

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

RE: *
*
PUBLIC HEARING *
*
*

DATE : March 21, 2012
TIME : 7:05 P.M.
CLIENT : ACE Federal Reporters
HELD AT : Marina de Salinas
Road 701 (Beach End)
Salinas, Puerto Rico

APPEARANCES

PRESIDENTIAL TABLE:

Mr. Dave Swearingen - Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission
Ms. Andrya Torres-Prez - Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission
Mr. Mike Trammel - Excelerate Energy

COURT REPORTER:

Ms. Michelle Acevedo-Viera

1 ***

2 PROCEEDINGS

3 (7:05 P.M.)

4 ***

5 MR. SWEARINGEN:

6 It's 7:00 o'clock. I'm going to get started in about
7 five (5) minutes, let any people coming in at the last
8 second, and then I'll get started. So, in five (5) minutes
9 I'll get it going. Thanks.

10 OFF THE RECORD

11 MR. SWEARINGEN:

12 Okay. I'm going to go ahead and get started.

13 So, now, I welcome you here tonight. Good evening. My
14 name is Dave Swearingen and I'm an environmental project
15 manager with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or
16 FERC.

17 To my right is Andrya Torres Prez, also with the FERC.
18 Phil Suter, with the FERC, was at the sign-in table, he's
19 hanging around in the back. He's also assigned to the
20 project. NRG is our environmental consulting corporation
21 Elizabeth Dolezal and Jared Brandell with NRG are at the
22 sign-in table, as well. NRG will be assisting us in our
23 environmental analysis for the Aguirre Offshore GasPort
24 Project.

25 Also, assisting us will be several cooperating agencies,

1 the United States Coast Guard, the United States Corps of
2 Engineers, and the Puerto Rico Planning Board have already
3 agreed to be cooperating agencies to assist us in the review
4 of this project.

5 So, again, I want to welcome you all here tonight. Let
6 the record show that the Salinas Scoping Meeting began at
7 7:05 P.M., March 21, 2012.

8 Now, I'm going to let Ms. Torres introduce herself and
9 say a few words.

10 MS. TORRES:

11 Buenas noches. Mi nombre es Andrya Torres Prez y estoy
12 representando a FERC. Yo trabajo, bueno, soy de Puerto Rico,
13 para que lo sepan, y trabajo como ingeniera qumica y
14 manejadora de proyectos en el rea de gas natural.

15 Mi rol en el proyecto es procesar la aplicacin de
16 Excelerate y revisar los aspectos no ambientales del
17 proyecto.

18 Al final de la reunin, nosotros nos vamos a quedar aqu
19 en el saln y si tienen alguna pregunta en espaol, y
20 prefieren hacrmela a m, pueden hablar conmigo al final.
21 Muchas gracias.

22 MR. SWEARINGEN:

23 Okay. Thank you. As you can tell, I will be conducting
24 this meeting in English. However, we have arranged for a
25 translation service to provide a real time Spanish

1 translation. If you haven't already, you can pick up a
2 set
3 of these headphones, they're at the table in the back. What
4 this allows is if I speak in English you should hear Spanish
5 in your headset. If later on, if you want to give comments,
6 and you feel comfortable speaking in Spanish, that's fine,
7 because I'm going to have this headset, and I will be able to
8 hear the English translation. So, it should work out fairly
9 well. We did this last night, and there weren't any problems
10 with it.

11 If you notice, there's a court reporter in the back of
12 the room. And she is transcribing this meeting for the
13 public record. She'll be able to transcribe both, English
14 and Spanish, so, again, the actual words that are spoken, and
15 the actual ideas that are presented, will be transcribed
16 directly into the public record for this project. The final
17 transcript will be then into the public file, and I'll talk
18 a little bit more about that later.

19 The purpose of this meeting is to give you the
20 opportunity to provide environmental comments on Excelerate's
21 proposed project. Excelerate entered into the FERC Pre-
22 Filing Process on January 11th of this year. At that time,
23 we began our review of the facilities that we refer to as the
24 Offshore GasPort Project.

25 The Aguirre Offshore GasPort Project would deliver
26 natural gas directly to the existing Central Aguirre Power

1 Plant. This power plant is currently powered by imported
2 fuel oil. Excelerate's project would facilitate the
3 conversion of the plant to use natural gas as the primary
4 fuel source. The main facilities that Excelerate is
5 considering are an offshore liquefied natural gas, what we
6 call LNG, an import terminal about four (4) miles off the
7 shore. There will be about four (4) miles of pipeline
8 linking the offshore receiving facility to the power plant.
9 The offshore portion would consist of a fixed platform and a
10 permanent docking of a vessel. Imported LNG would be
11 vaporized into a gas at the terminal and then transported by
12 the pipeline to the existing Aguirre Power Plant.

13 In a moment, I'll ask a representative from Excelerate
14 to take the floor to present a more detailed project
15 description. They'll also be able to answer some of your
16 questions regarding the project, and they'll hang around
17 after the meeting, so that you can talk to them one on one,
18 if you have some more specific or technical questions
19 directly for Excelerate.

20 Right now, I'm going to talk a little bit about the
21 scoping process and public involvement in FERC projects in
22 general. The main FERC Docket Number for this project is
23 PF12-4. The "PF" means that we are in the "pre-filing" stage
24 of the process. Once Excelerate files a formal application,
25 then a new docket number will be assigned.

