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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING  
FOR THE PROPOSED ELBA EXPRESS COLDWATER  
COMPRESSOR STATION PROJECT  
January 10, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
Elbert County Government Complex  
45 Forest Avenue  
Elberton, Georgia 30635  
Reported by: Brenda Elmore, RPR, CCR-2023

1           MR. BOWMAN: Good evening. On behalf of  
2 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or  
3 FERC, I'd like to welcome you all here tonight.  
4 We're here for an environmental scoping meeting  
5 for the Coldwater Compressor Station Project,  
6 which has been proposed by the Elba Express  
7 Company, LLC. I'll probably just refer to them  
8 as Elba or Elba Express tonight.

9           Let the record show that the public scoping  
10 meeting in Elberton, Georgia, began at 7:05 p.m.  
11 on January 10, 2012. So the primary purpose of  
12 this meeting is to provide you all with an  
13 opportunity to comment on the project or on the  
14 scope of the environmental analysis that's being  
15 prepared for this proposal.

16           My name is Kevin Bowman, and I'm an  
17 environmental project manager with FERC's Office  
18 of Energy Projects. Also, from FERC to my left  
19 here is Larry Sauter, and outside was Gertrude  
20 Johnson, who you probably already met when you  
21 came in today.

22           So before we go any further and open the  
23 meeting up for your important comments, I would  
24 like to go over some background information about  
25 what it is exactly that FERC is and our purpose.

1           So the FERC is an independent regulatory  
2 agency. What the FERC regulates is electricity,  
3 natural gas, and oil. In addition to that, FERC  
4 also reviews proposals for natural gas pipelines,  
5 storage facilities, liquified natural gas  
6 terminals, as well as the licensing and  
7 inspection of hydroelectric projects.

8           FERC is made up of about a thousand or so  
9 employees that work in Washington, DC, and we  
10 have working for us lawyers, accountants,  
11 scientists, biologists, engineers, geologists and  
12 archaeologists. All of these staff members at  
13 FERC work for the commissioners who are at  
14 basically the head of the agency.

15           These commissioners are made up of five  
16 members, they're appointed by the President and  
17 they're approved by the Senate. These  
18 commissioners serve five-year terms and  
19 eventually vote on all decisions that are put  
20 before the agency. So as a federal licensing  
21 agency that has the ability to authorize those  
22 energy projects that I mentioned a second ago,  
23 the FERC has a responsibility under the National  
24 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, to consider  
25 the potential environmental impact associated

1 with any project that is before its  
2 consideration. And by -- for consideration I  
3 mean is before the commissioners.

4 Currently, the FERC is the lead federal  
5 agency for the National Environmental Policy Act  
6 review of Elba's proposal. Right now there's no  
7 other federal agencies that are cooperating  
8 agencies with us, but as the review process for  
9 this project continues, that could change if  
10 other agencies express an interest.

11 As I go over the FERC process, you will  
12 find a flow chart on your seats. You may be able  
13 to kind of follow along as I explain our process  
14 of environmental review. We're at the very early  
15 beginning stages of review of this project. Elba  
16 Express entered the process when it filed an  
17 application with FERC on October 31, 2011. You  
18 will see that as the third green box down under  
19 applicant process.

20 After they filed that application, if you  
21 are nearby their proposed site, they may have  
22 contacted you by mail about the project. Then  
23 following that, on December 9, 2011, FERC, that's  
24 us, issued a notice of intent to prepare an  
25 environmental assessment for the project. This

1 notice of intent was outside by the front table,  
2 and it looks like this, and it also announces the  
3 time and location of this meeting today.

4 So if you received a notice of intent,  
5 you're on our mailing list and hopefully Gertrude  
6 or Larry mentioned this to you outside and you'll  
7 remain on our mailing list to receive all  
8 supplemental information that the Commission  
9 issues about the project.

10 So if you didn't receive this notice of  
11 intent, and you want to be on the mailing list,  
12 you know, please go outside to make sure we have  
13 your name and address so that you can continue to  
14 receive, you know, information from FERC.

15 So the purpose of this notice of intent is  
16 to initiate the scoping period for this project  
17 and to invite the public to comment on it.  
18 During this time we invite you to send your  
19 comments and concerns about Elba's proposal. As  
20 part of the review of the project, we will be  
21 assembling information from a variety of sources,  
22 that includes Elba Express, other federal and  
23 state, local agencies, our own independent  
24 analysis and fieldwork. And, of course, from  
25 interested members of the community, which is why

1 we are here today.

2 So this scoping period is scheduled to end  
3 on January 20, 2012, which is ten days from now.  
4 The notice of intent, this thing here, encourages  
5 you to submit your comments by the end of the  
6 scoping period. The reason for this isn't to set  
7 a deadline on things, but so that we can research  
8 and fully analyze the decisions that are  
9 important to you.

10 We will accept comments after the scoping  
11 period closes, but it becomes increasingly more  
12 difficult for us to analyze issues that are  
13 important to you if we receive comments in, you  
14 know, July or August.

15 I do want to add that we do encourage  
16 electronic filing of all comments. There is a  
17 small brochure at the sign-in table that explains  
18 how to file comments on-line and navigate our  
19 website. Again, electronic comments are not  
20 required, so if you want to submit written  
21 comments, follow the instructions in the notice  
22 of the intent or you can grab a comment sheet  
23 that was on the registration table outside and  
24 you can just fill it out now and hand it to Larry  
25 or Gertrude or myself tonight.

1           It is important that any comments you mail  
2           in or file electronically have what we call a  
3           docket number on it, and that's on the agenda at  
4           the very bottom. The number for that is CP12-11.  
5           It basically just means CP is certificate  
6           proceeding, and 12 is filed under fiscal year  
7           2012, and it's the eleventh project that's come  
8           in. It's not some cryptic, confusing number.  
9           It's just, that's kind of what it stands for.

10           So once that scoping period is closed and  
11           you can kind of see on the flow chart that under  
12           public opportunities we have full public scoping  
13           meetings and consult with interested  
14           stakeholders, which is kind of what we're doing  
15           here today. So once that scoping period is  
16           finished and we've received everyone's comments,  
17           our next step is going to be analyzing the  
18           company's proposals and all the information that  
19           we've collected from everyone during the scoping  
20           period.

21           This is going to include an examination of  
22           the proposed location as well as any alternative  
23           sites that we've identified. As part of our  
24           analysis, we will be assessing the project's  
25           possible impact on water bodies, wetlands,

1       vegetation, wildlife, endangered species,  
2       cultural resource, soils, land use, air quality,  
3       and safety.

4               So once our environmental analysis is  
5       complete, we will compile all this information  
6       into a document that we call an environmental  
7       assessment. This environmental assessment is not  
8       a decisional document. I really want to stress  
9       that. It is not a decisional document. What it  
10      will be doing is describing the project  
11      facilities and its associated environmental  
12      impact alternatives to the project and any  
13      appropriate mitigation that could avoid or reduce  
14      the impacts on the environment. It will present  
15      our conclusions and our recommendations. Once  
16      the EA -- once the environmental analysis is  
17      completed, we will be presenting it to the public  
18      for another comment period. This will be a  
19      30-day comment period, and we will mail it to  
20      everyone who is on that mailing list that you  
21      guys signed up for tonight, if you did.

22              So, again, if you didn't receive that  
23      notice of intent and you want to be on the  
24      mailing list and you want a copy of that  
25      environmental assessment, I encourage you to go

1 ahead and give us your address so we can send  
2 that to you.

3 In addition, you know, because it kind of  
4 gets expensive to send out thick, hard copies of  
5 documents, we recently are starting to send  
6 things out as CDs. So if you don't want a CD and  
7 you want a hard copy, let us know. You can send  
8 the return mailer on the back of the notice of  
9 intent that says I want a hard copy or just tell  
10 one of us tonight or indicate it on the mailing  
11 list that I want a hard copy of the environmental  
12 assessment.

13 So what's the point of this environmental  
14 assessment? After we go ahead and publish it and  
15 issue it for public comments and receive your  
16 comments on our environmental analysis, the  
17 commissioners must decide on whether or not to  
18 approve the project. They can approve it, they  
19 can deny it, or they can approve an alternate  
20 version of the project.

21 It's important to note that these  
22 commissioners aren't preparing the environmental  
23 analysis. The environmental analysis document  
24 will be prepared by FERC environmental staff  
25 which includes myself, Larry, and Gertrude. So

1 the EA is being prepared to advise the Commission  
2 and to disclose to the public the environmental  
3 impact of constructing the proposed project.

4 The Commission is going to have to consider  
5 the environmental information in the analysis  
6 document and the public comments that we received  
7 in response to the assessment. We also have to  
8 consider other non-environmental issues such as  
9 engineering aspects, markets, rates, finances,  
10 tariffs, and design in order to make an informed  
11 decision on whether or not to approve the  
12 project. Only after taking the environmental and  
13 non-environmental factors into consideration will  
14 the commissioners make its final determination on  
15 whether or not to approve the project. Since the  
16 FERC is an independent regulatory agency, its  
17 decisions are not reviewed by the President or  
18 Congress.

