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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Energy Projects

- x
- NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC                    Docket No. CP16-22-000
- Texas Eastern Transmission, LP                Docket No. CP16-23-000
- DTE Gas Company                                Docket No. CP16-24-000
- Vector Pipeline L.P.                            Docket No. CP16-102-000
- x

NEXUS GAS TRANSMISSION PROJECT and  
TEXAS EASTERN APPALACHIAN LEASE PROJECT

Tecumseh Center for the Arts  
400 North Maumee Street  
Tecumseh, Michigan 49286  
Thursday, August 11, 2016

The DEIS oral comment collection meeting, pursuant to  
notice, began at approximately 5:00 p.m., with FERC Staff  
assisting.

Court Reporter A

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

2 COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: Alright sir we start  
3 this just give me your name?

4 MR. STERN: Richard Stern, S-t-e-r-n. Okay I  
5 appreciate the opportunity to come before FERC in support of  
6 the Nexus Pipeline Agreement. I am here on behalf of  
7 Teamster's Local Union 299 out of Detroit, that's the local  
8 union that has jurisdiction in this area for the Nexus  
9 Pipeline and we want to affirm our support for issuance of  
10 the permits for the project.

11 We are committed to building this project with  
12 well-trained and qualified workers, most of whom reside  
13 along the route of the project or other projects in Michigan  
14 and Ohio that we have done. Therefore, they have a vested  
15 interest in making sure that the project is done in a safe  
16 and environmentally good manner. Part of the time we get a  
17 lot of criticism they give FERC the opposition that we don't  
18 use local people and in my written submission I have a  
19 definition of the workers and the language and the language  
20 says that half of the people at least have to come from the  
21 local union where the work is, at least half.

22 So to say that everybody is from outside the area  
23 is not true so by at least half is that people who also live  
24 in the state of Michigan so like I say again they are aware  
25 of some of the things that could happen if they don't build

1 it in an efficient manner.

2           And we also have steward reports that our  
3 steward's provide us weekly with the names of the employees,  
4 what local union they are with and I have had that as an  
5 exhibit and it will show that most of these people from  
6 either Michigan or Ohio where the job, the Nexus is, come  
7 from the local area, more than half because it is in the  
8 contractor's interest to use as many local people as  
9 possible because they don't have to start bringing people in  
10 so it is a lot cheaper.

11           In the past year in Michigan we have had some  
12 training programs where we bring in people to train them and  
13 it is Exhibit C, it lists the people's names, what local  
14 they are with and what training and the equipment we give  
15 them. Also we have what we call CSA which is compliance,  
16 safety, accountability classroom training and that's the  
17 latest DOT regs on defensive driving and then Exhibit E  
18 there's an honor that was from the National Safety Council  
19 given to our instructor for the second year in a row in that  
20 regard.

21           And when it comes to the environment and they are  
22 talking about waterways and so forth, we have specialty  
23 contractors to do horizontal directional drilling and in my  
24 submission we have a list of these companies that do this  
25 work, we have an explanation of what it entails in the work

1 and they have a good reputation of doing this work in  
2 environmentally and sensitive areas.

3 So in closing Teamster's Local 299 urges you to  
4 issue the permits for the Nexus Pipeline Project, and I can  
5 give you a copy if you like, thank you.

6 COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: So I need to ask you  
7 your name and you could just start.

8 MS. SHIFFLER: I'm Nancy Shiffler I live in Ann  
9 Arbor, Michigan.

10 COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: And the last name if you  
11 can spell it for us.

12 MS. SHIFFLER: S-h-i-f-f-l-e-r and I'm here  
13 representing the Michigan chapter of the Sierra Club. We  
14 will have more detailed written comments coming but just a  
15 couple of points that I wanted to make tonight.

16 One was our concern about the format of these  
17 meetings. The changeover from the large plenary sessions  
18 makes it hard for people who aren't sure you know what the  
19 details are you know they have no opportunity to hear the  
20 people here or ask them about and I think that's decidedly  
21 unfair.

22 The other thing I wanted to bring up was Spectra  
23 Energy had a Petition before PHMSA, Pipeline Hazardous  
24 Materials Safety asking for a waiver from the requirement to  
25 odorize the gas for about the last 7 miles of the pipeline

1 and basically their argument seemed to be that you know even  
2 though this was a HCA Class 3 population area that it would  
3 be problematic for them to odorize the gas coming through  
4 that area because at the final point gas coming in from some  
5 other areas wouldn't be and there's a technical problem with  
6 it.

7           But the odorizing is sort of the last ditch  
8 safety component that somebody on the ground can use to  
9 detect a leak and so they are basically eliminating that in  
10 this Class 3 zone. They are also petitioning to have the  
11 potential to expand that zone further out and within that  
12 expansion area is part of the pipeline route that runs  
13 within 400 feet of a couple of elementary schools and within  
14 1,000 feet of a high school, middle school and I think  
15 another elementary.

16           And I didn't see any mention of that in the  
17 Environmental Impact Statement and I'm wondering why that  
18 was so because it would seem that that would be a safety  
19 consideration that they should have included.

20           So I think that's my basic comment on that.

21           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: I need you to give me  
22 your name and then you can just go ahead.

23           MR. FORD: My name is John Ford.

24           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: Spell the last name.

25           MR. FORD: F-o-r-d. Nobody understands Ford

1 anymore.

2 COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: I have to ask, even  
3 Smith there's about three ways to spell it.

4 MR. FORD: That's true, okay I'm against both  
5 pipelines which includes the Nexus Pipeline that is coming  
6 through Washington County. The pipelines are not fully  
7 subscribed as of right now to my understanding and they are  
8 not needed. We have -- this is strictly corporate greed  
9 that we are seeing here.

10 Canada doesn't need or want our gas from these  
11 pipelines. Michigan will not benefit from either of these  
12 pipelines, only in a small way but we are taking all the  
13 risks and there is a huge amount of risk to both of these  
14 pipelines. Don't let anybody else tell you different.

15 There are six other pipelines that are going from  
16 the United States to Canada between here and New York.  
17 There's plenty of gas in Canada. Canada is generating their  
18 own gas from Alberta and they have no need for our gas,  
19 therefore these pipelines are both -- I can see them coming  
20 through Ohio but not going into Michigan.

21 Ohio they are going to Texas to the panhandle gas  
22 line for export. I can understand that. But what's going  
23 up to Canada through Michigan is not needed. And I have  
24 another issue with the insurance for the gas and oil  
25 industry -- a lot of the gas and oil industry operations are

1 under-insured and the public will end up picking up the tab  
2 for accidents that occur with the gas and oil industry and  
3 that boggles my mind -- that completes my statement short  
4 and sweet.

5 COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: I need your name.

6 MR. HEISS: Bruce Heiss, H-e-i-s-s. Address?

7 COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: Well you can give it, I  
8 don't have to get it.

9 MR. HEISS: Okay but I live on McCrone Road,  
10 McCrone M-c-C-r-o-n-e at the end of Judd Road. Now we have  
11 a pipeline right now 200 yards in front of my front door. I  
12 don't know if it is in use anymore. We have been evacuated  
13 twice in the last 10 years for a gas leak. They used to  
14 have blow offs of the pipeline, they don't do that anymore.

15 Also aircraft used to fly over and inspect that  
16 pipeline -- no more. I haven't seen one in five years and I  
17 know the pilot, he died. What happens with the well water  
18 -- we are on well water, if the well water goes bad and who  
19 do you blame? I'm pretty sure Nexus is going to blame the  
20 farmers or the environment and it is not going to be their  
21 fault.

22 Plus the fact we don't have the means to fight  
23 Nexus or the lawyers. Do you want to know the life of a  
24 pipeline? Somebody said it is 50 years or is that extended  
25 or is it when it leaks which is too late?

1           Simply the why -- my wife wants to know the why.  
2 I mean it is not going to help DTE as far as lowering our  
3 gas bills and it's probably going to help Nexus, it is going  
4 to help Canada. As far as the employees that they  
5 supposedly say it's going to involve, I think that's BS and  
6 I think they are using a Trump expression that everything is  
7 going to be fine and dandy and the environment is going to  
8 be better.

9           As far as Lincoln High School goes and the  
10 schools there, I cannot imagine the effect of a leak or how  
11 they are going to manage it across a brand new and repaved  
12 road that they did on Willis for the last three months, they  
13 are going to rip that up. I guess the last thing is my  
14 value of my house is just going to -- I mean just go -- if  
15 the well is destroyed the value of the house is and if the  
16 environment is destroyed then we are all going to be like  
17 flint. I don't know the racket of this Nexus and I believe  
18 that their inspections on the pipeline that is in front of  
19 my house -- we had an expression in here once I think they  
20 are just logging it in, penciling it in because I have not  
21 seen anybody check the pumping station that's 200 yards in  
22 front of my house or fly over the pipeline.

23           So if they can get that information to me that  
24 would be great. Other than that I mean we haven't been  
25 asked to evacuate and I don't even think to my knowledge

1 right now, if they are not inspecting that pipeline it is  
2 not in use so why put another pipeline next to the existing  
3 pipeline? Fix the existing pipeline or put a pipeline  
4 inside a pipeline and if it is not being used I guarantee  
5 you they are not going to pick up the old pipeline they are  
6 just going to leave it in the ground. That's all I have got  
7 to say, but my wife wants to know why.

8           And is Nexus from Texas? Is it a Texas  
9 organization because I have sent money to Texas and I would  
10 be glad to have it back investing -- that's it.

11           FERC STAFF: Thank you for your comments.

12           MR. BANDARIES: Okay now we are talking about  
13 pipelines.

14           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: Yes sir, I just need your  
15 name to start with.

16           MR. BANDARIES: Sean Banders, S-e-a-n  
17 B-a-n-d-a-r-i-e-s. I think the project is a good idea.  
18 I've been a pipeline welder for Local 798 21 years and I was  
19 just about 19 when I go and met my wife up and I am  
20 established, I have a farm a ranch not far from here in  
21 Morenci and established here and moved my mom up here and  
22 most of my family. I have got one daughter who goes to  
23 school here and my little son he also goes over here and I  
24 have been working all over, I'm a big time foreman for  
25 welding construction and I know exactly what we are doing

1 environmental and take care of the people's thing -- we do  
2 it as is or better and that is what we are supposed to do no  
3 matter what as in environment-wise, as in agriculture, as in  
4 wildlife.

5           And you know there's a lot of local jobs here, we  
6 put out a lot of money also for all the companies here like  
7 wood, trucking, automobile fixing, local employment here,  
8 you have a bunch of union members here as well and I  
9 understand about the farmers from years and years of their  
10 heritage but we are not here to tear it up and it's not  
11 going to happen, they make sure of that. They really,  
12 really do. Every single job we do all over the world and  
13 the United States, especially here in Michigan and they are  
14 not going to and I just hope it goes so I can feed my family  
15 and have a closer job here to the house and I hear others  
16 say that we have a lot of members from Texas all over the  
17 place, they have a few, very few, very little but it mostly  
18 encounters the local here as in Michigan and near closer to  
19 Ohio if we came in the job.

20           Other than that thank you very much and you have  
21 a wonderful day, thank you all.

22           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: Okay so I'll just ask  
23 you to state your name and then just go ahead.

24           MR. CLARK: My name is Clarence Clark, C-l-a-r-k.

25           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: That's fine thank you.

1           MR. CLARK: And I'm for the pipeline. I am a  
2     pipeliner, I have been doing it for 5 years. There is  
3     nothing these guys think -- they know everything. They know  
4     environmental, they follow every line, every guideline that  
5     is put out so I'm for it so that's about it. I mean it's  
6     just my livelihood you know. I have gotten accustomed to  
7     working on it and hell whatever puts money in my pocket puts  
8     money here in the economy in Michigan, local help, that's  
9     it.

10           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: So I'll need your name  
11     again sir.

12           MR. STILES: Yeah sure I'm Dennis Stiles,  
13     S-t-i-l-e-s.

14           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: Go right ahead.

15           MR. STILES: Okay and once again I am Dennis  
16     Stiles of the Pipeliners Local Union 798 and not that I am  
17     trying to beat something to death or anything but we have  
18     conviction in this and I can't stress enough and I talked a  
19     little bit yesterday about since we have these resources we  
20     might as well use these resources if it helps the economy,  
21     okay. But I need to drive the point home about how many  
22     people that it is going to put to work and I know there is a  
23     lot of controversy and all of us want to see the pipeline  
24     built right.

25           We don't want to endanger the environment, we

1 don't want to have safety issues but again skilled craftsman  
2 -- if we use union labor you are going to get a good quality  
3 pipeline not to mention it is going to put a lot of people  
4 to work. And when I say put people to work, yes it is going  
5 to help the workers but it is also going to help the  
6 communities. These people make money like ourselves -- we  
7 take all of that back to our homes and it helps communities  
8 not just around here.

9           The picture is so big and sometimes I think  
10 everybody looks at this narrow little pocket and what I  
11 wanted to point out is I live and farm -- I have farm ground  
12 in Durango, Colorado. I have alfalfa fields and I have 6  
13 pipelines that cross my property and I understand part of  
14 what the people are saying because we have had issues out  
15 there but again they weren't put in correctly.

16           In my opinion just like when you need shoes you  
17 go to a cobbler, you want a good pipeline built and you want  
18 to stay within the criteria that you are allowed you need to  
19 get good skilled union labor and that's the bottom line.  
20 Let's put America to work, let's help stimulate the economy.  
21 It's important. I don't know if these people opposing this  
22 and I am not knocking them but I don't know if their sole  
23 purpose or what their motivation is but do they realize how  
24 many people this is hurting by not letting the pipeline go  
25 through.

