well-
6 meaning and hard-working, it's the process that is
7 completely broken. So I say to the FERC Commissioners: You
8 are like those tobacco executives that got hauled before
9 Congress and lied through their teeth. If you don't want to
10 be remembered on the wrong side of history, do the right
11 thing and deny this pipeline.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Quarterman.

14 Is there anybody else who have spoken previously
15 who would like to speak again?

16 Yes, Ms. Johnson.

17 MS. JOHNSON: I meant to ask earlier, or comment
18 earlier, I really can't ask you questions -- it's Debra
19 Johnson again. Sabal Trail's study or whoever's study this
20 is, has found that their proposed impact minimalization
21 measures and construction methods would cause the project to
22 not significantly impact Karst terrain, Springs or the
23 Florida Aquifer.

24 I would like to know, how in the heck can they
25 know that? As far as I know, there has never been a

1 pipeline of this magnitude, of this capacity, sent through
2 an area like this. Ever. So is this the test run? I mean,
3 how can they know this is going to be fine? We are not
4 willing to take the risk. Thank you.

5 (Applause)

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

7 Yes, sir.

8 MR. GENTES: Harry Gentes, H-A-R-R-Y G-E-N-T-E-S.

9 Karst. I never heard of it until I looked it up one day.
10 It's rock, it sucks. It's the worst rock you could ever
11 build on, but it wasn't put here to hold up a pipeline. It
12 wasn't even put here to hold up my house. It was put here
13 to filter the water that comes out of the swamp and feeds
14 Florida. We pump it out of here, we bottle it, we sell it
15 to the world but I guess oil and gas speaks louder.

16 There's a place where there used to be a pine
17 tree, the tree died. Now there is a recession. When Debbie
18 flooded half of Suwannee County, it was kind of like
19 downtown Live Oak. That place didn't hold water. It
20 drained the neighborhood. Now I got a neighbor that pumps
21 his water there to get rid of it. Where is the sinkhole
22 going to be next? My backyard? Probably. Don't run a
23 pipeline through it. It's a no-brainer. Corrosive methane
24 gas and our drinking water. What's more important?

25 (Applause)

1 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, sir.

2 Last call. Thank you.

3 Before I conclude the meeting, I wanted to
4 personally thank everyone that got up and spoke tonight.
5 This concludes the fourth meeting we've done this week. We
6 started in Albany and worked our way down. We had multiple
7 speakers every night that expressed the same concerns that
8 you have, and other concerns as well.

9 You know, I'd rather be home with my daughter. I
10 believe you'd rather be home with your families; and the
11 role you've served tonight in informing us about the DEIS
12 and your concerns is a very important one. I want to assure
13 you this doesn't fall on deaf ears. You know, I wrote many
14 of the pages in this DEIS and I reviewed and edited it, and
15 went through all of them so I am personally responsible for
16 what's in here. Your comments and those of others
17 who have spoken this week are going to be taken into
18 consideration. We are going to look at this document again.
19 From the first day I came here I have been impressed with
20 your knowledge, and I continue to do so.

21 So we are going to do the best we can. We are
22 going to look at this document, But I want to thank
23 everybody because I know how frustrating it is to come up
24 here and talk to the Commission and to take time away from
25 your busy schedule, so I really appreciate it.

1 With that, I am going to conclude the meeting. I
2 will be here afterward as well as the rest of the Commission
3 staff, and I would like you to take advantage of us being
4 here and you can talk to us about the projects. There were
5 a lot of information and comments that were expressed and I
6 am happy to speak with you about them to the extent that I
7 can. I personally believe that government employees should
8 be accountable to the people and that's what you are doing
9 tonight. and I hope you continue to do that.

10 Also, I encourage you to reach out to the
11 Commissioners as well as your other elected representatives
12 at the local, state and federal levels. Thank you very
13 much, have a good night. Drive safely.

14 (Whereupon, at 7:40 p.m., the public comment
15 meeting concluded.)

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