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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE
ALASKA LNG PROJECT

PF14-21-000

Held at:
Kaktovik Community Center
2051 Barter Avenue
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747

October 27, 2015
6:18 p.m.

1

PROCEEDINGS

2

MR. MARTIN: Hi.

3

MS. SIMS-KAYOTUK: Hello.

4

MR. MARTIN: My name is Jim Martin;

5

I'm the environmental project manager with the

6

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. And we're

7

here tonight to do a scoping meeting for the

8

Alaska LNG project.

9

FERC is the lead agency for the

10

environmental review. And the purpose of this

11

meeting is really to get feedback from you guys on

12

what things we should consider when we write the

13

environmental impact statement for the project.

14

So shorthand, it's what do you think we should

15

discuss in terms of impacts?

16

I've got a written statement that I

17

need to read to get in the transcript. So I know

18

it's impolite to read to you, and hopefully you

19

won't fall asleep. But I'll just read through

20

this as quickly as possible; and if you have

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questions, then you can ask.

22

What we'll do is when I finish

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reading it, then if any of you want to give us

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comments, then we'll ask you to just, you know,

25

state your name; and then we'll put it in the

1 record. There's a court reporter doing
2 transcripts that we'll have. You guys are
3 probably all familiar with it anyway, right? Not
4 your first rodeo, right?

5 MS. SIMS-KAYOTUK: No.

6 MR. MARTIN: Okay. Well, thank you
7 for coming. Help yourselves to any of the food.
8 As I stated previously, for the Alaska LNG
9 project, the FERC is the lead federal agency with
10 responsibility under the National Environment
11 Policy Act to consider the potential environmental
12 impacts and prepare an environmental impact
13 statement associated with the liquefied natural
14 gas terminal and pipeline associated with the
15 project.

16 The primary purpose of this meeting
17 tonight is to give you an opportunity to comment
18 on the project or on the environmental issues that
19 you would like to see covered in our environmental
20 impact statement.

21 It will help us the most if your
22 comments are as specific as possible regarding the
23 potential environmental impacts and reasonable
24 alternatives for the proposed Alaska LNG project.

25 These issues generally focus on

1 potential for environmental effects; but may also
2 address construction issues, mitigation, and the
3 environmental review process. In addition, this
4 meeting is designed to provide you with an
5 opportunity to meet with the applicants, to ask
6 them questions.

7 Now, the applicant tried to get
8 here tonight; but they weren't able to because
9 they had problems with their airplane. So we
10 don't have the applicants here to answer questions
11 for you. But we do have lots of ways that you can
12 find out more information about the project, so
13 we'll just skip over this part.

14 Now, I want to briefly describe our
15 environmental review process for you. To
16 illustrate how this process works, we've prepared
17 a flowchart; it's right here. And you're welcome
18 to come up and take a look at it at any time.

19 This flowchart was appended to the
20 notice of intent that we mailed out, and copies of
21 the flowchart are available on the table at the
22 back there.

23 Currently we are in the early phase
24 of our environmental review process. The
25 applicants entered into the FERC pre-filing

1 process on September 12th, 2014, which began our
2 review. The purpose of the pre-filing process is
3 to encourage involvement by all interested
4 stakeholders in a manner that allows for the early
5 identification and resolution of environmental
6 issues.

7 As of today, no formal application
8 has been filed with FERC. However, the FERC,
9 along with other federal agencies, including the
10 Corps of Engineers, BLM, and the State, have begun
11 to review the project.

12 On March 4th of this year, FERC
13 issued a notice of intent to prepare an
14 environmental statement for this project and
15 initiated the scoping period. This scoping, or
16 comment period, will end on December 4th, 2015.

17 Once scoping is finished, our next
18 step will be to begin analyzing the issues that
19 have been identified during the scoping period.

20 We will assess the project's
21 effects on water bodies and wetlands, vegetation
22 and wildlife, endangered species, cultural
23 resources, soils, land use, air quality, safety,
24 health, and subsistence, as well as the impacts
25 from various alternatives.