19 So that's kind of my nuts and bolts  
20 overview of the FERC process. In a couple of  
21 moments I'm going to ask an Elba Express  
22 representative to come up and give you a very  
23 brief overview of what their project is since  
24 they can answer those questions better than I  
25 can.

1           But before we do that, I do want to, you  
2 know, invite a couple questions of the FERC  
3 process, not comments about the project or Elba  
4 just yet, but if you have any questions about how  
5 the review process works or the environmental  
6 analysis or any of the stuff that I just went  
7 over, you can do that quickly now.

8           So is there any questions in the FERC  
9 process?

10          MR. TURNER: So how many additional  
11 times --

12          MR. BOWMAN: Can you come up to the mic  
13 first and state your name and spell your last  
14 name, since we have the court reporter here.

15          MR. TURNER: My name is Barry Turner,  
16 T-U-R-N-E-R. My question is, how many more  
17 attempts do we have to make public comments on  
18 this project before a final decision is made?

19          MR. BOWMAN: This is right now going to be  
20 our only public scoping meeting that we're aware  
21 of and we plan on holding. You can continue to  
22 make comments up until the EA is issued  
23 (coughing) and on the environmental analysis once  
24 it's issued.

25          But I do want to stress that the earlier we

1 receive the comments, the more time we can fully  
2 devote to analyzing them and, you know, really  
3 assessing what's important to you.

4 Does that answer your question?

5 MR. TURNER: Yes.

6 MS. HILL: You said that we would have 30  
7 days after you send out notices?

8 MR. BOWMAN: Right. Once we issue the  
9 environmental analysis, you will have 30 days to  
10 comment on the document.

11 MS. HILL: Is that in person, by writing,  
12 electronically?

13 MR. BOWMAN: You can either mail your  
14 comments in and follow the instructions in the  
15 notice. You can file it electronically on-line,  
16 but at this time I don't we think we will be  
17 having another public scoping meeting after the  
18 environmental analysis is issued.

19 Does that answer your question?

20 MS. HILL: (Nods head.)

21 MR. BOWMAN: Sorry. Can I get your name  
22 again? I didn't have you come up to the mic.

23 MS. HILL: I'm sorry?

24 MR. BOWMAN: Can I get your name?

25 MS. HILL: Karen Hill, H-I-L-L.

1           MS. NEWTON: I have a question. My name is  
2 Marilyn Newton. How is FERC supported? It was  
3 my understanding that they're supported by the  
4 very companies that are requesting this  
5 compressor station.

6           MR. BOWMAN: We do have a congressional  
7 budget, and we do receive -- we do receive  
8 funding through taxes on products that are  
9 approved; that's how much I can -- I have no  
10 idea. I'm not sure.

11          MR. TURNER: So are you saying federal  
12 taxes that the utility companies pay funds FERC?

13          MR. BOWMAN: To some extent, but that's not  
14 really my area of expertise. I'm more of an  
15 environmental analyst. I don't want to go ahead  
16 and say how much. I really am not qualified to  
17 answer that question. But, you know, that's  
18 certainly something that can be possibly put in  
19 the environmental analysis.

20          MR. SAUTER: We can get back to you an  
21 answer on that question. Be happy to.

22          MR. TURNER: Thank you.

23          MR. BOWMAN: Are there any other questions  
24 about the FERC process?

25          Okay. So I'm going to let Elba come up and

1 do a brief overview of the proposed project, so I  
2 would like to have -- this is Kirk Mueller from  
3 Elba.

4 MR. MUELLER: A brief overview of the  
5 project details --

6 MR. GRIFFITH: Pardon me. What's your name  
7 again?

8 MR. MUELLER: My name is Kirk Mueller,  
9 M-U-E-L-L-E-R. The project will include tying  
10 the Elba Express Pipeline off of the Craft Road  
11 facility. There are a couple of maps in the back  
12 of the room for your viewing. The piping will  
13 run onto the site to a compressor building.

14 The compressor building will be the marquee  
15 building on the site. The gas as it runs into  
16 the compressor building will be filtered. It  
17 will be compressed, it will be cooled, and it  
18 will be sent back into the Elba pipeline. The  
19 pressure will be compressed from approximately  
20 700 PSI to close to 100 PSI.

21 The building itself is going to be  
22 approximately 50-feet wide by 60-feet long. The  
23 height of the building is 30 feet to the eve, and  
24 40 feet to the peak of the roof. Its largest  
25 building on the site -- there are other buildings

1       which will pale in comparison to the size of that  
2       one. There is a control building which could be  
3       as large in footprint approximately 50-feet wide  
4       by 50-foot long, but the height of it is much  
5       smaller. It's only about 12-foot high. There is  
6       also a water well building which is approximately  
7       8-by-8, 8-foot tall to hold the water well.

8               There will be a drum storage building as  
9       well and dimensions on it are approximately  
10      20-feet wide by 20-foot in length. These are the  
11      main buildings that will be on the facility. The  
12      amount of acreage that we're talking about on  
13      this site off of Craft Road is approximately  
14      30 acres in total. When the project is  
15      completed, the permanently impacted area will be  
16      a total of five acres. It will be fenced in. It  
17      will have a six-foot tall fenced-in area. The  
18      balance of the 30 acres, 25 acres will not be  
19      inside the fenced-in area, and it will be open to  
20      the surrounding field and pastures.

21              There will be an access road that we have a  
22      right to use that's there currently, and we will  
23      connect to that and it will give us access to the  
24      five-acre fenced-in area. The five-acre  
25      fenced-in area that I'm speaking of is

1 approximately 1,000 feet back off of Craft Road.

2 Inside the compressor building there will  
3 be a 10,000-horsepower compressor. It will be  
4 driven by a gas turbine, and the gas turbine is  
5 fueled by natural gas. There will be an air  
6 intake to the turbine which is muffled and an  
7 exhaust duct from the gas turbine, which is  
8 silenced.

9 The exhaust duct is approximately five feet  
10 in diameter, and 60 feet tall. Sixty feet, yes.  
11 Our plans to meet our requirements on noise are  
12 as follows: There's several noise reduction  
13 measures that we plan to implement as part of the  
14 project. They include on the building itself,  
15 the compressor building, six inches of acoustical  
16 insulation. The interior walls of the building  
17 are an acoustical wall liner which reflect the  
18 noise inside the building rather than let it  
19 penetrate through into the outside. This is  
20 above and beyond what is typically done in a  
21 compressor building of this type.

22 As I mentioned earlier, the turbine exhaust  
23 system is muffled. The turbine air intake system  
24 is silenced, and there are several pieces of  
25 equipment on site which include, there is a lube

1 oil cooler, a gas cooler, and a blow-down  
2 silencer, which will all be very specifically  
3 specified to keep the noise level well below what  
4 we are required to.

5 And, again, these are measures that are  
6 above and beyond what we typically do. Our  
7 supplier on a gas turbine compressor set has a  
8 typical lube oil cooler as an example. On this  
9 project it will not meet the specs that we're  
10 asking for. What we are going to purchase will  
11 be above and beyond and quieter than what is  
12 normal. This is the same situation with a  
13 recycled valve which is outside in the yard  
14 piping.

15 Also, noise reduction measures will include  
16 routing as much of the main gas piping as  
17 possible below ground. The piping that is  
18 aboveground will be insulated with acoustical  
19 insulation.

20 The facility can run as often as 24/7. We  
21 cannot predict how much it will be run. It can  
22 run as often as 24/7. Safety is a core value to  
23 Elba Express and has not been an issue at this  
24 type of facility across our system. There are  
25 fire detectors, gas detectors and emergency

1 shutdown systems in place that addresses any  
2 safety concerns.

3 MR. BOWMAN: Does anyone have any questions  
4 for Elba about that? Go ahead. If you can come  
5 forward and state your name.

6 MR. GRIFFITH: My name is Don Griffith --

7 MR. BOWMAN: FERC, you might want to come  
8 back up.

9 MR. GRIFFITH: -- and I just have two  
10 questions. The first is, will this property  
11 that's needed, the 30 acres, be included in  
12 what's already an easement or will it go outside  
13 of that easement to take in other property?

14 MR. MUELLER: I'm not sure I understand  
15 that question, but...

16 MR. GRIFFITH: We have an easement that  
17 comes through already on the Elba pipeline. And  
18 I don't know how many hundred feet wide it is or  
19 how many feet wide, but my question is --

20 MR. MUELLER: Okay. I understand. Thank  
21 you for clarifying that. The 30 acres does  
22 include a part of the area where the Elba Express  
23 pipeline passes off the Craft Road site. We do  
24 tie into the Elba Express pipeline, therefore, it  
25 is part of that 30 acres.

1           MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. But the line -- it  
2 won't all be within the line itself, there's  
3 going to be more acreage that goes outside of  
4 what was originally the easement that came  
5 through?