1 The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA,
2 requires
3 that the FERC Commission take into the consideration the
4 environmental impacts associated with new natural gas
5 facilities. Scoping is the general term that we use for
6 soliciting input from the public before the environmental
7 analysis is conducted. So, the idea is that we come out and
8 we hold these meetings, and we open up a public comment
9 period, a scoping period, so that residents of the area,
10 people that are interested in the environment, agencies, just
11 anybody who cares to comment, can have opportunities to
12 comment on the project. That's the main reason I'm here
13 tonight, is to gather whatever comments that you may have on
14 this project.

15 So, what do we do with those comments? Well, what we
16 are doing is we are starting our environmental analysis, the
17 end result will be an environmental impact statement, what we
18 call an EIS. So when we issued our Notice of Intent last
19 month, we opened up the scoping period telling the public
20 that we are going to develop an EIS. When I say "we", that's
21 the FERC as the lead, but also the cooperating agencies.
22 Agencies that have to issue permits for this project will use
23 the FERC environmental process in order to help their
24 permitting process.

25 The FERC is an independent regulatory agency. We have
26 resource specialists on staff. I, personally, am a

1 biologist. So, I'll be looking at biological impacts. We
2 have archeologists, geologists, water resource specialists,
3 people who look at air impacts, noise impacts, land use, and
4 in this case it would be use of the bay, fisheries impacts.
5 We have specialists on our staff that are capable of
6 reviewing that information that Excelerate sends to us.

7 As I mentioned before, we have NRG, which is an
8 environmental consulting corporation. They also have
9 resource specialists that will be assisting us. The various
10 cooperating agencies, the Coast Guard, the Corps of
11 Engineers, they have experts, and the Puerto Rico Planning
12 Board, they have experts, also, that will be instrumental in
13 the environmental review.

14 I mentioned Phil Suter earlier as a staff member of
15 FERC. He's an LNG engineer. He'll be looking at, along with
16 the Coast Guard, a lot of the issues associated with the LNG
17 tankers, and the receiving facility, and the details of the
18 design of the project.

19 I mentioned the NOI we sent out last month. If you
20 didn't get one, or you need an extra copy, there's copies at
21 the table where you came in. We have them printed, both in
22 English and in Spanish.

23 We have ve set an ending date of March 30th of this year,
24 for the scoping period. However, the end of the scoping
25 period is not the end of the public involvement. There will

1 be a comment period, including additional public meetings,
2 once the draft environmental impact statement is published.

3 An important step in the environmental review process
4 and the preparation of an EIS is to determine which
5 environmental resources and issues are most important to you.
6 Your comments and concerns, along with those of other people
7 who may have already commented, or may intend to comment
8 during the scoping period, all those comments and concerns
9 will be taken under consideration. So, your comments
10 tonight, will be very important with helping us conduct our
11 environmental analysis.

12 As I mentioned before, what we do with those comments is
13 we take them into consideration when we conduct our
14 environmental analysis. We work on that analysis
15 independently of what the company is doing. We require the
16 company to send us information about their project. The
17 analysis that we conduct is independent of what their
18 proposal is.

19 As I said before, the FERC is an independent regulatory
20 agency. It's not a FERC project. We are not the proponents.
21 That might be different from some of the projects around here
22 that you might have heard of before about who's who, who's
23 the proponent, and who's regulating it. This is a different
24 project than other ones that you might have heard of
25 involving pipelines across the land and things like that.

1 This project is specifically for the offshore gas port
2 that
3 Excelerate is proposing.

4 As I mentioned before, we will publish our findings in
5 the draft environmental impact statement, and that will be
6 mailed out to all the people on the mailing list. We will
7 then continue our analysis, revise the draft of our
8 environmental impact statement, and issue a final
9 environmental impact statement that will address the comments
10 that we receive on the draft.

11 The EIS will be published in both English and in
12 Spanish. As we noted in the NOI, the EIS will be distributed
13 on a CD. So, what this means is the default position of the
14 publication of the environmental impact statement will be to
15 send you a CD in the mail. If you don't want a CD, you need
16 to let us know. That's fine, because we will publish paper
17 copies. But we are not going to mail them out, unless you
18 ask for one. In the NOI there was a check the box that says:
19 "I want a paper copy", and then you can check if you want one
20 in Spanish or in English. The CD will have both versions,
21 the Spanish and the English versions on the CD. The paper
22 copy you get to choose. I don't know about you, but,
23 personally, I prefer to read a paper copy. I want to read a
24 book in front of me. I don't want to read off the computer
25 strain. So, if you're like me, you ask for a paper copy.

26 If you misplaced your NOI and you don't know if you can,

1 you know, have it at home to send it back with the check
2 box,
3 just let us know in the back. There's a place where you can
4 put a check on the table in the back by your name, and we'll
5 make sure you get a paper copy, if that's what you want.

