

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

2 (6:03 p.m.)

3 MR. BOWMAN: Good evening everyone. I think we
4 will go ahead and get started now. On behalf of the Federal
5 Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC, I would like to
6 welcome all of you here tonight. I would like to welcome
7 you to the comment meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact
8 Statement or DEIS for the Rover Pipeline and Trunkline and
9 Panhandle Backhaul Projects. Let the record show that the
10 DEIS comment meeting began at 6:03 p.m. on March 22, 2016 in
11 Fayette, Ohio.

12 My name is Kevin Bowman and I am an Environmental
13 Project Manager with the FERC's Office of Energy Project,
14 which is a division of FERC. To my right is Kim Sechrist,
15 who is also with the FERC. Also representing FERC tonight
16 at the sign-in table who you may have also met on your way
17 in is Christine Allen, Oliver Pahl and Jon Hess. You will
18 note that we have a court reporter here tonight so that we
19 can transcribe this meeting and have an accurate record of
20 it tonight. So if you would like a copy of that transcript
21 you can make arrangements with the court reporter after this
22 meeting.

23 In February of 2015, Rover Pipeline LLC,
24 Trunkline Gas Company LLC and Panhandle Eastern Pipeline
25 Company filed applications under Section 7 of the Natural

1 Gas Act to construct and operate certain natural gas
2 pipeline facilities. Rover's Project would consist of the
3 installation of about 500 miles of variable-diameter and
4 some dual-natural gas pipeline in West Virginia,
5 Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio as well as ten new
6 compressor stations. Panhandle and Trunkline Projects would
7 involve modifications to the existing facilities to allow
8 Rover gas into existing pipeline systems.

9 The primary purpose of tonight's meeting is to
10 allow you all an opportunity to provide specific comments on
11 FERC's Environmental Impact Statement. It will help us the
12 most if your comments are as specific as possible regarding
13 the proposed project and the analysis contained in the
14 FERC's Draft EIS.

15 So I would like to clarify that these projects
16 are not projects being proposed by the FERC. They are
17 projects proposed by Rover and its affiliates. Rather, FERC
18 is the federal agency that is responsible for reviewing
19 these and evaluating these natural gas facilities. As FERC
20 Staff has stated throughout this process, FERC Staff members
21 are not advocates for these projects, rather FERC
22 Environmental Staff members are advocates for the FERC
23 Environmental Review Process.

24 Throughout this review, we have assembled
25 information from a variety of sources that have included the

1 applicants, the public, other state, local and federal
2 agencies and our own independent analysis and field work.
3 We've analyzed this information and prepared a Draft EIS
4 that distributed to the public for public comment. A
5 notice of availability of the Draft EIS was issued on
6 February 19th of this year.

7 Throughout our review, we engaged with several
8 other Federal and State agencies who participated as what we
9 would call "cooperating agencies", assisted us in our review
10 of this Project. I would like to thank those cooperating
11 agencies for their continued assistance in our review of
12 this Project. So we are nearing the end of
13 the 45-day comment period with the Draft Environmental
14 Impact Statement and this comment period ends on April 11,
15 2016. All comments that we receive, whether they be written
16 or spoken will be addressed in the first pass Final
17 Environmental Impact Statement. I encourage you, if you
18 plan to send comments and have not, please do so here today
19 either verbally during the comment portion of tonight's
20 meeting or by using one of the written forms in the side
21 table when you came in today.

22 You can also submit comments using the procedures
23 outlined in the FERC's Notice of Availability of the Draft
24 EIS which includes instructions on how to submit your
25 comments to FERC online. All comments will be considered

1 with equal weight regardless of whether they are provided
2 verbally during tonight's meeting or submitted in writing.
3 If you did receive a copy of the Draft EIS in the mail,
4 whether it be a CD or paper copy, you will automatically
5 receive a copy of a final EIS so if you did not get a copy
6 of the Draft EIS please do let us know and we will make sure
7 to get your name and address and send you a copy of the
8 final Environmental Impact Statement.

9 Finally, I would like to state that neither the
10 draft nor the final EIS are decision-making documents. In
11 other words, once they are issued, those documents do not
12 determine whether or not the Project is approved. Rather,
13 FERC Commissioners, who are five, presidentially-appointed
14 members; presidentially appointed and confirmed by the
15 Senate, those are the people that make the final decision on
16 whether or not a project moves forward.