6           MR. MUELLER: Yes, that is correct.

7           MR. GRIFFITH: Do you know how much that  
8 will be?

9           MR. MUELLER: It's the majority of the  
10 30 acres. We can certainly calculate exactly  
11 what it is. It's depicted on the maps in the  
12 back, but the majority of it is outside of that  
13 original easement.

14          MR. ROTH: All right. So this is an  
15 easement that is going to have to be gotten from  
16 landowners, just like Elba Pipeline easement was  
17 gotten? Now, does this mean, then, that the  
18 easement will be able to be used for whatever, or  
19 do we have to come back and -- do you have to  
20 come back and do this each time you're going to  
21 use that property? Right now the assumption is  
22 30 acres are going to be used for this, but if  
23 only five is occupied, then can you just encroach  
24 on the other, the 25 other acres at will, or will  
25 you have to come back through a process like

1 this?

2 MR. MUELLER: I think my friends in the  
3 back are asking me to clarify the word  
4 "easement." The 30 acres is not considered an  
5 easement. It is property that we are hoping to  
6 purchase from one landowner. There will be five  
7 acres of the 30 fenced in. The other 25 will be  
8 open. We do not plan to keep cattle off of that  
9 property, but it is not an easement. It is  
10 property that we are planning to purchase.

11 MR. GRIFFITH: But you will be able to use  
12 it eventually because it's yours. It's owned by  
13 you now, so you can build extra on it or you can  
14 run other pipes through it or anything like that.

15 MR. MUELLER: That is correct. I can't  
16 predict the future, but that is a possibility.  
17 It could happen down the road.

18 MR. GRIFFITH: It is a possibility. And  
19 then my other one is, what's the purpose of this  
20 thing? I don't quite understand what -- what's  
21 it supposed to do? I knew we were piping gas up  
22 from Savannah and sending it up along the coast,  
23 and now we've got a station that's sending it  
24 back down? What's happening?

25 MR. MUELLER: I'm going to ask my business

1 development friend to explain why the flow  
2 reversal is taking place. The global LNG market  
3 is the responsible reason. John's going to  
4 explain this for you.

5 MR. PATTON: My name is John Patton,  
6 P-A-T-T-O-N, and I work with Elba Express, as  
7 well. The Elba Express line was originally  
8 conceived and installed to bring LNG gas that was  
9 being imported into the United States to our Elba  
10 Island receiving terminal, and that is then  
11 gasified there, it's re-gasified, it's vaporized.  
12 It's taken from a liquid state and put back into  
13 a gaseous state. And the idea was that would go  
14 up the Elba Express line, serve customers along  
15 that line so there's an interconnect with  
16 Southern Natural Gas down near Savannah. There's  
17 interconnects with two power plants along the  
18 way, Plant McIntosh and Plant Effingham. There's  
19 an interconnect with Southern Natural Gas at  
20 Wrens, and then there's two interconnects on the  
21 Northern end with Transcontinental Gas Pipeline.

22 And so originally when it was conceived,  
23 the idea was this gas that's being imported would  
24 then flow up into those markets, serve customers  
25 along the way, and eventually make its way into

1 the Transco system and up through the Northeast.

2 If you've kept up with what's been going on  
3 in the natural gas market in the United States in  
4 the last few years, there have been huge  
5 discoveries of what they call shell gas in the  
6 northeast United States. And so these pipelines  
7 that have all been geared to take gas from the  
8 Gulf Coast and take it up to the northeast now  
9 find that they have gas supplies up in the  
10 northeast and they anticipate having space, if  
11 you will, in those pipelines that were originally  
12 designed to carry gas from south to north.

13 And they're thinking that they've got more  
14 gas than they need in the northeast, and with the  
15 changes in the global LNG market now, it's not  
16 profitable to import natural gas in the United  
17 States, and so our customer has come to us and  
18 said we would like to turn the flow on this line  
19 around. And I know several of you have asked,  
20 well, where is the gas going? I know it's not a  
21 satisfactory answer, but I honestly can't tell  
22 you. I can tell you that they've got all of  
23 those interconnects. They can put gas on  
24 Southern's system. They can put gas -- take gas  
25 out of Transco. They can deliver gas to these

1 power plants.

2 When you get down near Savannah and they  
3 interconnect with Southern Natural, what we call  
4 our Cypress Line that goes down through south  
5 Georgia into Florida, it can serve markets there.  
6 But, ultimately, the customers nominate that gas  
7 on a daily basis and they determine where it goes  
8 just based on the market conditions. But the  
9 reason it's being turned around is it's strictly  
10 our customers' request. It's strictly market  
11 driven.

12 Does that answer your question?

13 MR. GRIFFITH: I had one of the -- the PSI  
14 was 600 originally. We seem to be dealing with a  
15 huge -- 700 PSI now as opposed to -- now, you're  
16 going to change that to 1200?

17 MR. MUELLER: The pressure in the pipeline  
18 is operated typically very close to 1200 PSI.  
19 The suction pressure is around 700 in the Elba  
20 Express Pipeline. The reason we're putting the  
21 station in is to compress it up to close to 1200.  
22 That's typical. We have a 1200-pound system that  
23 runs across the entire Southeast.

24 MR. GRIFFITH: Can the PSI be increased any  
25 time that the gas company wishes it to be or is

1           there a level on that?

2                   MR. MUELLER: No, that 1200-pound system  
3           has been in place for tens of years and it would  
4           be cost prohibitive to increase. It will not go  
5           above that.

6                   MR. TURNER: Again, Barry Turner. My  
7           question relates to the original question, you  
8           know. This gas is going south for a reason, and  
9           we're investigating is this gas going to be  
10          exported. Because a lot of people gave up rights  
11          to easements to property to put this gas line up  
12          through Elbert County on the pretense that it was  
13          to serve public convenience and necessity,  
14          serving the American people.

15                   It doesn't sound like the American people  
16          will be served by gas companies exporting the gas  
17          overseas. Any comment?

18                   MR. PATTON: What's your question?

19                   MR. TURNER: Is the gas being exported?

20                   MR. PATTON: Southern Natural Gas, Elba  
21          Express, and Southern LNG Company do not own  
22          facilities that are capable of liquefying the  
23          gas. We do not have export authority. We have  
24          no request before the Commission to install those  
25          facilities or to request export authority. We

1 would love to have a deal like that. We've  
2 looked for a deal like that for decades and we've  
3 never been able to put one together.

4 MR. TURNER: Well, I think FERC needs to  
5 investigate that, because the American people and  
6 the citizens of this county and the rest of the  
7 state have been scammed if that's what's going to  
8 happen.

9 MS. ECKENRODE: My name is Kim Eckenrode,  
10 E-C-K-E-N-R-O-D-E. And you're saying that Elba  
11 Express does not have authority, but your main  
12 customer BG Industries does, and it's requesting  
13 more authority for export. So if that's the main  
14 person that's piping it through the pipeline, as  
15 I understand it, and that company is based in  
16 Britain and it services gas worldwide and they  
17 service gas by buying the gas cheap and selling  
18 the gas at the highest price.

19 Right now, the gas is cheap in the United  
20 States. The gas goes for a much higher price in  
21 China and Japan where they just received two huge  
22 contracts. And they've said right on their  
23 website that their whole -- United States is flat  
24 for how many years out they projected. And China  
25 and Japan, huge markets, and they're doing

1 everything they can to make sure that they can  
2 export this gas. And I'm fairly comfortable in  
3 that.

4 So whether or not Elba Express, who you  
5 explained in the past is just a pipeline, not a  
6 gas company -- well, BG Industries sells natural  
7 gas, and as I understand it, that is your main  
8 customer on this pipeline. They subscribed -- if  
9 this is approved, if this compressing station is  
10 approved, they're subscribing to a hundred  
11 percent of the -- of the pipeline for their use.  
12 To me that seems pretty straightforward. There  
13 was no question.

14 MR. BOWMAN: Is there more additional  
15 questions for Elba?

16 MR. JONES: Is BNG your -- I'm Gary Jones  
17 with the newspaper, Elberton Star. Is BNG your  
18 main customer?

19 MR. PATTON: BG.

20 MR. JONES: BG?

21 MR. PATTON: Yes, sir.

22 MR. BOWMAN: I think there was one more  
23 question over here. We'll take a couple more --  
24 two or three more questions for Elba and then we  
25 will get into your comments. Go ahead, sir.

1           MR. SAUTER: There will be an opportunity  
2 after the meeting for anyone who wants to talk  
3 with Elba and look at the maps and have further  
4 discussions to pursue that. Elba has agreed to  
5 stay as long as people want to talk to them, so  
6 don't feel like this is your only opportunity.

7           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's our only  
8 opportunity to speak in front of our neighbors  
9 and people who live in Elbert County.

10          MR. SAUTER: That's fine. I just wanted to  
11 provide the information.

12          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir, I  
13 understand. This gentleman has a question.