1           So yes I am for the Nexus Pipeline and that's  
2 really about it in a nutshell but thank you very much for  
3 listening to me.

4           FERC STAFF: Absolutely and thank you so much for  
5 coming out.

6           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: Start with your name.

7           MS. BANDARIES: My name is Jennifer Bandaries.

8           COURT REPORTER HAWKINS: And spell the last name.

9           MS. BANDARIES: It's B (as in Boy) -  
10 a-n-d-a-r-i-e-s. Well I live here in Michigan. My husband  
11 is a Local 798 journeyman. He's been pipelining for a long  
12 time so you know my family has traveled. The pipeline  
13 brings a lot of good things to the community. It brings  
14 taxes to the state that they are working in. It brings you  
15 know the women shop at the grocery stores, they pay taxes  
16 in. I know us 798 wives we do a lot of things -- we give  
17 school supplies to schools, we donate toys at Christmas time  
18 for charities and also for the schools for the needy kids.

19           Let's see -- it's better to have a union pipeline  
20 laid than a non-union. Union has guidelines they have to  
21 follow, they also have to follow environmental. They are  
22 also skilled laborers, they are skilled and good at what  
23 they do at their jobs and at their trade. You don't get  
24 that with non-union companies they don't have environmental  
25 out there, they don't have anybody out there that's why

1 there is more access on non-union type jobs on pipelines.

2           Of course my husband is local so he needs  
3 pipelines to have a job and to have a roof over our head.  
4 You know petroleum is a way of our world, everything from  
5 your cell phone to your sunglasses to the cars you drive and  
6 the natural gas you heat your house with and the propane you  
7 heat your house with and cook food with. That's not going  
8 to go away, we still need it and our depending on you know  
9 foreign countries for our oil and gas products we receive,  
10 you know we have our own resources here I don't see why we  
11 don't utilize them more. And that's all I have.

12           MR. SHIVELY: Matthew Shively. S-h-i-v-e-l-y. I  
13 am for the Nexus line just because it is going to produce  
14 all type of work for surrounding members of the locals for  
15 the laborers, the welders, helpers, operators -- the whole 9  
16 yards. I believe that people who are against it are  
17 misinformed because we are held to regulations nowadays that  
18 are so high that they are actually more of a hassle for us,  
19 I mean they are so intense and I believe this is a good  
20 deal.

21           Because onces these lines are up, the old ones can  
22 come out and there's no water hazard of leakage from old  
23 lines and that's pretty much all I got.

24           MS. STUMBO: Brenda Stumbo, S-t-u-m (as in Mary)  
25 -b-o. Do you want my address? Oh I can just touch on okay

1 -- I am here today to give my comments about the Nexus  
2 Pipeline that is proposed and it goes through Washtenaw  
3 County, Augusta Township and Ypsilanti Township.

4           And my concerns are that number 1 -- I would like  
5 to see more shut-off valves. My understanding is that they  
6 are spaced apart every 7 miles and I think it would be  
7 better for safety to have them closer together and more  
8 frequent and especially because there's a school, an  
9 elementary school in Augusta Township that if there was some  
10 way that we could try to take extra safety precautions for  
11 that I think it would be a very good thing for everyone, the  
12 workers and the community and I guess the owner of the  
13 pipeline it would reduce their liability and hopefully save  
14 more lives if there is an explosion.

15           And so I am also elected in Ypsilanti Township  
16 and we have had discussions at our last Board meeting and  
17 the pros are -- I love the fact that you are doing union  
18 jobs with the building trades. I think that is a positive.  
19 I would like however, to have more Washtenaw County  
20 residents or building trades to have the opportunity to work  
21 on it. My understanding is that is a national agreement,  
22 that there is a way to have more of our county building and  
23 trades work on that -- that would be great.

24           And also I would like to recommend that the  
25 process be a little bit different. By the time I actually

1 learned more information at our Board meeting from people  
2 and I did go to one of the meetings for a different whirling  
3 gas line which was running simultaneously so when you have  
4 two large projects like that at the same time it is a little  
5 confusing and I think I would like to see the process done  
6 differently.

7           It's been reported to me that it is a done deal  
8 and it really doesn't matter what our comments are so that's  
9 not a good process. If it is a done deal don't put everyone  
10 through everything that we are going through. However,  
11 having the comment period will allow us to be safer and it  
12 is actually our fire chief that recommended they shorten the  
13 distance between the two valves. I think that makes sense.  
14 It might cost a little more but I think the safety of the  
15 project is well worth it.

16           And I think that pretty much covers what I had to  
17 say. I do think that the Nexus Pipeline people were very  
18 polite and they are professional in their presentation and I  
19 think that was helpful, that's all my comments.

20           MS. LOVEJOY ROE: My name is Karen Lovejoy Roe  
21 R-o-e-. No hyphen. I'm the clerk in Ypsilanti Township and  
22 we represent the 6th largest township in the state of  
23 Michigan, the second largest community in Washtenaw County.  
24 We have a population of about 57,000 and our biggest  
25 concerns are -- there are actually three of them.

1           One is the pipeline is going -- we have a huge  
2 complex that services a large portion of our community for  
3 schools, the high school is there, the middle schools are  
4 there, there are several elementary schools there and our  
5 concern is that the pipeline is going to go right through  
6 this complex where there are thousands and thousands of  
7 school children and we've encouraged working with DTE Nexus,  
8 we do have a relationship with them, we have encouraged them  
9 and they keep telling us that it is -- you know that they  
10 don't want to move it and no one can make them move it, so  
11 anyway that's one of our big concerns because there are  
12 other routes that they could travel running east and west  
13 across the school property because it is actually in Augusta  
14 Township but a lot of our residents actually go to school  
15 there, that's their huge concern.

16           Two is we own -- Ypsilanti Township owns the  
17 river bed and under the ground, it is underneath of what's  
18 called Ford Lake and the Huron River that runs through our  
19 township it is a dam and created Ford Lake and there is a  
20 lot of residents on it and it is a huge recreational area  
21 and we feed into another recreational area in Wayne County  
22 called the Bellville Lake and they need to cross underneath  
23 Huron River. The plan is to lay the pipe underneath the  
24 Huron River in Ypsilanti Township.

25           We own that land and we have no intentions of

1 providing that land for them to do that so we are not sure  
2 we have asked do they have the right to eminent domain or  
3 what would happen with that? And that again it is just a  
4 little ways, it's not even a half a mile if they would just  
5 take it farther east they would not have to -- it wouldn't  
6 be necessary to cross the river you know at that area and  
7 that's their only concern the environmental impact. There  
8 is already pipelines in there and environmental impact of  
9 digging that up and destroying the soils is also you know  
10 that they do a report, but I know there is a lot.

11 We have a dam there so we have to do reports all  
12 the time and I know there's a lot of artifacts from Huron in  
13 there that others are -- I'm sorry -- so that's another  
14 concern. And the other concern that we have -- not that I  
15 would be able to get a lot of information on, we have asked  
16 Nexus for that but that hasn't been provided which we would  
17 love to get that is the majority of the gas that is coming  
18 through the pipeline is it being fracked out of Ohio, that's  
19 what we have been told but no one seems to be able to  
20 confirm specifically how the gas that's coming out of Ohio  
21 and I guess part of West Virginia where that is coming from  
22 and how that gas is going to be provided to it. So we would  
23 love to get the information. I'm sure somebody knows  
24 somewhere but hopefully there's a lot of stuff but that  
25 information -- well they just say "Oh no, we are not

1 fracking it," well then tell us where it is coming from and  
2 where you are getting it.

3           And the other issue on that was -- there's  
4 another issue too that we don't know -- oh there's been a  
5 lot of information provided on both sides of the issue to  
6 our Township Board stating that the need is not really there  
7 for the line and then they -- people on both sides of the  
8 issue say they don't need it and then DTE and Nexus both  
9 their representatives are saying, "Oh yeah it is absolutely  
10 needed," but if anybody could put that in concrete of what  
11 capacity the front line is at that people that are feeding  
12 natural gas to us and to Michigan and Canada, wherever it is  
13 going and no one has provided that and we would like to have  
14 that information.

15           And the final point of the information is again  
16 both sides one of them says most of the gas is going to stay  
17 in the state, the other side is saying no, we are going to  
18 be disturbing all of our soils and lands and lakes and  
19 rivers and neighborhoods and farms and residents, and  
20 schools to put this line out but the majority of the gas is  
21 not even going to be used here it is all going to go to you  
22 know, 90% is going to Canada.

23           Of course Nexus says in a meeting, "Oh that's  
24 just not true", the other side says yeah it is true so we  
25 would really like to get that information on and is there

1 any regulations about gas coming from the states to Canada  
2 and like how do you verify that and how does FERC verify  
3 that and does FERC even -- is that even anything that they  
4 regulate? I think that's kind of it. It's a fracking issue  
5 -- is that being fracked? Is it going to Canada or now and  
6 if so how much?

7           Is it really, really needed? Can you move it  
8 away from Lincoln schools, the huge complex and can you get  
9 the line out of the river and move it somewhere else, out of  
10 the Huron River and Ford Lake that we own, that's it, thank  
11 you.

12           MS. HENDERSHOT: Brandy Hendershot,  
13 H-e-n-d-e-r-s-h-o-t. I have been blessed to be born and  
14 raised in Michigan and raised in Local 798. My dad is a  
15 retired 798 welder. As a kid I was so proud that it seemed  
16 everyone wanted him on a job and I thought wow, he must be  
17 the best at what he does. I am still pretty sure I wasn't  
18 wrong.

19           Now, spending my adult life in 798 I see that all  
20 of them take as much pride in their work as he does. These  
21 men and women are highly skilled and trained they have  
22 proven themselves over and over across this beautiful  
23 country in efficiency and safety. That is why Local 798 can  
24 guarantee the quality of the work.

25           I am so glad to have the opportunity to speak to

1 you about the Nexus Pipeline. Michigan is not currently  
2 equipped to meet the growing demand for domestically  
3 produced natural gas. I would love to see us realize the  
4 advantages of this environmentally-responsible resource. It  
5 will mean cheaper fuel for you and our farmers, cheaper food  
6 for cattle and livestock, jobs for locals, a boost to your  
7 economy and lower energy prices.

8           As Michiganders we have been dependent on the  
9 automotive industry for over 100 years. My grandpa retired  
10 from Ford and I am sure that you have family members that  
11 have also but now we have friends and family who were laid  
12 off and they had to find new jobs and careers because the  
13 big three aren't providing the jobs to take care of our  
14 families any longer. This pipeline will provide jobs to the  
15 communities it goes through.

16           All of the construction and maintenance workers,  
17 including their families will be utilizing local businesses  
18 to eat, stay, bank, shop, go to church and doctors and  
19 dentist's office all of which will provide a local economic  
20 boost and that's that, thank you so much.

21           MS. URUETA: My name is Mariah Urueta, that's  
22 M-a-r-i-a-h last name U-r-u-e-t-a. So my name is Mariah and  
23 I am with Food and Water Watch. We are a national  
24 non-profit public interest organization that champions clean  
25 water for all and these comments are on behalf of our over

1 27,000 supporters in the state of Michigan and we are asking  
2 FERC to reject the Nexus Pipeline proposal. It threatens  
3 property rights of land owners, poses public health and  
4 safety issues upon rupture, explosion or leakage and would  
5 proliferate fracking by setting markets for shale gas.

6 First and foremost pipelines are inherently risky  
7 and benefit the pipeline companies, not the public,  
8 especially in the state of Michigan. As of now natural gas  
9 prices are at an all-time low which just shows that this is  
10 an unnecessary piece of infrastructure that is being pushed  
11 by Spectra Energy.

12 It would allow eminent domain -- I'm sorry --  
13 this would allow eminent domain and would only benefit  
14 Spectra and DTE and not the estimated 605,745 people living  
15 in the Michigan counties along the proposed path and nearly  
16 4 million living in the potentially affected Ohio  
17 communities.

18 It is important to note that Spectra Energy knows  
19 that their operations are risky to the environment, public  
20 health and safety. On page 29 of its most recent 10K filing  
21 Spectra Energy said, "There are a variety of hazards and  
22 operating risks inherent in natural gas gathering and  
23 processing, transmission, storage and distribution  
24 activities and crude oil transportation and storage such as  
25 leaks, explosions, mechanical problems, activities of third

1 parties and damage to pipelines, facilities and equipment  
2 caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, and other  
3 natural disasters that can cause substantial financial  
4 losses.

5           In addition these risks could result in  
6 significant injury, loss of life, significant damage to  
7 property, environmental pollution and impairment of  
8 operations any of which could result in substantial losses  
9 for pipeline and surge assets located near populated areas,  
10 including residential areas, commercial business centers and  
11 industrial sites and other public gathering areas.

12           The overall damage resulting from these risks  
13 could be greater." And so that is from their page 29 of  
14 their recent 10K filing. Another thing is that DTE is a 40%  
15 investor in its pipeline and they plan to pay for this  
16 pipeline by assessing their rate payers which is extremely  
17 unfair as well.

