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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -x
IN THE MATTER OF: : Project Number:
EAST END EXPANSION PROJECT : PF06-34-000
- - - - -x

Phillips College-Fine Arts Center
1000 Campus Drive
Helena, AR

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping
meeting, pursuant to notice, at 6:05 p.m.

BEFORE:

JOHN J. WISNIEWSKI, FERC

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

2 MR. WISNIEWSKI: Good evening, ladies and
3 gentlemen. My name is John Wisniewski. I work for the
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, also
5 known as the FERC or F-E-R-C. I'm the environmental project
6 manager for the Ozark Gas Transmission LLC's East End
7 Expansion Project. The first docket -- the FERC's Docket
8 Number PF06-34-000.

9 Also with me here this evening is Mr. Scott
10 Flickinger from Tetra Tech NUS, Inc., on my right. He is
11 our environmental contractor who will be helping us prepare
12 the environmental impact statement on the project.

13 Also from Tetra Tech in the back of the room is
14 Ms. Shonda Sumpter. And Shonda has some information for you
15 all, if you didn't pick up a pamphlet or if you wish to sign
16 up to speak this evening. And we also have a separate sheet
17 to provide comments if you did not get a copy of the NOI and
18 you wish to send comments in to FERC.

19 This is a public scoping meeting for the project.
20 We sent out a Notice of Intent on the project on the Ozark
21 Gas Transmission Project on December 4, 2005. The staff of
22 the FERC will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact
23 Statement, or EIS, and a Final EIS for the project covering
24 the facilities. The FEIS will be used by the Commission to
25 determine whether a certificate of public convenience and

1 necessity should be issued for the pipeline project.

2 Although no formal application has been filed
3 yet, the FERC staff has already initiated its NEPA review
4 and its prefiling process for the project. The purpose of
5 the prefiling process is to encourage the early involvement
6 of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve
7 issues before an application is filed with the FERC.

8 Docket Number PF06-34-000 has been assigned for
9 the Ozark East End Expansion Project. Once a formal
10 application is filed with the FERC a new docket number will
11 be established.

12 We may not have answers to all of your questions
13 right now, but we want to get your issues so the applicant
14 can address them in their application.

15 The FERC has interagency agreements on the
16 project with the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S.
17 Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Energy, the
18 Council on Environmental Quality, the U.S. Environmental
19 Protection Agency, the Advisory Council on Historic
20 Preservation, the Department of Commerce, the U.S. Army
21 Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Transportation,
22 and the Department of Energy. The Department of
23 Transportation Research and Special Programs Administration,
24 or RSPA, has authority to enforce safety regulations and
25 standards for transportation in or affecting interstate or

1 foreign commerce under pipeline safety laws.

2 The FERC will be the lead federal agency
3 responsible for authorizing construction and operation of
4 interstate natural gas pipelines and compressor stations
5 that may be associated with a project under Section 7 of the
6 Natural Gas Act. The FERC will ensure complete review of
7 the entire project in our Draft Environmental Impact
8 Statement and Final EIS as required under NEPA for the
9 approval of new facilities.

10 Besides the FERC there are some other agencies
11 who have jurisdiction over the facilities. And some of
12 these include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
13 National Marine Fishery Service, as I mentioned, the
14 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Natural
15 Resource Conservation Service, the Department of Army U.S.
16 Army Corps of Engineers, the Little Rock, Vicksburg and
17 Memphis districts, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
18 Arkansas and Mississippi, the Department of Agriculture,
19 Natural Resource Conservation Service in Arkansas and
20 Mississippi, and the Environmental Protection Agency Regions
21 4 and 6.

22 Further, there are several Mississippi state and
23 Arkansas agencies that would be involved, including the
24 Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas
25 Natural Heritage Commission, the Arkansas Fish and Game

1 Commission, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, the
2 Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office, and Mississippi
3 agencies including the Mississippi Department of
4 Environmental Quality, the Mississippi Department of
5 Archives and History, and the Mississippi Museum of Natural
6 Science, and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
7 Fisheries and Parks.

