

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

2 MR. BOWMAN: Good evening, everyone. On behalf
3 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or the FERC, I
4 would like to welcome all of you here tonight to the Public
5 Comment Meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
6 for the Rover Pipeline, and Trunkline and Panhandle Backhaul
7 Projects. Let the record show that the Draft Environmental
8 Impact Statement Comment Meeting began at 6:02 p.m. on April
9 4, 2016 in Paden City, West Virginia.

10 My name is Kevin Bowman and I am an Environmental
11 Project Manager with the FERC's Office of Energy Projects,
12 which is a division of the FERC. To my right is Oliver
13 Pahl, representing FERC tonight.

14 Also with us tonight at the sign-in table is
15 Stephanie Briggs and Jon Hess, who are also representing the
16 FERC tonight. You will note that we have arranged for a
17 court reporter to transcribe this meeting so that we have an
18 accurate record of what is said tonight. If you would like
19 a copy of that transcript, you can make arrangements to do
20 so with the court reporter up here at the table tonight
21 following this meeting.

22 In February of 2015, Rover Pipeline LLC,
23 Trunkline Gas Company LLC and Panhandle Eastern Pipeline
24 Company filed applications under Section 7 of the Natural
25 Gas Act to construct and operate certain interstate natural

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

9 The primary purpose of tonight's meeting is to
10 give you all the opportunity to provide specific
11 environmental comments on the Draft EIS prepared by FERC's
12 Staff for these project. It will help us the most if your
13 comments are as specific as possible regarding the proposed
14 projects and the FERC's Environmental Impact Statement.

15 So I would like to clarify that this is a project
16 being proposed by Rover and its affiliates. It is not a
17 project that is being proposed by the FERC. Rather, FERC is
18 the federal agency that is responsible for evaluating
19 applications to operate and construct interstate natural gas
20 pipeline facilities and evaluate them on their merits.

21 So in summary, the FERC is an advocate for the
22 environmental review process but not specifically for the
23 projects themselves.

24 During our review of these projects, FERC has
25 assembled information from a variety of sources that has

1 included applicants, the public, state, local and other
2 federal agencies and our own independent analysis and field
3 work. We have analyzed all the information in the public
4 record and prepared this Draft Environmental Impact
5 Statement that was distributed to the public for comment.

6 A Notice of Availability was distributed to the
7 public and issued on February 19th of this year.

8 Along with the FERC, several other agencies
9 assisted us with our review. Those agencies were the U.S.
10 Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection
11 Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio EPA and the West
12 Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Agency.
13 Each of these agencies participated as what we call
14 cooperating agencies in our review of the projects, and I do
15 want to thank those cooperating agencies for their continued
16 support in the review of this Project.

17 So we are coming to the close of the 45-day
18 comment period for the Draft EIS. That comment period ends
19 on April 11, 2016. All comments received, whether they be
20 written or spoken at tonight's meeting, will be addressed in
21 FERC's Final Environmental Impact Statement. I do encourage
22 you, if you plan to submit comments and have not, please do
23 so here tonight either verbally during the comment portion
24 of our meeting, or in written form by using one of the
25 written forms outside the room at the sign-in table.

1 You may also submit comments using the procedures
2 outlined in the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS
3 which includes instructions on how to submit your comments
4 electronically with the FERC. Do be assured that you
5 comments will be considered with equal weight regardless of
6 whether they are provided verbally during the comment
7 portion of tonight's meeting or submitted to the FERC in
8 writing.

9 Also, if you received a copy of the Draft EIS in
10 the mail, whether it was a paper copy or a CD, you will
11 automatically get a copy of the FERC's Final Environmental
12 Impact Statement, so if you did not get a copy of the EIS in
13 the mail and you would like to get a copy of the final,
14 please do provide your name and address to the FERC staff at
15 the sign-in table and we will make sure that you get a copy
16 of the Final EIS. The Final EIS will also be available for
17 download on the FERC's website.

18 I would like to state that neither the Draft or
19 the Final EIS are decision-making documents. In other
20 words, once they are issued, those documents do not
21 determine whether the project is approved or not.

22 I would like to differentiate between the roles
23 of distinct FERC Staff Members; and those are the actual
24 FERC Commissioners and the Environmental Staff at FERC.
25 Myself and the other staff representing FERC here tonight

1 are with the Environmental Group at FERC and we oversee the
2 preparation of the Environmental Impact Statements for the
3 projects. We do not determine whether the project is
4 approved or disapproved. Instead, the FERC Commissioners,
5 which consist of five presidentially-appointed individuals,
6 are the ones who are responsible for making the ultimate
7 decision on these projects in determining whether or not to
8 issue Rover and its affiliates a Certificate of Public
9 Convenience and Necessity.