18           When it comes to impacts on agriculture and land  
19 -- over three-fourths of the soil that Nexus would cross is  
20 classified as prime farm lands with another 423 acres  
21 classified as local or unique farm land. It is also -- you  
22 all need to know that in the U.S. risks can still remain  
23 even after the pipeline is constructed. In the U.S. more  
24 than 12,000 pipeline incidents have occurred from 1994 to  
25 2015. The incidents have caused over 400 fatalities, 1,560

1 injuries and have stacked up 7.1 billion in property damage.

2           In April of 2016 so very recently in Salem  
3 Township, Pennsylvania Spectra Energy had a pipeline that  
4 exploded in Pennsylvania. It shot a fireball into the air  
5 that destroyed a home, scorched 40 acres of farmland and  
6 injured several people and left one man with widespread  
7 third degree burns on 75% of his body.

8           Also the pipelines that are currently being  
9 constructed pose greater risks. Status shows pipelines  
10 built since 2010 are five times likely to have problems than  
11 those built from 1980 to 2009. Furthermore there is not  
12 much comfort in the oversight of pipelines. There is only  
13 400 federal and state inspectors charged with monitoring our  
14 country's 2.5 million miles of pipelines and ensuring their  
15 safety.

16           I'll be quick -- when it comes to threats to  
17 water resources Nexus would cross 15 well-head protection  
18 areas and also if a well-head protection area becomes  
19 contaminated, the contaminates could travel unnoticed until  
20 detected in a drinking water well. And when it comes to the  
21 pollution from compressor stations, health problems  
22 associated with exposure to these chemicals include  
23 respiratory, neurological and germinal responses as well as  
24 vascular bleeding, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting.

25           And lastly, endangered and threatened species --

1 according to the Draft EIS there are 11 federally listed or  
2 proposed species in the projected area in the Nexus Pipeline  
3 Project is "likely to adversely affect the northern  
4 long-eared bat" which are on that list.

5           So FERC must realize that true energy security  
6 and economic security will come only from communities  
7 remaking their energy systems on clean and sustainable  
8 solutions. This pipeline would make it harder to transition  
9 to renewables in the future. It is time to start building  
10 this future and stop building compressor stations and  
11 pipelines to lock in the alternative, not decades more air  
12 and climate pollution sickening communities and bringing  
13 climate chaos.

14           FERC should take a step in the right direction by  
15 rejecting the Nexus Pipeline proposal, thank you for your  
16 consideration and you all can have this copy with the  
17 mouthful that I said and more. Thank you so much, we  
18 submitted that online already.

19           FERC STAFF: If it is submitted online it is not  
20 going to be any different, but you are welcome to leave it  
21 with us.

22           MR. YATES: Charles Clinton Yates, I'm a  
23 pipeliner welder for Local Union 798. I live in southeast  
24 Ohio, currently working in Westland, Michigan right now.  
25 This job will benefit the surrounding communities. It makes

1 -- you have your small businesses, revenue skyrockets when  
2 all the employees come in. Natural gas is the cleanest  
3 burning energy that we have right now. It is the safest  
4 form of energy.

5           The pipeline companies that we use -- if used  
6 union is the safest record that you can use. They use union  
7 labor, every time we do things we have 100% x-ray prepared  
8 rate that everything is good you know and they stand up to  
9 every environmental regulation that they have. We go by the  
10 100% pretty much -- I mean ever since I've been working  
11 since 2009 for 798 every project we have been on has been a  
12 good project. Everything has been safe, never had an injury  
13 report, never had any problems with the environmentalists,  
14 everything was put back the way it was found you know and  
15 that's how we are going to run this job if it is accepted.  
16 Alright, I appreciate it.

17           MR. HOTTENSTEIN: Robert Hottenstein from  
18 Deerfield. H-o-t-t-e-n-s-t-e-i-n. Well my concern is I was  
19 standing at my neighbor's house -- his name is Chuck Fisher  
20 and one of the guys from the Nexus Pipeline, I don't know  
21 who he was from or even if he was with the company itself,  
22 maybe he might have been part of the attorney firm, I don't  
23 know -- standing right there and handed my neighbor a  
24 \$250,000 check.

25           And I looked at him and I said what the heck is

1 that for? He said well this is between your neighbor and I  
2 and my neighbor said well anything you want to say because  
3 my neighbor has had a stroke over all of this going on  
4 because he didn't want to lose his farm land and he said  
5 when he told him that you guys said well it's because we are  
6 coming across his field right here and this is his  
7 compensation.

8           And I said well I just bought my house in January  
9 which is probably 400 yards from where the pipeline is going  
10 to be I didn't know nothing about it but I do know that the  
11 pipeline that is existing there right now is dangerous.  
12 There has been days when we woke up because the wind was  
13 blowing just right and we could smell the gas so bad that it  
14 would make my wife sick to her stomach where she would  
15 almost vomit.

16           I don't know what the smell is, I don't care what  
17 the smell is but this is ridiculous that they are going to  
18 try to do this again with another one. I can't even sell my  
19 house now. I told this lady about this coming down through  
20 here and she's like well if I were you I would try to sue  
21 the people that you bought the house from.

22           I'm like well that old man had a stroke and I  
23 don't even think he knows that this is going through here  
24 because otherwise I know he wouldn't put up with it, not  
25 having to have to deal with the other one all of these years

1 and the blow off and the smell and it's ridiculous. So my  
2 question is -- if they are coming that close to my house  
3 with my grandkids out there playing at any given time of the  
4 day and nobody is going to tell me any different because I  
5 witnessed it when the last time it blew up out on Briton  
6 Highway which the way the crow flies is only about 2 miles  
7 from me.

8           And I was in Dundee the day that happened. When  
9 that pipeline blew we thought an airplane was landing on top  
10 of us at an auction. I mean it was that loud and that's 11  
11 miles away. I'm less than 400 feet from this thing now.  
12 Where is the guarantee that it will never happen with the  
13 old pipeline that is there once they dig by it and move the  
14 ground and shift the ground and who is going to guarantee  
15 that it is not going to happen?

16           What compensation does that mean I am going to  
17 get? And that's what I want to know. I got -- I had to  
18 disconnect my well because I have methane gas coming through  
19 my well in my faucets so bad that you could light it on fire  
20 and it would stay lit on fire, that's from fracking. It's  
21 eliminating the shit out of the ground that is coming up in  
22 the wells.

23           I can't even do nothing -- I have to haul my  
24 water now and now we have a pipeline coming through, I want  
25 to know why I am not being offered anything and why I was

1 never told about this before by the title search company  
2 that should have told me that this was coming through here.  
3 Hell they are part of the government around here, they ought  
4 to know something, you would think so anyway.

5 I mean the other question I had how deep is the  
6 pipe going to be when they come through that area? Can any  
7 of you tell me that? You can't even tell me that?

8 FERC STAFF: I cannot speak to the merits of the  
9 project, I can only speak on processes.

10 MR. HOTTENSTEIN: Well because I am going to tell  
11 you why I want to know because have you ever seen when the  
12 floods come down south real bad and then you have coffins  
13 popping up out of the ground -- well if they don't bury that  
14 line any more than 10 feet underground when we get the  
15 massive floods out by my house, thank God all the houses  
16 around me were up on little hills -- I have actually seen it  
17 to where it looks like you are living in the ocean and each  
18 little house has its own little island.

19 If that pipeline isn't buried very deep I can't  
20 even tell you what is going to happen, it is going to float  
21 right out of the ground, especially if they don't compact  
22 it. I have been in construction for 35 years and I don't --  
23 it's putting people to work, that's awesome -- we need that  
24 in this area because all of our roads have gone to hell and  
25 we can't even get our county to fix half of them. Maybe

1 they will fix them after the pipeline goes through, I doubt  
2 it -- I doubt it.

3           But where I live out on Garner Road in Deerfield  
4 they -- I mean nobody said nothing to nobody. I happened to  
5 fall upon my neighbor that day when he was talking to this  
6 guy and I told him I would leave and he said no, stay. I  
7 asked the guy about the easement. I said okay well you  
8 already have the easement for the one pipeline going through  
9 there now you are going to have to double your easement  
10 because you have another pipeline going out there.

11           And the farmer looks at him and he says well  
12 what's that mean? So they didn't really explain nothing to  
13 him. I said well what that means Chuck is that now you went  
14 from having a 30 foot easement on your property to roughly  
15 120 to 150 foot easement because they are going to have to  
16 have all this room to work, to haul the pipe in for the  
17 equipment to cross the ditches and all of this shit is all  
18 going to have to go on and I said they are going to tie up  
19 all that high dollar tiling that you put in your field --  
20 they are going to tear that all up. Who is going to repair  
21 that?

22           Who is going to replace -- because out there in  
23 the countryside in all of this area, all of these houses are  
24 supposedly grandfathered in, they are liquid -- the urine  
25 that comes out of their septic tanks is what flows into the

1 farm fields and flows out into the ditches and a lot of  
2 people say well that's what causes the algae bloom. It very  
3 well could be, but nevertheless we are grandfathered into  
4 that.

5           Now when they start coming through there and  
6 digging that up, everybody's leak fields are going to fail,  
7 do you know how much them are? Take a wild guess because I  
8 have done them for years -- in this area alone they are  
9 \$36,000 apiece. I'm on a fixed income there ain't no way --  
10 I'd lose my home again, there's no way in hell that I can  
11 afford a \$36,00 leak fail because they want to put a  
12 pipeline through the field that takes on my septic. And  
13 it's nothing that I've done it's been like that ever since  
14 this house has been born and built it's been that way and it  
15 has never failed but it will as soon as they start tearing  
16 up these field houses.

17           Who is going to pay for that?

18           FERC STAFF: I don't know.

19           MR. HOTTENSTEIN: That's what I am saying --  
20 somebody needs to be in here answering questions not just  
21 typing, I mean we need to know this kind of stuff. This is  
22 the first I have heard about it was today on Channel 13 News  
23 and them coward SOB's wouldn't even be here for the thing.

24           FERC STAFF: No these are comment meetings held  
25 by FERC to receive publically.

1                   MR. HOTTENSTEIN: I know but Channel 13 News for  
2 the first time this morning when I was watching it -- it was  
3 the first time I saw anything about this Nexus Pipeline  
4 coming to Tecumseh to have this little thing. That should  
5 have been advertised for a week or two at least so that  
6 people would have an idea what's going on.

7                   And then I heard it on WLEN one time today. So  
8 it's like ssssh if they catch it fine, if they don't fine  
9 -- that's pretty shitty, that's pretty shitty advertising.  
10 Because I know there are a lot of people that are really  
11 upset about this just because of what I have told you.  
12 Their leak fields are going to be destroyed, half of the  
13 wells are going to go dry because if they do go deep enough  
14 some of the shallow wells around there that they use for  
15 bathing and doing dishes is all going to drain right for  
16 that pipe, because water likes electricity it will go over  
17 the easiest route which will be the pipeline, which the  
18 water will flow right out along that pipe for years to come.

19                   And then here we are a man that's basically  
20 retired and can't do nothing because I have a plate in my  
21 neck with 8 pins and I can't go back to work, nobody will  
22 hire me. From doing this kind of work all of my life and I  
23 thank God I had a job like that -- don't get me wrong, but  
24 the way they are going about this is wrong.

25                   I talked to a lady out here and she said well we

1 only got \$40,000 for our property. I stood right there, I'd  
2 swear on a stack of bibles and I would swear on my dead  
3 daughter's grave they gave them a check for \$250,000 to  
4 cross a 40 acre field. They must really want to go through  
5 there.

6           So that's about all I have oh and like I said the  
7 compaction -- I'm hoping if they don't put it more than 10  
8 feet deep I hope to God they have somebody out there  
9 compacting that dirt very well because if it floods it is  
10 like a lake and you get all of that water and that pipe will  
11 float right up out of the ground. I have seen septic tanks  
12 -- great big concrete septic tanks float out of the ground  
13 out there before because of a flood.

14           And if one of them big things float out of the  
15 ground that pipe will definitely pop up out of the ground  
16 and that is dangerous. So hopefully somebody can give me  
17 some answers or somebody can tell me an attorney to talk to  
18 because I mean I feel that I don't care about the neighbor  
19 down the road from me because he's 1,000 feet away -- I'm at  
20 least 400 feet from that pipeline and I know nobody is going  
21 to guarantee me that that won't ever blow up when my  
22 grandkids are out there playing or something.

23           Because like I said before 2 miles -- over a mile  
24 and a half or a mile away when it blew up the one time, it  
25 melted the siding, it blew the windows out of the house on

1 Breton Highway. That was a mile away. And I wouldn't want  
2 to be the one to have to stand there and answer to my  
3 daughter and her old man that her kids were fried standing  
4 in place like a nuclear bomb because this thing goes off  
5 because somebody was digging next to it.

6 I mean and it could happen -- everybody knows it  
7 could happen. We are not imbeciles we all know but I think  
8 I need some more answers before they come through there.  
9 Because if not I am afraid of what would probably happen if  
10 they did come through there and I still ain't heard from  
11 nobody I would be pretty upset. So that's all I have to  
12 say.

13 MR. WIELFAERT: My name is Paul Wielfaert,  
14 W-i-e-l-f-a-e-r-t. I've lived in Lenawee County and  
15 Ridgeway Township my whole life. I am opposed to the Nexus  
16 Project for the following reasons:

17 We have 6 separate properties accounting for  
18 approximately 600 acres that will be affected by this pipe.  
19 My concern is the destruction of our tile systems which we  
20 depend on to make our fields workable and profitable. This  
21 pipeline will create havoc upon these systems. We have --  
22 are you ready? Okay, we have two parcels that will require  
23 massive pump systems to drain the water uphill against the  
24 drain at a considerable cost.

