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BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Project No.

SOUTHEAST MARKET PIPELINE PROJECT : CP14-554-000

: CP15-16-000

: CP15-17-000

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Davenport School of the Arts
751 Coutny Road 547
Davenport, Florida 33837

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

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

1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MR. PECONOM: Good evening. My name is John
3 Peconom. I am a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory
4 Commission's environmental staff and I am the project
5 manager responsible for the Southeast Market Pipelines
6 Project environmental review. With me tonight are Mitch
7 Shields, Jeff Mackenthun, and Graham Book.

8 On behalf of the five members of the Federal
9 Energy Regulatory Commission I would like to thank all of
10 you for coming to tonight's meeting, next slide please.

11 The purpose of tonight's meeting is for the
12 Commission's staff to receive comments from the public on
13 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the
14 SMP Project.

15 The SMP Project is actually three separate but
16 connected natural gas transmission pipeline projects that
17 will involve facilities in Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

18 The Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, Sabal
19 Trail Transmission and the Florida Southeast Connection
20 propose to construct and operate about 650 miles of natural
21 gas pipeline, associated facilities and 6 new compressor
22 stations to transport up to 1.1 billion cubic feet of
23 natural gas per day from Alabama to Florida.

24 In Florida, Sabal Trail and Florida Southeast
25 Connection propose to construct and operate approximately

1 358 miles of pipeline across Hamilton, Suwanee, Gilchrist,
2 Alachua, Levy, Marion, Sumter, Lake, Osceola, Citrus,
3 Orange, Polk, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties.
4 Additionally, Sabal Trail proposed to construct three new
5 natural gas compressor stations in Suwanee, Marion and
6 Osceola Counties.

7 Additional information about the SMP project and
8 its components can be found on FERC's website at
9 www.ferc.gov. The FERC's eLibrary which is accessible from
10 the website is the Commission's administrative record and
11 contains copies of the three applications and all
12 supplemental information provided. The eLibrary also
13 contains copies of our correspondence with other federal and
14 state agencies, comment letters submitted by affected
15 landowners and concerned citizens, and our requests to the
16 applicants for additional environmental information.

17 The National Environmental Policy Act requires
18 the Commission to conduct an environmental review of all
19 interstate natural gas transmission pipeline projects. The
20 SMP Draft EIS which was prepared in cooperation with the US
21 Army Corps of Engineers and issued on September 4, 2015 and
22 sent to over 6,000 individuals and parties was prepared in
23 response to the three applications filed in the fall of
24 2014.

25 The Commission staff worked for over 10 months to

1 prepare this Draft EIS. These ten months are in addition to
2 the year spent working in the pre-filing process. In total,
3 almost 2 years have been spent on this environmental review.

4 An environmental impact statement is an
5 informational document, it is not a decisional document -- a
6 decision about this project has not been made, the EIS'
7 purpose is to inform the Commission about the potential
8 impacts on the human and natural environments that could
9 result from construction and operation of the SMP project.

10 An environmental impact statement describes the
11 environment as it exists today, the potential impacts on the
12 environment, assesses and compares alternatives and includes
13 staff recommendations to avoid, minimize and mitigate
14 potential impacts.

15 Specifically, the Draft EIS is an executive
16 summary, an introduction which describes the purpose and
17 need of the project as well as the purpose and scope of the
18 environmental review, descriptions of the proposed actions
19 including impact immunization measures land requirements,
20 construction procedures, and environmental analysis that
21 covers a variety of environmental resources including
22 geology, ground water, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife,
23 threatened and endangered species, fisheries and aquatic
24 resources, socioeconomics, impacts on property values,
25 cultural resources, air quality and noise, compressor

1 station emissions, reliability and safety, pipeline
2 integrity, and several other resources.

3 The EIS also includes a cumulative impacts
4 analysis, alternatives analysis and recommendations. This
5 Draft EIS summarizes our comprehensive environmental review
6 of the project.

7 As I said before the Commission issued the SMP
8 Draft EIS September 4, 2015. This began a 45-day comment
9 period which closes on October 26th. In addition to the
10 comments we will receive later this evening, I expect the
11 Commission will receive numerous written and electronic
12 comments. Comments received, whether they be verbal,
13 written or electronic are treated the same. There is no
14 preference given to one type of comment over the other.

15 All comments received will be addressed in the
16 Final environmental impact statement. Comments may result
17 in additional analysis and revisions to the EIS.

18 As a reminder, comments can be provided verbally
19 tonight, in written form and submitted via the U.S. mail to
20 the Secretary of the Commission or electronically via the
21 FERC website, www.ferc.gov. For your convenience we have
22 also provided comment forms inside there which you may fill
23 out and leave with us tonight.

