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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)
)
APPALACHIAN GATEWAY PROJECT) FERC No.
) PF09-15-000
)
)
_____)

SCOPING MEETING

Valley High School
1 Lumberjack Lane

Pine Grove, WV, 26419

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

6:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY:
Charles D. Hoffman

1 Participants:

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3 Janine Cefalu, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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5 Matthew Bley, Dominion Transmission, Inc.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(6:08 p.m.)

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3 MS. CEFALU: Good evening, and welcome to the
4 public scoping meeting for Dominion Transmission's
5 Appalachian Gateway Project, filed under Docket Number PF
6 09-15-000. My name is Janine Cefalu, and I am the
7 environmental project manager with the Federal Regulatory
8 Commission, or FERC. With me today from FERC is Eric
9 Tomasi, the air/noise engineer from the project. He is in
10 the back there.

11 Let the record show that the Public Scoping
12 Meeting began at 6:08, p.m. on January 27th, 2010, in Pine
13 Grove, West Virginia.

14 As it says in the Notice of Intent for this
15 project, the Commission is preparing an Environmental
16 Assessment or EA, for the proposed project. We are here
17 tonight to learn from you. The purpose of this meeting is
18 to give you an opportunity to comment on the environmental
19 issues that you think we should consider in the EA. The
20 more specific your comments are, the more helpful they will
21 be in our environmental analysis.

22 As you can see the meeting is being recorded by
23 the court reporter, so that we can have an accurate record
24 of tonight's comments. The transcript of this meeting will
25 be placed in FERC's public record. If you are interested in

1 receiving a copy of the transcript directly for a fee,
2 please see the court reporter after the meeting to make
3 arrangements.

4 Following the formal segment of tonight's meeting, there
5 will be an informal opportunity to ask questions either of
6 myself, Mr. Tomasi, or the representatives from Dominion
7 Transmission, who are here tonight. I'll start out tonight
8 by briefly explaining the FERC application process, then
9 Matt Bley, from Dominion Transmission will present an
10 overview of it's project. Additionally, there will be
11 another meeting tomorrow night on Belle, West Virginia, at
12 the Riverside High School auditorium from 6:00 to 8:00,
13 regarding the proposed facilities. Following Dominion
14 Transmission's presentation, we will hear from those of you
15 who have signed up to speak and would like to make formal
16 comments on the project.

17 If you do not want to speak tonight, you can also
18 send a letter to the Commission addressing your specific
19 concerns. The Notice of Intent, which most of you have
20 received in the mail, explains how you can mail comments or
21 provide comments to the FERC website. If you have not
22 received 1, and are interested in a copy, I have a few
23 copies with me, so you can see me after the meeting. There
24 is also a form on the table, where you can write your
25 comments and give them to me tonight, or mail them in by

1 following the instructions on that sheet. The official
2 comment period in the notice ends February 3rd, so there is
3 still time to mail in comments or provide them through the
4 website.

5 Now, I will explain the FERC approval process.
6 The FERC is an independent Federal Agency that among other
7 things regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas.
8 In doing so, FERC reviews proposals and authorizes
9 construction of interstate natural gas pipelines, storage
10 facilities, and liquified natural gas terminals. One of the
11 Commission's purposes, is to protect energy customers and
12 the public, ensuring that regulated energy companies are
13 acting within the law. The Commission Staff, which includes
14 myself, prepares technical information to assist the
15 Commissioners in making their decision.

16 When a company wants to build a storage facility
17 or a pipeline to transport and sell natural gas in
18 interstate commerce, the company files an application with
19 the Commission. At this point the Appalachian Gateway
20 Project is currently in our pre-filing process. A formal
21 application has not yet been filed with the FERC.

22 We consider the pre-filing process to be, among
23 other things, an extension of our scoping process. The
24 scoping process is a learning process. It is where we
25 educate ourselves about the project and the potential

1 issues.