25 Even if Nexus pays all costs incurred now and for

1 the future maintenance of these systems, these systems will  
2 not work as well as what is installed well that's causing  
3 economic loss forever. The American farmer is supposed to  
4 feed the world. I realize that we here in Lenawee County  
5 are a small part of it but we are still involved.

6 Agriculture is getting tougher and tougher every  
7 day and we all have to adapt to survive but some things you  
8 can't overcome. I believe this project to be one of those,  
9 thank you for your time.

10 FERC STAFF: Thank you so much for coming out.

11 MR. WIELFAERT: No problem and I am going to --  
12 I'll probably mail this in too.

13 FERC STAFF: Absolutely, you can submit it online  
14 or --

15 MS. PODLEWSKI: Cheryl Podlewski,  
16 P-o-d-l-e-w-s-k-i. I own -- let's start I'm so against this  
17 pipeline. It's all I can think of as ruining our  
18 environment, ruining our water, what's going to happen to  
19 our kids -- I feel like bureaucrats all they think about is  
20 the money and they don't think about what is going to happen  
21 years down the road. I don't see why we need this, I don't  
22 feel like we do need this. It's just somebody stuffing  
23 money in their pocket, that's how I feel and we will  
24 probably end up paying for it, us the ones that are putting  
25 up with it that have property and everything.

1           The idea that it is going to create jobs I think  
2 is the biggest farce I have ever heard. The jobs are going  
3 to be short-lived, they are not going to help the area at  
4 all, I think it is a big waste and besides the wildlife it  
5 is going to hurt, my biggest thing is the water, that's all  
6 I think about is you can't replace the water once they ruin  
7 it.

8           And they showed pictures on TV of the pipeline  
9 blowing up in different areas and what it caused and I'm  
10 just totally against it, totally against it. I'm done, I've  
11 said my peace.

12           MR. PODLAWSKI: John Podlawski,  
13 P-o-d-l-a-w-s-k-I, okay first of all you are going to be  
14 going through farm land, taking trees down, woods down which  
15 they have already started doing through Washington and  
16 Maumee County. And then probably within a 10 mile radius of  
17 my house up on U.S. 12 towards Wayne going south toward  
18 Adrian they drilled these wells, they put pumping rigs on  
19 them, they were burning off the excess gas for about a year  
20 or two now all of those rigs are sitting idle doing nothing.

21           So why do we need another pipeline running  
22 through there when there is product there that they can get  
23 out of the ground being an economic part of it -- what's it  
24 going to do to the sale of homes when you are running pipe  
25 15 feet from people's foundations where they live and do you

1 want that running next to your house? I sure as hell don't.

2           And if it springs a leak who is going to pay for  
3 the cleanup, who is going to buy my house knowing there is a  
4 42 inch line within a quarter of a mile of the house. The  
5 economics of a job -- yeah you are going to hire some people  
6 to come in excavating that down creek, fix the landscape and  
7 all the other -- cleaning up the area that they destroyed to  
8 put the pipe in.

9           And I know people can move down the road and go  
10 somewhere else, you might have one or two jobs, three or  
11 four jobs, truck drivers, terminal operators, stuff like  
12 that. It's not going to bring all these jobs to this area.

13           The fellow out there was just telling me he works  
14 for the pipelines at home two weeks in the last two years  
15 because they constantly move around to put these pipes in.  
16 So for the economics, the depreciation of my home and anyone  
17 else's home I am totally against it and with the prices of  
18 fuel being as cheap as they are right now I don't have a  
19 problem paying \$2.00/\$3.00 a gallon. I didn't have a  
20 problem paying \$4.00 a gallon.

21           And when we can't get it from Saudi Arabia cheap  
22 we will start pumping our own out west and open them rigs  
23 back up. The other thing I'm pissed about is you advertised  
24 this on TV last night as an open forum town hall meeting  
25 where everybody comes in and speak their minds, speak your

1 business so neighbors can hear other neighbors, what they  
2 have to say and it totally was misleading the way it was  
3 presented on the news last night.

4           Whoever is in charge of that needs to fess up to  
5 it or in plain English have their ass kicked for being  
6 misleading to the general public. To scare people and drag  
7 them out and think that they are actually going to sit down  
8 in an auditorium and listen to people speak and then it's  
9 presented totally different from the way it was advertised  
10 on TV. And I'm not the only person that heard it advertised  
11 on TV or on the radio. I'm done.

12           MS. WALLACE: My name is Michelle Wallace. I  
13 believe that this pipeline is unnecessary, that it will just  
14 lead to environmental problems, disasters, we're talking  
15 methane leaks, greater potential for earth changes including  
16 earthquake, water pollutants -- I don't know, that's good I  
17 guess. I don't know what else to really -- yes that's my  
18 opinion that's fine.

19           I'm against it but I don't know if I said that  
20 but I just don't think it's necessary and that it will just  
21 lead to further problems.

22

23

24

25

## 1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

3 This is to certify that the attached proceeding  
4 before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the  
5 Matter of:

6 Name of Proceeding:

7 NEXUS GAS TRANSMISSION PROJECT

8 TEXAS EASTERN APPALACHIAN LEASE PROJECT

9

10

11

12 Docket No.: CP16-22-000

13 CP16-23-000

14 CP16-24-000

15 CP16-102-000

16 Place: Tecumseh, Michigan

17 Date: August 11, 2016

18 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original  
19 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy  
20 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription  
21 of the proceedings.

22

23

24 Daniel Hawkins

25 Official Reporter

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Energy Projects

- x
- NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC                      Docket No. CP16-22-000
- Texas Eastern Transmission, LP                      Docket No. CP16-23-000
- DTE Gas Company                                      Docket No. CP16-24-000
- Vector Pipeline L.P.                                      Docket No. CP16-102-000
- x

NEXUS GAS TRANSMISSION PROJECT and  
TEXAS EASTERN APPALACHIAN LEASE PROJECT

Tecumseh Center for the Arts  
400 North Maumee Street  
Tecumseh, Michigan 49286  
Thursday, August 11, 2016

The DEIS oral comment collection meeting, pursuant to  
notice, began at approximately 5:00 p.m., with FERC Staff  
assisting.

Court Reporter B

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

2 MR. LADENBERGER: Glenn, G-l-e-n-n, last name  
3 Ladenberger, L-a-d-e-n-b-e-r-g-e r.

4 This is exactly what I'm going to say, but if you  
5 feel better writing it down that's fine. That's just fine.

6 Alright, the story is told of an old woman who  
7 lived in a war-torn country. She had no means of defending  
8 herself, but she was very disinclined to leave her home.  
9 Upon hearing of her reluctance some neighbors approached her  
10 intent on changing her mind. What do you, they asked, when  
11 the enemy comes down your street? What will you do when  
12 they drive up your drive and attack you in your home? What  
13 will you do?

14 I'm going to stand right here with my flag waving  
15 and my broom in my hand. A broom? You're not going to  
16 defeat anyone with a broom. Maybe not, she replied, but  
17 they're going to know what side I was on.

18 I come here tonight with my flag and my broom. I  
19 have no delusions that I will be able to stop either Nexus  
20 or DTE. I don't have their legal teams. I don't have their  
21 money. I don't have their experience, even the law is on  
22 their side although the constitution is clearly on mine.  
23 And even more important, I think God is on my side or to put  
24 it a little more humbly I think I'm on his side and that's  
25 important to be because as a Christian I want to think on

1 God's terms.

2           Before I act, I want to know does the Bible have  
3 anything to say about this. In this case dos the Bible have  
4 anything to say about government taking a person's property  
5 against his will and indeed it does. I Kings 21 gives the  
6 account of King Ahab and a vinedresser name Naboth. Since  
7 my time is limited is limited and I'm a factory worker, not  
8 a preacher, let me summarize what's going on here.

9           Naboth's vineyard is right next to King Ahab's  
10 palace. Ahab would like to take Naboth's land and convert  
11 it into his personal herb garden. He offers Naboth what the  
12 land is worth, what we would call the Nexus value or a  
13 better vineyard, what we would call the pipeline lawyer's  
14 value. Is this beginning to sound familiar?

15           Naboth refused to sell. I should point out two  
16 things here. First, King Ahab, that would be the  
17 government, stood to gain in this transaction. I've been  
18 gardening for a quarter century and can tell you with some  
19 authority that once you purchase the land an herb garden is  
20 very productive. One basil seed will yield hundreds of  
21 basil leaves and hundreds of more basil seeds for next year.

22           Unlike DTE, King Ahab did not solicit the  
23 Michigan Public Service Commission to ask the taxpayers to  
24 pay for a project that even by their own estimates wasn't  
25 going to break even for 10 years. Secondly, there is no

1 record anywhere of an herb garden blowing up and  
2 incinerating everything within a one-mile radius. Herb  
3 gardens are very safe.

4           So here's my take-away. Naboth refused to sell  
5 even though the government project was far safer and far  
6 more profitable than the Nexus Pipeline. Naboth refused to  
7 sell even though he was up against a monarch and not a  
8 constitutional republic. Naboth refused to sell and God  
9 justified his referral. As a Christian, I can do no  
10 better, when the bulldozer and the backhoes and the police  
11 and the lawyers show up, I will stand with my flag waving  
12 and my broom in my hand. I refuse to sell. I may not win,  
13 but they're going to know which side I'm on. That's it.

14           MR. SCHOEN: Gary Schoen, S-c-h-o-e-n and it's  
15 G-a-r-y.

16           My wife and I have a farm that they want to put  
17 about 1200 feet of pipeline through our north boundary. And  
18 besides the wonderful creek that we have cutting through the  
19 back side of our property, they're going to probably destroy  
20 that when they get done, you know the environmental impact  
21 of this really goes a lot farther than just this pipeline.  
22 You know we've been trying to get horizontal fracking in  
23 Michigan to be stopped and Michigan doesn't seem to be  
24 following on that one, but that's the problem with this is  
25 we're supposed to be conserving energy and learning how to

1 use our energy better and now we have all this fracking  
2 destroying the planet.

3           The methane gas is killing us. You know the  
4 technology isn't there yet for this fracking. We're losing  
5 all the methane into the air and in 10 years then maybe  
6 they'll figure out a way to not have that happen, but you  
7 know as far as environmental this is not a clean fuel. T  
8 his is fracking, which is horrible on the planet and I mean  
9 there's countries banning it.

10           But now we get to our pipeline. They have so  
11 much and they can't get rid of it, so they were going to try  
12 to ship it to Canada. This is the Nexus Pipeline. When  
13 this first came out they were saying it's going to Canada.  
14 We're going to send it up to Canada. Well, now all of a  
15 sudden they seem to be backing off from that and in fact  
16 they changed the map. They changed some things around to  
17 make it look like, oh, this is DTE is just going to stay in  
18 Michigan. It is not. This is another lie by the Nexus  
19 Company.

20           They are lying to people constantly and now they  
21 don't even have 50 percent of this pipeline leased, so now  
22 their new tactic is they're going to put in connections for  
23 when they can get the -- the final line is Canada doesn't  
24 want it. The Attorney General Schuette is on record saying  
25 we don't want this in Michigan. Besides the environmental

1 damage, they expect the State of Michigan to pay for it,  
2 basically.

3           DET consumers, if this pipeline doesn't pay for  
4 itself, then we're supposed to pay for it? What a way to do  
5 business, hey, you know. If you lose, they just give you  
6 the money anyway. It's a bad deal for Michigan according to  
7 the Attorney General. It's a bad deal for the world that  
8 we're fracking and shipping this stuff out. There's a new  
9 thing going on with an attorney in Ohio because basically  
10 this is violation of the Energy Act, Barack Obama's Energy  
11 Act. This is a violation of it. They're trying to ship  
12 this stuff out of the country and they're going to do  
13 everything they can to do it.

14           It's just they're ruining the planet. Look at  
15 North Dakota, same thing, fracking is horrible. We need to  
16 learn more about it before we unleash any more availability  
17 to ship this natural gas. We also have a school. That's  
18 our biggest argument. We have schools that this pipeline is  
19 going to be running by within 1000 feet, 400 feet on one.  
20 If it's our schools how many other schools are impacted as  
21 far as, once again, environment and possible damage? I mean  
22 it's a one-mile blow zone, as I understand it.

23           You know we're taking risks with people's lives,  
24 people's ability to -- nobody wants this pipeline, not even  
25 the State of Michigan, so at this point, once again,

1 environmental impact I think we have to talk about the  
2 fracking and the final line is we need to stop fracking so  
3 much and learn how to use our energy better and we cannot  
4 sell this and they're trying to sneak around and do it.

5           And I've already talked with you about it. If  
6 find it amazing to think that the police basically, FERC, is  
7 paid by the pipeline. This is absurd. This is absurd. But  
8 in the meantime thanks for your time. This also is a  
9 terrible system. We should be able to speak in public, but  
10 thank you. Appreciate being here.

11           MR. CALHOUN: My name is Ben Calhoun,  
12 C-a-l-h-o-u-n.

13           I'm basically here against the pipeline because I  
14 have a business that it's planning to run along side of and  
15 they're going to take -- I own a disc golf store in  
16 Ypsilanti and there's a course on site and they're going to  
17 take the pipeline and put it right down Milan's fairways and  
18 close out some of my course and cut down a bunch of trees  
19 next year, if they build it and it's probably going to put  
20 me out of business. And as I don't own the land, I just  
21 rent from the landowner whose land they're coming onto, I  
22 don't have any direct way to be compensated for my loss, so  
23 I expect to be put out of business and be not compensated  
24 for my loss. So that's why I'm here against the pipeline.