24 After receiving comments on the Draft
25 environmental impact statement, we will prepare a Final

1 environmental impact statement. Ultimately, the FERC
2 Commissioners will determine whether or not to approve the
3 SMP Project. This decision will be made after a careful
4 review of the applications, the Final environmental impact
5 statement and will consider all public comments submitted on
6 the project.

7 The meeting notice states that we would be
8 enforcing a three minute time limit however given the number
9 of individuals who have expressed an interest in speaking I
10 am going to forego that time limit. So before we hear from
11 our first speaker, be sure to silence your cell phones?
12 When you come up to speak please remember to spell your
13 first and last names for the record.

14 Your comments are being recorded and will be
15 entered into the Commission's administrative record. If you
16 would like a written copy of tonight's meeting you can speak
17 to our reporter after the meeting or you can download a copy
18 of the record once it has been placed into the eLibrary.
19 With that I will now call our first speaker Mr. Carl McGraw.

20 MR. MCGRAW: Good afternoon, my name is Carl
21 McGraw, C-a-r-l M-c-G-r-a-w and I am the training
22 coordinator for the Teamster's National Pipeline Training
23 Forum and I would like to affirm our support for the
24 construction of this pipeline project. This is an
25 incredible opportunity for the state and for folks living in

1 the area where the project will be built.

2 Many jobs will be created with high wages and
3 provide health insurance and pension benefits. These
4 workers will spend a great portion of these wages in the
5 local businesses such as restaurants, stores, and gas
6 stations. This means the local community will directly
7 benefit from the economic opportunities created by this
8 project.

9 In addition we are committed to build this
10 pipeline project will well-trained skilled labors ensuring
11 safe and qualified Teamster's work. The pipeline will bring
12 a special inexpensive natural gas and it is efficient and in
13 an environmentally friendly manner leading to cheaper
14 utility bills for households and local businesses.

15 The Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project was mentioned
16 as one of the listed projects in this article. A Drexel
17 University study released February 9, 2015 stated the
18 potential pipeline, a pipeline project smaller in size than
19 this project is stated that the project will result in more
20 than 17.5 million dollars in additional personal income
21 taxes just during construction besides during construction
22 job workers spend money in the local areas as I previously
23 said however, local businesses will gain by selling supplies
24 and materials needed on the projects that services the
25 contractor's equipment.

1 The majority of this pipeline work for this
2 project will be from the local community. Our contract with
3 the pipeline mandates that at least half of the pipeline
4 workers have to be from the local community. Most times we
5 have a great -- a higher percentage of local workers. To
6 help ensure at least half of the workers are from the local
7 area we are providing free trainings to our local members.

8 This will include the latest in property and
9 transportation CSA regulations that stands for compliance,
10 safety and accountability. A safety course reviewed the CSA
11 regulation and the defensive driving would be scheduled
12 prior to the start of this project. Prior to the start of
13 this project we will bring in skilled trainers to provide
14 hands-on training to our local members on the equipment
15 which they will be driving. This way the work on this
16 pipeline project will be conducted in a safe, efficient and
17 highly-skilled manner.

18 This project is good for the state and local
19 community and our members and we urge the support -- to
20 proceed on schedule, thank you.

21 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. McGraw, our next
22 speaker is Mr. David Petr.

23 MR. PETR: You said my last name perfect, it's a
24 rarity among Czechoslovakians, David Petr, P-e-t-r, it is
25 like Peter without the second E. I am the President of the

1 Central Florida Development Council. I represent Polk
2 County's development efforts, 2,000 square miles, 17
3 municipalities and I want to tell you it is an exciting time
4 for Polk County, it's an exciting time for business
5 recruitment and an exciting time for business expansion. I
6 am in wild support of any type of infrastructure that is
7 going to drive and facilitate additional growth in our
8 county and this project is one of those opportunities.

9 In the previous years before our team started our
10 effort to recruit business to Polk County, Polk County
11 received about 400 jobs created per year. I'm proud to
12 report that two years ago we facilitated the creation of
13 1300 jobs, this past year we have facilitated the creation
14 of 1600 jobs. I expect to find wonderful growth throughout
15 the county, not only in the Davenport area but Lakeland,
16 along the I-4 corridor you are going to see advances in
17 logistics, you are going to see advances in manufacturing,
18 healthcare, technology, tourism, as you know Polk County is
19 a very diverse county and any type of reliable, low-cost,
20 efficient energy that is available to our projects will only
21 enable a better quality of life for our citizens.

22 The next speaker you will hear more specific
23 project activity is Spiros Balntas who is our project
24 manager but as the leader of the organization I want to
25 convey our true support of this project as an enabler for a

1 quality of life that we want to achieve in Polk County,
2 thank you.

3 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Petr. Our next
4 speaker is Mr. Spirous Balntas.