10 So as I mentioned the EIS, while it is not a
11 decision-making document, it does provide the Commission
12 with information to inform its decision in determining
13 whether or not to approve or disprove the projects. Along
14 with the information contained in the Environmental Impact
15 Statement, the Commission will base its decision on
16 information in the public record, including public comments,
17 as well as a host of other non-environmental information
18 such as engineering, markets and rates in making its final
19 decisions.

20 If the Commission does vote to approve a project,
21 then a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is
22 issued to Rover and its affiliates, they will be required to
23 meet certain conditions outlined in such a certificate, some
24 of which include FERC Staff, Environmental Staff monitoring
25 a project through construction and restoration, performing

1 daily on-site inspections to document environmental
2 compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and any
3 other additional conditions in the certificate.

4 Okay, so that's the brief overview of the FERC
5 process, and we will move on to the part of the meeting
6 where we hear from individuals' comments here tonight.

7 As I did mention before this meeting is being
8 recorded by a court reporter so that all your comments will
9 be accurately transcribed and placed in the public record.
10 I will call individually the speakers that we have signed up
11 tonight. So far we have nine people signed up, so we will
12 call them in that order. I will ask them to come up to the
13 microphone, restate your name so that we have it accurately
14 in the record and proceed to provide your comments to the
15 Panel.

16 My number one rule for tonight is please do show
17 respect for the speaker regardless of whether you agree or
18 disagree with any of the comments that they are providing.
19 Again, if you do not have a chance to speak tonight and you
20 think of something that you would like to submit to the FERC
21 later, you may still do so at a subsequent meeting, written
22 comments or sending them electronically to FERC.

23 The first speaker that I have
24 tonight is James Pritt.

25 MR. PRITT: Again, my name is James Pritt.

1 I would like to extend my support for the Rover
2 Pipeline Project. As a regulatory manager at Enervest
3 Operating LLC and a member of the Board of Independent World
4 Gas Association of West Virginia, I'm here to testify that
5 the Rover Pipeline holds great promise for all parties
6 affected, especially American consumers in need of safe,
7 clean and affordable energy supply.

8 Upon reviewing the Federal Energy Regulatory
9 Commission's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I now
10 wholeheartedly believe that the Rover Pipeline will be built
11 to the highest engineering standards and with the utmost
12 respect to workers, landowners and others of the community.
13 That is very important to us at Enervest, one of the twenty-
14 five largest and most respected oil and gas companies in the
15 United States. We employ over twelve hundred hard-working
16 men and women devoted to providing affordable energy to our
17 fellow Americans.

18 Moreover, the Rover Project will be a \$4.3
19 billion investment that creates over ten thousand local
20 construction jobs including eighteen hundred and twenty-two
21 hundred here in West Virginia. Pipeline officials have also
22 pledged to manufacture over seventy-five percent of the
23 project's materials right here in the U.S., further
24 enriching our local and state economies, empowering their
25 workforce.

1 During its first year of operation, the pipeline
2 is going to generate over \$174 million in property taxes for
3 the states it passes through, including \$3.9 million for the
4 State of West Virginia.

5 These are incredible economic advantages, long
6 desired since the 2008 recession. The Rover Pipeline will
7 make a long-lasting contribution to our nation's pursuit of
8 energy independence. As the world continues to grow more
9 chaotic, it is vital that America achieve new ways to
10 provide for their own energy needs and abandon their
11 dependency on energy imports from unstable regions in the
12 world. The natural gas provided by the Rover Pipeline will
13 provide a steady supply of long-term, low-cost energy the
14 majority of which will stay right here in the U.S. for
15 American consumers and businesses to utilize.

16 As previously noted, I am a proud member of The
17 Independent Oil and Gas Association of West Virginia.
18 Founded in 1959, IOGA of West Virginia was formed to promote
19 and protect the competitive and capable independent natural
20 gas and oil producing industry in West Virginia. It is my
21 belief that the Rover Pipeline will do just that, and not
22 just for West Virginia but every state it passes through.