25           I'm concerned about the impact in the area. If

1 you look at the map in Ypsilanti it's like they drew a line  
2 into every single wetland they possibly could, including a  
3 little one that's right there on the course and across the  
4 street in Hydro-Park and they're going to put it under a  
5 river and then in Lincoln Schools they're going to run it by  
6 three schools where if there's any sort of accident like  
7 very school child there will be dead instantly. It sickens  
8 me, so I'm here to give those comments I guess.

9 MR. NEUMAN: Margaret Neuman, M-a-r-g-a-r-e-t  
10 N-e-u-m-a-n.

11 My biggest concern is my well. I have a dug well  
12 and if this is where you want to put this pipeline through  
13 is less than 150 feet from where they're supposed to be.  
14 And if they drain my well -- I have very good water. It's  
15 not real deep, but if they dig my well -- I mean drain my  
16 well what's going to happen to my water?

17 There was a fellow come out here not too long  
18 ago, probably a few weeks ago or something. Oh, we'll fix  
19 your well. Well, what are they going to do with a dug well  
20 and if it's drained from them digging where the vain comes  
21 through how are they going to fix my well? They can't fix  
22 something that's been drain because the vain is cut.

23 And then he said something. He went on and  
24 wanted to know where my septic tank was. What does that  
25 have to do with the pipeline? He didn't tell me. I don't

1 know. Three of them come through there and wrecked my water  
2 and wrecked everything and these pipelines do explode and  
3 it's too close to my house. Besides that's a residential  
4 area; what are they coming through there for? It's too  
5 close to my house.

6 MR. NEUMAN: At least say something.

7 MS. NEUMAN: No, they aren't going to say  
8 nothing.

9 MR. WUEHLHAUSER: Like I said, we're here to hear  
10 your comments and concerns. I completely understand your  
11 concerns. We are getting them on the record. This will be  
12 on the public record and we will address concerns in the  
13 Final EIS if they haven't been already addressed in the  
14 Draft.

15 MS. NEUMAN: Well, what's going to happen to my  
16 property? If it has to be sold, it's going to go downhill  
17 because nobody's going to want to be there. It's out in the  
18 country, yes, but it's wonderful. It's really nice out  
19 there. It's quiet and peaceful, but if they got that  
20 pipeline right there would you live right beside a pipeline?  
21 I don't think so, not if you're going to move into a place  
22 where it is. And there's nothing wrong with my house. It's  
23 a brick house and it's not just a junk house.

24 MR. WUEHLHAUSER: I understand.

25 MS. NEUMAN: Well, it's not going to do any good

1 to set here and talk about it because they're going to run  
2 right over me and other people probably like me 'cause they  
3 don't care. They want it and we're not going to go. And if  
4 they had gone less than quarter mile away from my house  
5 where it's not residential, it's farming, but no, they got  
6 to plow through residential. That's my main concern, my  
7 well -- and like I said the septic tank I don't know what  
8 that had to do with it, but the value of my property  
9 certainly going to go downhill.

10 I'm getting elder, sure, but if my children have  
11 it -- I have this son and another son. If one of them have  
12 it they're not going to want it and I don't blame them.  
13 He's living with me right now because I can't do all my yard  
14 work. I've had back surgery and both hips replaced and I'm  
15 not a young kid any more, but I'm healthy and there's  
16 nothing wrong with me. And this is ridiculous as far as I'm  
17 concerned.

18 There might be other people that are in this same  
19 situation, but like I said they're running over us. They  
20 don't care. They want that and they're going to through  
21 there. They don't care. And I'm not going to get a rusty  
22 nickel 'cause it's not my property, but I'm going to have  
23 all the commotion. They're going to come down through my  
24 driveway and walk around and they've been doing it already  
25 when they were surveying.

1           They went all across the road. There's a  
2 railroad track and we keep that mowed. He does it mostly  
3 now. I've done that for every since we been there. We  
4 built our house there. My husband passed away 16 years ago,  
5 but did all that work 'til Dennis come to live with me. And  
6 I hate to have to move just because the pipeline coming  
7 through there.

8           MR. WEHLHAUSER: Alright.

9           MS. NEUMAN: And there's probably more things  
10 that I'm not thinking of that could go wrong.

11           MR. NEUMAN: It's considered a well here because  
12 I don't know what they do about -- they're supposed to go  
13 like 20 feet under the road and the railroad. And this  
14 other guy that talked to us said they're going to have some  
15 kind of a machine that you know goes in there and makes a  
16 tunnel underneath. I don't know how that's going to affect  
17 anything, but you know if it does now what? If I got to  
18 start hauling water, I'm not going to do it for free.

19           MS. NEUMAN: And it's not cheap. The water  
20 either.

21           MR. NEUMAN: And you can fill that well all the  
22 way up to the top and all of sudden overnight it's going to  
23 go down to the ground level of water and you might only have  
24 three or four feet in the bottom overnight 'cause it's just  
25 going to seep out the same way the water comes in. It's

1 going to go down to ground level and that's where it's going  
2 to end up.

3 She had this happen before when I was a little  
4 kid. You know they overflowed that top of that well and,  
5 hell, overnight the water just went down to damn near  
6 nothing you know, four or five feet in the well.

7 MR. WUEHLHAUSER: For the record, do you know the  
8 depth of the well?

9 MR. NEUMAN: Yeah, it's 22 feet.

10 MR. WEHLHAUSER: 22? Thank you.

11 MS. NEUMAN: And by the way, there was a fellow  
12 to my house within a month ago and he said they're going to  
13 test my water now and test it again after it's done. Well,  
14 it's going to be different if we're hauling water in from  
15 the river that's in Blissfield that's purified with all this  
16 chemicals to make it fit to drink. If that's the case, I  
17 will not drink that water that we have to haul in. I'll  
18 have to buy water to drink and cook with then.

19 It's not a funny situation. And I really don't  
20 think they need that pipeline going right down through  
21 there. How are they going to get under the river? There's  
22 a river that runs through Blissfield. It runs north and  
23 south.

24 MR. NEUMAN: I don't think, from the maps I  
25 looked at, they're going under the river. They're bypassing

1 that.

2 MS. NEUMAN: I don't know where they could bypass  
3 it.

4 MR. NEUMAN: It's going to have to be way north  
5 or way south of where you're at. Yeah, you're going to have  
6 to cross that river somewhere. I mean I'm just not sure  
7 where here. I see the map here. We was here about, what,  
8 two months ago or three months ago?

9 MS. NEUMAN: It's been longer. It seems like it  
10 was early April or something when they had them here.

11 MR. NEUMAN: You know we're looking for maps and  
12 stuff and somewhere along the line you know they're going to  
13 have to go underneath the river some place because it goes  
14 from Blissfield to Palmyra just going to have to go  
15 underneath that somewhere.

16 MR. WUEHLHAUSER: We do have our copy of the  
17 Draft EIS out there and there are maps in there, so you're  
18 welcome to take a look at that. Maybe that can give you  
19 some answers as to where it's going.

20 MR. NEUMAN: Okay. Alright, anything else you  
21 want to say?

22 MS. NEUMAN: Well, I can't think of anything  
23 right now.

24 MR. NEUMAN: I can't either.

25 MS. NEUMAN: Like we said, the well is the main

1 thing because when that man come say he was going to fix it.  
2 I don't understand how you're going to fix a well when it's  
3 been drained and the vain is cut off. And I know it's  
4 coming from the east because when the cover's off that well  
5 you can see where it comes in and that's the truth. I'm not  
6 just saying that.

7 MR. NEUMAN: And that's where this line is going  
8 to go through, from the east of her house.

9 MR. NEUMAN: It's good water. I used to do the  
10 wash at home and it's nice water, soft water. You didn't  
11 have to put a lot of soap or anything in it. I could really  
12 wash clothes in a small amount of water and detergent -- not  
13 water, but detergent.

14 MR. WUEHLHAUSER: Alright, anything additional?

15 MS. NEUMAN: Well, I can't think of anything  
16 right now.

17 MR. NEUMAN: I can't either right now.

18 MS. NEUMAN: Are there going to be more meetings  
19 before this goes through? I understand they're going to  
20 start in March?

21 MR. WUEHLHAUSER: Well, we have more meetings next  
22 week in other locations and that will mark the end of the  
23 public comment meetings.

24 MS. NEUMAN: Will it be the same as this?

25 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

1 MS. NEUMAN: And the people who have tiles going  
2 down through there were are they going to put it?

3 MR. NEUMAN: For the fields, you know, to drain  
4 stuff. I mean what are you going to do, just rip all that  
5 stuff up and say, oh well, come on now.

6 MR. WUEHLHAUSER: That too is addressed in the  
7 Draft EIS, what the construction and mitigation techniques  
8 will be.

9 MR. NEUMAN: Okay, 'cause I know when I was a  
10 little kid, hell, that back field behind the house was  
11 flooded.

12 MS. NEUMAN: We'd go roller skating -- not roller  
13 skating, but ice skating there when I was young girl because  
14 I lived right next door and we bought some land from my  
15 mother and dad when my husband and I were married and that  
16 was in '53 and I've lived there ever since and I'd like to  
17 stay there, but it's got to be fit to live too.

18 No, I didn't think this was going to be a meeting  
19 where nobody would say anything. I thought there'd be some  
20 comments or something.

21 MR. MUEHLHAUSER: Yes, I understand.

22 MR. NEUMAN: Okay, I pretty much said everything  
23 I got to say; how about you?

24 MS. NEUMAN: Well, as far as I can tell and I  
25 don't think it's going to do any good anyway. They're going

1 to run right over us. It don't make any difference.  
2 They're going through there no matter what anybody says.  
3 That's the way I feel.

4 MR. NEUMAN: It's called eminent domain, right?

5 MS. NEUMAN: And what's this MERC they're talking  
6 about, MERC?

7 MR. MUEHLHAUSER: I'm not sure, FERC?

8 MS. NEUMAN: FERC, okay.

9 MR. MUEHLHAUSER: Federal Energy Regulatory  
10 Commission and that's the federal agency that is responsible  
11 for authorizing these types of projects, interstate natural  
12 gas projects and that's who I'm here representing as a  
13 contractor and there are actually agency staff from the  
14 environmental department here also.

15 MS. NEUMAN: Well, okay.

16 MR. MUEHLHAUSER: Thank you.

17 MR. HEMENAY: My name is Phil Hemenway,

18 H-e-m-e-n-w-a-y.

19 So I am a former elected public official in  
20 Washtenaw County, trustee, and I'm also a former planning  
21 commissioner, so I will speak primarily for Washtenaw County  
22 because that's where I was an elected official.

23 So I've provided my written comments to the  
24 ladies outside, so I won't bother you with that. And can  
25 you tell how much time? I want to respect your time limits.

1           MR. WUEHLHAUSER: We're aksing people to try to  
2 keep their comments to about five minutes.

3           MR. HEMENWAY: Oaky.

4           MR. WUEHLHAUSER: If you need more time that's  
5 fine.

6           MR. HEMENWAY: I think we'll be good. It's ten  
7 pass. I'll blab for five minutes and then I'll let you take  
8 care of the next speaker.

9           Okay, so I'll just hit the highlights from my  
10 letter. In general, I'm a layperson with this and I spent  
11 two hours with the DEIS. In a word, it's terrible. It's  
12 like what. I'm a consultant. I retired from Ford Motor  
13 Company. If I did this kind of work for my clients I would  
14 expect to be fired.

15           The DEIS is terrible. It's one-sided. It  
16 doesn't cover the needs of the citizen. It's a very  
17 inaccurate picture and I know Washtenaw County, so I studied  
18 Washtenaw County. I didn't study Ohio because I don't know  
19 that. It glossed over the natural features in Washtenaw  
20 County. Washtenaw County has prime agricultural farmland.  
21 A majority of Washtenaw County it's prime farmland. That's  
22 the highest classification, the most productive  
23 classification of agricultural land you can have. That's  
24 Washtenaw County. It just happens to be that way 'cause it  
25 flat and it's got the types of soil particularly productive

1 for corn and soybeans. They just glossed over it.

2           Okay, so spent a little bit of time on it and  
3 there's a lot of references that the pipeline company never  
4 addressed. For instance, Washtenaw County did a study in  
5 1981, the Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
6 called the Washtenaw County Fragile Lands Report, what  
7 covers agricultural farmlands, wetlands, natural features.  
8 It's an inventory. It's a very comprehensive inventory of  
9 Washtenaw County. It's not in there. It's like, how did  
10 you miss that?

11           So in my written comments I put references to  
12 that so that if the FERC folks if you want to look that up I  
13 referenced all of my points. Okay.

14           So the other thing is the Environmental Impact  
15 Statement did not include -- Michigan has the Michigan  
16 Wetlands Protection Act, which is Part 303 of the Natural  
17 Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1980-'84 and  
18 1994 P.A. 451, glossed over it. Michigan has a Wetlands  
19 Protection Act. I would expect or I would hope that FERC  
20 will expect the pipeline company to comply with Michigan's  
21 Wetlands Protection Act and all of the procedures, the  
22 processes, the permits, the cooperation with the MD&R and  
23 the consequent public comments and public hearing process.  
24 Okay.