14          MR. LOPEZ: I have a question. I want to  
15 know how high, sir --

16          MR. BOWMAN: Sir, can you state your name?  
17 Thank you.

18          MR. LOPEZ: My name is Jose Lopez. I want  
19 to ask you a question. How high in decibels is  
20 it going to be, the noise, for the compressor?  
21 You just say lowest you can, but you don't say  
22 the numbers. Over a hundred or below a hundred?

23          MR. MUELLER: 55 is our required limit. We  
24 expect to be significantly below that. Thank  
25 you.

1           MR. TURNER: Does that include blow-down  
2 period or is that 55 an average, 24-hour average?

3           MR. MUELLER: I don't want to get into the  
4 technicalities of the calculated decibel levels.  
5 It's too technical for my knowledge on the issue;  
6 however, to specifically address your blow-down  
7 question, one of the specs that our noise  
8 consultant requested us to implement is a noise  
9 reduction measure is a blow-down silencer that  
10 will produce no more than 60 decibels at  
11 300 feet, 300 feet. Beyond that, it's going to  
12 be significantly below that. It will be nowhere  
13 near 90 decibels that I've seen published  
14 elsewhere. That's just one example.

15           The 55-decibel limit, whether it's  
16 calculated or an average, I don't want to debate  
17 that. It will be significantly below that. The  
18 noise reported which has been revised and will be  
19 submitted to FERC shortly will reflect that and  
20 it is very conservative. It does not consider  
21 noise reduction measures that will be implemented  
22 and include landscaping additions which will  
23 further reduce the noise.

24           MS. HILL: These safety measures that you  
25 were talking about, are they the same safety

1 measures that y'all used in the explosion in  
2 Alabama, the explosion that happened in  
3 Pennsylvania when the lubricating oil sprayed  
4 1600 feet? Are these the same safety measures  
5 that you're going to use at this station that you  
6 used at the others?

7 MR. MUELLER: We will -- after --

8 MS. HILL: Because there have been some  
9 accidents, there have been explosions.

10 MR. MUELLER: We will address specific  
11 safety policies and operating procedures  
12 afterwards, if you would like to discuss them.

13 MS. TURNER: I think they should be  
14 discussed in front of everyone.

15 MS. HILL: That's true. Yes, they should.

16 MR. MUELLER: I'm not familiar with those  
17 specific facilities that you mentioned,  
18 however --

19 MS. HILL: They should have somebody, one  
20 of your members should be.

21 MR. MUELLER: We will be glad to discuss  
22 our safety policies.

23 MS. HILL: Because these are our lives.  
24 This station is in our front yard and these are  
25 our lives, our children's lives, our homes that

1 we're putting bit of our life's earnings into.

2 MR. MUELLER: I understand. Mike Prestage  
3 is our area manager, and he's going to come up  
4 and explain to you his position on the safety.

5 MR. PRESTAGE: It's Mike Prestage,  
6 P-R-E-S-T-A-G-E. I'm Mike Prestage, the area  
7 operations manager. I'm from Savannah, and in  
8 response to your question about safety measures  
9 inside the stations, there are flame detectors  
10 that depict fire. There's gas detectors that  
11 detect gas levels. There are shutdown systems  
12 that if those things detect a spark or an  
13 elevated gas level, they will shut the station  
14 down, basically which means we will evacuate all  
15 the gas from the building and shut down the  
16 equipment.

17 MS. HILL: But what if they fail? Because  
18 something failed at the other sites. Something  
19 had to have failed at the other sites for these  
20 explosions, okay, to happen. All right. So you  
21 can't guarantee that it's going to work.

22 MR. PRESTAGE: Our whole culture in our  
23 company is based on safety, not only for you the  
24 public, but for our employees and for all of us.

25 MS. HILL: But it's not in their front

1 yard. It's in our front yard. Okay. It's in  
2 our front yards. This is where -- we're working  
3 our entire lives for our homes. It's in our  
4 front yard.

5 MR. PRESTAGE: And I appreciate your  
6 concern, and, you know, I've been working in this  
7 industry for over 40 years and --

8 MS. HILL: But things fail.

9 MR. BOWMAN: If we can just limit things to  
10 questions for the moment. I see there's a couple  
11 of hands.

12 MS. TURNER: My name is Melanie Turner,  
13 T-U-R-N-E-R. I work in the granite industry.  
14 I'm one of -- our company that I work for is one  
15 of about 83 just in this county. There's about  
16 29 quarries in this county. There's blasting  
17 going on constantly. At my company we've got  
18 four big saws that go 24/7 cutting rock.

19 Elbert County is the granite capital:  
20 Blasting, blasting, blasting. What if there is  
21 an explosion? These things are monitored by  
22 Birmingham by a computer. We don't get cell  
23 service where we're at. We don't get Internet  
24 service. So if they can't talk to Birmingham,  
25 Birmingham can't talk back to shut these things

1 down.

2 MR. PRESTAGE: Okay. In response to that,  
3 basically all of our compressor stations are  
4 operated remotely from Birmingham, controlled  
5 from Birmingham; however, this system in the  
6 stations themselves are self-sufficient. They --  
7 we have redundant backups, and they do not need  
8 communication with Birmingham to work.

9 MR. TURNER: When they came to do the sound  
10 test I asked John Patton what caused the  
11 explosion in Demopolis, Alabama, on December 3?  
12 He didn't have an answer. We have a volunteer,  
13 unmanned volunteer fire department over three  
14 miles from where this place is going to be. How  
15 are they going to rally the troops to come put  
16 out an explosion?

17 MR. PATTON: The explosion in Demopolis,  
18 Alabama, was on TransContinental Pipeline. We  
19 don't own or operate those facilities.

20 MS. HILL: We're going to be on a pipeline,  
21 right, John?

22 MR. PATTON: I understand, but how can we  
23 possibly know what happened on their facilities  
24 when they haven't even determined it yet? And it  
25 was not a compressor station.

1 MS. HILL: It's the same operation, though.  
2 You know, it's the --

3 MR. PATTON: But nothing to do with a  
4 compressor station.

5 MS. HILL: But it's still the same thing.  
6 If there's a leak that's odorless, how are we  
7 going to know that there's a leak. And if  
8 something fails, because if its manmade it can  
9 break, okay. Anything can break if its manmade.  
10 And if it breaks, if it fails, y'all don't know,  
11 we don't know, you know, somebody is riding by in  
12 a car and ignites a fire, we're gone. It's  
13 easier for y'all to move and start somewhere else  
14 than it is for us. We can't do that.

15 MR. SANDERS: Last name S-A-N-D-E-R-S. I  
16 made a statement the last meeting. FERC wasn't  
17 here, so this is mostly for y'all. Some three or  
18 four of the families, Melanie, Barry, I know most  
19 of the folks on my road. I know other people on  
20 the pipeline, we have no dealings with the  
21 pipeline. We ain't got none of the easements,  
22 but we're some of the closest families to this  
23 compressor station. We didn't even have no  
24 say-so of the pipeline. Now we fixing to be some  
25 of the closest ones to it. Kim, Barry, Kim's

1 husband, and like Karen's saying, we're the  
2 closest ones to this compressor station. We have  
3 nothing to do with the pipeline. Wasn't even  
4 asked could it even come through because our land  
5 didn't even join it then. But now we're the  
6 closest ones to it. And now we've got to deal  
7 with it, or whatever. That's the reason the  
8 concerns are there. We have no --

9 MS. HILL: For somebody else's benefit.  
10 This won't benefit for us, you know. We're  
11 concerned every day that there could be an  
12 accident.

13 MR. BOWMAN: Thanks. I think we're kind of  
14 getting into generalized comments about the  
15 project now.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I ask one more  
17 question before Mike --

18 MR. BOWMAN: Sure, if it's very specific  
19 about the project.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What did happen in  
21 Alabama? You're in the industry. Can you tell  
22 them what happened?

23 MR. PATTON: I don't know. I don't know  
24 what happened in Alabama.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (INAUDIBLE

1 COMMENTS.)

2 MR. PATTON: In the operations --

3 MR. MUELLER: As was stated earlier, the  
4 Alabama incident had nothing to do with Elba  
5 Express.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But it's the same  
7 kind of line, right? It's a transport line for  
8 vapor naturalized gas?

9 MR. MUELLER: I don't know. We had nothing  
10 to do with it. Our company had nothing to do  
11 with that incident. I don't want to assume that  
12 I know the specifics of it.

13 MR. TURNER: Is Southern Natural Gas going  
14 to operate this pipeline?

15 MR. MUELLER: Yes.

16 MR. TURNER: Okay. Same company that  
17 operated the TransCo pipeline; is that right?

18 MR. MUELLER: TransCo is a competitor. We  
19 are not privileged to the details of that  
20 pipeline or any of their facilities or incidents.

21 MS. HILL: Well, is this gas not coming in  
22 from the Transco pipelines and then branches off  
23 to the Coldwater Creek?