17 The FERC Commissioners consider environmental
18 impacts along with a host of other non-environmental
19 information such as markets, rates and need for whether a
20 project moves forward. So that will be my brief overview of
21 the FERC role so with that we will move on to the part of
22 the meeting where we take verbal comments. If you do not
23 intend to speak tonight, or you don't get to say everything
24 you wanted or you think of something you'd like to bring up
25 later, you can hand in written comments or send them in to

1 us using the comment forms at the table again.

2 With that, I have four people signed up so far so
3 the first person is Ryan Augsburger.

4 MR. AUGSBURGER: Good evening. I appreciate the
5 opportunity to speak with you today about the proposed Rover
6 Pipeline Project. My name is Ryan Augsburger and I am the
7 Vice President and Managing Director of Public Policy
8 Services of the Ohio Manufacturers Association. My
9 testimony is on behalf of the OMA.

10 Access to reliable, affordable energy is a
11 competitive issue for Ohio Manufacturers. Combined with
12 electricity the price of energy has a significant impact on
13 manufacturers' bottom lines. While Ohio Manufacturers have
14 made many investments to use energy efficiently, natural gas
15 is a major cost for energy intensive manufacturers. It has
16 also proven to be the most volatile. Before the shale gas
17 increase in the domestic supply of natural gas, there were
18 moments where the high price of natural gas threatened the
19 survival of some businesses.

20 The OMA represents over fourteen hundred
21 manufacturing companies all across this state. Ohio
22 manufacturers manufacture every product you can think of
23 ranging from automotive components, medical equipment to
24 frozen pizza rolls. In aggregate, Ohio ranks one of the top
25 few states for manufacturing. The economic output for

1 manufacturing in 2013 reached one hundred billion dollars
2 from eighty-seven billion dollars just a year earlier in
3 2012.

4 Investments in new production are underway that
5 will drive that figure even higher in subsequent years.
6 Manufacturing productivity is a competitive advantage to
7 Ohio's economy, manufacturers in Ohio excel in both product
8 and process innovation. Investments underway in plants
9 across the state will improve productivity while saving
10 energy minimizing waste and reducing environmental
11 emissions.

12 Ohio competes with other states for manufacturing
13 investment, energy policy and energy infrastructure are both
14 important considerations when companies make investment
15 decisions. The OMA has a longstanding position of support
16 for a modernized energy infrastructure to maximize energy
17 supplies and stabilize energy pricing and reliability.
18 Additionally, the construction of a natural gas pipeline
19 from the Marcellus and Utica Shale formation will increase
20 access to gas as a feedstock as you know gas is not just a
21 source of energy it's also a raw material utilized in many
22 manufacturing processes such as chemicals, polymers, and
23 fertilizer among others.

24 Finally construction and operation of a pipeline
25 will afford manufacturers from the region with expanded

1 market opportunity to bid to supply needed parts, materials
2 and technologies. These will all serve to protect and grow
3 Ohio manufacturing. Just as energy policy is important for
4 Ohio's competitiveness. So too is sustainable environmental
5 regulation.

6 Manufacturers understand that fair and reasonable
7 regulations on business must be balanced with responsible
8 stewardship of our natural resources. I have reviewed
9 Rover's Draft Environmental Impact Statement and noted the
10 developer's commitment to environmental mitigation.

11 In closing, the Rover Pipeline stands to benefit
12 manufacturing in Ohio and throughout the Midwest. Therefore
13 the Ohio Manufacturers' Association encourages the Federal
14 Energy Regulatory Commission to approve the Rover Pipeline
15 Project. Thank you.

16 MR. BOWMAN: Our second speaker tonight is John
17 Hudson.

18 MR. HUDSON: Thank you. My name is John Hudson.
19 I represent the Teamsters for the State of Ohio. I came
20 here tonight to assure the public here that this pipeline
21 will be one of the safest, most environmental-friendly
22 pipelines we ever met. We as a Union put on training
23 schools to make things safer, we put on training schools for
24 environmental protection, etc, etc. We have already been
25 here putting on a multitude of schools to address both

1 problems, safety and environmental.

2 We try to look at this like "it's my land"
3 because if a pipeline came across my land, I would want
4 certain things to be done. It's no different with our
5 contractors. Energy Transfer Partners, some of the things
6 that they look at when they let the bids are safety records
7 and environmental records. If you want, if you're sick --
8 you go to the doctor. If you need legal advice -- you go to
9 a lawyer. If you want to build a pipeline you come to us
10 because that's what we specialize in. We specialize
11 in building pipelines and putting it back. I crossed some
12 things today where the only way you would know if the
13 pipeline was there was because of the mile-marker. When
14 this thing is done six months from now I don't think anybody
15 will be able to tell you where it went because the grass
16 will be back, your dirt will be back in the same place; etc,
17 etc.