5 MR. BALNTAS: Spiros Balntas, S-p-i-r-o-s
6 B-a-l-n-t-a-s. Thank you for having me here. I directly
7 deal with and work with businesses both in the county and
8 outside of Polk County and just like various resources that
9 businesses need such as land, buildings, road and other
10 infrastructure, work force, educated work force, natural gas
11 and electricity are just the main ones that contribute to
12 their expansion and their growth.

13 Central Florida Development Council their task is
14 to facilitate the creation of capital investment and job
15 creation in Polk County and we believe the natural gas
16 expansion here that will run down through the state will
17 help us recruit additional businesses if they find natural
18 gas capacity will continue to increase. We thank you for
19 the opportunity for having us here supporting the project
20 and we believe that it will help expand additional more jobs
21 throughout the region as natural gas continues to be one of
22 the primary growth for the nation so we appreciate your help
23 so thank you.

24 MR. PECONOM: Thank you sir, our next speaker is
25 Mr. David Brier.

1 MR. BRIER: My name is David Brier, D-a-v-i-d
2 B-r-i-e-r. I'm the Business Manager of Local 517, members
3 of LIUNA, the Laborers International Union of North America.
4 As a member of LIUNA and the LIUNA family we have over a
5 century of pipe experience behind us.

6 We believe that a successful project is one that
7 entails work experience and proper training all of which we
8 provide to our members. In line with that we also believe
9 that we must partner with responsible contractors and when I
10 say responsible contractors, I mean contractors that pay a
11 livable wage, that provide health insurance, a pension,
12 longevity as we go along.

13 But one of the more important things is a
14 responsible contractor who will perform this project for the
15 highest quality in a time efficient manner and be safety
16 conscious. And when I say safety conscious I don't only
17 mean about construction safety I mean environmental safety.

18 In the past five years we have had over 80
19 million man hours in pipeline contracts. When we leave an
20 area we leave it as good if not better than when we first
21 got there. That is one of our major priorities. We have
22 had to correct mistakes made by lesser contractors trying to
23 make a quick buck, it never worked we had to go in and
24 correct it more so environmentally than the actual pipeline
25 itself.

1 We believe that the economy and I have been a
2 member of Central Florida and a resident here for 35 years.
3 My family has grown up here I have seen the economic ups and
4 downs and the uncertainties of the families that live in
5 Central Florida. We feel that the pipeline will have a
6 major financial impact and boost if you would on all of the
7 counties that are involved.

8 Also if you are not aware that generally a
9 pipeline project, once it is completely generally for every
10 one person that is involved with that pipeline project,
11 three jobs are created for maintenance, security, et cetera.
12 This will also stem some economic growth.

13 It is estimated that from the completion of this
14 pipeline there will be a wage benefit of about 22 billion
15 dollars a year in wages as well as a 74 million dollar
16 overall economic benefit. Thank you and we give you our
17 support.

18 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Brier, our next
19 speaker is Mr. John Newstreet.

20 MR. NEWSTREET: Good evening John Newstreet,
21 J-o-h-n Newstreet, N-e-w-s-t-r-e-et. I am the President and
22 CEO of the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce and
23 I am here to just briefly reaffirm a letter that we have
24 submitted to the Commission it is dated April 15th, 2014 it
25 was sent to Secretary Bose and outlined by unanimous action

1 the Board of Directors and the Chamber recorded an official
2 board meeting on Friday, April 11, 2014.

3 We wish to affirm our support for the Florida,
4 Southeast Connection and the natural gas pipeline so I won't
5 re-read that letter it is on the record but we do also want
6 to cite our support and appreciation of the Florida
7 Southeast Connection and the folks making that happen here,
8 they are involved in the community and are knowledgeable and
9 so we appreciate their partnership and appreciate working
10 with them in the future, thank you.

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Newstreet, our next
12 speaker is Mr. Charles Lee.

13 MR. LEE: Good afternoon, Charles Lee
14 representing Audubon Florida, for the record my address is
15 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, Florida 32751. At the inception
16 when we reviewed the proposed route of the Sabal Trail
17 Pipeline it raised a number of concerns to Audubon,
18 specifically concerns about unnecessarily high amounts of
19 wetlands destruction and systems that appeared to be areas
20 where a better crossing could take place than what was
21 initially proposed.

22 Also we found in Marion County Florida pipeline
23 proposed a diagonal crossing of a very important piece of
24 publically owned conservation land known as the Halpata
25 Tastanaki Preserve which is owned by the Southwest Florida

1 Water Management District. A particular characteristic of
2 that Preserve is a very viable and growing population of the
3 endangered Florida scrub jay and the original route for this
4 pipeline would have crossed through some of the most
5 productive areas for that species.