8 The Ozark East End Expansion Project's facilities
9 would include about 235 miles of 36-inch diameter pipeline
10 extending from the -- beginning in Conway County, Arkansas,
11 and ending in Calhoun County, Mississippi. In addition
12 there would be about eight miles of 24-inch diameter
13 pipeline extension called the Noark Extension from the
14 beginning of Noark to the proposed Wonderview compressor
15 station, all within Conway County, Arkansas.

16 Three compressor stations would be constructed:
17 The Wonderview, Searcy, and Helena compressor stations in
18 Conway, White, and Phillips Counties, Arkansas,
19 respectively. Each would be two 10,000 horsepower electric-
20 driven compressors. In addition, five new gas meter
21 stations and interconnects with existing pipelines would be
22 built, and those intersections would be with Texas Gas Meter
23 Station, ANR Meter Station, Trunkline Meter Station,
24 Tennessee Gas Meter Station, and Columbia Gulf Meter
25 Stations.

1 In addition there will be four pig-launching and
2 receiving facilities on Ozark's transmission system and the
3 various interconnection valves and so forth.. The project
4 would be designed and constructed to receive and transport
5 about one billion cubic feet of natural gas per day. Ozark
6 Gas Transmission proposes to have the project constructed
7 and operational by December 2008.

8 I guess we can proceed now to get some comments.
9 But first I just wanted to remind you that your comments are
10 very important to us this evening. And we have a court
11 reporter, Mr. Gee, sitting to my left. And when you speak
12 please identify your affiliation, such as land-owner,
13 company or agency, and speak clearly into the microphone
14 that we have placed to my left so that the court reporter
15 can make an accurate transcript of your comments. We will
16 use your comments when we prepare our environmental impact
17 statement.

18 If you would like to send in written comments on
19 the project please do so by January 31st, 2007. And please
20 follow all the instructions on the Notice of Intent that we
21 mailed.

22 Before we start your comments I want to have an
23 Ozark representative come up and provide a little more
24 detailed information about the project and the summary. And
25 I understand Mr. Robert Biffle will do the summary this

1 evening.

2 Mr. Biffle, can you come up?

3 MR. BIFFLE: Good evening, everyone. Thank you
4 for coming. I see a lot of familiar faces from our open
5 house meeting that we had earlier in the year.

6 I'm Robert Biffle with Ozark Gas Transmission.
7 And I just want to give you an overview of the project.
8 John had alluded earlier tonight that there was 300 and
9 something miles; there's actually 235 miles of 36 inch pipe
10 that goes from Wonderview Compressor Station -- I know this
11 map is kind of small for everyone. But here in Conway
12 County we have 36 inch that goes all the way down to Calhoun
13 County.

14 Then he alluded to the eight miles of 24-inch
15 that starts at the same spot here in Wonderview and
16 interconnects with one of our current Noark systems, which
17 is a 16-inch line that goes all the way up to Kennet,
18 Missouri.

19 This project has come about because of need for
20 public and commercial use. We've had several proposals come
21 to Ozark asking us to look at different routes and different
22 markets to help producers who are coming out of the
23 Fayetteville shale to get their gas to market. And that's
24 what this project is all about. It's not something that we
25 just thought of and wanted to build pipe and try to

1 inconvenience people. It's something that public need has
2 driven.

3 The gas that goes through this system is used for
4 several purposes: For city use. If you're on city gas a
5 lot of this gas may be coming from the Fayetteville shale
6 and companies like us who deliver those to distribution
7 companies where you receive your gas to use in your farm and
8 home.

9 Also for power generation, several companies
10 around Arkansas use gas to run their generators. A few of
11 the other ones are utilities and commercial. A lot of
12 warehouses and factories will use this gas to heat their
13 factories.

14 Another one of our big reasons why -- you know
15 the Fayetteville shale -- our pipeline is currently reaching
16 capacity very quickly.

17 You can't hear?

18 Is that better? Okay. Sorry.

19 Another one of the reasons that this project has
20 come about is because our pipeline system is very quickly
21 reaching capacity, which means we're about at the top of
22 what we can transport across our system. Other -- based on
23 the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission study, other pipeline
24 companies such as Ozark are reaching their capacity as well.
25 So this new gas that will be coming online has a very slim

1 chance of getting to market. And those producers who are in
2 this area drilling and developing these Fayetteville shales
3 need a way to get that to market. And we are that conduit.