6 Now, I need to differentiate the difference between what
7 the FERC Commission does and what the FERC environmental
8 staff does. As I mentioned before, I represent the FERC
9 environmental staff. We are working on the environmental
10 review of the project. But there's a whole lot other things
11 at FERC that go on that take a look, you know, when, under
12 for these types of projects. The non-environmental issues
13 will be handled by Ms. Torres's team and also some other
14 teams at FERC. What the Commission will do is they will take
15 a look at the analysis of the non-environmental issues and
16 the analysis of the environmental impact statement together,
17 and whatever recommendations of staff those could send up to
18 our Commission. And then our Commission will vote on whether
19 or not to approve this project.

20 The EIS that I'm talking about, the environmental
21 document, is not a decision making document. The EIS does
22 not make a decision on whether or not to approve this
23 project. Only the FERC Commission can make that decision,
24 and the EIS is one factor in their making that decision.

25 So, what the EIS will do is that it will disclose to the
26 public the environmental impact of the project. It will look

1 for ways to reduce impacts, to mitigate impacts, to
2 suggest
3 and/or require different types of construction methods,
4 restoration methods that will help produce impacts, it will
5 also look at alternatives.

6 The company proposes a particular project. Sometimes
7 that might not be the best way. There might be an alternate
8 way to meet the same end through a different method. Maybe
9 a slightly different method, maybe a little bit more of a
10 different method. That's one of the things that we'll look
11 at in the environmental impact statement. And as I
12 mentioned, then FERC staff will make our final conclusions
13 and recommendations that the Commission will take up.

14 So, are there any questions about the FERC process
15 scoping, why I'm here, and where we are in this process right
16 now?

17 Okay. That's my overview of the FERC process. Next on
18 the agenda is a project overview by Excelerate. I think
19 Mike, is it going to be Mike? Mike Trammel is going to
20 provide the Excelerate presentation.

21 MR. TRAMMEL:

22 Good evening. I apologize the way we are set up. We
23 are going to have a presentation if you wanted to move over
24 so that you can see, there are all these posts in the way.
25 If you can't see, let me know. I'll wait until everyone
26 moves around to get a good view. Now I can read it. Okay.

1 Thank you Omar, and thank you Dave for the introduction
2 and
3 FERC's participation. We appreciate working with FERC.

4 Again, good evening. My name is Mike Trammel. I'm the
5 Environmental Director for Excelerate Energy. And I'll be
6 responsible during this licensing process for the company to
7 work with the FERC and their staff and our staff to make sure
8 we gather the necessary information to come to the conclusion
9 with an environmental impact statement.

10 Some background. I've been with Excelerate since 2004,
11 shortly after the company was formed. I have approximately
12 thirty (30) years in the environmental end of the natural gas
13 energy business, and have worked on numerous projects over
14 the years. I thank you all for coming out tonight. It's
15 very important for us as project proponents that we hear from
16 the public.

17 Our opening slide, this is an artist rendering, I don't
18 want anyone to be alarmed that we actually have a photograph
19 of the facility already built. But this is a rendering that
20 we've been working on, and there will be more of those
21 provided as we progress with the project.

22 In the background is actual of the landscape that kind
23 of gives you an image of what the facility, where it's
24 currently proposed to be placed. This location has not been
25 finalized, but this is an example of the vessel that is owned
26 by us. It will serve as floating terminal where the LNG will

1 be regasified. In the front of the rendering, and I'll
2 have
3 this available, you all can see it afterwards, is where we
4 will bring LNG in to be transported, transferred into the LNG
5 facility, and to be regasified.

6 Like I said, Excelerate Energy was formed in 2003. We
7 are a pioneer and world leader in innovative offshore LNG
8 solutions. And we have four (4) main activities within our
9 company: floating liquefaction, where we are actually making
10 LNG; we have transportation, because we have a fleet of these
11 vessels to move LNG around the world; regasification, which
12 we will be performing for the Aguirre project, where we will
13 take LNG and regasify it on board the ship and deliver
14 natural gas into the Aguirre facility; and we have a trading
15 arm where part of the company we trade and move LNG around
16 the world in the world market.

17 We have been established, as I said, in 2003. We are
18 located in the Woodlands, Texas, which is North of Houston,
19 about thirty (30) miles North. And we have, over the course
20 of the development of our company, we have been the first in
21 developing a lot of the technologies that are being used in
22 the LNG industry today.

23 We have eight (8) of the vessels that are in the
24 second... We have eight (8) of these vessels in our fleet.
25 These are all equipped. They're normal LNG tankers that you
26 hear about moving LNG around the world, but we also have the

1 regasification, the ability to change the LNG back into
2 gas
3 on board the ships. So, there's no need for a land-based
4 facility, it's all done offshore in a floating terminal. We
5 also have one vessel that doesn't have that equipment, that
6 is under charter to us, that we used in our international
7 trade.

8 Excelerate Energy is experienced in what we do. The
9 yellow tags here we currently either own or operate six (6)
10 facilities around the world. We have two (2) in Argentina,
11 two (2) currently in the United States offshore, one (1) in
12 Northern England, and we operate one (1) in Kuwait.

13 The green tags are the projects that are under
14 development, which includes the Aguirre GasPort. And we have
15 a project that we are under contract with Petrobras in
16 Brazil.

17 So, we have operated these six (6) yellow current
18 facilities without accident or incident for the history of
19 those projects. So, we are proud of the fact that we not
20 only can design, build, but operate these facilities in a
21 safe manner.