23 American consumers far and wide deserve the
24 reliable and affordable energy that Rover Pipeline will
25 provide for years into the future. For all of these

1 reasons, I am happy to support the construction and
2 maintenance of the Rover Pipeline and I encourage my fellow
3 West Virginians to do the same. Thank you.

4 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. Our second speaker
5 tonight is John Hudson.

6 MR. HUDSON: Hi. My name is John Hudson. I
7 represent the Teamsters in Wheeling. These pipeline jobs
8 number one for the economy and things, this is what we
9 specialize in is doing pipelines. We've got the best
10 welders, the best operators, and this is what we do, is the
11 environmental thing. We take the dirt, put the topsoil, the
12 subsoil, build our pipelines, put everything back just
13 exactly like it had been. You'll never even be able to tell
14 in five years that this pipeline has went through here
15 because we put it back just exactly like it was. That's
16 what we're trained to do.

17 We run trainings to it, with the labor and the
18 operators with the welders to do specifically this; to make
19 this thing one of the most environmentally-friendly things
20 that we can do. We look at this like we are going across
21 our own land and how we would want it done as we're going
22 across our own land; on putting the soil back, the streams
23 and the water back, et cetera, et cetera.

24 Besides that, the economic factor here, West
25 Virginia needs the jobs. The coal industry has went down

1 greatly. These are some of the best paying jobs in the
2 State of West Virginia because they're union jobs. They pay
3 health and welfare, they pay benefits, we do training
4 schools, we reach out to the communities. This is not going
5 to be a bunch of people coming in here from out of state
6 that don't know anything about West Virginia. This is going
7 to be West Virginia people working on a West Virginia
8 pipeline to make it just exactly the way we want it done.
9 Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. BOWMAN: The third speaker is Dave Jurovcik.
12 Sorry if I got that one wrong.

13 MR. JUROVCIK: Good evening. Again, my name is
14 Dave Jurovcik. Thank you for the opportunity to let me
15 speak tonight. I'm a long-standing member of IBEW 141. The
16 Rover Pipeline Project has demonstrated a commitment to
17 preserving local environments along the proposed route
18 through its detailed environmental impact mitigation plan.
19 This plan will succeed thanks to the dedication of skilled
20 workers like myself and the rest of our workforce.

21 The IBEW holds its members to the highest
22 standards with respect to training and adherence to local
23 and federal regulations on the work site. We are excited to
24 get to work on this project both for the benefits the
25 construction process will bring to this region as well as

1 the end result, a supply of domestically-produced natural
2 gas. I hope FERC will pursue a timely review of the Rover
3 Pipeline Project. Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 4 is Glenn Giffin.

6 MR. GIFFIN: Good evening. My name is Glenn
7 Douglas Giffin. I'm a member of IBEW Local 141, Wheeling,
8 West Virginia, also the President. Based right here in
9 Wheeling, West Virginia I'm here tonight to testify in
10 support of this Rover Pipeline. a vital piece of energy
11 infrastructure that will create thousands of good jobs for
12 skilled tradesman like myself. I believe our trade has been
13 selected for the project because of our proven commitment to
14 deliver the highest quality of work in a safe, responsible
15 manner.

16 We pride ourselves on having some of the most
17 advanced training and operating procedures that emphasize
18 clean and safe working conditions as members of the
19 communities that the pipeline will traverse. We are also
20 committed to operating with minimal disruption or impact to
21 the landowner and the natural environment.

22 I urge the Commission to approve this project and
23 allow our region to benefit from clean, natural gas for
24 generations to come.

25 (Applause)

1 MR. BOWMAN: Speaker No. 5 is Robert Richard.

2 MR. RICHARD: Good evening. My name is Rob
3 Richard. Thank you for providing the opportunity to voice
4 my support for the Rover Pipeline through the Great State of
5 West Virginia. As an organizer for the West Virginia
6 Appalachian Laborer District Council, I know that I am
7 speaking on behalf of my fellow linemen and members as well.
8 The Laborers International Union of North America is the
9 most progressive, fastest growing union of construction
10 workers and public service employees.

11 Over five hundred thousand members are among the
12 nation's twelve million construction workers, who together
13 help to produce over five percent of the nation's economy
14 output. We are devoted to conducting ourselves with the
15 highest level of professionalism and adhering to the highest
16 safety engineering and construction standards. That is why
17 we have been chosen to help construct the Rover Pipeline and
18 why it should be one of the safest and most reliable
19 transporters of energy ever built.