4

5 We do no exploration or production. We do not
6 own the gas that is in this line. We are simply a conduit
7 to transport that gas from Arkansas, from Oklahoma over to
8 Mississippi and other interstate pipelines who can transport
9 that to market.

10 So I want to give you a telephone number just to
11 remind everyone that if you have questions or comments that
12 you would like to talk to our company about please feel free
13 to contact your right-of-way agent, the agent that you've
14 worked with. Hopefully you've been working with an agent at
15 this point. If not, we can certainly get you an agent to
16 work with. And the number to the office is our main office
17 here -- or there in Searcy is 1-888-593-8207. I'll say that
18 again; I see you writing there. It's 1-888-593-8207.

19 And in closing I'll just share with you right now
20 that we are still going through the really early stages of
21 our project. We're still doing the surveys so some of you
22 may see stakes on your land. These are just kind of a
23 proposed route of where we're thinking now. So these stakes
24 should be disappearing in the near future as we're working
25 through our construction surveys and your right-of-way agent

1 will know more information about those stakes and pipeline
2 routing.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Biffle.

5 Well, at this point it's the time for the public
6 to provide your comments. But Mr. Flickinger indicates that
7 no one has signed up on a sheet to speak this evening. So
8 would anybody like to speak or have any questions they may -
9 - that they would like to ask?

10 Would you come on up here and just state your
11 name? You can just come up here and state your name and go
12 ahead and ask your question.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Well, what I got to say, I live
14 across the river --

15 MR. WISNIEWSKI: Please speak into the microphone
16 and please state your name.

17 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Roger Johnson and I live
18 in Louisville. And I farm the land across the river in
19 several places where you all would be coming through. We
20 already have one gas line through the farms. And you all
21 got stakes up that's real close to the gas lines that we
22 already got in there.

23 Today we can't sub-soil our land because you all
24 won't put your gas lines deep enough. We have to pick our
25 sub-soils up when we go over the gas line. Before we can

1 sub-soil we got to call the gas company.

2 And then a few years ago right on one of my farms
3 my son was visiting and he come home for lunch and he said,
4 'Daddy, I need a chain. I need to pull that culvert out of
5 the field.' He was running over the gas line with a disc
6 and cutting it, which I called the gas company because I
7 knew it wouldn't -- I knew what it was.

8 So and then when you put your gas line down you
9 all fill the hole back up and then it settles, and then we
10 got to go in there -- especially on land form land -- it
11 does the same thing on any other land, but we kind of have
12 to go in and rework that land. It might be two years or
13 three years after you put your gas line down.

14 And you all might give us some money for coming
15 across the land, but then if you're going to come across the
16 land I don't know whether I can stop you from coming across
17 my land or not, but if I can I will.

18 But if you're going to come across the land you
19 need to get them deep enough where we can subsoil across it.
20 And then you need to come back and check for the next two or
21 three years to see how much the land has settled. We got a
22 lot of land form land. And then when our water gets to that
23 one place where your gas line has settled, well, it's done
24 with.

25 And I don't know whether your map's up there or

1 not, but I can show you on a map where your line is through
2 there on my land. And then you got one gas line coming
3 right through the little town of Lula, which I don't know
4 how dangerous they are.

5 And it is -- the way the line is running, it
6 looks like you're running the line way out of the way just
7 to get back over on the other side of 49 highway. I mean it
8 could be a straight shot across the area. I don't know
9 where you're going to, but from where the stakes are right
10 now it would be much easier to get back over on the other
11 side of 49, the south side of it instead of the north side,
12 and go right on through.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. WISNIEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Johnson, for your
15 comments.

16 Is there anybody else who would like to speak
17 this evening?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. WISNIEWSKI: Well, if no one would like to
20 speak we're going to have to conclude our scoping meeting
21 for this evening. I just would like to remind you that if
22 you would like to send any written comments please send them
23 in to the FERC by January 31st, 2007. Be sure to include
24 the docket number PF06-34-000 and send them to the
25 Secretary's office at the FERC.

1 Thank you very much for coming.

2 (Whereupon, at 6:25 p.m., the scoping meeting in
3 the above-entitled matter was adjourned.)

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