25           Additionally, Washtenaw County has a Soil

1 Erosion/Sedimentation Control Act, Public Act 347, 1972.  
2 There's no mention of that. Also, the application glosses  
3 over and erroneously reports -- I'll get into that in a  
4 minute -- the wetlands. The wetland study in the DEIS is a  
5 very high-level, very glossed over, very brief  
6 classification of wetlands in Washtenaw County. Washtenaw  
7 County has significant wetlands and they're not included in  
8 the DEIS. Minimally, Lenawee River, one of the largest  
9 rivers in Michigan, Paint Creek, which is -- I'll get into  
10 that later -- and Stony Creek and the Stony Creek Watershed,  
11 which drains into Lake Erie, glossed over, and then they say  
12 there's no significant wetlands in Washtenaw County. I'm  
13 like, forgive me, bullshit. I can say that. Okay.

14           So next, comprehensive analysis of pipeline  
15 fillings, subsequent effects of failure, particularly, the  
16 ability to evacuate populations because the pipeline runs  
17 through the Lincoln Consolidated School District high school  
18 and the elementary school. I can't think of the name of it  
19 right off. I got some friends that their kids go there.

20           What are you going to do if there's an explosion?  
21 You've got to evacuate, and these are youngsters and  
22 teenagers like for any of us that have experience with  
23 teenagers it's like, yeah, they're going to listen. So what  
24 are you going to do with these kids to get them out of the  
25 area? That has to be covered and there has to be training

1 and communication processes, blah, blah, blah. It's  
2 ignored. Okay.

3           So I put a reference to that of other  
4 investigation reports that are done by other pipeline  
5 companies that do what the Nexus folks did not, so I  
6 referenced that. And naturally, there will be close  
7 cooperation with the Lincoln Consolidated School District to  
8 cover all of these emergency evacuations, et cetera. Okay.

9           Emergency response preparedness and capability  
10 for local fire departments, when I was a trustee in Augusta  
11 Township the fireman they're very courageous folks. They're  
12 very dedicated to their communities. They can't deal with  
13 hazardous and toxic chemical explosions, leakage, et cetera.  
14 They are equipped and trained primarily to deal with house  
15 fires. There's no way they can deal with the unique nature  
16 of pipeline failures and explosions, et cetera, et cetera.  
17 There has to be some accommodations to deal with and not  
18 just for Augusta Township, along the entire pipeline. How  
19 are you going to deal with these volunteer fire departments  
20 that might have one or two trucks, maybe? Okay. FERC  
21 should demand appropriate actions to protect the health,  
22 safety, and welfare of affected citizens. Okay, next.

23           As a former elected official and planning  
24 commissioner in August Township, the DEIS has totally  
25 ignored local zoning, local master plans, local planning

1 commissions. All of the townships along this pipeline have  
2 -- they have planning commissions. They have master plans.  
3 They have zoning and they have ordinances. There's no  
4 accommodation for compliance with those planning  
5 commissions. That's -- I can't think of a word for it.  
6 It's just -- it's not right.

7           The pipeline should be required to comply with  
8 every master plan along the entire pipeline with the  
9 appropriate permitting, public hearings, et cetera, okay,  
10 particular the City of Milo and Augusta Township, York  
11 Township, city of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, Milan  
12 Township, and Milan County affected townships. Okay.

13           The pipeline area is zoned agricultural and needs  
14 variances to put commercial operations in agricultural areas  
15 and any commission -- the reason we have townships, and it's  
16 stipulated in Michigan law, you have townships that have  
17 planning commissions do master plans. That's what townships  
18 do. It's all stipulated very clearly in Michigan law.  
19 These things should be complied with, not ignored.

20           Next, designated trout streams in Washtenaw  
21 County. The Nexus folks in the DEIS said there's no  
22 designated trout streams in Washtenaw County, bullshit.  
23 There is and it's Paint Creek and I referenced it. And here  
24 I referenced it -- I found three references and I didn't  
25 spend that much time looking at that. It's like come on

1 guys. Something is wrong if they missed that 'cause they  
2 say very clearly in the DEIS that there's no designated  
3 trout streams in Washtenaw County. It's like really. It's  
4 like okay.

5           Map resolution, the map resolutions on the  
6 website they're so low that when you try to blow them up  
7 like where does that pipeline go and I'm looking at it and  
8 it's like you blow it up, you blow it up and it stops and  
9 it's like I don't know where the pipeline goes. The reason  
10 I know where it goes in Washtenaw County is 'cause I know  
11 the area. I think to have a DEIS that means anything to  
12 anybody the map resolution images should be improved so that  
13 people like me and others that go on there and want to find  
14 out exactly where this is cross Paint Creek or Stony Creek  
15 or what road where you can look and find out. You can't.  
16 And that's something that's easy to do. Okay, just put in a  
17 larger resolution image. It's simple. Okay.

18           The last one, I'm almost done 'cause I'm over  
19 time. Thank you for my five minutes. Comprehensive  
20 analysis of pipeline facts are failure for a linkage to the  
21 Huron River and we don't need to look very far to see the  
22 effects of the pipeline failure in Kalamazoo in 2010 and the  
23 potential failure in the Straits of Mackinac. So I did not  
24 see these kinds of studies done in the DEIS, particularly,  
25 for Stony Creek, Paint Creek, and Huron River, such as

1 modern computer tools like computer modeling.

2           You know if you have a leak in the Huron River  
3 where would that stuff go, what would be the affects, et  
4 cetera, et cetera? It's not there. And these are things  
5 that I think these folks are very well funded. They can do  
6 that stuff. So those are my comments. Thank you very much.

7           MR. MCNATT: My name is Sean McNatt. And that's  
8 spelled S-e-a-n, last name McNatt, M-c-N-a-t-t.

9           The reason why I'm here tonight is I'm the  
10 Lincoln Consolidated School District Superintendent and I  
11 have some concerns that have not been addressed. I have  
12 emailed and talked to some of the people associated with the  
13 Nexus Pipeline. They actually called me up and took me out  
14 to dinner one night and kind of gave me a brief overview  
15 when I first came on with the school district this past  
16 winter.

17           And then shortly after that I shot an email  
18 asking what is the danger zone and I sent that email again  
19 the second time and even then I think it was a third time  
20 before I got a call and I got a lot of variable answers like  
21 it depends on the wind. It depends on how big the break is.

22           I'm like, well, I have two school buildings on  
23 the corner and Brick and Willis as well as coming off of  
24 Whittaker ^^^^ yes, Willis and Whittaker. That one appears  
25 to be within 400 feet of the pipeline. And then you go a

1 little bit north and you have Model and Bishop and it  
2 appears that at that point it varies a little bit to the  
3 east until it's a little further. It's approximately about  
4 1,000 feet is what it appears. And so everything that I've  
5 seen is that this is what is in the blast zone, so my  
6 concern is twofold.

7           One, I've not been able to obtain that answer as  
8 of yet. As you know, we practice drills and we practice  
9 those for safety. And you know this is what I consider to  
10 be discussing the community's most price possession. It's  
11 not about gold. It's not silver. It's not the technology  
12 or the buildings. All of those things can be replaced.  
13 It's about the human life and it's about the children and  
14 there safety, so that brings up a concern of if there's a  
15 pipeline breach, and it sounds like it happens more  
16 frequently that what I was first told, only one in the last,  
17 what, 38 years. I don't know if they thought they were just  
18 going to give me the emission stat, but I also hear I think  
19 this morning in the news there was a national gas line  
20 break, right, in the nation. And of course, that makes the  
21 news and if you could just imagine what that news break  
22 would be if that blast took place within 400 feet of a  
23 school building with 600 students and staff in that  
24 building. So that's my concern is that we get the accurate  
25 information and what to do.

1                   And then the second part of that is at this point  
2   it's my recommendation that the pipeline be moved outside of  
3   the blast zone from the elementary schools. And just for  
4   the sake of the children because if something happens that  
5   is something that will shake this whole state and it  
6   definitely will make national news at that point if it hits  
7   those kids. So I'd just like to see -- I understand public  
8   domain and I understand progress and so forth, but at the  
9   same time I think we can move it at least about 6, 7, 800  
10  feet away from the buildings just so we ensure the safety of  
11  the kids. That's all.

12                   MS. LEVI: My name is Cheryl, C-h-e-r-y-l, Levi,  
13  L-e-v-i.

14                   I'm a member of Local 798 with the pipeliners  
15  union out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. I have been working pipelines  
16  for over 10 years and doing this all over the country,  
17  working as a welder's helper with the union and we are all  
18  union. I see that when we go to different areas and  
19  different parts of the country we bring lots of revenue into  
20  the communities and also we give back to the communities  
21  doing lots of different things with the schools, with the  
22  different locals that they have doing charities. We also  
23  take that money that we earn, having a job, and we take it  
24  back to our communities and give back to our communities  
25  also.

1           These pipeline jobs are really important. We  
2 need these pipelines. I think that that is the safest form  
3 of doing this kind of work. I'm not sure. Is it a natural  
4 gas that they're thinking about doing, natural gas, and I  
5 mean our union these people -- I do YouTube videos of our  
6 guys and all of the jobs that I usually do I put on YouTube  
7 to show we're skilled. We have skilled craftsmen and  
8 skilled laborers that do these pipelines and we don't do  
9 shoddy work. We either do it right or we don't do it at all  
10 and we need the jobs. Everyone needs a job and we don't  
11 need a lull in these pipelines. We need to push these  
12 pipelines through and that's really about it.

13           I need a job and I want to keep working pipelines  
14 for several more years before I have to retire and we give  
15 back. That's part of the process is you know you make money  
16 and you give back to the community you know 'cause we all  
17 travel by fifth wheels and you know we carry lots of extra  
18 people with us, wives and kids that go into the community  
19 and school. So anyway, thank you. Appreciate it.

20           MR. YATES: My name's Charles Yates. That's  
21 C-h-a-r-l-e-s Y-a-t-e-s. I'm from Tupper's Plains, Ohio.  
22 I'm the business agent for Local 798 in Michigan, Indiana,  
23 and Ohio. Like I said, I am a resident of Ohio, but you  
24 know what I wanted to just touch on tonight here you know is  
25 one of the significant job creation and economic development

1 here in Michigan and it's going to access low-cost, reliable  
2 natural gas and competitive energy prices to Michigan  
3 manufacturers and a cleaner environment because natural gas  
4 replaces coal to generate electricity.

5           On a little more personal note, I want to say I  
6 do have a pipeline running through my property. I've got a  
7 100-acre farm in Southeastern Ohio and it's been there since  
8 in the seventies and you know there's environmental  
9 negatives there by this pipeline. I actually plant over  
10 where the pipeline is located. I've never had any problems  
11 with it. I've worked pipeline. I've worked all my live, 35  
12 years. You know I'm a welder and the people that I  
13 represent they are welders. We are the best welders in the  
14 world when it comes to pipelines, building pipelines. We're  
15 very prideful in our work. It's all American workers and we  
16 get paid good wages, but we give a good product, you know.

17           And you know I may be going all over the place  
18 here, but getting back to the pipeline that's on my  
19 property. Like I said it was built in the seventies.  
20 Pipelines and the way they build them is changed  
21 significantly since then and now, okay. They coat these  
22 pipelines with a coating that's rust-proof and it's very  
23 durable. When they put these pipelines in you know back  
24 years ago like in the seventies when they dug the trench  
25 they just pulled out the dirt out, the subsoil, the topsoil,

1 mixed them altogether and when they backfilled they shoved  
2 it all back in, rocks and everything else, okay.

3           They don't do that any more. I mean it's very  
4 highly inspected. You know these separate these subsoil  
5 from the topsoil and they put them in different locations.  
6 And when they backfill they have big sifters that they put  
7 the soil in -- the subsoil in first and it just shakes and  
8 it sifts all the rocks out and everything so there's nothing  
9 but good subsoil going in there on the pipe. And then after  
10 that's completed, then they'll do the same thing with the  
11 topsoil, put the topsoil back to where it was. So it's put  
12 back the same way it came out.

13           Just the other day when I was headed up to  
14 Swanton, Ohio, for another one of you guy's meeting just  
15 last night, I drove by a pipeline that I had actually welded  
16 on about four years ago and it was coming across Interstate  
17 70, close to Columbus, and you know it was cornfield, but I  
18 noticed there when I come by -- you know I make a point  
19 every time I go by one of these pipelines that we built you  
20 know you want to take a look at it, you know, and see what  
21 it looks like, so hey, the farmer had his crop growing out  
22 there in the whole field. You couldn't even tell the  
23 pipeline was ever there, so I stand in support of the Nexus  
24 Pipeline Project and all pipeline projects.

25           You know like I said we're a family, this

1 pipeline group, and we count on this for a living and I ask  
2 that the FERC committee be swift in releasing these permits.

3 MS. MALLONEN: My name is Dale'lin Mallonen,  
4 D-a-l-e-hyphen-l-i-n, Mallonen, last name M-a-l-l-o-n-e-n.

5 So first of all, I brought a map with me. I did  
6 quite a bit of research and I have looked at the pipeline  
7 that already exists in the township and I question, as does  
8 the whole Augusta Township, why we need another one to  
9 surround our schools.

10 Well, I thought I was going to be speaking in  
11 front of people, so alright, I ran for trustee in Augusta  
12 Charter Township and I lost in the primary. In that time  
13 and beforehand, I canvassed the Township. I participated in  
14 Augusta Charter Township's statement that we do not desire  
15 another pipeline in the Township and feel it would be  
16 detrimental.