2 Under the National Environmental Policy Act, or
3 NEPA, the Commission is required to perform an environmental
4 analysis of the planned project's potential effects on the
5 environment. The FERC is the lead Federal Agency
6 responsible for NEPA review of the Appalachian Gateway
7 Project, and the lead Federal Agency in preparing the EA.

8 We are here tonight to get your input on issues
9 that you feel need to be analyzed in the Environmental
10 Assessment. Your comments, along with those of interested
11 groups and agencies, will help focus our analysis on
12 significant impacts. The Commission will make it's decision
13 about whether to approve the project, after considering the
14 environmental project's environmental and economic impact.

15 I would like to emphasize that the EA is not a
16 decision document. It is being prepared to advise the
17 Commission, and to disclose to the public the environmental
18 impact of constructing and operating a proposed project.
19 When it is completed, the Commission will consider the
20 environmental information from the EA, along with non-
21 environmental issues, such as engineering, marketing and
22 rates, in making it's decision to approve or deny a
23 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, which would
24 be FERC's authorization for the project.

25 If the Commission votes to approve the project,

1 and a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is
2 issued, Dominion would be required to meet any conditions
3 attached to the certificate. The FERC environmental staff
4 would monitor the project through construction and
5 restoration, performing on-site inspections to ensure
6 environmental compliance with the conditions of the FERC
7 certificate.

8 If you have additional questions about FERC, I
9 encourage you to talk with me, or Eric after the meeting, or
10 visit the Commission's web page at www.ferc.gov.

11 The notice for this meeting and the Notice of
12 Intent were mailed to effected landowners, federal, state
13 and local agencies, elected officials and other public
14 interest groups. To remain on the mailing list for this
15 project, you will either need to return the information
16 request in Appendix 3 of the Notice of Intent, sign the
17 mailing list sheet in the back of the room or provide
18 written comments. If you have already returned the request
19 for information in Appendix 3, it is not necessary to sign
20 the list again.

21 At this point, does anybody have any questions
22 about our EA process, or tonight's program? Okay, now I
23 would like to introduce Matthew Bley, with Dominion
24 Transmission to briefly describe the project.

25 MR. BLEY: Thank you. Good evening, my name is

1 Matt Bley, and I am the manager of certificates for
2 Dominion. I am responsible for preparing the project
3 applications that are ultimately filed with the Federal
4 Energy Regulatory Commission. Also here from Dominion are
5 representatives from the engineering, land lease and right-
6 away, environmental, government affairs, media relations,
7 and operations departments, and we will be available later
8 for questions after the meeting, if needed.

9 I have prepared a speech that I will read into
10 the record tonight so that the information may be accessible
11 for later use. Tonight, I will provide information about
12 Dominion, the proposed project, the process we are
13 undertaking for the project, and the applicable
14 environmental and safety regulations.

15 I would like to start my expressing Dominion's
16 appreciation for everyone coming tonight, and to say that we
17 are looking forward to comments regarding the Appalachian
18 Gateway Project. We also appreciate the Federal Energy
19 Regulatory Commission, or FERC, affording us the opportunity
20 to provide these comments, with the goal that they will
21 provide more information and clarity about the project for
22 everyone.

23 First, I would like to briefly describe Dominion
24 Transmission Incorporated, or Dominion. Dominion is a
25 subsidiary of Dominion Resources, which is an integrated

1 energy company serving more than 5 million electric and gas
2 customers, in 11 states in the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and
3 Northeast regions of the United States. Dominion is
4 primarily a provider of interstate natural gas
5 transportation and storage services. It owns and operates 1
6 of the nation's largest underground natural gas storage
7 system, and has approximately 7,800 miles of pipeline in 6
8 states, including Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New
9 York, Maryland and Virginia.

10 Dominion's customers include large commercial and
11 industrial companies, power plants, other interstate
12 pipelines, and local distribution companies. By serving
13 local distribution companies, natural gas service is
14 ultimately provided to residences and businesses. More than
15 400,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers use
16 natural gas in the state of West Virginia.