20 During construction, the Rover Pipeline will
21 generate ten thousand jobs for local labor groups improving
22 linemen, for which nearly five hundred and seventy million
23 has been reserved for payments; between eighteen hundred and
24 twenty-two hundred of those will go to laborers in West
25 Virginia. The \$4.3 billion investment will help enrich and

1 will revitalize local economies at every turn as hired labor
2 will begin to frequent nearby shops, hotels, restaurants,
3 hardware stores and local businesses.

4 Once finished, the Rover Pipeline will also
5 generate one hundred and forty-seven million in property
6 taxes for affiliated states, money that is sure to be partly
7 reinvested in local schools, roads, parks and other public
8 endeavors. Furthermore, we on the West Virginia Appalachian
9 Labor District Council have reviewed the Federal Energy
10 Regulatory Commission Draft Environmental Impact Study and
11 can see that the Rover Pipeline Officials share our devotion
12 to maintaining a safe workplace while minimizing disruption
13 to the environment, landowners and the community at large.
14 Not only have they hired the best laborers, but they also
15 have solicited the help of best and most experienced
16 environmental engineer-agricultural experts, land
17 consultants, in order to ensure the short and long-term
18 impacts of the pipeline are minimal and temporary.

19 Moreover, we at the LIUNA know that helping
20 construct the Rover Pipeline will also help end our nation's
21 pursuit of achieving energy independence, and lessening our
22 reliance on import from hostile and unstable countries.

23 Natural gas is a clean, stable and affordable
24 means of energy that will provide households and businesses
25 both here in West Virginia and nationwide with reliable

1 energy for decades into the future. The Rover Pipeline in
2 particular will transport 3.25 billion cubic feet of natural
3 gas every day, the majority of which will stay right here in
4 the U.S. to be distributed to American businesses,
5 householders and other end-users.

6 For these reasons I extend my support to Rover
7 Pipeline and look forward to working with the pipeline
8 officials to ensure that this project is completed safely,
9 correctly and in a timely manner. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. BOWMAN: Our sixth speaker is Sandra Weaver.

12 MS. WEAVER: I was talking to Kevin out in the
13 hall about, we have an access road going through our farm,
14 and pretty much you said that wasn't to do with FERC. I
15 don't understand it, because it very definitely is affecting
16 the environment because there is no road there. It is going
17 through our fields, and I want to know -- why I came down
18 here to see if somebody could address that.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. BOWMAN: So I just want to clarify real quick
21 there. Any sort of project-related facility including
22 access roads do need to be approved and reviewed by the
23 FERC, so those are things that FERC will consider, and did
24 consider in its environmental impact statement and must
25 receive a Commissioner approval to move forward with this

1 project. I just wanted to clarify that for the record for
2 you.

3 The seventh speaker is Larry Helmick.

4 MR. HELMICK: My name's Larry Helmick. I'm a
5 landowner in Tyler County. Some of you may know me. I
6 don't want to necessarily stand and talk with my back to all
7 of you. I heard, I'm the seventh speaker, I've heard five
8 people come up, support the jobs that this pipeline is going
9 to create. And there's no doubt, this pipeline is going to
10 be great for the economy, it's going to be great for a lot
11 of things, but you've got to realize probably -- and this
12 makes me a little nervous, it kind of gears up my heart to
13 get up here and speak, so excuse me if I get a little choked
14 up.

15 This project will not greatly affect probably
16 ninety-five percent of the people and the property that it
17 crosses. Most people will benefit, make a lot of money,
18 it's going to be good for them; they are going to see money
19 that they've never seen before or had access to see. I've
20 been in the military for twenty-eight years. Been a state
21 trooper for I think it will be twenty in October; been on
22 active duty for the last seven.

23 I've seen a lot of things. I've seen a lot of
24 accidents. I've got two kids. One in school, the other
25 one's in the Air Force. You're wondering where this is

1 going; I'll get there. I've got two other kids that live at
2 home; one's thirteen, one's eleven. Where we live, we own
3 eight acres of property, it's in a housing development.

4 We found out that Rover submitted a corridor that
5 can go through our housing development with a 36-inch
6 pipeline, with 1200 pounds of pressure. And what you don't
7 hear, what you don't see advertised is the blast radius --
8 for a 36-inch pipeline at 1200 pounds of pressure, the kill
9 rate is zero survivability if an accident happens, is a
10 little over a thousand foot. This pipeline is within a
11 hundred and twenty-one foot of one of my houses.