17 The map that I'm going to submit isn't the best  
18 thing, but it's hand-done and it shows how surrounded the  
19 community will be by the three, I believe, pipelines that  
20 are already in the Township and not being fully used. This  
21 additional pipeline goes to the same place as the other  
22 ones, but it will restrict the usage of our Township. So in  
23 my statement here I basically want to specifically address  
24 Augusta Charter Township.

25 Now where I looked at the Township or the

1 pipeline path, which they just cleared, and watched the  
2 heavy equipment coming all over the farmland I understood  
3 what I heard last time and to come see from the various  
4 farmers how this restricts their farming ability. We rent  
5 our farm. I'm on a 20-acre farm. I think I will just  
6 submit my mom's letter. She's 83 and she couldn't come here  
7 today, but we're just kind of shocked at how many people  
8 think it's okay to come into this community where people are  
9 buying land and improving property and then a pipeline  
10 company can come along and go over their property and we're  
11 just supposed to accept it.

12 I don't want the pipeline near the schools. I am  
13 a mile from the schools. I will be, I believe, a thousand  
14 feet from the pipeline, but we got no notices from Nexus.  
15 We have no say in this. We have no compensation. And as  
16 far as I know, the community doesn't have either. We just  
17 have risks and I'm upset. So I think I have a lot of  
18 support through my canvassing when I went out for election.

19 I want FERC to consider the group effort that we  
20 resulted in the schools being aware, the Township being  
21 aware and making statements that we don't want this here.  
22 We feel it's dangerous. We want to build our community, not  
23 be restricted, and that's all I see. I represent a resident  
24 advisory committee. I did that before I started running, so  
25 I talked to those people too. They're very upset, more

1 upset about other problems in our Township, unfortunately,  
2 but basically when this issue is explained they say, no, we  
3 don't want it. We're told we have to have it. People in  
4 Augusta Township feel they have no way to restrict something  
5 that is definitely coming their way and seems to be a fact  
6 already.

7           We do not want a pipeline drawing a noose around  
8 the Lincoln Consolidated Schools, the whole district. It's  
9 close enough already. Where are we going to go if there's a  
10 disaster? Have you looked at how few roads there are in  
11 Augusta Township? We just have mile roads, maybe half-mile  
12 roads, little, funny things, a lot of farms, a little  
13 business, and I feel we're very much being taken advantage  
14 of now because people are busy trying to run their daily  
15 life and they don't truly understand how they're being taken  
16 advantage of.

17           Yeah, 10 years from now maybe the corner of  
18 Willis and Whittaker that used to have a store on it will  
19 have that pipeline under it. It's going to go by a church,  
20 a whole lot of other things in that area and people will get  
21 about it and they'll put a store on top of that maybe, place  
22 it. How irresponsible. And what about the pipelines that  
23 are already there that are 50, 60, 70 years old? Are they  
24 being maintained and used properly? Why do we need to  
25 contribute more from Augusta Township?

1           That's what I'm more concerned about because  
2 after they're here and they put the pipeline through they  
3 compensate people and they're gone. We get nothing in the  
4 community. This isn't anything like I wrote here, quite  
5 frankly. And I guess my next question would be can I still  
6 make another statement maybe that would be in addition to  
7 this or is this my only opportunity to make a statement?

8           MR. WUEHLHAUSEN: This is not your only  
9 opportunity. We're having similar meetings to this next  
10 week, four other locations.

11          MS. MALLONEN: Where?

12          MR. WUEHLHAUSEN: I can get you those locations.  
13 I have them written down.

14          MS. MALLONEN: You know I'm handicapped. It's  
15 really hard for me to do this.

16          MR. WUEHLHAUSEN: The other thing is you can --

17          MS. MALLONEN: To make a written statement.

18          MR. WUEHLHAUSEN: Yes. Or you can submit them to  
19 us here. You could mail them in or you can send them in  
20 over the Internet. We consider all statements the same,  
21 whether it's an oral statement --

22          MS. MALLONEN: I think I would have to mail  
23 because I have not been able to get through on the Internet  
24 and I have signed up. I've gotten some information, not all  
25 of it. It's scattered. You know it's like a lot of work

1 that I'm not getting paid for. You know I only have so much  
2 time, so with my statement I would like to submit my map  
3 that I made showing where I am, how close this pipeline to  
4 me, but off the property.

5           And the other main thing is if people just look  
6 at where the pipeline is through the apartments and  
7 subdivisions in Ypsilanti already that's scary and they want  
8 to put more through there. Why? You know why are we being  
9 restricted by -- I'm sorry I'm calling it carpetbaggers.  
10 I've already made that statement. That's how I feel. Nexus  
11 has come in and they're like let's take advantage of the  
12 poor people who came out here to do their little businesses  
13 and farm and taking advantage of it, very little benefit.

14           So this is my map and my mother's letter and can  
15 you accept that now or not?

16           MR. WUEHLHAUSEN: I can accept it right now. I  
17 will make sure that that gets placed into the public record.

18           MS. MALLONEN: Okay, alright.

19           MR. WUEHLHAUSEN: Alright, thank you.

20           MS. MALLONEN: I think I'm done.

21           MR. BIRGY: Steve Birgy, B-i-r-g-y.

22           And I've lived and resided my whole life I've  
23 lived in Kalkaska, Michigan and I'm a 25-year member of  
24 Pipeliners Local Union 798. And my biggest support -- I  
25 stand to support the Nexus Pipeline basically on the job

1 issues. Good jobs for Michigan workers, for the Pipeliners'  
2 Union, Operators Local 324, our labor locals and teamster  
3 locals. Nobody does a better job at building a pipeline  
4 than we do to the guidelines set -- strict guidelines set by  
5 the gas companies. Environmentally, all the way through  
6 nobody's going to build a better pipeline than we do and  
7 it's much needed jobs for Michigan, impact for the  
8 communities.

9           A lot of people don't realize the majority of the  
10 gas that goes to Detroit comes from Northern Michigan, from  
11 Kalkaska, Gaylord, Big Rapids, Reed City, and a lot of those  
12 old wells are playing out. We don't have near the capacity  
13 that we did 10, 15 years ago, so we need new gas and new  
14 means to get it here to our markets. And I think that'll  
15 pretty well do it for me, I guess.

16           MR. MORRIS: Jacob Morris, J-a-c-o-b  
17 M-o-r-r-i-s.

18           So a little bit about myself and why I'm here, a  
19 lifetime Washtenaw citizen, I care deeply about the  
20 environment. I'm studying Climate and Atmospheric Sciences  
21 currently at Eastern Michigan. I am also a father, so I  
22 think it's in the better interest of my family and my loved  
23 ones to care deeply about the planet that they're about to  
24 inherit and that is why I'm studying what I'm studying and  
25 I'm trying to figure out how we can leave them the best

1 habitable planet possible.

2           As far as the Nexus Pipeline goes, I strongly  
3 oppose it for many reasons all relating to the environment  
4 and the health of citizens throughout the state and  
5 throughout where the pipeline runs through. Detection for  
6 any kind of contaminations would not be found until it hits  
7 the drinking water. I think we've seen recently with Flint  
8 and with other areas that our drinking water is becoming not  
9 drinkable and that's something that I think is alarming and  
10 I think that we need to invest more interest in figuring out  
11 how we can prevent these things from happening.

12           It usually not brought into people's attention  
13 until it's too late. Look at Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo  
14 River, the spill there from the Enbridge Line. I think it  
15 was the largest or second largest inland oil spill and that  
16 happened very nearby here. Also, the Huron River, which has  
17 the one flood action plan, which I think people are just  
18 starting to realize now is going to be an issue. I would  
19 hate to see a pipeline run through the county that I've  
20 lived my entire life in and have to worry about the drinking  
21 water and contaminates being in the water that we drink and  
22 use every day.

23           Aside from the drinking water and the groundwater  
24 that could be possibly contaminated, the dangers in fracking  
25 I think are just devastating. It covers anywhere from the

1 housing value, which is shown to greatly decrease when  
2 fracking wells are introduced in an area, along with  
3 atmospheric and ozone issues that arise from the methane  
4 used in the extraction of the shale. Methane is released.  
5 When they get the natural gas, once methane is released in  
6 the ozone, it traps 20 to 25 more heat than carbon dioxide  
7 and methane, aside from water vapor, but as far as  
8 greenhouses go the most dangerous and that is very prominent  
9 in the fracking industry.

10 I just feel like this is an unnecessary piece of  
11 infrastructure due to the overproduction already of natural  
12 gas and the demand, which is starting to decrease in the  
13 state and the area. Building this pipeline I feel like  
14 would affect watersheds. It would affect ecosystems and I  
15 just don't see the need for it.

16 I spent some time in Philadelphia recently at a  
17 energy conference and they had many different speakers,  
18 authors, professors who have spoken at the U.N. One  
19 professor that was specifically from Cornell really made it  
20 known that we do not need fracking. It's unnecessary,  
21 basically. And throughout that day I listened to so many  
22 people speak. I've seen people cry. I've seen citizens in  
23 the areas around Pennsylvania where this pipeline is also  
24 going to be -- where the shale process is and I saw a great  
25 number of people deeply, deeply affected by this -- their

1 health, their children's health, again their housing values.  
2 They don't want this. We don't want this.

3 I don't understand. The only thing that I can  
4 logically come to the conclusion of is the money and the  
5 greed, which is now starting to affect our health and that  
6 worries me having a kid in this world.

7 Spectra Energy and their recent 10K filing, page  
8 29, they also noted "A variety of hazards and operating  
9 risks and natural gas activities with the fracking, the  
10 transportation and storage, the distribution, the possible  
11 explosions, the environmental pollution, in general." It  
12 also poses, as they also quote, "A greater risk and damage  
13 to populated areas, residential areas, industrial centers,  
14 and commercial businesses," so I'm just wondering when is it  
15 going to be too late.

16 Why are we starting to see the effects of  
17 fracking, the effects of pipeline affecting many different  
18 areas of people's every day lives and I don't want to have  
19 see loved ones get cancer or deal with pollution in the  
20 groundwater, in the air. You look at places around the  
21 world and they don't have breathable air, so I'm just  
22 wondering when the time is going to be when people start to  
23 wake up and start to oppose unnecessary infrastructure just  
24 for money. Thank you.

25 MR. MCCOWAN: Michael McCowan, M-i-c-h-a-e-l

1 M-c-C-o-w-a-n.

2 Well, I'm a labor of Local 500 for Toledo and  
3 we're still finishing up a job there. This is my first  
4 pipeline job and I just think that it's good work. It helps  
5 the people make a living and I think it's good for all the  
6 industries and everything like that.

7 MR. NYLES: Patricia, P-a-t-r-i-c-a, Nyles,  
8 N-y-l-e-s.

9 Hello, my name is Patricia Nyles and I am a  
10 resident of Ypsilanti Township. I have son going to Lincoln  
11 High School in Ypsilanti and I am opposed to the Nexus  
12 Pipeline. The Nexus Pipeline will cause further degradation  
13 of the environment that began with the founding of the U.S.  
14 and Michigan since 1836.

15 White people were coming here from New England  
16 and Europe in the area and the degradation in the past 200  
17 years have been like appalling and we can't continue on this  
18 track. We're going to see our annihilation of our species  
19 if we continue on this track using fossil fuels for our  
20 fuels, which is a finite. It's not sustainable.

21 Native people lived here for 10,000 years. They  
22 got around. They heated their homes. You know they went  
23 everywhere, across the country, across the continents,  
24 traversed all these lakes and lived on both sides of the  
25 Huron River going down. That's where I live by, all the

1 rivers, both sides. And they lived in a sustainable manner.  
2 And that is my message that we just can't stop -- we can't  
3 just not have the pipeline. We can't just not have  
4 fracking. I am a campaigner for the ban fracking movement  
5 in Michigan 'cause we cannot continue down this path of  
6 using the fossil fuels, causing global warming.

7           And people can deny it all they want, but you  
8 know the evidence is there you know. And personally, I know  
9 that it exists. So that is about my statement that I want  
10 to make that we have to go beyond. We have to change our  
11 thinking. We have to change our whole so-called culture to  
12 be sustainable and that's it.

13           MS. ROSS-WILLIAMS: M-o-n-i-c-a, Monica, Ross,  
14 R-o-s-s-hyphen-Williams, W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

15           First, I want to say how incredibly insulted that  
16 I am that I have to drive almost 45 minutes to come out here  
17 in order to give a public comment. I live in a community of  
18 West Willow, which is about 45 minutes to an hour away.  
19 This proposed pipeline is supposed to be about a hundred  
20 feet about our subdivision, which is off of Wyatt Road.  
21 Most of the people inside of that community, our community  
22 would not even attempt to make a trip, in my opinion, out to  
23 the country in order to make a comment.

24           So I mean, first things first, I think that this  
25 meeting needs to happen closer to where other affected areas

1 are, including or these comments, including inside Ypsilanti  
2 Township. Second, as a Ypsilanti Township Park  
3 Commissioner, knowing that this pipeline is supposed to be  
4 off of or very near to our lake, which is a part of park  
5 system, which is equally concerning that this will be  
6 allowed.

7 I understand that it is natural gas, but in the  
8 same aspect if it does get into water for some reason, a  
9 line burst or whatever, that still is not good for water.  
10 Considering everything that we have dealt with recently in  
11 the State of Michigan, as I'm talking about Michigan as a  
12 whole, with the Flint water crisis and that part of our  
13 water system does come out of Ford Lake Ypsilanti it is very  
14 concerning.