17 A large customer base with a consistent demand,
18 coupled with the recent low temperatures that have fallen
19 upon the region make it critical for customers to have a
20 sufficient supply of natural gas. Production of natural gas
21 from both conventional and non-conventional shale and coal
22 bed methane sources in the Appalachian region of West
23 Virginia and Pennsylvania is increasing.

24 Dominion is proposing the Appalachian Gateway
25 Project to help meet the demand for Natural Gas in the Mid-

1 Atlantic and Northeastern United States by providing 484,260
2 dekatherms per day of firm transportation service for the
3 new Appalachian supplies that will ultimately be delivered
4 to homes, businesses, industries and power plants throughout
5 these regions.

6 Dominion's existing natural gas pipeline system
7 is uniquely positioned in the Appalachian region, as it
8 traverses the areas of significant supply growth. From an
9 economic development standpoint, the revenues generated from
10 the construction of the project itself will have a positive
11 socio-economic impact on the region.

12 Now I'd like to describe the project facilities.

13 Overall, the proposed Appalachian Gateway Project
14 facilities will include approximately 110 miles of new
15 natural gas pipeline along new and existing rights of way in
16 West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and new compression facilities
17 in West Virginia. Proposed facilities in this area will
18 include 3 new compression facilities, upgrade the 2 existing
19 compression facilities, and a 30 inch diameter pipeline. A
20 new 6,130 horsepower compression station to be called Birch
21 Ridge Station, will be constructed in Marshall County, West
22 Virginia.

23 A new proposed 30 inch diameter pipeline,
24 designated as TL-590, will originate at Birch Ridge Station
25 and traverse approximately 20 miles through Marshall County

1 before extending approximately 23 miles into Greene County,
2 Pennsylvania, where it will terminate at Dominion's existing
3 Crane Station.

4 Dominion will also construct a new 3,550
5 horsepower compressor station to be named Lewis Wetzel
6 Station, at it's existing Hastings facility here in Pine
7 Grove, and a new 1,775 horsepower compressor station to be
8 designated Morrison Station, near Wilsonburg in Harrison
9 County. Upgrades will also be made to Dominion's existing
10 Schutte and Pepper compressor facilities in Doddridge and
11 Barbour Counties respectively. Other facilities planned for
12 West Virginia include a new compressor station and 20 inch
13 diameter pipeline in Kanawha County.

14 Next I want to discuss where we are in the FERC
15 process. In October 2009, Dominion voluntarily began the
16 National Environmental Policy Act pre-filing process with
17 FERC. This process allows Dominion to work closely with
18 FERC, resource agencies, communities and individual land
19 owners during early permitting stages of the project, with
20 the goal being both better coordination of major permitting
21 issues and a more complete project application on file.
22 Dominion held open houses on October 13th, 14th, and 15th in
23 this area, to allow stakeholders to provide comments and ask
24 questions regarding the proposed project.

25 Dominion is currently in the initial assessment

1 planning and design stage of the process. At the conclusion
2 of the pre-filing process Dominion will file a formal
3 application with FERC. Draft resource reports for the
4 project were filed November 5th, 2009 and January 13th of
5 this year, and may be viewed on FERC's E-library website.

6 In accordance with the FERC pre-file and
7 environmental assessment processes, complete resource
8 information will be provided and updated resource reports 60
9 days prior to the date the application is filed. These
10 reports, which will consider your public comments and
11 comments by the agencies, will also be available to the
12 public for review and comment. The formal application for a
13 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity will
14 finalize the project's scope and include the environmental
15 resource reports and environmental assessment.

16 In addition to providing comments tonight, the
17 public will have an opportunity to comment on the resource
18 reports, environmental assessment, and the application.
19 Dominion anticipates filing the application for the project
20 this summer. After FERC approval, construction of the
21 facilities is planned to begin in the summer of 2011 to meet
22 a projected in service date for the entire Application
23 Gateway Project in September 2012.