12 I have two homes. They appraise for about four
13 hundred and fifty thousand dollars. I've spent my entire
14 life in this piece of property, where I'm going to live and
15 die. Again, it doesn't affect ninety percent of the people.
16 If I had a thousand acres between me and the back side --
17 (off mic).

18 I went to the meetings, I've had meetings with
19 Rover. I've sent my paperwork to FERC, sent certified mail.
20 I've asked for a route change, just to move it a little bit.

21 I live in one of my homes with my wife and my two
22 children, and we both work, me and my wife. You guys know
23 what it's like when the two of you are going to work. I
24 leave my kids there an hour or two a day, sometimes by
25 themselves. If this gas line ruptures, they wouldn't have a

1 chance. And that's why I say I won't even think what it
2 feels like for me, doing what I do for a living, protecting
3 everybody. This is what I base my life on, and now
4 somebody's going to walk into my property and they're going
5 to take that ability to protect my children away from me.

6 I know it's safe gas, but if I told you every car
7 accident you got into if you dented your fender this much
8 it's going to kill you? A lot of us wouldn't drive and
9 that's a risk that we take. See I bought a piece of
10 property to not have that risk, and now that is being taken
11 from me. I don't agree with that. I support the pipeline.
12 What I don't agree with is the process that when a top
13 representative from Rover sets down and tells me that
14 they're not going to move the pipeline unless FERC says so
15 and the only way the FERC is going to tell them is if I've
16 got bats, salamanders, or pigmy bugs on my property.

17 See, because that's valued to them more than what
18 my kids are. I'm not afraid of guns. I've owned guns my
19 whole life. If somebody ever pointed a gun at you, you'd be
20 appalled, you'd be fearful because you don't know if they're
21 going to pull the trigger or not. Me living in my home is
22 like putting my eleven-year-old or my thirteen-year-old to
23 bed and Rover Pipeline has a gun telling me it's okay. But
24 it's sitting there pointing at them. I can't do nothing
25 about it.

1 Great welders. Great pipeline. Great workers.
2 We have them all over the world. Accidents happen. I filed
3 a response to the Environmental Impact Statement as per a
4 route change. They recently posted those changes. I
5 explained that earlier. Those changes come back and say
6 that I was obstructing the route due to trees on my
7 property. I don't have a tree on my property. What I do
8 have is a route that takes a 36-inch pipeline, three sides
9 of the four sides of the property that I have. I submitted
10 that in certified mail that it's a hundred and twenty-one
11 feet from one of my homes.

12 My second home, my sister who was displaced by
13 unfortunately a fracking incident, who is currently getting
14 over cancer, she lives in that second home, 121 feet. She
15 can't live there with that gas line. She has already saying
16 that she wouldn't. Everybody's got a story. Everybody's
17 got a problem. I get it. This is a big corporation.

18 I've had attorneys from everywhere telling me
19 "there is nothing you can do about it. Fight it. Hire your
20 own surveyor and you can get a route reengineered." Get a
21 route reengineered. I don't have that money. See, I'm in
22 debt, like everybody else setting here, like the pipeline
23 workers who are going out here and busting their ass to put
24 in pipelines.

25 We've all got bills to pay. I get up and go to

1 work every day like everybody else. The value of my
2 property is going to diminish; the life of my children is
3 going to be in danger; and for somebody that has spent as
4 much time as I have for everything that I believe in, it's
5 hard for me to fathom that this can happen to any of us here
6 without our permission. How did -- pass the resolution? I
7 don't think it needs any kind of -- the county passed a
8 resolution that says -- (off mic) -- for the landowner or a
9 resident, and you're going to put a pipeline in, they need
10 to have permission of the landowners. The landowners are --
11 because it is too dangerous.

12 If somebody in here has a meter in their house
13 and they put carbon monoxide in, the state police and the
14 county sheriff can come in and take the kids from him. Not
15 because they are hurt, it's because you're endangering them.
16 You see, you can put a gas line that has a kill-radius of a
17 thousand feet within a home, and you can do that without the
18 permission of the landowner. I don't get it.

19 I called the legislature. I know what I do for a
20 living. I know when I go in people's homes --. We've got
21 some flaws in our system. We've got some flaws with the
22 pipeline, and it's not FERC's. FERC does exactly what they
23 are designed to do. There is not a single law, federal or
24 state that says there's a distance from a residence that
25 they can put the line in.