22 Quickly, we've talked about the purpose of what PREPA is
23 trying to do to convert their facilities, and just quickly,
24 why natural gas from the Energy Information Administration.
25 We know that natural gas is less expensive than crude oil.
26 They've shown that over a twenty-five (25) year period the

1 price of natural gas is very stable. The oil prices tend
2 to
3 be more volatile. So, if you can find it, it's a preferred
4 fuel.

5 From an environmental benefit, shows that natural gas
6 has fewer emissions than burning the fuel oil, there's less
7 sulfur dioxides, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matters
8 that you find in some of the other fuels.

9 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

10 You want the questions at the end?

11 MR. TRAMMEL:

12 Yes. Or you can... Well, you have to because we have
13 to use the microphone so the court reporter...

14 LNG is natural gas, that is cooled down to -260F and
15 when the methane is cooled down at that temperature, it turns
16 into a stable liquid. LNG does not burn in itself, it won't
17 explode. It's very stable and that's why we can transport
18 LNG around the world in these tankers. The tankers are not
19 under pressure, or they are under little atmosphere pressure.
20 So, the tankers don't go boom. It's odorless, nontoxic, non-
21 corrosive, it's been safely and securely transported around
22 the world for over fifty (50) years. So, the LNG industry
23 has a very safe history around the world.

24 So, what is a floating terminal? I mentioned the
25 Aguirre GasPort will be a floating terminal. Again, our
26 vessel has everything that it needs to be a terminal. We

1 have all the storage and fore-tanks that are currently in
2 all
3 LNG tankers. On the front of the vessel, we have installed
4 the gasification vaporizing trains, similar to all of the
5 land-based facilities here in the United States and around
6 the world. We have taken proven technology and put it on
7 board the vessel. So, we can do everything on board the
8 vessel.

9 Our vessel is capable of delivering LNG in three (3)
10 different ways. We can offload the liquid as liquid to be
11 delivered such as over in EcoElctrica, they bring liquid in.
12 We can deliver the liquid or in the case of PREPA and the
13 Aguirre facility, we regasify and we can discharge the gas
14 through a high pressure valve over the side towards the
15 midline of the vessel. Or we also in our Massachusetts and
16 Gulf of Mexico facilities, we have the capability of
17 discharging the gas through a submerged buoy that is
18 offshore, comes in through a pipeline to the facility. So,
19 we have a versatile vessel that can handle any situation, any
20 needs of a particular customer, and we are able to develop a
21 solution that meets their needs.

22 The cost of operating the floating terminal is much less
23 than the land base, because it's concentrated on board the
24 vessel, you don't need a land, a lot of land. So, it costs
25 less. It's less land impact.

26 Real quickly, the Aguirre GasPort facility, the way that

1 we will regasify the LNG is we will use a recirculating
2 closed loop regasification method where from the cargo tank
3 the liquid LNG at -260 will be pumped out and will circulate
4 through a closed loop using fresh water that's on board the
5 ship that's brought in. It goes through using steam from the
6 combustion of our propulsion engines, using that excess steam
7 to warm up this medium, and the LNG passes through a heat
8 exchanger, warms up, turns back in a natural gas, and it's
9 delivered at about 40F towards downstream customers. So, in
10 this method here at Aguirre, there will be no sea water used
11 for the regasification of the LNG. All of this, the medium
12 is inside already contained on the vessel.

13 A little bit more about the Aguirre Offshore project.
14 I wanted to give some background so you understand how we got
15 to where we are today. In August, 2008, we made our first
16 visit to Puerto Rico. We had become aware of PREPA's efforts
17 to convert to natural gas their facilities from oil. And we
18 looked at that opportunity to, perhaps, come down and
19 approach PREPA to see if our technology might be something
20 they would be interested in. I was particularly interested
21 in bringing a project to Puerto Rico, because I was born in
22 San Juan, many years ago, and left when I was a child. And
23 in order to bring a project back to the Island, was very
24 exciting for me. So, when I was able to come back in 2008,
25 to fly in, to see the Island for the first time in fifty plus

1 years was very exciting. So, I vested interest in coming
2 to
3 the Island.

4 We met with PREPA the first time in August, 2008.
5 Several months later, after discussing with them their needs,
6 we went back and developed a proposal to them of how we felt
7 like our technology would meet their needs. As you can see,
8 the time frame from January, 2009 to the Fall of November, we
9 continued to look and determine what would be the best
10 solution for PREPA.

11 We determined that an offshore solution would be the
12 best solution for them. And at that time PREPA made the
13 decision that they would conduct a public expression of
14 interest and pre-qualification process to solicit vendors
15 that could provide an offshore solution.

16 In December, 2010, Excelerate participated with, what we
17 were told were four (4) other companies, we provided our
18 qualifications, and went through the public review process.
19 And in February, Excelerate was notified by PREPA that they
20 had been selected as the company that would develop this
21 offshore solution for them. So, we went through a full
22 publicly available review process before our selection.