1 During our review, we will assemble
2 information from a variety of sources, including
3 the applicants, the public, other federal, State,
4 and local agencies, and our own fieldwork.

5 We will independently analyze this
6 information and prepare a draft environmental
7 impact statement. This draft EIS will be
8 distributed to the public for comments.

9 During the comment period on the
10 draft EIS, we will hold more public meetings to
11 get a feedback on our analysis and findings.

12 After making any necessary changes
13 or additions, a final EIS will, again, be
14 distributed to the public.

15 Please note that because of the
16 size of the mailing lists, the mailed version of
17 the EIS will be on a CD. If you prefer to have a
18 hard copy mailed to you, you must indicate that
19 choice on the return mailer attached to the NOI.
20 You can also identify this preference at the
21 table.

22 If you receive the NOI in the mail,
23 you're already on our mailing list and will remain
24 on our mailing list to receive the EIS and any
25 other supplemental notices we may issue about this

1 project, unless you indicate that you wish to be
2 removed from the mailing list.

3 We mailed the NOI to our
4 environmental mailing list; however, the mailing
5 list for this project is large and undergoing
6 constant revision. If you did not get a copy and
7 would like one, there are copies of the notice of
8 intent, again, at the back table there; and you
9 can also add your name and address to our mailing
10 list back there as well.

11 There are many ways that you can
12 participate in our process; tonight's meeting is
13 just one of these options.

14 Tonight you can sign up to speak
15 and present verbal comments that will be
16 transcribed and placed into the public record. In
17 addition, you may submit comments by mail,
18 electronically; or you can fill in a comment form
19 at the table in the back and leave it with us
20 tonight, and we'll take it back and put it into
21 our public docket.

22 Instructions for submitting
23 comments electronically or by mail can be found in
24 the notice of intent. It is very important that
25 any comments you send include our internal docket

1 number for the project. The docket number is
2 PF14-21. That's on the notice of intent if you
3 pick up a copy of that.

4 Include this number -- including
5 this number will ensure that the staff evaluating
6 the project will get to your comments as soon as
7 possible.

8 The EIS is being prepared to
9 disclose to the public and to the Commission the
10 environmental impact of constructing and operating
11 the planned project. The EIS is not a decision
12 document and does not constitute approval by the
13 Commission.

14 After the final EIS is issued,
15 there are up to five Commissioners at FERC who are
16 responsible for making a determination on whether
17 or not to authorize the Alaska LNG project.

18 The Commission will consider the
19 environmental information from the EIS, among
20 other non-environmental issues in making its
21 decision to approve or deny the project.

22 We'll now begin the important part
23 of the meeting where we hear your comments. If
24 you prefer not to speak, you may hand us written
25 comments tonight or mail them in later. Whether

1 you provide your comments verbally or mail them
2 in, they will be considered by FERC equally.

3 I'm sure that you've noticed this
4 meeting is being recorded by a transcription
5 service, this is being done so that all of your
6 comments and questions will be transcribed and put
7 into the public record.

8 To help the court reporter produce
9 an accurate record of this meeting, I ask that you
10 please follow some general ground rules.

11 If you're going to speak -- first
12 we ask that you turn off or silence your cell
13 phones; we will call speakers in the order that
14 they signed up on the speakers' list.

15 When your name is called, please
16 stand up and -- well, I guess you don't have to
17 stand up -- you can just tell us -- just tell us
18 your name and spell it, if you could, so that we
19 get it correctly; and identify any agency or group
20 that you're representing, if that's the case; and
21 if you have any acronyms or anything else that
22 you're going to use, please define those.

23 I think I can just dispense with
24 all this other stuff. So right now I don't have a
25 name on the speakers' list; but I'll just ask,

1 would anyone like to give us some comments
2 tonight?