1 I was specifically told in a meeting with Rover
2 officials and my attorney, that if I don't and sign and I
3 don't do what they want me to do, they will take me to
4 federal court and they will take my property anyway. I'm
5 willing to roll those dice not because I have nothing to
6 lose, that's where my back is.

7 So you know, I don't understand, why I filed my
8 comments again how the fact that I was rejected because
9 other people's route restructure was sustained due to
10 proximity of residents. I'm going to resubmit that
11 paperwork. I will discuss that with them and we will see
12 where it goes. I'm going to do the right thing. Like
13 everybody's supposed to do.

14 All of you workers and pipeliners and other
15 workers have to realize that ninety-five percent of what
16 you're doing is great. There is a few good people out
17 there. I mean, I didn't ask for this. I got eight acres of
18 land in a housing development and I'm struggling. So just
19 keep that in mind. I'm not pissed at the oil workers.

20 I've got some rental property that oil workers
21 rent out, and I love them to death. That conversation
22 occurs once in a while. Good people. I've been in Tyler
23 County my whole life. (off mic).

24 The word in my family is you can cut through this
25 place instead. Just be aware of that, especially the --

1 very important people -- on people's property, because I'm
2 afraid you're going to see some of this.

3 For my comments for FERC I would like that it
4 just be duly noted that I did file comments and I'm wanting
5 to look at a route change on my property in Tyler County. I
6 want to resubmit those after talking with you, and you will
7 see some emails, photographs and other things like that. I
8 would just like for you to take into consideration that
9 whenever you give an environmental statement and you look at
10 it, there is somebody trying to make a lot of money who's
11 trying to get something in front of you and they're doing
12 the right thing. They check all the blocks and they do
13 everything. But there are certain people out there getting
14 -- I've looked at the environmental statement. I've seen
15 the same pen and the same checkmarks on fifty, sixty,
16 seventy pages in a row; and I've done paperwork my whole
17 life. I've watched people flip pages after page after page
18 and they check the same box. Nobody stepped foot on my
19 property and did a survey. I've got a man-made pond and
20 they're going to run the line across the hillside above a
21 pond of mine?

22 The hillside is full of three-foot slips and I
23 asked them how's that going to affect the pipeline? How's
24 it going to affect the irrigation? They told me it doesn't
25 matter. They said they did their environmental study. I

1 never signed for a survey to be done on my property and they
2 never stepped foot on my property.

3 I submitted those blank requests to FERC, stating
4 I did not give them permission to come on my property, and
5 they've never stepped one foot on my property to do the
6 survey. Some of the paperwork that they've submitted to
7 FERC does not have the right property owners on the deeds.
8 I've submitted that as well.

9 There is a lot of inaccuracies that are
10 submitted, and for the most part it does not affect ninety
11 percent of the people. I'm looking for a way to get my
12 small piece in front of a large group of people to take a
13 look at this and say, "Hey, big business is going to -- (off
14 mic) -- despite what's done." You guys will all work.
15 Despite my -- it's not going to stop. I was told
16 specifically if there was something on my property that
17 would stop the pipeline -- I just don't believe it. It's
18 happening; the pipeline is taking it.

19 Those of you that don't know, it's paid for
20 because they've got the money to build it. We know that.
21 It's great for the economy. What I don't like is the
22 process in which they can come in and take what they want
23 and when they can sit down and tell you, unless FERC gives
24 them a reason to move the pipeline, they won't.

25 That's pretty much all I got. Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 MR. BOWMAN: Our eighth speaker is Woody Ireland.

3 MR. IRELAND: Good evening. My name is Woody
4 Ireland, and I and my wife own a farm in Ritchie County,
5 which is a couple counties away, where we raise cattle; part
6 of the farm has been in the family since 1820. And as you
7 heard the gentleman just speak, a lot of West Virginians
8 value their land pretty highly, as I do. I'm not directly
9 affected by this particular pipeline project but will be by
10 the Columbia Pipeline Project which will go through our farm
11 also, which parallels by the way, a 20-inch Dominion line
12 that's been in service since the late 70's, early 80's with
13 no particular problem; and actually that particular pipeline
14 project opened up probably ten or fifteen acres of woodland
15 for pasture that I wouldn't have the ability to run some
16 cattle on otherwise.