15 Next, I guess I would have to say I don't really  
16 completely understand why this is needed. According to  
17 information that I have read, including a recent article  
18 from the Detroit Free Press on January 13, it had stated  
19 specifically that this proposed pipeline may not even be  
20 profitable. Second of all, if it's not profitable, it will  
21 go on the energy bills of customers of DTE.

22 I happen to be a customer of DTE. Everybody in  
23 Southern Michigan is a customer of DTE. There is no  
24 alternative, it's not like -- there is, but in the same  
25 aspect, you're still getting billed through DTE, even if you

1 go through another provider. So I'm a little bit perturbed  
2 that a private entity, which is Nexus, is corresponding with  
3 the public provider, which is DTE, of the utility services  
4 on top of that. Then we have basically another private  
5 entity, Spectra, that is pretty much ^^^^ you know if they  
6 don't make their profits as they're looking to it's going to  
7 be put on the backs of us as consumers.

8 I'm not very happy about that and even from what  
9 I've read some officials in the state are kind of  
10 questioning why should that happen, including the Attorney  
11 General, who's a Republican, Bill Schuette.

12 Last, but not least, I don't think that residents  
13 in Ypsilanti Township, in particular, which is where I  
14 live, have been fully aware of where all these places that  
15 this pipeline is going how much land mass will have be  
16 digged up in order to make it happen. How much disruption  
17 may have to happen through routes or daily, you know,  
18 commutes or whatever have you. You know it's not good to  
19 not have a lot of information. It leads to more questions  
20 than answers and for you know our community I would probably  
21 say a majority of the residents are not informed because of  
22 the simple fact that they really don't know this is going to  
23 happen.

24 And then the ones that are informed are  
25 concerned, but we don't even know where we can start to make

1 our grievances here, besides maybe our Township Board of  
2 Trustees and honestly, they don't have a right to stop it  
3 either. I mean they can come up with a resolution in saying  
4 that they don't want it, but in the end you know eminent  
5 domain rights make it to the point that irregardless of what  
6 we may want at taxpayers, the federal government may have  
7 the final say. So I really do believe that this process  
8 needs to be opened up more to the public, needs to be opened  
9 up more for information, particularly, for the residents of  
10 Ypsilanti Township and also my community of West Willow.

11 If this was to leak, bust, explode, that's going  
12 to take out my community. Milan is not that far, so I think  
13 we need to have more information. So those are my comments.

14 MR. MAIORANA: My name is Matthew Maiorana.  
15 That's M-a-t-t-h-e-w, Maiorana is M-a-i-r-a-n-a.

16 Yeah, my name is Matt Maiorana. I'm here to  
17 speak on behalf of myself and also I'm here helping to  
18 represent the voices of 6,500 members of my organization,  
19 Oil Change International, who sent comments along with me,  
20 who are all opposed to the pipeline, Spectra/Nexus Pipeline.  
21 And I also want to note that there's another 50,000 people  
22 who have sent letters in opposition from Credo, an allied  
23 organization that I also work with.

24 I grew up about an hour away from here in Oakland  
25 County and found out about this issue a couple weeks ago,

1 found it very concerning. I see it as both threatening  
2 communities that it's going through, threatening people who  
3 are dealing with fracking in their backyards, and also has  
4 large impact on the climate, potentially.

5 My organization just at the end of last month  
6 released a report, which I have here and I'd be happy to  
7 submit in whatever fashion I can, along with the comments  
8 from our 6,5000 members. And it goes into detail on 19  
9 different pipelines all across the East Coast, including  
10 Spectra/Nexus and the Rover Pipeline, both in Michigan, and  
11 looks at the potential cumulative greenhouse gas impact of  
12 the pipelines and finds that if these pipelines are built  
13 it'll make it very difficult to impossible to meet our  
14 climate objectives that we agreed to in Paris in December.

15 So on both the kind of community impact side of  
16 things and also on the climate impact side of things, I'm  
17 really concerned about this pipeline going forward unless it  
18 addresses both those issues. And to my knowledge, I haven't  
19 seen any kind of robust analysis of the climate impacts of  
20 the pipelines and so I would ask that there's more time  
21 spent looking at that. The research that we did has some of  
22 the numbers. We did a bit of the back of the envelope  
23 calculation of specifically Spectra/Nexus as well and  
24 looking at the combustion of the gas that it's  
25 transportation in addition to the methane leakage rates

1 would be equivalent to roughly 14 coal plants in terms of  
2 the annual emissions that it went to, which is obviously a  
3 lot and we need to be moving in the opposite direction of  
4 starting to ramp up renewable energies rather than to ramp  
5 down on fossil fuels.

6           And so that was kind of the core of my concern is  
7 that kind of lack of recognition of the greenhouse gas  
8 impact of the Nexus Pipeline. And in general, I think  
9 there's this idea that the natural gas industry has been  
10 pushing, which is natural gas is the better fuel when we're  
11 trying to think about climate change and I think we're at a  
12 point in terms of the studies that have been done where that  
13 claim has been pretty thoroughly refuted, especially,  
14 looking at methane leakage rates. And these new EPA  
15 regulations that are supposed to help address leakage rates,  
16 but even with those it would be roughly equivalent to 14  
17 coal plants in terms of its overall emissions.

18           So that's the main take-away, I think, of my  
19 comment, just to express concern about the pipeline going  
20 forward, unless there's a climate test to put in place to  
21 analyze whether or not it's going to allow us to meet our  
22 planet goals as a country and also just to register that you  
23 know there's thousands of people around the country that are  
24 also really concerned about this, both in terms of the new  
25 fracking and it's phenomenon and also the climate impact.

1 That's all. Thank you I appreciate it.

2 MS. SCHOEN: Kathy Schoen, K-a-t-h-y  
3 S-c-h-o-e-n.

4 First, I want to say the way tonight's meeting is  
5 being held is an insult and a disgrace to all who have taken  
6 the time to attend the last and only final comment meeting  
7 in Michigan regarding the Nexus and the FERC Draft  
8 Environmental Impact Statement.

9 On August 4, 2016, FERC sends out a notice that  
10 says "Individual verbal comments will take on a one-to-one  
11 basis with one of the court reporters. This format is  
12 designed to receive a maximum amount of verbal comments in a  
13 convenient way during the timeframe allotted."

14 I disagree with that. People come to these  
15 meetings with no intention of speaking, but they do have a  
16 right to hear what is being said. This change in format  
17 prevents them from participating. For many of them it will  
18 be a long drive to come and hear "FERC" remain quiet in all  
19 meeting spaces so the court reporter can hear the individual  
20 providing comments. Please be mindful of room capacity and  
21 while all other interested individuals an opportunity to  
22 make comments.

23 I will tell you that if the E.T. Rover final  
24 comment meeting in Chelsea on March 23, 2016 many people  
25 attended, but few spoke. There was no need for a time limit

1 and the meeting concluded well before 10:00 p.m. I believe  
2 that FERC has found another way to silence and divide  
3 people.

4           That being said, on the Draft Environmental  
5 Statement, released July 8 on page 38 and I quote "We  
6 received several comments about the safety of homes,  
7 schools, hospitals, et cetera, within the potential impact  
8 radius for the MGT Project. The potential impact radius for  
9 the MGT Project would be 1100 feet."

10           I'm going to tell you that Lincoln Consolidated  
11 Schools in Ypsilanti has three elementary schools. They are  
12 Brick, Bishop, and Model and they are in the northwest  
13 corner of Lewis and Whittaker Roads. It appears that these  
14 schools are well within what you have defined as the  
15 potential impact radius, but what I will call the blast  
16 zone. There are approximately 1158 students and 160 support  
17 staff in these three schools at last count. This is  
18 unacceptable. This is a poor location. There's no reason  
19 that Nexus should be this close to these schools. It is  
20 beyond my understanding in such a rural area why the route  
21 was placed there in the first place.

22           I would also like to know does anyone at FERC  
23 ever take into consideration how environmentally toxic  
24 fracking for natural gas is? You do mention emissions of  
25 methane along the route, but do you look at how this natural

1 gas is conceived? The front end is filthy. Among other  
2 evils, massive amounts of fresh water are contaminated with  
3 mixtures of chemicals, some known carcinogens to fracture  
4 shale, thereby, releasing the natural gas. This fractured  
5 fluid must then be land-filled or deep-well injected. Case  
6 in point, in Oklahoma's frack fluid injection wells have  
7 made this state the leader in number of earthquakes per year  
8 per land mass.

9           Nexus claims this pipeline is needed because it  
10 provides clean fuel. All you have to do is look at the  
11 front-end process of obtaining this clean fuel to know that,  
12 once again, Nexus will say whatever it takes to get whatever  
13 they want. If the Nexus is built, renewable sources of  
14 energy will take the backseat once again. I ask you to do  
15 what President Obama has asked federal agency to do, federal  
16 agencies such as yours, and that is to review climate  
17 impacts of pipelines and to factor climate change impacts  
18 into required environmental reviews of large projects.

19           This guideline instructs agencies like FERC to  
20 calculate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that will  
21 result from a project and stipulate how to mitigate the  
22 damage. It includes both direct and indirect impacts. Have  
23 you considered the degrading nature of fracking for natural  
24 gas?

25           And then, finally, in conclusion, Ypsilanti

1 Township Board was asked by Nexus for 800,000 gallons of  
2 water from Ford Lake, that's in Ypsilanti Township's  
3 jurisdiction. I believe Ypsilanti Township said, no, you  
4 cannot have this water to test your pipeline. I'm very  
5 concerned about that fact and it makes me wonder about the  
6 remainder of the pipeline. What fresh water sources are  
7 being used to test the pipeline and have you any  
8 recommendations or guidelines for that? That concludes my  
9 comments.

10 MS. EASTMAN: Amy Eastman, A-m-y E-a-s-t-m-a-n.

11 I'm opposed to the plan as it has been presented  
12 at this time. I'm concerned about environmental impacts.  
13 I'm concerned about my own personal safety. It's planned to  
14 run about a third of a mile from a large condominium complex  
15 that I live in. I'm concerned about property values  
16 decreasing. I am concerned about the increase of my DTE  
17 energy bill and I'm concerned about the pipeline running so  
18 close to the elementary schools. That's it.

19 MR. LOWE: Reynold, R-e-y-n-o-l-d, the last name  
20 is Lowe, L-o-w-e.

21 My wife and I live at 5690 Judd Road, Augusta  
22 Township which is a Milan mailing address. Our house is a  
23 restored, historically-significant home built in 1855.  
24 There's already a trans-Canadian gas line about a quarter of  
25 a mile west of us and the transfer station is a well and

1 they've had some problems with that. We've been there 37  
2 years. So they had us evacuate one time when there was a  
3 gas leak. We don't feel that -- or I certainly don't feel  
4 that there's a need for another pipeline, especially, one  
5 that's 36-inches in diameter. I think the environmental  
6 impact is going to be vast.

7           The map that the route shows is that the Nexus  
8 Pipeline will be within 900 feet of our property. The flash  
9 point, if there's a rupture, is about 1200 feet, from my  
10 understanding. The unpaved roads aren't built for both the  
11 traffic that there will be and the size of the equipment  
12 that's required to put this pipeline in. There is no need  
13 for this project at this time.

14           If it's going to be built, and there's nothing  
15 that can be done to stop it, the route should be modified so  
16 that it's not running so close to the residents on this  
17 land. Willis Road is a mile north of us and there is not  
18 one person living in the middle of that property, so they  
19 could at least move it a half mile and go straight east from  
20 there instead of going to close to people's land and their  
21 residences.

22           The project would be dangerous to the residents  
23 within the proximity of the pipeline. Our property and  
24 neighbor's property values will be adversely affected by  
25 this project and Nexus has an agreement with a farmer that

1 owns most of the land around our property and that's the  
2 Talladay Farms to sell farmland for the pipeline to go  
3 through their farm. The Nexus access from Judd Road to set  
4 up a staging area is directly across the road from our house  
5 and we don't think that that's a particularly great place  
6 for that either. I am done.

7 MS. LOWE: Judith, J-u-d-i-t-h, Lowe, L-o-w-e.

8 Okay, I have lived for 36 years on Judd Road in  
9 Augusta Township. This proposed pipeline will cut  
10 diagonally across the field in front of our house. Aside  
11 from the environmental disruption and lack of an actual  
12 proven need for this pipeline, I find it morally  
13 indefensible that it will run within 500 feet of the Lincoln  
14 Elementary Schools. As we all know quite well, accidents do  
15 happen.

16 In addition to this gruesome possibility, it is  
17 unrealistic to believe that the land can be restored after  
18 such a completely invasive disruption. This has been proven  
19 to be true time and again. Thank you.

20 (Whereupon at 9:04 p.m., the meeting was  
21 adjourned.)

22

23

24

25

## 1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

3 This is to certify that the attached proceeding  
4 before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the  
5 Matter of:

6 Name of Proceeding:

7 NEXUS GAS TRANSMISSION PROJECT

8 TEXAS EASTERN APPALACHIAN LEASE PROJECT

9

10

11

12 Docket No.: CP16-22-000

13 CP16-23-000

14 CP16-24-000

15 CP16-102-000

16 Place: Tecumseh, Michigan

17 Date: August 11, 2016

18 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original  
19 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy  
20 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription  
21 of the proceedings.

22

23

24 Larry Flowers

25 Official Reporter