3 MS. BURNS: Nora Jane Burns;
4 B-u-r-n-s, last name. I know one of the counsel
5 wanted -- I don't know -- I think it's been
6 brought up before, your map shows that these -- of
7 lining villages through -- from here they will be
8 giving -- they will be hooked onto natural gas
9 from this; is that -- each of these communities
10 will be hooked onto natural gas?

11 MR. MARTIN: Oh, well, they haven't
12 made that decision yet on how the gas will be
13 distributed. We're still really in the process --
14 Mark, do you want to say anything about that?

15 MS. BURNS: And he wanted to know
16 if you guys can hook one over this way.

17 MR. MARTIN: Okay. All right.

18 MS. BURNS: Because Nuiqsut's
19 already hooked up to natural gas from there.
20 There are only -- development over in their area.

21 MR. MARTIN: Okay.

22 MS. BURNS: But I know that this
23 issue -- how many visits so far, three?

24 MR. MARTIN: How many what?

25 MS. BURNS: Visits that you had so

1 far.

2 MR. MARTIN: Well, this is our
3 first time. We came -- the project --

4 MS. BURNS: Oh, EIS, okay. So the
5 other guys came to introduce it, and then --

6 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, there's a
7 project applicant, a proponent for the project;
8 and they've been to all the communities. We're
9 separate from them. We're the regulatory agency
10 that's going to review the impacts of the project,
11 and so that's why we're here as a separate team.

12 MS. BURNS: Uh-huh. And you're
13 here to do environmental assessments on --

14 MR. MARTIN: Yes, an environmental
15 impact statement where the scoping -- this is
16 called a scoping meeting. And the purpose of that
17 is for people to tell us the things that they
18 think are important that we should include in the
19 impact statement, and that -- analyzing those
20 impacts.

21 MS. BURNS: Thank you.

22 MR. MARTIN: Thank you. Mark, did
23 you have any other information on the in-state
24 distribution; that's still off a distance in time?

25 MR. MORONES: That's still off in

1 the distance. So for your record, Mark, with a K;
2 Morones, M-o-r-o-n-e-s, with the Department of
3 Natural Resources.

4 And so I don't know that I have a
5 whole lot to add, Jim, to your discussion. But
6 there's anticipated to be five off-take points for
7 natural gas; but that is still, I think, being
8 vetted out by the State.

9 I think my understanding -- but I
10 need to verify this -- is that has to be -- or I
11 think I've heard the project represent that that
12 information -- they hope to have provided for the
13 purposes of the second round of the draft resource
14 request coming back.

15 But I am not aware that -- yet that
16 there's been any kind of real formal decision
17 about where there might be off-take points. So
18 that's to be determined.

19 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, so these
20 resource reports are things that are filed into
21 our docket; and they're basically mini reports on
22 different resources. These are draft versions.

23 And so this would -- is the second
24 set of -- draft that Mark was talking about; we're
25 looking for those to come in in the spring of this

1 year. And so we may have -- or, you know, no
2 telling exactly -- but we may have more
3 information at that point in time.

4 So for those of you who just came
5 in, we're just at the phase where people are
6 giving us comments. So if you have anything you'd
7 like to say, just, you know, give us your name and
8 give us your comments. And we have a court
9 reporter here keeping track of everything, and
10 we'll take it all back to Washington with us.

11 So would anyone else like to give
12 us some comments tonight? Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. SIMS-KAYOTUK: Carla
14 Sims-Kayotuk; last name is S-i-m-s, capital
15 K-a-y-o-t-u-k. I see on here that you have the
16 subsistence and the effects and impacts on that.

17 One of my concerns is the migratory
18 route for the caribou. I believe some of that --
19 those patterns are starting to change already, so
20 I'd like to make sure that's in your EIS thing.