6 My negotiating with the Florida Department of
7 Environmental Protection, the Sabal Trail, its consultants
8 from Southwest Florida Water Management District, we were
9 pleased to report that that route of concern has now been
10 replaced with a route that centrally skirts the hedge of the
11 Halpata Preserve and therefore avoids the concerns that the
12 initial route proposed.

13 In a similar way in the Green Swamp there were a
14 number of initial wetland crossings that appeared to revert
15 the pipelines in areas of very high wetland value. In most
16 cases the alternative routes have now been accepted to avoid
17 those impacts and where they could not be avoided and one of
18 the things that we gained in participating in this exercise
19 was a better understanding of the engineering constraints
20 and pipeline construction. Sometimes just moving it over
21 where you would like to move it to avoid something presents
22 other engineering problems that become insurmountable to
23 folks there too.

24 So there are places where the pipeline crosses
25 through some reasonably good wetlands but any of those

1 places a pipeline through its EPP permit is committed to
2 some extraordinary mitigation that will more than offset the
3 wetland losses that are occurring in the 75 foot strip where
4 the pipeline will be constructed.

5 One good example of some moves to avoid wetland
6 impacts are what was done in the case of Davenport Creek
7 Swamp for a post dislocation. The original route would have
8 gone through a grove of very mature exemplary cypress trees.
9 I would in some ways compare the relationship of the stature
10 of those trees to what Audubon has in its own "Swamp
11 Sanctuary" down in southwest Florida.

12 The route which after discussions with both EPP,
13 Audubon and others, Sabal Trail has chosen as a route that
14 diverts to the north, skirts away from the very high value
15 cypress wetlands into an area of scrubby wetlands, a much
16 lower value on what we call the demand scale in other words
17 they don't present as much impact to be mitigated and where
18 the disruption will be over the years, if you look back 20
19 years from now it will probably be somewhat difficult to see
20 where the pipeline construction actually passed into the
21 nature of the vegetation there.

22 So overall Audubon Florida has found its concerns
23 resolved, we thank you for the cooperation of FERC, Sabal
24 Trail, the regulatory agencies, we think that a very good
25 outcome is possible here and at this stage we have no

1 further objections to the construction of this pipeline
2 which I would propose pointing out we recognize that natural
3 gas generates far fewer emissions than coal or oil or other
4 fossil fuels, it is an important part of the national
5 strategy for these carbon emissions so we are pleased to be
6 able to give you our position at this point in time. In
7 fact I will leave you with a copy of our letter, thank you
8 very much.

9 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Lee. Our next
10 speaker is Mr. Wes Davis.

11 MR. DAVIS: Wes Davis, W-e-s D-a-v-i-s with
12 Laborer's Local 517. I think it's pretty important to
13 remember that with this construction it actually puts local
14 people to work, it gives them a good wage, it gives them
15 good benefits. We also have to remember too with all the
16 developments that are going on in Florida and with all the
17 new housing developments that you see stringing up
18 everywhere we have to have proper energy infrastructure to
19 support all of this, thank you.

20 MR. PECONOM: Thank you Mr. Davis. The next
21 speaker is Mr. Robert Teran.

22 MR. TERAN: Robert Teran, T-e-r-a-n. I'm the
23 International Representative for the Operating Engineers
24 Pipeline Department. I am here to say to go on record as
25 the Operating Engineers is in favor of the SMP Project. We

1 believe that this project will inject millions of dollars
2 into the local economies of the counties this pipeline would
3 cross, also renew the State of Florida and its folks good.

4 For today's newer technologies pipelines are
5 safer than ever with better made steel and state of the art
6 coatings that will allow today's better built pipelines to
7 last longer. I know there are concerned citizens, farmers
8 and ranchers about the impact of this pipeline on wildlife
9 and natural waterways, well we as operating engineers are
10 also spirits of the land and we have an interest in clean
11 water and air and for any project that would promote cleaner
12 burning fuel for power plants, domestic manufacturing and
13 the military, for any other job that will reduce gas
14 emissions. I would like to ask FERC to approve the project,
15 thank you.

16 MR. PECONOM: Thank you sir. That concludes the
17 list of people who signed up earlier. At this time would
18 anybody else like to speak? Seeing no volunteers, as the
19 Project Manager I would like to thank you all for coming
20 tonight and participating in the meeting. Your feedback and
21 comments are a very important part of the environmental
22 review process. As I said before your comments will be
23 considered as we move forward so again thank you very much
24 and if you didn't speak tonight and you want to think about
25 it send us some written comments that would be great, please

1 keep in mind that the comment period closes on October 26th.

2

3 Myself and our staff will be available the next

4 half hour so if you would like to talk to us about the

5 project, thank you very much and good night.

6 (CONCLUDED AT 6:28 p.m.)

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