23 And we began our discussions with PREPA in the Spring of
24 2011, on how we would move forward, how we would set up
25 sharing information with them, and this is all pre where we
26 are today. In December of this last year, we had provided

1 enough information about what we were proposing, that it
2 was
3 time that we approached the FERC to request that we can
4 initiate this pre-filing process that we are currently in.
5 And as Dave said that in February, 2012... No, I get all my
6 dates off. Sorry about that. In February of this year, we
7 were approved by FERC and we began the process. And...
8 January, yeah... In January, we began the pre-filing
9 process. In February, we held our first open house in
10 Aguirre. For those of you who attended that, that was the
11 first introduction to the area of our proposed project. And
12 in March, last night, was the first FERC public scoping
13 meeting, and we are here tonight. And this, now we've gotten
14 from August, 2008 until now, there's been a lot of
15 discussions and planning to make sure that we have the right
16 solution to present.

17 Recapping, PREPA developed a plan to do the conversions.
18 It was determined that offshore was the right solution. They
19 did an expression of interest, and we participated in that
20 process, and here we are, today, we're in the pre-filing
21 process, opening up the public comment period, or comments
22 and licensing process.

23 Why did we select the Aguirre plant? There's a lot of
24 questions to that. In the discussions, the goal is to
25 provide natural gas as the primary fuel for the Aguirre
26 Plant, wanting to change to a less expensive fuel for the

1 facility, and also, the benefits of a cleaner burning
2 fuel.

3 The Aguirre Power Plant is the largest, has the largest
4 power producing capacity for PREPA, which means they would
5 burn more fuel than any of their other facilities. So, if
6 you convert the largest plant, with a cheaper fuel, the
7 utility could realize a greater savings in their fuel costs.
8 And finally, the environmental benefits that inherently come
9 with converting to natural gas, the switching from oil to
10 natural gas would reduce air emissions. We also would see a
11 reduction of the number of fuel barges that cross the Jobos
12 Bay Natural Reserve, that we've moved the fuel delivery to
13 offshore outside the Barrier islands, and that's what we
14 believe would be a benefit for the Reserve.

15 This gives you an idea of the location offshore Aguirre,
16 as you have the information approximately four (4) miles
17 offshore from the plant. We will be delivering initially up
18 to around 250 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to
19 the plant based on a 1500 mega watt full capacity.

20 Also, the vessel, they don't need to have a storage tank
21 onshore. The vessel provides for them 3.2 billion cubic feet
22 of natural gas storage, the equivalent of 151,000 cubic
23 meters of liquid natural gas. They have storage offshore.

24 This is a configuration of what we are looking at, for
25 what the vessels... And this is the view of the opening
26 slide here. The vessel, the red vessel that we saw in the

1 opening, the plant is towards this direction. The EBRB or
2 the FSRU floating unit, regasification unit will be stationed
3 here full time. It still has propulsion and is able to leave
4 in the event of a storm, or any other emergencies, it has
5 full propulsion, it can leave, but for the purpose of
6 providing fuel to the plant, it will be there 24/7, 365
7 providing the primary fuel.

8 The other vessels that will replenish as we regasify
9 will come periodically under the current scenario of their
10 gas needs. About once every three (3) weeks a tanker will
11 come and offload their cargo into the FSRU where it will be
12 regasified and delivered.

13 This gives you an idea of what it looks like with the
14 vessel on board interconnected with the jetty there. This is
15 the map that's in the information and that was up here first.
16 This is just a proposed routing. We need to get from the
17 offshore, which is basically that's the star to the plant.
18 This is not the route. This has not been selected. This has
19 not been picked as the only option. This is a rendering of
20 our proposal, the quickest way to get from here to there.

21 As Dave said, in the process we will look at all
22 alternatives, and whichever one is selected, will be the...
23 Was it me? So there's... And that's what we're using the
24 comment period here now to hear comments from the public on
25 routing through here.

1 Where we are currently, we've completed geophysical
2 studies, we're studying the bay right now for this alignment.
3 You might have seen some vessels coming out of Salinas that
4 they are doing work out there gathering data that will be
5 used in our environmental reports. We'll be evaluating that,
6 and following up with bathymetric and other benthic surveys
7 to make sure that we are not impacting ecosystems in this
8 area as well. We are going to do a thorough survey and
9 collection of data will be part of the public process.

10 In a few weeks, we will be, we've applied for and will
11 receive our investigative permit to come out to the offshore
12 and do some more detailed studies on where we will actually
13 place the facility. So, there will be vessels going out
14 there gathering that data and will become part of the EIS.

15 Again, these are proposed locations you have to, if
16 you're going to have a map and you draw a line, a line has to
17 go on the map, but don't think that this is a done deal.
18 This is now open for review.

19 And so, here we are tonight, we will be establishing for
20 the FERC rules a web site. Everyone will be notified of a
21 project web site that you can access to find out when there
22 will be any other public meetings, any activities that are
23 going on that you can participate in, where you can find
24 information linked to the FERC site. Hopefully, after, if we
25 are approved, and we go to construction, there will be

1 notices on where construction vessels are.

2 This site will be open to the public so you can find out
3 what exactly is going on with the project. Our
4 communications director is here, and she says that we should
5 be live with the project web site in a couple of weeks, in
6 April. Right? Yes. Thank you. We are holding her to that.
7 It should be ready, and we'll get a notice when it's
8 available.

9 And for the community, one of the things that... I
10 won't go into that, because that's kind of an advocacy that
11 we could talk about, that it will have some impacts on the
12 community and we can discuss that. I won't bring that up in
13 the public.