24 MR. MUELLER: There is an interconnect with  
25 the Transco pipeline.

1 MS. HILL: Okay. I mean, same highway.

2 MR. BOWMAN: I just want to go ahead and  
3 say I want to -- I want to get the people who  
4 signed up in the speaker's list a chance to go  
5 ahead and go through their comments that they  
6 want to say tonight, and then after those several  
7 people are done with their comments, I'm going to  
8 open things back up, and if Elba needs to answer  
9 some questions, we will have them come up.

10 Do you have -- sir, do you have a question  
11 specifically for Elba?

12 MR. EAVES: I have one specific question to  
13 Elba.

14 MR. BOWMAN: This will be the last question  
15 for Elba until we go into the comments.

16 MR. EAVES: Pardon?

17 MR. BOWMAN: This will be the last question  
18 specifically for Elba until we -- until I respect  
19 people on the signup sheet. Thank you. Go  
20 ahead.

21 MR. EAVES: My name is Frank Eaves,  
22 E-A-V-E-S. I'm the county commissioner for  
23 District 3 in Elbert County where this proposed  
24 site is, and my question to Elba is, how crucial  
25 is it that this compressor station be put at this

1 specific site? Can it be moved four or five  
2 miles in one either direction, or is this site --  
3 is this where it's got to be?

4 MR. MUELLER: There were several sites  
5 evaluated, and there are several different  
6 criteria that we use on selecting a site, which  
7 include the hydraulics of the gas flow proximity  
8 to available power, willingness of landowners to  
9 sell and so on.

10 Noise is certainly a huge criteria that we  
11 use when selecting a site. And we came up with a  
12 short list of sites that met this criteria. This  
13 particular site was not the first one on our  
14 list. The first site on our list, the landowner  
15 was unwilling to sell. This site was the next  
16 one on our list, and we are asking FERC to  
17 approve it.

18 MR. EAVES: You didn't answer my question.

19 MS. JOHNSON: I'll say this: We are at the  
20 beginning of our environmental analysis for this  
21 project. Elba Express has proposed a site. They  
22 have to provide us -- they're required to provide  
23 us with alternative sites. However, if there are  
24 sites that we find that we identify that may be  
25 environmentally preferable, we can require Elba

1 to build another site.

2 If there are specific sites that the public  
3 can identify, that we can analyze and say, well,  
4 that site is environmentally preferable to the  
5 proposed site, again, the Commission can require  
6 the company to build at that other site.

7 All that to say is that we're at the  
8 beginning of the environmental process to  
9 evaluate their proposed site and any alternative  
10 sites that we find, they find, or that the public  
11 finds.

12 MR. EAVES: So it can be moved from where  
13 it is?

14 MS. GERTRUDE: Yes. This meeting means  
15 we're at the beginning of our process. Nothing  
16 has been set in stone. We are going to write our  
17 assessment of the environmental impacts of their  
18 proposed site, any alternative sites. We'll make  
19 our recommendation to the Commission, and then  
20 they will decide.

21 MR. EAVES: I would hope, and I know  
22 there's millions and millions of dollars have  
23 been spent with this pipeline. I understand  
24 that. I had two pieces of property that it  
25 crossed. But I would hope that somebody in

1 charge, being y'all, I assume, will study and try  
2 to find an isolated area, if this is a necessity.

3 MS. NEWTON: Nobody ever answered the  
4 question that if you had a previously approved  
5 site in Jenkins County, why are you moving it to  
6 Elbert County? I think we have a right to know  
7 that. I went to one of the meetings and I didn't  
8 get an answer.

9 MS. GERTRUDE: Can you identify your name  
10 real quick?

11 MS. NEWTON: Marilyn Newton, N-E-W-T-O-N.

12 MS. GERTRUDE: Well, I think that question  
13 was answered. The market conditions required  
14 this site to change from what was previously  
15 authorized. The previously authorized project  
16 was based on certain market conditions.

17 MR. MUELLER: I'll try to clarify that a  
18 little bit. The question was brought up earlier,  
19 a similar question, and the main reason is when  
20 the gas flow was from south to north, the optimal  
21 position of the compression facilities were in  
22 Jenkins County. When the flow reversed, the  
23 optimal horsepower location is now in Elbert  
24 County.

25 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. So we've got about

1       10 or so people signed up on the list, and I want  
2       to respect them getting here early and getting  
3       their name on the list early. So as we get into  
4       these comments here, please come up to the mic  
5       and state your name, if you haven't already, and  
6       spell your last name. And if you're representing  
7       an agency or group, go ahead and identify that.

8               And if you're -- and after we're finished  
9       with the speakers here, if anyone else wants to  
10      go ahead and talk or give us comments, that's  
11      completely fine, and we will welcome as many  
12      people that want to come up and talk. And, of  
13      course, we will stay here as long as we need to,  
14      and if you have additional comments to give, you  
15      can comment on-line or you can mail them in or  
16      you can give us -- or you can fill out one of the  
17      comment sheets that we have at the table and hand  
18      them to us at the mic.

19             So our first speaker tonight that has  
20      signed up is Kim Eckenrode.

21             MS. ECKENRODE: Hello. My name is Kim  
22      Eckenrode, E-C-K-E-N-R-O-D-E. My husband and I  
23      own 42 acres on Moore Road. This is located less  
24      than a half mile from the proposed Coldwater  
25      Compressor Station 30-acre site. We purchased

1 this property two years ago after a thorough  
2 search all over the state of Georgia. Our main  
3 requirements were that it was quiet, has good  
4 clean air, not near a major road, and with no  
5 industrial presence in the area. We looked at  
6 many projects all over and it seemed there was  
7 always a source of industrial noise or air  
8 pollution or a major road nearby.

9           When we found the 42 acres on Moore Road,  
10 it was exactly what we were looking for. It was  
11 very quiet with good, clean air, no major roads,  
12 no industrial presence anywhere near the area.  
13 It is a wonderful, rural, agricultural farm  
14 community. Something that as we discovered is  
15 very rare and difficult to find in this day and  
16 age because of the seemingly systematic  
17 destruction of small town rural America brought  
18 on by the mindless and indiscriminate growth and  
19 blatant disregard for individual property owners.  
20 If El Paso, Elba Express is allowed to build this  
21 compression station, our community, one more  
22 community ruined and brought into devastation and  
23 decline by the uncaring, selfish, and careless  
24 pursuant of the almighty dollar and profit.

25           On November 10, El Paso was invited by

1 Elbert County and took part in an informational  
2 meeting here in this building. At that meeting,  
3 Mr. Kirk Mueller of El Paso Corporation stated to  
4 a roomful of concerned citizens that in regards  
5 to their concerns about noise that would be  
6 generated by this compressor station that, and I  
7 quote, "you will not hear it."

8 He further stated that the present ambient  
9 decibel area for the area is 45, and that the  
10 proposed compressor station would generate a  
11 noise of 48 decibels. He then said, although  
12 they were allowed to generate up to 55 decibels,  
13 but they were only going to produce noise of 48  
14 decibels.

15 I had already done research on sound and  
16 noise and decibel levels before this meeting and  
17 cannot believe what Mr. Mueller had said. I  
18 immediately challenged him in the meeting on the  
19 accuracy of what he claimed to be the ambient  
20 sound level in the area. I knew that a quiet,  
21 rural area with no major roads and no industrial  
22 presence should be in the low 30s in the day and  
23 lower at night.

24 I spoke with him after the meeting and he  
25 agreed to do a new sound survey in the area and

1 on our property. This sound survey was conducted  
2 on December 13 by Paul Kiteck of Hoover & Keith.  
3 I was present for all the readings made on that  
4 day on Craft Road and our property.

5 The readings were much lower than the 45  
6 decibels Mr. Mueller had stated. The decibel  
7 reading that was taken at 1809 Craft Road, which  
8 is the closest house to the proposed compressor  
9 station and, therefore, would be designated noise  
10 sensitive area number one, was 30 decibels.  
11 Another reading at a house close to the proposed  
12 compressor station on Craft Road also had a  
13 reading of 30 decibels.

14 The other property that had a decibel  
15 reading taken on that day had a level of 32 near  
16 the house and 31 near the road. Our property  
17 came in at 29 decibels. As I expected, these  
18 ambient sound readings were much lower than what  
19 Mr. Mueller had stated to a roomful of concerned  
20 people, and some of the people believed them.

21 It's more than obvious that this proposed  
22 compressor station would generate noise much  
23 higher than the current level, and would be very  
24 noticeable and very disruptive to the community.  
25 In fact, according to my research, decibel

1 readings are based on a logarithmic scale of ten,  
2 meaning that if we increase the current ambient  
3 sound level of 30 decibels to 40 decibels, it  
4 would increase the sound intensity ten times.

5 If we went from 30 decibels to 50 decibels,  
6 it would increase the sound intensity by a  
7 hundred times. If we went from 30 decibels to 55  
8 decibels, it would be increase the sound  
9 intensity by 500 times. That's right. The sound  
10 would be 500 times more intense than it is now.  
11 That's outrageous, and would have devastating  
12 impact on the community and the whole area.