21 MR. MARTIN: Okay. Good.

22 MS. SIMS-KAYOTUK: Cumulative
23 impacts on that.

24 MR. MARTIN: We will. Thank you.

25 MS. SIMS-KAYOTUK: Uh-huh.

1 MR. MARTIN: Anyone else have
2 anything? We've come a long way if you want to
3 talk to us about anything.

4 MS. BURNS: Have you contacted,
5 like the Native village and the corporations that
6 you will -- you were coming this way? I know that
7 there are notices --

8 MR. MARTIN: Yes. Yes, we did.

9 MS. BURNS: -- around our town, and
10 I don't remember getting any --

11 MR. MARTIN: And we'll continue
12 that throughout the project. We'll continue to do
13 those communications at any time someone would
14 request it.

15 MS. BURNS: Yeah. Since you're
16 doing environmental -- Nora Jane Burns,
17 B-u-r-n-s -- I know that earlier this year -- was
18 it in July/June we had an earthquake? June --
19 July. We had earthquakes, 6. -- I forget what
20 point it was; but it was under environmental
21 thing. Have you guys put anything for just in
22 case we have earthquake? Because it was in the
23 water.

24 MR. MARTIN: Uh-huh.

25 MS. BURNS: And this -- like going

1 towards the west; but it was
2 13-point-something miles away from us; and we had
3 an earthquake, and we felt it.

4 MR. MARTIN: Yeah.

5 MS. BURNS: And do you guys have
6 any back-up plans for that just in case? Because
7 Point Thomson is pretty close to it too --

8 MR. MARTIN: Right.

9 MS. BURNS: -- and I'm sure they
10 felt it too. And we are dealing with liquid gas
11 that's high pressure.

12 MR. MARTIN: Yeah.

13 MS. BURNS: And what's going to
14 happen if it start being frequently -- because we
15 never had earthquakes that we felt before; but we
16 know that we have them, but we just don't feel any
17 because --

18 MR. MARTIN: Sure.

19 MS. BURNS: -- so what kind of
20 studies are you guys going to do that -- do, and
21 what type of land EV you have for --

22 MR. MARTIN: Yeah.

23 MS. BURNS: -- you know, in the
24 event that we have that kind of event? And then I
25 know we're having erosion problems real bad, and

1 I'm sure it affects all the way from our area all
2 the way down through your map there because
3 where --

4 MR. MARTIN: Yeah.

5 MS. BURNS: -- permafrost is
6 melting pretty fast seems like; and we're eroding,
7 and we're going to lose more ground here pretty
8 soon.

9 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, and we're -- you
10 know, those are all good topics. And we're aware
11 of those and will be analyzing them.

12 I do want to clarify that there --
13 you know, there's a project applicant that's
14 proposing the project; and they'll do a lot of the
15 studies. But we'll do our own independent
16 analysis, especially of seismic issues as they
17 relate to the pipeline; the gas treatment plan
18 that's proposed, and way down south at Nikiski
19 where the -- liquefied natural gas terminal.

20 Certainly there's a long history of
21 seismic activity up here, and that's one of the
22 top issues.

23 But right now, like I said, we're
24 in the early phases of the review. We don't have
25 a lot of studies from the applicant; we don't have

1 a lot of information that we've pulled together
2 that we can show you at this point, but it is
3 something that we'll be looking at.

4 MS. BURNS: Thank you.

5 MR. MARTIN: Anybody else? All
6 right. Well, grab some fruit and some vegetables,
7 if you want; and there's some coffee back there.

8 And we'll -- Jen and I -- who -- I
9 guess I failed to introduce my team, which was
10 very rude of me; I'll probably be punished
11 later -- this is Jennifer Lee with NRG; she's
12 helping us do the hard work, and this is Mike
13 Boyle and Patti Trocki with -- also contractors
14 for us.

15 Jen and I will stay up if any of
16 you would like to just come up and talk one on
17 one. And we'll close the meeting, but we'll stay
18 up here to do that if anyone would be more
19 comfortable with that.

20 So let the record show that at
21 6:34 p.m. we closed the meeting -- adjourned the
22 meeting. Thank you very much for coming tonight.

23 (Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.)

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25