18 Again, we have the most trained, professional,
19 safe workforce in the world, our Union contractors. That's
20 what we do for a living and we know to get these jobs and to
21 do these jobs we have to be safe and we have to know all of
22 the environmental rules and regulations. If we don't, we
23 don't work. So I urge you to do this. This means a
24 multitude of jobs. It means taxes for the communities when
25 we're gone. There are so many good benefits that outweigh

1 the bad that I could set her all night and talk about it.

2 But I appreciate your time, thank you very much.

3 MR. BOWMAN: Our third speaker tonight is Charles
4 Yates.

5 MR. YATES: Good evening. I'm Charles Yates. I
6 represent the United Association. I'm a business agent for
7 the states of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. I am an Ohioan, I
8 own property in Ohio. I own a farm in Ohio. I would have
9 no reservations of a pipeline crossing my property. A
10 pipeline already does cross my property and I can't tell
11 it's there. The pipelines we lay today are different than
12 the pipelines we laid years ago.

13 But anyways, I would like to thank you FERC for
14 allowing me to speak tonight. I along with the entire
15 United Association would like to express strong support of
16 the construction of the Rover Pipeline. The Rover Pipeline
17 route was specifically designed to preserve the health and
18 magnificence of the surrounding environments and to ensure
19 minimal destruction to landowners and those in the
20 community. In addition to proposing the most
21 ecological-friendly route, our skilled workers will operate
22 under some of the most innovative engineering in its
23 construction practices to prevent as little impact on the
24 environment as possible.

25 I can honestly say from a safety standpoint,

1 Energy Transfer is one of the safest operators in our
2 country today. I appreciate that they have committed to use
3 100 percent union labor to build this pipeline. The Rover
4 Pipeline stands to benefit Ohio, West Virginia and Michigan
5 regions as a whole in a variety of ways. The creation of
6 the construction jobs for local workers increase demands for
7 goods and services along the pipeline route and ultimately
8 access to an affordable, safe and domestic source of energy.

9 We need the Rover and I'm asking FERC to finish
10 its review and get this Project approved. Thank you.

11 MR. BOWMAN: Our fourth Speaker tonight is Terry
12 Langley.

13 MR. LANGLEY: Good evening. Thank you for the
14 opportunity to speak. My name is Terry Langley and I
15 represent the Welders that will be working on the Project
16 and we would like to urge FERC to complete this review of
17 the Rover Pipeline in a timely manner. The United
18 Association shares the same goals as the FERC to preserve
19 the environment and its beauty. Any agriculture area which
20 is restored according to the agriculture impact mitigation
21 plan and landowner requirements which means that all soil
22 will be placed back in the ditch as they were taken out.
23 The soil will be de-compacted and native vegetation will
24 cover and will be applied to the disturbed portion of the
25 right-of-way.

1 These delays only serve to prevent access to the
2 bountiful sources of energy and produce uncertainty about
3 America's energy future. This project is estimated to
4 deliver many economic benefits of the region of Ohio,
5 Michigan and Virginia such as ten thousand construction jobs
6 and a multitude of additional jobs hanging in the balance
7 and an estimated thirty-two million in state property and
8 sales tax revenue.

9 If we did not build the Rover Pipeline we would
10 be doing ourselves an injustice. I am asking that FERC
11 complete its review so that we can begin work on this
12 prosperous project. Thank you for your time.

13 MR. BOWMAN: Our fifth speaker is Robert Wilds.

14 MR. WILDS: Good evening. My name is Robert
15 Wilds. I represent the Operating Engineers. I would like
16 to thank FERC for this opportunity to speak tonight. I am
17 in support and my organization is in support of the Rover
18 Pipeline. To transport a product, the pipeline is the
19 safest, most environmentally friendly way to do that. Rover
20 has committed to using union labor. In our training program
21 we stress environmental, we stress safety.

22 How do I know this? I was an instructor for ten
23 training seasons in the National Pipeline Training Fund
24 Program, which is a joint venture between the Operating
25 Engineers and the Pipeline Contractors Association which is

1 the contractors that are going to be doing the Rover that
2 Rover has chosen to do this Project.