17 I also am a member of the West Virginia
18 Legislature and Chairman of the Energy Committee in the
19 House of Delegates and I think your home office has a letter
20 as a matter of fact, over my signature, asking for
21 expeditious consideration of all the various FERC projects
22 having to do with natural gas distribution within and
23 without the state.

24 Now with that being said, we've already heard
25 about the necessity of and the importance of the jobs, the

1 importance of the property tax, the importance of clean
2 burning fuel versus coal, and we can argue about whether or
3 not coal ought to be taking the route that it currently is
4 taking, but nevertheless it is. West Virginia is taking the
5 brunt of that particular effort.

6 So from the standpoint of energy independence, we
7 have an opportunity I think, with the development of the
8 Marcellus and Utica shales, put West Virginia is not only on
9 the map but makes the United States pretty much energy
10 independent. One of the things we haven't talked about yet
11 this evening is the importance of severance tax issued for
12 the balancing of the budget of the State of West Virginia.

13 You all, from a Washington standpoint, may not be
14 particularly interested in this but I think most of the
15 folks in this room probably are. Currently we are quite a
16 few million dollars short of balancing the state budget, of
17 which we are required to do constitutionally. Thankfully we
18 are not in the position that the Federal Government is where
19 we can just borrow the money and run or go with the flow.
20 We have to balance the budget.

21 The coal service tax, which has paid most of the
22 bills for a number of years in West Virginia is on a
23 downward spiral. The fact that the gas service tax has yet
24 to pick up the slack. There are huge, significant cuts to
25 be made in the services provided to the public of West

1 Virginia or taxes need to be increased, whether it be a food
2 tax or a sales tax or a tobacco tax or whatever other tax
3 hopefully you can come up with.

4 This particular pipeline project, I believe the
5 Rover Pipeline I have understood to be able to transport two
6 and a half billion cubic feet a day. If you look at the 5
7 percent service tax that's allocated on that, that's about
8 two hundred fifty thousand dollars a day in service tax
9 going into the state coffers; four million dollars a day
10 that that one pipeline would provide from the standpoint of
11 providing services for the State of West Virginia public.

12 That's beyond the jobs that have already been
13 talking about. That's beyond the property taxes already
14 been talking about. It also provides for the royalty
15 payments at whatever percent of royalty is being paid on
16 that gas for royalty. So if you look at the, I believe
17 there are six current projects before FERC in West Virginia.
18 If you look at all six of them, those are extremely,
19 extremely affordable projects from the standpoint of West
20 Virginia's economy, from the standpoint of the economy of
21 the United States, and from the standpoint of environmental
22 concern.

23 I would encourage you to expeditiously look at
24 those projects and make a move on them and take into
25 consideration, take into consideration the concern of the

1 gentleman in the blue shirt, and others like him. Because
2 those things are extremely important to the people of West
3 Virginia.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (Applause)

6 MR. BOWMAN: Our ninth speaker is John Williams.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Excuse me. My name is John Paul
8 Williams. I am an environmental consultant for the
9 Operating Engineers Union. I have thirty years experience
10 doing various kinds of environmental permits, air and water
11 permits, and I've probably read hundreds of environmental
12 impact statements on pipelines and other kinds of large
13 industrial developments.

14 I've reviewed this Draft Environmental Impact
15 Statement, and I wanted to bring up a couple matters that
16 are somewhat novel regarding this Environmental Impact
17 Statement. One issue here in the part of the pipeline
18 that's in West Virginia is when a pipeline is in an area
19 with slopes or wetlands that the right-of-way for the
20 pipeline has been considerably narrowed; rather than one
21 hundred and twenty-five feet, it's down to seventy-five
22 feet.

23 Now I talked to the trainers who train the
24 pipeline workers about how to work in these narrow areas,
25 and they've assured me that the people are highly skilled

1 and accustomed to working in those constricted right-of-
2 ways; so given that information I would like to say that we
3 endorse FERC's decision to adopt a narrow right-of-way in
4 those certain circumstances where FERC feels that it's
5 appropriate.

6 Another issue that once again is somewhat unusual
7 is that the FERC staff has prepared I believe twenty-five
8 pages of mitigation measures for this particular pipeline.
9 That's quite a lengthy list of requirements, and many of the
10 requirements are very tough. And additional reporting is
11 required. But we also recognize it's an extremely large
12 project, that will involve ten thousand acres of land. When
13 you get a large project, you have large impacts and so you
14 need a comprehensive approach to mitigating the adverse
15 effects of it.