14 And finally, here we are, pre-filing process. This is
15 what we are doing right now. Following the filing, we are
16 estimating about twelve (12) months of licensing process.
17 And if we are successful with that, then we go into
18 construction and it will be a nine (9) to twelve (12) month
19 period. So, the public is encouraged to participate at all
20 the time. So... What's that? There we go.

21 MR. SWEARINGEN:

22 Thank you, Mike. I think we probably have some
23 questions. Probably the best thing to do is to pass that
24 microphone.

25 MR. TRAMMEL:

1 Oh, my grandson.

2 MR. SWEARINGEN:

3 To pass that microphone to anybody who has a question.
4 As I said before, the meeting is being transcribed, and the
5 only way that court reporter can pick up everything is if we
6 use a microphone. So, you had a question. You had a
7 question that you wanted to ask? For audience questions it's
8 okay. It's a question from the audience. We're fine.

9 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

10 I was just curious about the graph that you had there,
11 about the fuel prices. Was that graph historical prices, or
12 was that projected future prices?

13 MR. TRAMMEL:

14 It includes the...

15 MR. SWEARINGEN:

16 You have to pass the microphone.

17 MR. TRAMMEL:

18 It's current, and then, the EIA projects prices over the
19 next twenty-five (25) years. So, those are projected prices.

20 MR. SWEARINGEN:

21 Any other questions? Yes, sir.

22 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

23 I realize Excelerate is known for these floating vessels
24 that do all the conversion of liquified gas into regular gas.
25 I wonder if any consideration has been given to placing the

1 vessel near the present plant in Aguirre, rather than
2 putting
3 this thing way offshore, or utilizing the existing bay
4 facility, which is just off this map here, in Las Mareas',
5 where Phillips Petroleum is located. They have a port with
6 a breakwater in it. And I wonder if any consideration has
7 been given to using that location and existing port, rather
8 than making a new one over there.

9 MR. SWEARINGEN:

10 Okay. I'll let Mike answer that question for
11 Excelerate, and then, I'll answer the question as far as how
12 FERC reviews alternatives.

13 MR. TRAMMEL:

14 Thank you. That's a good question. The problem with
15 bringing the vessel closer to the plant is that Jobos Bay is
16 about ten (10) to twenty (20) feet deep as the deepest that
17 it is, and our vessels require approximately about thirty-
18 five (35) to forty (40) feet of draft, so, it wouldn't make
19 it in. Secondly, we looked at offshore, because of the
20 concerns of barges coming in for delivery of oil, moving it
21 away from offshore, getting it away from the community. And
22 yes, we did look at Las Mareas', it was one of the first
23 places we went to look at, because it was a protected bay.
24 The concerns were, and it had a great jetty. The concerns
25 were with the AES has very active deliveries of coal, bring
26 two (2) large vessels in confined bay, kind of exceeded the

1 safety standards that we have. We have two (2) large
2 vessels, if there was an emergency, they both couldn't get
3 out of the bay at the same time, the mouth is very narrow.
4 We were disappointed that it wasn't wide enough to be able to
5 get the vessels in there, as it's very protected, but it,
6 from a safety standpoint, from our operations, having two
7 (2) large vessels in the bay, it made it difficult in case of
8 emergency to exit. And so, we looked at that. The mouth was
9 narrow to navigate. You couldn't get the vessel and the tugs
10 through there at the same time. There was a lot of reasons
11 why.

12 Then the other thing, in order to get gas over to
13 Aguirre, you'd have to build a land pipeline. And at the
14 time that we spoke to them, there was a disagreement of
15 building a land pipeline from EcoElctrica to Aguirre. So,
16 that wasn't in our plans, so we tried to move it offshore.
17 That's the reason that that decision was made, but mostly for
18 Las Mareas', it was too small.

19 MR. SWEARINGEN:

20 Okay. You've heard the company's take on that. At the
21 FERC what we will do, is it's incumbent upon us to verify
22 that type of information. In our alternative analysis, we
23 will be asking questions of the company to send us
24 documentation of this information about they say that the
25 depths or, you know, the widths of these, the channels are

1 not enough, we will do an independent verification when we
2 do
3 our alternate analysis.

4 It may be that everything they said is accurate and
5 true, and that there's no other way to do this efficiently.
6 It may be that we do find an alternative route or an
7 alternative, you know, project aspect that we might end up
8 recommending. I can't say at this point, but we will review
9 that in the environmental impact statement.

10 Are there any other questions for Mike?

11 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

12 Thank you. I just have one question. You said before
13 you had a proven track record of existing facilities over
14 their time of life span. What is the life span of those?

15 MR. TRAMMEL:

16 Currently, the... Well, our first facility in the Gulf
17 of Mexico was installed in 2005. And the most recent one in
18 Argentina went in service in May of 2011. So, for the
19 purposes in all that we've been operating there hasn't been
20 accidents or incidents. The life span of a facility in our
21 design is approximately twenty-five (25) to thirty (30)
22 years. The robustness of the equipment, and with
23 maintenance, it can have nearly an indefinite life if you do
24 maintenance on that. But, for the purpose of, as long as
25 we've been in operation, seven (7) years in the Gulf of
26 Mexico, as our oldest facility, there have been no incidents

1 or accidents there, and...