3 Safety, when I say safety I don't only mean
4 safety of the workers, I talk about safety of the general
5 public. Proper procedures to maintain the integrity of the
6 pipeline so it will not have blowouts, protect the coating
7 of the pipe, protect the integrity of the pipeline which is
8 the life of the pipeline and has to do with the safety of
9 the general public. I will keep my comments short tonight.
10 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

11 MR. BOWMAN: Okay, so that's everyone who signed
12 up to speak tonight. If there is anyone who did not sign up
13 to speak but would like to provide verbal comments I would
14 like to offer that opportunity to anyone who wishes to do so
15 now. And if I could, could I have you state and spell your
16 name for the record.

17 MR. WHITE: My name is Jonathon White,
18 J-O-N-A-T-H-O-N W-H-I-T-E. I represent the Laborers
19 International Union of North America Members. Good evening.
20 Thank you for the opportunity to present my support for the
21 Rover Pipeline Project. I'm testifying tonight as one of
22 many individuals that stands to be employed to help build
23 the Rover Pipeline. As a member of the UA I am proud to
24 stand with my fellow members in support of the project.

25 Our union has a long history of applying the

1 highest standards of safety and efficiency in completing
2 projects of this nature. In a testament to this track
3 record, Rover has committed to using Union laborers
4 throughout the construction process. Which everybody knows,
5 we are the best trained in the industry. This includes the
6 on-job training skills as well as continuing education on
7 new equipment and techniques.

8 I would like to take this moment at this time to
9 address some of the more frequently discussed environmental
10 issues that were brought up in the Draft Environmental
11 Impact Statement on the Rover Pipeline Project. Water is a
12 key issue in the state. As a lifelong resident of Ohio, I
13 would not work or as much as support a project that might
14 adversely affect our natural resources. Rover has
15 acknowledged these areas of concern and has come up with a
16 comprehensive plan to ensure minimal impact of our rivers
17 and lakes.

18 I take issue with the FERC recommendations to
19 require dry-ditch water-board water-body crossing. Of course
20 this method will be used when appropriate in sensitive
21 areas. However, standard crossings will be undertaken with
22 the utmost care and attention and should not adversely
23 impact waterways. Dry-ditch crossing is more expensive,
24 takes more time and can ultimately present a greater risk to
25 the waterways than standard methods.

1 With regards to the land restoration, Rover has
2 partnered with independent contractors such as Land Stewards
3 LLC to target potential areas of concern and develop
4 site-specific mitigation plans. Rover will employ a variety
5 of techniques to ensure minimal soil disturbance with
6 measures like soil separation, erosion, sedimentation control,
7 route silt fence, trenchbreakers and mulch and minimal
8 construction activities during prolonged rainfalls to
9 prevent compaction. Our farmers should rest assured that
10 their fields will remain fertile for years to come thanks to
11 Rover's acute attention to details.

12 In conclusion, I would argue that the Draft
13 Environmental Impact Statement, a document hundreds of pages
14 in length stands as proof to the amount of preparation that
15 Rover has done for this Project. This DEIS recommends that
16 fore-planning and mitigation that Rover has done to date.
17 We stand ready to ensure that all of this planning is
18 carried out in a thorough manner.

19 For this reason, I encourage the Federal Energy
20 Regulatory Commission to undertake an expedient review
21 process moving forward. The Rover Pipeline Project stands
22 to bring about a great many benefits to this region in an
23 effective and environmentally responsible way. Thank you.

24 MR. BOWMAN: Is there anyone else that would like
25 to provide verbal comments at this time?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. BOWMAN: Okay, so if there is no one else
3 that would like to provide verbal comments, the formal part
4 of tonight's meeting will close. Before we go I'll mention
5 that within the FERC website we have a service called
6 e-library and if you type in the project docket numbers for
7 all three of these projects you can access all of that
8 information that is associated with Rover's project and its
9 affiliate projects.

10 Those three docket numbers are CP15-93, CP15-94
11 and CP15-96. The very first number of 15-93 is the lead
12 docket for these Rover Pipeline Projects. You can gain
13 everything associated with the projects, all the filing
14 submitted by Rover, all of the comments and issuances by the
15 FERC. So on behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
16 Commission I would like to thank you all for coming tonight.
17 Let the record show that this Draft EIS comment meeting
18 concluded at 6:27p.m. Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27
20 p.m.)

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