13 Furthermore, in a quiet, rural setting,  
14 this noise would be heard by those not only up to  
15 a mile away, but 2-plus miles depending on  
16 temperature and wind. On top of that, it's been  
17 shown that people who are accustomed to very  
18 quiet surroundings will notice and are more  
19 adversely affected by any increases in noise.

20 The people in this community are used to a  
21 sound of around 30 decibels in the day and lower  
22 at night. I say sound because what we currently  
23 hear in the area a majority of the time is the  
24 trees and leaves rustling in the wind, the birds  
25 chirping, and an occasional cow mooing in the

1 distance. This is the sound of nature, not  
2 manmade generated noise.

3 El Paso wants to change all this by putting  
4 in a compressor station that will be allowed to  
5 generate up to 55 decibels of constant 24 hours a  
6 day, 7 days a week industrial manmade noise.  
7 This would be a constant, buzzing, humming,  
8 rumbling type noise that will never stop. In  
9 everyday terms, if the ambient sound level will  
10 be allowed to become 55 decibels, it would be  
11 roughly equal to constantly hearing the  
12 equivalent of a noisy vacuum cleaner at about ten  
13 meters away. This will be a constant noise that  
14 will be heard all the time in the area.

15 This noise would be disastrous to the area  
16 and devastating to the people who have property  
17 and homes here in the northeast part of Elbert  
18 County and the southern part of Hart County.  
19 Presently, this area and community has all  
20 positives, and I love it.

21 If a compressor station is allowed to be  
22 built here, it will place a huge, insurmountable  
23 blight on the Montevideo and Rock Branch  
24 Community that will devastate the liveability and  
25 desirability of the area, and tremendously

1       diminish the quality of life for everyone there.  
2       I'm asking FERC to please, please, not allow  
3       El Paso Corporation to ruin our community.

4               MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. Our next speaker  
5       is Jim Eckenrode.

6               MR. ECKENRODE: My name is Jim Eckenrode.  
7       That's E-C-K-E-N-R-O-D-E. I'm here tonight to  
8       record my opposition to the Coldwater Compressor  
9       Station. Two years ago my wife and I bought 42  
10      acres which is located less than a half mile from  
11      the 30-acre proposed site. The number one reason  
12      we invested in this location was the peace and  
13      quiet of the area.

14              Putting a compressor station in this area  
15      will absolutely destroy that peace and quiet. It  
16      will introduce a never-ending negative presence  
17      through the air and light pollution and a  
18      constant noise that will forever be a blight on  
19      this community and will destroy the value of all  
20      properties that's owned in that area.

21              The county sponsored an informational  
22      meeting on November 10 in response to a question  
23      by a concerned citizen about impact on property  
24      values. Representatives for Elba Express stated  
25      they did not know what impact a compressor

1 station had on property values. This has to be a  
2 willful ignorance on their part. If they believe  
3 there would be a positive or even a neutral  
4 influence, they would certainly have evidence to  
5 support that.

6 Elba Express does know the presence will  
7 have a negative impact but only offer that it  
8 will try to minimize that impact. This is an  
9 admittance in and of itself that the station is  
10 not good for the surrounding community. What I  
11 want to know is, why is 55 decibels acceptable?  
12 Why is any impact acceptable? Why should the  
13 surrounding property owners be forced to shoulder  
14 the noise, pollution burden, and suffer a  
15 financial loss with no compensation simply to  
16 allow El Paso and Elba Express the secure and  
17 more profitable contract?

18 Written comments were already filed  
19 challenging the justification of the site  
20 selection of the Coldwater Station, but I feel  
21 compelled to reemphasize that the justification  
22 of this location contradicted the justification  
23 for the Jenkins County location.

24 The statement that the proposed Coldwater  
25 Station will have less impact on the environment

1 than the Jenkins County location is simply  
2 insupportable. Elba Express clearly does not  
3 understand the extent of the long-term impact of  
4 the facilities on the surrounding properties and  
5 the residents. Instead, they rely on  
6 self-serving statements that sound good but have  
7 no real basis. A flip flop based on the  
8 direction of the flow in the pipe.

9 Stealing may seem like a harsh word, but  
10 simply defined it means to take the property of  
11 another wrongfully. Taking what we value without  
12 our consent is simply wrong. I'm asking FERC not  
13 to allow Elba Express to steal from this  
14 community, not to allow them to steal our peace  
15 and quiet, and not allow them to steal the value  
16 of our property. Once they take this from us, it  
17 will be lost forever. Thanks.

18 MR. TURNER: Again, my name is Barry  
19 Turner, and I want to thank the Eckenrodes that  
20 put so much thought into their opinion, but mine  
21 is much the same. My wife and I found a piece of  
22 property eight years ago out in the country. I  
23 grew up in the country. That's now Metro  
24 Atlanta. I wanted to find a place that reminded  
25 me of my childhood, a place of peace and quiet.

1       And we found that place. In eight years of sweat  
2       equity we built our dream. El Paso will destroy  
3       that dream. The peace and quiet will be gone  
4       forever, it will never return.

5               Our investment and the lives of our  
6       families and neighbors will be ruined. I'm sorry  
7       if I'm emotional, but I didn't work my lifetime  
8       to see my dream destroyed.

9               MR. BOWMAN: Thank you, Mr. Turner. I will  
10       have now Melanie Turner.

11              MS. TURNER: My name is Melanie Turner, and  
12       I pretty much ditto everything everybody has said  
13       thus far. One thing I want to say, though, is  
14       the potential of emissions. They say that the  
15       gas is odorless and colorless. That's just --  
16       John Patton, I asked him when this thing, when  
17       they have the blow-downs, where is the gas going?  
18       Well, the only logical place, in the air. Well,  
19       anything that goes up must come down. Where is  
20       it going to come down to? Where is it going?

21              Also, just so that you all will know, I  
22       asked John, looked him in the eye, I said, would  
23       you want to live next to one of these, and he  
24       quote -- I quote, "if given the choice, no." He  
25       said. John Patton.

1           MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. We will have  
2 Luanne Greenway.

3           MS. GREENWAY: I am Luanne Greenway,  
4 G-R-E-E-N-W-A-Y. I also would like to thank the  
5 previous speakers for all of the research that  
6 you've done and the care that you have shown.  
7 They chose to come here recently based on the  
8 peace and quiet. I, along with many others in  
9 this room and in this community, have been in the  
10 Rock Branch area all of our lives.

11           My family, as some others in this room and  
12 many in the community, have been in this Rock  
13 Branch community since the 1700s. You are  
14 threatening our homes, our peace, our comfort,  
15 and you don't care, and it does affect us. It  
16 affects our safety, our comfort, our future.

17           We're now faced with something that can  
18 disturb our comfort or even worse, our safety.  
19 What will be the effect of this station on our  
20 quality of life, our comfort, our safety? What  
21 will the damage be to our environment? There has  
22 been no good answer for that.

23           I do want a report of the environmental  
24 factors concerning this station. I want the  
25 report concerning the effects on our trees and

1 other vegetation, and all aspects of our  
2 environment in general. I have formally  
3 requested this, and I do expect it. I also want  
4 it to be given to the other speakers and to all  
5 involved. I strongly ask that this station not  
6 be built.

7 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. Our next speaker  
8 is Laura Gaines.

9 MS. GAINES: Hello. I'm Laura Gaines,  
10 G-A-I-N-E-S. I just have a very short statement  
11 here. We would like for you to please consider  
12 moving the gas pump station to a location that is  
13 more suitable, less populated, more isolated. We  
14 have our homes, our land, our families, and our  
15 futures here in this community. We are asking  
16 you to consider our livelihoods and our future  
17 generations.

18 We are earnestly asking you to consider us  
19 before you give permission to the company, the  
20 Elba Express, before you give them permission to  
21 destroy our community. We do not need this  
22 30-acre monstrosity in the middle of it all  
23 belching out constant emissions and noise and  
24 light pollution. There are also wetlands that  
25 will be affected. There are three in the area

1 that we live in. There's a beaver pond that is  
2 directly fed by the Pickens Creek that is,  
3 incidentally, not dry. It is not dry. It is  
4 wet, and it feeds into Russell Lake.

5 It's flourishing with fish and ducks, and  
6 many other wildlife species. Redtail hawks also  
7 have their nesting area right in the area where  
8 they will be doing the construction. And this  
9 will create -- the construction can create and  
10 directly affect these birds and their nesting  
11 habitats.

12 Please take into consideration, like I  
13 said, the Pickens Creek which the proposed pump  
14 station will be built on and empties directly  
15 into Russell Lake. Russell Lake is the home of  
16 many rare species of fish and birds and different  
17 things like that, and that is what I would like  
18 to submit tonight for my opposition. Thank you.

19 MR. BOWMAN: Our next speaker is Larry  
20 Richardson.

21 MR. RICHARDSON: My name is Larry  
22 Richardson. I live in Hart County just over the  
23 line about a half a mile from the proposed  
24 pumping station, and my first number one  
25 opposition to the pumping station in our area is

1 the possibility of an explosion or fire.