24 Now I would like to provide a description of the
25 environmental regulations Dominion must comply with in order

1 to construct and operate the project facilities. At the
2 project facility site locations Dominion will perform
3 relevant field studies and surveys necessary to assess the
4 environmental impact of the project. The proposed
5 facilities will be regulated by local, state, and federal
6 agencies. As part of the FERC process an environmental
7 assessment will be written and distributed by FERC to
8 communicate and establish environmental conditions and
9 mitigation measures for the project. Dominion will comply
10 with the following environmental laws: National
11 Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, including
12 wetlands protection, storm water management, pollutant
13 discharge elimination program, Clean Air Act, National and
14 Historic Preservation Act, Archeological and Historic
15 Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act and Flood Plain
16 Management Program.

17 Dominion must also comply with noise regulations
18 for the proposed compressor stations. At a minimum,
19 Dominion must meet the noise requirements established by
20 FERC, which called for a day night noise level of 55 dba at
21 the nearest noise receptor. For example, the closest
22 residence, at the highest operating level that is at full
23 load conditions. If needed, Dominion may employ numerous
24 design features, such as mufflers, silencers, and noise
25 attenuation to assist in meeting the noise level

1 requirements.

2 In addition to compliance with environmental
3 laws, safety is Dominion's top priority. Dominion
4 incorporates it's core value into the design of it's
5 facilities, and strives to meet or exceed the safety
6 regulations in its operations. Dominion must comply with
7 safety regulations set forth by the United States Department
8 of Transportation, as well as FERC. Dominion has operated
9 natural gas facilities in the region for over 100 years and
10 has an excellent record. Dominion will continue to comply
11 with federal, state, and local safety laws to achieve
12 reliable operations for the proposed facilities.

13 In closing, I would like to say that Dominion
14 strives to be both a good neighbor and a good corporate
15 citizen. Dominion's field supervision works with local
16 residents to address their concerns and inform them of
17 operating activities that may directly affect them.
18 Dominion will work with the local community and affected
19 land owners to address issues and concerns raised during the
20 permitting and detail design period of the project. Your
21 comments tonight and throughout the FERC process will
22 provide an opportunity to successfully complete the
23 Appalachian Gateway Project.

24 I would again like to thank you for the
25 opportunity to provide this information tonight.

1 MS. CEFALU: Thank you. Are there any questions
2 at this time concerning the proposed project description?
3 If you aren't sure how the proposed project may affect your
4 property, I encourage you to look at the maps and the other
5 materials that Dominion Transmission has brought with them
6 tonight, after this meeting.

7 Now we begin to hear from those of you who had
8 signed up to present formal comments. No one signed up yet,
9 but I will go through this anyway. To help the court
10 reporter to produce an accurate record of this meeting I ask
11 that you please follow some ground rules. I will ask that
12 you please come to the front and speak into the microphone.
13 Introduce yourself and if appropriate, the agency or group
14 that you are with. Please spell your name, define any
15 acronyms that you may use, and speak 1 at a time. If you
16 have concerns that are specific to your property, I urge you
17 to either tell us about it on the record tonight, or send
18 written comments to the commission.

19 So even though no one has formally signed up to
20 speak, would anybody like to come up and speak? Come on,
21 somebody? Okay, without any speakers, the formal part of
22 this meeting is concluded. Again, I encourage you to stay
23 and look more closely at the maps and the information that
24 Dominion Transmission has brought with them. Their
25 representatives will both assist you with these maps and to

1 answer any more specific questions you may have.

2 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
3 Commission, I would like to thank all of you for coming
4 tonight. Let the record show that the meeting concluded at
5 6:26 p.m.

6 (WHEREUPON, proceedings were concluded at 6:26
7 p.m.)

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