2 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

3 So, that's not a very long time.

4 MR. TRAMMEL:

5 That's right.

6 MR. SWEARINGEN:

7 The comment was that that was not a particular long
8 time, just for the record.

9 MR. TRAMMEL:

10 Right. And that's true.

11 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

12 Okay.

13 MR. SWEARINGEN:

14 Any other questions for Mike?

15 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

16 As a follow up to that, have any of those installations
17 survived hurricanes, or typhoons, or anything like that?

18 MR. TRAMMEL:

19 I'm glad you brought that up. Our Gulf of Mexico
20 facility is an offshore buoy system. It's one hundred and
21 sixteen (116) miles offshore of Louisiana. In that facility
22 we have a metering platform that's associated, that we don't
23 normally have. But during Katrina, we were on station
24 delivering natural gas to the Gulf Coast as Katrina came
25 through and passed approximately two hundred (200) miles to

1 the East of the facility. We were able to continue
2 operating
3 and delivering gas onshore until such time the onshore
4 facilities called us and said: "We have to leave. We'll see
5 you later." And so, we shut off the gas, our captain went to
6 South Texas to the calmer waters, Katrina blew through, we
7 came back in a matter of hours to assess any damage to our
8 metering platform, we were ready to hook back up. However,
9 as the storm came through, the onshore facility was out of
10 commission. And, so that our facility, we were up and
11 running within hours, it was the downstream. The design of
12 the Aguirre GasPort will take into consideration all wind,
13 wave, weather, all the conditions that can be expected on the
14 South Coast of Puerto Rico, will go into the design,
15 orientation, equipment, procedures, safety procedures that
16 we'll use will be taken into account in the design.

17 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

18 Category five (5) hurricane, potential.

19 MR. SWEARINGEN:

20 The question was potential category five (5) hurricane.

21 MR. TRAMMEL:

22 That will be in the design, as I said, in any event that
23 there's a named storm that comes towards the facility, the
24 captain of the vessel has the responsibility to his crew, and
25 they have certain guidelines and operations that if the sea
26 states get to a particular level, they go. He can notify the

1 power plant that it's... If it's bearing down on us, it's
2 bearing down on them, and so, there, I'm sure the plant will
3 take their own emergency procedures, we'll incorporate ours,
4 and it will be a joint decision that we got to leave to be
5 safe. The storm will pass through, and we'll come back to
6 assess any impacts that are to the stationery facility. But
7 it will be designed to the harshest conditions there.

8 MR. SWEARINGEN:

9 This gentleman had a question. You've got a question?

10 MR. ALVARADO:

11 Sorry. I need to talk in Spanish. Okay?

12 MR. SWEARINGEN:

13 That's fine.

14 MR. ALVARADO:

15 Okey. Buenas noches, mi nombre es Vctor Alvarado de la
16 comunidad aqu de Salinas.

17 MR. SWEARINGEN:

18 Oh, mister... I'm sorry, you are signed up to give
19 comments? That's fine. We have you. You can come up in a
20 minute.

21 MR. ALVARADO:

22 Okay.

23 MR. SWEARINGEN:

24 You were actually signed up for the environmental
25 comments. Right now, I mean, that's kind of like part of my

1 meeting. Right now, I'm letting him take comments
2 directly
3 related to the design of the project. Is your question
4 regarding impacts in environment or the design of the
5 project?

6 MR. ALVARADO:

7 Puedo hacer ambas? Pero puedo hacer, quiz s en las
8 otras preguntas puedo aadir las preguntas a l, porque tengo
9 algunas directas de la presentacin que l hizo.

10 MR. SWEARINGEN:

11 Okay. I'll be calling you up in a moment.

12 MR. ALVARADO:

13 Okay.

14 MR. SWEARINGEN:

15 En un momento.' Okay. We'll have one more question
16 for Mike about the design of the project over here, and then
17 we'll move on to the environmental comments.

18 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

19 Thank you. And I hate to take the time to be the last.
20 Two (2) quick questions. Who and what is Excelerate? Are
21 they an American company licensed and produced in America?
22 And two, are the ships American flagged?

23 MR. TRAMMEL:

24 Excelerate Energy is a US based company, formed in
25 Texas. Our principal owner is out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. All
26 the ownership of the company, principal ownership of

1 Excelerate Energy, is US based.

2 The vessels, as currently operating around the world are
3 foreign flagged, they are Belgium flagged. However, there
4 are things that we can do to become US flagged for this
5 facility. There's options that can do it. Currently, the
6 vessels are foreign flagged.

7 MR. SWEARINGEN:

8 Okay. I would ask that any other technical questions
9 regarding the project after the meeting Mike will stay
10 around, if you have more technical questions or questions
11 about the design or who Excelerate is, you can ask him at
12 that time.

13 Right now, I'd like to turn the meeting back to the
14 environmental review. If you have comments on the
15 environmental impacts and the resources that you feel that
16 would be impacted, that you have concerns about, that's what
17 this part of the meeting is for.