2 Now, I have a lot at stake for the reason  
3 that my daughter and her husband, three  
4 grandchildren, one daughter-in-law and one  
5 great-grandchild live within 2500 feet of this  
6 proposed pumping station. And the noise  
7 pollution is really going to be bad when the  
8 construction starts. There will be large  
9 equipment, trucks coming and going. The roads to  
10 that area will be possibly destroyed.

11 The light pollution, I'm sure that this is  
12 going to -- this is going to look like a small  
13 town in an area where the people -- the Turners  
14 mentioned and the Eckenrodes, that they came for  
15 peace and quiet and they can see the stars in  
16 their area. But I'm sure when we get all those  
17 lights from this small town in our area, that  
18 this is not going to happen. And the  
19 environmental issues, contrary to the information  
20 that has been furnished Elba Express -- Pickens  
21 Creek near the proposed site is not dry. Maybe  
22 the property owner was contacted during a severe  
23 drought, we've had conditions like that, and  
24 maybe that's where they got the information but  
25 that is not a dry creek. The water flows in this

1 creek further down into large protected wetland  
2 areas, and then from there into the -- into the  
3 Russell Lake.

4 Any construction runoff, not to mention  
5 leaks, or whatever might escape from the normal  
6 operation of this pump station, would go right  
7 into that creek and possibly contaminate the  
8 wells in that area. There's no possibility of  
9 anybody in that area at this time tapping onto a  
10 city water or anything like that. Everybody has  
11 to have a well of their own. They have to have  
12 in some cases an extra well for the cattle to  
13 drink.

14 And during the construction I'm sure that  
15 the creeks will be a lot of silt and runoff and  
16 that sort of thing. And not once until Mr. Eaves  
17 mentioned did anybody from Elba say anything  
18 about an alternative site. Well, I'm sure that  
19 along that line, either way there's a site that  
20 is more remote than the place on Craft Road. And  
21 I've got a point that I want to make later on  
22 that.

23 But one of the things that the people  
24 from -- I believe it was Mr. Mueller pointed out  
25 that that was the most efficient place on the

1 line for the pump to do what it was supposed to.  
2 But the original plans were to be in Jenkins  
3 County, which is six to nine miles from Elba  
4 Island when it was coming this way.

5 Now, that's six to nine miles from where it  
6 started. And we're talking here, if you found a  
7 place, a more remote place in Elbert County, it  
8 wouldn't be -- it wouldn't be nearly that much.

9 But the other thing that I want to point  
10 out, Elba Island is sea level. All right. The  
11 hook-up at the pipeline in South Carolina is 520  
12 to 580 feet elevation.

13 You know, rivers flow downhill, so it would  
14 seem to me that it would be easier to get the gas  
15 going downhill than it would the other way  
16 around. Now, if that's the case, then I fail to  
17 see -- maybe they could explain it different to  
18 me, but I fail to see how they could say that a  
19 small movement, four or five miles, when they  
20 were six to nine miles away would affect the  
21 efficiency of that pump operation.

22 And the last thing that I want to point  
23 out, there's approximately 18 families living  
24 3500 miles -- 3500 -- excuse me -- 3500 feet from  
25 the pumping station, and more than 90 percent of

1 these families live 3000 feet or less.

2 Now, the -- going back to what was  
3 mentioned here a while ago about explosions, one,  
4 the most recent one in Ohio, and it was in a very  
5 remote area, but they had flames a thousand feet  
6 in the air and it blackened everything around  
7 there. It was felt for 12 miles. It was heard  
8 for 25 miles.

9 Now, you know, maybe safety is their number  
10 one concern, but who is to say that that can't  
11 happen, that, you know, that's just out of the  
12 question. So my request would be to find an  
13 alternative site that doesn't endanger so many  
14 people around the area. Thank you.

15 MR. BOWMAN: The next speaker is Bob  
16 Manley.

17 MR. MANLY: My name is Bob Manley,  
18 M-A-N-L-E-Y, and I would like to read a letter  
19 that I sent to the Elberton Star concerning this  
20 proposed pumping station:

21 My partner Gerald Parks and I bought our  
22 first piece of Elbert County property over 39  
23 years ago. We have been paying Elbert County  
24 taxes for all of those 39 years, plus we have  
25 purchased three additional pieces of property

1 over the years and paid taxes on these pieces  
2 also. The original intent was to buy some rural  
3 property that was quiet and beautiful and would  
4 be an investment for our retirement.

5 Two of these pieces are within 300 feet or  
6 slightly over one-half mile of the proposed  
7 pumping station by El Paso. One parcel is about  
8 2000 feet or less than one-half mile. The last  
9 parcel belongs to Gerald Parks, my partner, and  
10 is within 800 feet of the five-acre work space  
11 that would contain the 10,000-horsepower gas  
12 turbine engine.

13 "This parcel that was closest to the engine  
14 has a home that we occupy when we're in Elbert  
15 County. If these properties were zoned now,  
16 which they are not, they would be zoned rural  
17 agricultural and residential. If it were to be  
18 zoned two years from now with the heavy turbine  
19 in place, it would be zoned heavy industrial.  
20 There goes our investment in what was a  
21 beautiful, secluded, rural property right up in  
22 the smoke and emissions and decibels of the  
23 10,000-horsepower turbine engine.

24 Several points: Number one, the El Paso  
25 representatives -- and this is as of the last

1 meeting -- said they sent a letter to each  
2 property owner within one-half mile of their  
3 designated work area. Wrong. Neither Gerald  
4 Parks nor I received any letter.

5 This should have been an easy task with the  
6 tax records of Elbert County at their disposal.  
7 Several other people within the half-mile area  
8 said that they, too, did not receive a letter or  
9 any form of notification.

10 Question: Why the secrecy if this proposal  
11 would have such a negligible effect on the  
12 surrounding property?

13 Number two: Why did they limit those they  
14 said they notified within one-half mile? I feel  
15 the negative effects of this proposal will affect  
16 people at least two miles out, if not further.

17 Number three: Several people at the  
18 meeting suggested that El Paso look at an  
19 alternative site below the Hartwell Dam. The  
20 pipeline is there. There's already a lot of  
21 noise from the dam and the generation of  
22 electricity, and there are very few residents in  
23 that immediate area.

24 Number four: According to the El Paso  
25 representatives, this gas turbine will run 24/7.

1       There will be no let-up in the emission and noise  
2       pollution.

3               Number five: The El Paso representatives  
4       claim they were good neighbors. I feel sure as  
5       individuals they may be, but the only way they  
6       can be a good neighbor of mine is to be somebody  
7       else's neighbor.

8               MR. BOWMAN: Next speaker who has signed up  
9       is Karen Hill.

10              MS. HILL: Everybody here is very  
11       emotional, you know, because these are our homes  
12       that are being attacked. All right. Basically  
13       attacked, okay. Larry Richardson was talking  
14       about well water. Every resident out there is on  
15       well water, okay. Hartwell city will not run  
16       pipelines out there. They will not get water to  
17       us. We can't get cable out there. Okay. We're  
18       too far out. It's a very rural company.

19              When I tell people -- when I'm at work and  
20       a patient asks me where do you live, I say,  
21       Montevideo. They say, that's God's country,  
22       because it is. It's a lot of nature out there:  
23       The redtail hawks. I've seen owls in our  
24       backyard, bobcats, you know. All this can be  
25       turned away, moved away because of the noise.

1           Okay. Constant noise, there are studies  
2 shown that constant noise can cause stress, okay.  
3 Stress can cause health issues. All right.

4           The explosions that have happened, they may  
5 not have been your company, but it's the same  
6 operation. Okay. The explosion in Pennsylvania,  
7 lubricating oil went into the air and covered  
8 1600 feet of land. Okay. This lubricating oil,  
9 and he mentioned that there's some lubricating  
10 oil, if that gets into the land, that can get  
11 into our water source. Okay. It can pollute our  
12 water source, so accidents happen.

13           You can take all the measures, you know,  
14 and you can say we're as safe a company that's  
15 ever been, but accidents happen. People  
16 sometimes fall asleep on the job, too, okay.  
17 Nobody is 100 percent perfect. Accidents happen.  
18 It can happen to you and it can happen to us.  
19 Okay. We're raising our children out here.

20           Okay. These girls have been raised there.  
21 My daughter is at home. You know, this is a  
22 place that we want to leave to our children, a  
23 safe haven for our children one day, and it's  
24 being threatened.

25           It's come to my attention just a couple of

1 days ago that there was one girl that was  
2 thinking about building a house but has decided  
3 not to do it because of this fact, this proposed  
4 site, this proposed compression station that  
5 they're wanting to put across the street from  
6 where she wanted to build a house. And this land  
7 has been in her family for years, the Teasleys.  
8 They've been there for a long time. They farm  
9 that land out there. She decided not to build a  
10 house. So if she's not going to build a house on  
11 property that belongs to her family, who in the  
12 world, you know, is going to want to move out  
13 there?