16 So we support FERC's decision to require that
17 lengthy list of mitigation measures, and we hope those
18 mitigate whatever problems may occur. Thank you very much
19 for the opportunity to testify today. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. BOWMAN: Okay, so that's everyone who has
22 signed up to speak tonight. I would like to offer the
23 opportunity to anyone else who did not sign up, and would
24 like to offer any comments to us tonight.

25 I see a hand, you can come on up to the

1 microphone. Please do state and spell your name so we have
2 an accurate recording for tonight's meeting.

3 MR. OTTE: Mark Otte, that's M-A-R-K O-T-T-E.

4 On July 1, '15, we e-filed FERC a submission on a
5 spring, I'm a small farmer, my brother, son and our wives
6 are involved in this farm, plus my parents; asking for a
7 reroute due to a spring we have developed. I have never
8 talked to a Rover person. I have talked to somebody who
9 represents them -- I can't think of the name of the company
10 -- but they came to us and said that they wanted to look at
11 it. So we took them down, we looked at it. We told them
12 where we wanted it, if they have to move it, they might as
13 well move it where we want it, it's still on our property.

14 We also realized the line was going through our
15 property. They put it about halfway where we wanted. They
16 did miss the water spring. We recently got a letter just
17 the other day saying that if we want that, we may have to
18 pay for it out of our money. I didn't really understand
19 that, but that's what I was led to believe that the letter
20 said.

21 I agree with the gentleman right here. Their
22 values on my brother's house would have been a fifth of the
23 value of it, but if the bats were there they would have to
24 move it.

25 They told us the best thing we could do was say

1 we're sorry. We worked hard on the farm. We know it has to
2 go. All these workers need jobs. I was young once, I did
3 jobs. A fair price, good environment. If they have to move
4 it, why not move it where we want?

5 We also wonder why we never heard anything from
6 FERC. Why haven't they told us what they did with our
7 filing? We've never heard if they said anything. We've
8 talked to the gentleman. He said FERC has nothing to do
9 with this. We're just doing it on our own. I thought FERC
10 would have said something.

11 The pipeline's going to go in. It's going in.
12 You're going to get jobs. I'm not sure if West Virginians
13 are going to work on these jobs. They usually bring in
14 their own people. But I hope we get them. As far as money
15 is concerned for the state, they will just -- I went from
16 twenty-four hundred dollars a month to six hundred. You
17 learn how to manage your money when you don't have it. I
18 don't think we should pay for it. Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. RICCARD: My name is Steven Riccard and I
21 support FERC and I support Local 798 and I speak to support
22 the Rover Pipeline. Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. BOWMAN: Yes sir.

25 MR. BROGDEN: My name's Frank Brogden and I live

1 in -- ((inaudible)).

2 MR. BOWMAN: Can you spell that last name?

3 MR. BROGDEN: B-R-O-G-D-E-N. This pipeline has
4 ruined my property. No property value. How do you sell a
5 house with a 36-inch gas main four hundred feet from your
6 front door? Who would buy it? They won't reduce my taxes.
7 All my life is gone. No one wants to talk about it. -- my
8 son can't build a house. Everybody makes money but the
9 people that own the ground. We've got to live with a bomb,
10 and "they don't blow up." Well, look in the paper, they
11 blow up all the time.

12 What do we do? Can't sell our house, and they
13 won't reduce his taxes. Who would buy it with a 36-inch,
14 twelve hundred pound gas four hundred feet from your front
15 door? Everybody makes money but the people that own the
16 ground. We deal with it 24/7. Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. BOWMAN: Is there anyone else that would like
19 to provide comments?

20 (No response.)

21 Okay, so if there is no one else that would like
22 to provide comments at this time, the formal part of
23 tonight's meeting will close. I think we mentioned within
24 the FERC website there is a link called eLibrary on the FERC
25 website at FERC.gov.

1 If you type in the project docket numbers for
2 each of these three projects CP15-93, CP15-94 and CP15-96.
3 You can use the FERC website to find everything of the
4 record related to these projects and those docket numbers
5 are on the forms outside the sign-in table for your records.
6 FERC record will contain the Draft Environmental Impact
7 Statement, all the filings by Rover and its affiliates, and
8 all comments submitted by stakeholders to the public record.

9 So on behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
10 Commission thank you for coming to the meeting tonight. Let
11 the record show the meeting concluded at 6:53 p.m.

12 Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the DEIS comment meeting concluded at
14 6:53 p.m.)

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