14 If we wanted to sell our property to move  
15 somewhere else to try and find a more peaceful  
16 place, who in the world is going buy it? Nobody.  
17 Nobody is going to want it. If you want to have  
18 to move to a place where there's constant noise,  
19 who wants to do that? Would you want to do that?  
20 Any of you? Do any of you want to live in a  
21 place where there's going to be constant noise  
22 and threat, a continuous, constant threat 24/7,  
23 and that's the way we look at it.

24 You look at it as a business, a financial  
25 profit for your company. We look at it as a

1 loss, a huge loss. Okay. It's not what I'm  
2 willing to give up, and it's our home. We've put  
3 our life earnings into our homes. We can't just  
4 pick up and start over. We can't just abandon it  
5 and go somewhere else. We can't do that. But  
6 you all, your company, has the money. You can go  
7 somewhere else. We cannot. Okay. But it is a  
8 threat to the land.

9 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you. That's our last  
10 speaker signed up. Is there anyone else who  
11 would like to come up and make a comment?

12 MR. TURNER: I would like to make one other  
13 comment.

14 MR. BOWMAN: Sure.

15 MR. TURNER: Again, Barry Turner. You can  
16 see that a lot people strongly oppose. We don't  
17 want this compressor station to ruin our  
18 community. But FERC has got to make a decision,  
19 and if they make a decision to move forward with  
20 this project, I want to make sure there's no  
21 expense spared, El Paso, to make this as  
22 noiseless, as sightless as possible.

23 Larry Richardson mentioned the stars in the  
24 sky. For folks that live in the city, they don't  
25 know what they're missing. You come to my house,

1       you will see wonders God intended you to see.

2       It's unbelievable. Thank you.

3               MR. BOWMAN: Anyone else?

4               MR. GRIFFITH: I did have one last thing  
5       and somebody else can speak. I wanted to be  
6       absolutely sure, the pumping station --

7               MR. BOWMAN: Can you state your name,  
8       please?

9               MR. GRIFFITH: Don Griffith. The pumping  
10       station -- like Andy -- is going to turn the gas  
11       south and it's going to boost the PSI from around  
12       600 or 700 PSI to twice that, to shove it south;  
13       is that correct? And I want to say, first of  
14       all, thank you, FERC, for being here. We went  
15       through this with Elba for four years and never  
16       saw FERC until the final, when it went through  
17       the courts.

18              And so thank you all so much for being here  
19       and listening, and I hope you can seriously  
20       consider all the things these folks have said.  
21       But that was my understanding. The pumping  
22       station -- we've now redirected the gas, it's  
23       going to go south?

24              MR. BOWMAN: That's part of their proposal,  
25       yes, to redirect flow.

1           MR. GRIFFITH: And I think the safety issue  
2           is something that these folks are talking about,  
3           and I think it expands, because if we've now  
4           moved it up from 600, I was told, to 700 I heard  
5           tonight to 1200 where it's going to originate  
6           from the pump station, we're shoving huge  
7           pressure through this pipe south, which means it  
8           just doesn't affect these folks. I live six  
9           miles away, but it comes within -- the pipe comes  
10          within one mile of my house.

11          Everything does blow. The Alaskan pipeline  
12          blew. Everything blows. You can read about them  
13          if you go to Google. So it is not going to maybe  
14          happen; it's going to happen sometime. I hope  
15          Elba can sight it before it happens, but if we've  
16          got this pressure and they didn't seem to give me  
17          a good answer about how high this pressure could  
18          go, and it can only contain up to a certain  
19          amount before it blows. And, yeah, I heard on  
20          the 600 PSI it was like 300 feet of flame in the  
21          air, ten miles shut off on each side of the pipe  
22          in order to clear it out for whatever it took for  
23          the stuff to burn off.

24          Now, if we're talking about 1200, you know,  
25          and nobody -- these are good folks. We dealt

1 with -- I dealt with these people with Elba for a  
2 long time. They were not mean people. Most of  
3 them didn't live in the immediate area. They  
4 weren't mean. But they didn't know and they  
5 couldn't give us answers then or the answers  
6 changed from month to month, and they don't seem  
7 to be able to give us answers right now.

8           So whatever FERC is listening to is coming  
9 from people who say, well, golly, I don't know.  
10 I hope it doesn't blow up. And we're really  
11 talking -- we're sort of a minority out here, but  
12 it is our life. If that's the direction it's  
13 going to go, we just increased the possibility of  
14 this thing blowing and the magnitude of it  
15 blowing somewhere down the line, maybe not in the  
16 next ten years, maybe 15 or 20. It took the  
17 Alaskan Pipeline 50, but these people are talking  
18 about generations, and 50 is going to be a part  
19 of that danger factor really soon.

20           Thank you all for being here.

21           MR. SANDERS: My name is Jeff Sanders. I  
22 was up here earlier. I'm somewhere in between  
23 Barry and Kim, Jim and -- I've been out here 23  
24 years. When I moved down there the Craft Road  
25 was a dirt road. I raised my daughter down

1       there, and we got a grandbaby now, my other  
2       daughter, and I would like her to see the same  
3       thing that I've seen in the last 23 years and  
4       what Brittany has seen in her lifetime, and I  
5       think if this comes, they won't see that. So  
6       we're all asking, please, just don't let it  
7       happen. Thank you.

8               MR. BOWMAN: Anyone else?

9               MS. CHAPPELEAR: My name is Kimberly  
10       Chappelear. It's C-H-A-P-P-E-L-E-A-R. And I  
11       don't own any property in Elberton or near the  
12       Rock Branch or anything. I live right there at  
13       the dam, maybe a mile from it. But I was looking  
14       at purchasing land in Elberton, but I'm not now,  
15       of course, but I -- I just have to say if they  
16       say safety precautions, they're going to do all  
17       these safety precautions, but if you have gas and  
18       you have a spark, as soon as that spark hits,  
19       it's going to blow up. I don't care if you have  
20       something that's going to tell you, hey, there's  
21       a spark, you already done blowed up before you  
22       even -- they even know.

23               I mean, why would you put something --  
24       they've already looked at sites everywhere else.  
25       Well, if -- I feel if they are going to put it

1       anywhere, they need to put it somewhere where  
2       there's already noise at like, for instance, near  
3       the dam. But if they put it near the dam and  
4       that spark they say they're going to find is  
5       going to blow it up, they're going to blow the  
6       dam up. I mean, for real? Like, why would y'all  
7       even put it here? I don't understand. Like,  
8       everybody bought this land for the, you know, the  
9       quietness and have their cattle and everything  
10      else, but it's not going to be that way if they  
11      put their 10,000-horsepower pump out there, or  
12      whatever. So I'm just saying, they just need to  
13      put it somewhere else because it doesn't need to  
14      be on Craft Road.

15               MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

16               MS. GRIFFITH: I'm Heather Griffith,  
17      G-R-I-F-F-I-T-H, like Andy. I don't know how  
18      much you've been told about the granite industry  
19      that's here in Elbert County. There are 45, I  
20      believe, actual granite quarries that dynamite  
21      regularly. I wondered why, you know, you would  
22      want to put a pipeline through a county like that  
23      anyway.

24               Probably most of the people in the room  
25      would tell you they have to adjust pictures on

1       their walls at a regular, maybe every week or so,  
2       because when they dynamite way over there it  
3       comes through the rock and it shakes your house  
4       wherever you are.

5               This pipe is also going to get a good  
6       shaking at a regular 24/7 or as often as they're  
7       dynamiting in the 45 quarries. So we would ask  
8       you to please consider that as a safety factor  
9       when you're thinking about increasing this PSI to  
10      come through Elberton. Thank you.

11             MR. BOWMAN: Anyone else?

12             Okay. Without any more speakers, the  
13      formal part of this meeting will end in a couple  
14      of minutes. I do want to mention that if anyone  
15      wants to get a copy of the transcript of this  
16      meeting, they can make arrangements with the  
17      court reporter after we're done here.

18             I also want to mention our FERC website, if  
19      you grabbed one of those pamphlets at the sign-in  
20      table, it gives you ideas of how to -- how to use  
21      our website and it shows you everything that's on  
22      there. If you type in the docket number for this  
23      project, which is CP12-11, you can find  
24      everything so far on the record about this  
25      project. It's everything that Elba submitted,

1 all their environmental information reports, and  
2 everything that we've asked Elba in response to  
3 those environmental resources to see if there's  
4 any discrepancies or things that we found in  
5 those reports.

6 We're going to be around if you have any  
7 more additional questions, and we've asked Elba  
8 to be here. We will have Elba stay in kind of  
9 the back corner to answer questions, if you have  
10 them. And we will just be up here.

11 So on behalf of FERC, really, thanks, for  
12 coming out tonight and voicing your opinions  
13 about the project. It's very worthwhile for us  
14 to come out here and listen to you all. So with  
15 that, I would like to say that the record show  
16 that the Coldwater Compressor Station Scoping  
17 Meeting in Elberton, Georgia, concluded tonight  
18 at 8:37 p.m. Thank you.

19 (Meeting concluded at 8:37 p.m.)  
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