18 So, we have a sign-up list and Mr. Guzm n, you are the
19 only person who signed up to speak. But after Mr. Guzm n
20 speaks, then anybody else who wants to can come up. The one
21 thing that I would ask is that you come up and use the
22 microphone. Like I said, the court reporter cannot get a
23 transcript unless that you use the microphone. And also,
24 that you spell your name for the record, and if you are
25 representing an organization or an agency, that you also let

1 us know. And if you feel comfortable in Spanish, that's
2 fine. I'm going to put on these handy little headsets, and
3 I'll be able to hear all of your comments in English.

4 So, Mr. Guzm n, you can come up.

5 MR. ALVARADO:

6 Para efectos del rcord, otra vez, mi nombre es Vctor
7 Alvarado Guzm n. Vivo en Salinas desde que tengo tres (3)
8 meses de edad. He vivido toda mi vida aqu. He participado
9 en varias organizaciones ambientales y comunitarias aqu.

10 Primero, les agradecemos que estn haciendo este tipo
11 de proceso. Que yo recuerde, es la primera vez que yo
12 participo en un proceso donde se pretende establecer algo en
13 Salinas y se les est dando la oportunidad a la comunidad de
14 conocer el proyecto antes de que pongan una primera piedra,
15 como siempre ha sucedido anteriormente. Yo creo que eso, por
16 un lado, habla bien de las personas que est n pensando en
17 este proyecto. No?

18 Yo tengo muchas preguntas, pero yo entiendo que esto es
19 un proceso preliminar. Ahorita estaban explicando, verdad,
20 que despus viendo un proceso ya en trminos de la
21 declaracin de impacto ambiental y otras cosas. Una de las
22 preguntas que tena directamente al representante de
23 Excelerate, cuando estaban hablando de que hay otros cinco
24 (5) o seis (6) proyectos a nivel mundial que ya est n
25 trabajando, y quera saber a qu distancia de la planta, eso

1 quiz s va un poco con la pregunta que hizo una de las
2 personas, a qu distancia de esas plantas est n esas
3 embarcaciones en esos otros seis (6) puertos? Yo creo que es
4 una de las cosas importantes, verdad, para poder comparar.
5 Creo que aqu se habl de cuatro (4) millas, aqu en Aguirre,
6 y sera interesante ver cmo en esos otros puertos est
7 funcionando.

8 La otra pregunta, tambn, que tena, era si el gas que
9 se pretende traer aqu, vendra de Texas, porque entiendo que
10 si la compaa estaban hablando de que est establecida en
11 Texas.

12 Hay otro sinnmero de preguntas, primero, porque uno, yo
13 realmente, no haba visto el proyecto. Simplemente, de hecho
14 ste es el nico mapa que haba visto y entiendo muy bien el
15 punto de que sa no es el lugar por donde pasar . Eso es lo
16 que est n proponiendo, y dependiendo de este proceso, es que
17 se va a decidir por dnde pasara, si se aprobara hacer el
18 proyecto.

19 Nosotros habamos estado en una batalla en estos ltimos
20 aos con esto de los Gasoductos en Puerto Rico. Me preocupa
21 un poco si el hecho de que veo que la compaa desde agosto
22 del 2008 fue la primera vez que vino aqu a Puerto Rico, ya
23 haba una serie de presentaciones a la Autoridad de Energa
24 Elctrica en enero de 2009. Ya en febrero del 2011, se haba
25 seleccionado a Excelerate para hacer ese proyecto. Sin

1 embargo, durante ese proceso, est bamos nosotros ac
2 batallando con el llamado Va Verde y todo ese Gasoducto, y
3 en ningn momento la Autoridad de Energa Elctrica les
4 haban informado al pueblo que estaban evaluando otras
5 alternativas, que quiz s, son mucho m s viables que lo que
6 estaban proponiendo por all .

7 Pero entonces, yo creo que los cuestionamientos, y en
8 trminos ambientales que tengo, vienen de la misma confusin
9 que nos trae la Autoridad de Energa Elctrica. Y traigo
10 varias preguntas para, entonces, decirles por qu la
11 confusin.

12 A cu ntos pies de profundidad va a estar esta tubera?
13 La tubera se va a enterrar o no se va a soterrar en el
14 fondo del mar? Por aqu escuch al representante de
15 Excelerate decir que la baha creo que tiene diez (10) a
16 veinte (20) pies de profundidad, creo que fue lo que
17 utilizaron. Y la Autoridad de Energa Elctrica, en la
18 declaracin de impacto ambiental del Gasoducto del Sur, que
19 yo creo, que sera interesante que la FERC pudiera leer lo
20 que la Autoridad, en aquel entonces, dijo para descartar
21 soterrar una energa de gas natural, y unos de los lugares
22 que ellos mismos decan que no se poda hacer era en la Baha
23 de Jobos. Y una de las cosas que decan, y yo tengo aqu la
24 declaracin, estoy leyendo de aqu, ellos dicen que a
25 profundidades, a profundidades menores de doscientos (200)

1 pies, la tubera se tiene que soterrar. Y yo estoy leyendo
2 lo que dice aqu. Yo no s si esto es cierto o no. Y
3 entonces, pues, la pregunta sera, si esta tubera, que se va
4 a estar haciendo en Aguirre va a ser soterrada o no va a ser
5 soterrada en el fondo del mar.

6 Qu mtodo de construccin se utilizar , si es que se
7 va a enterrar la tubera, o no se va a enterrar. Si no se va
8 a enterrar, tambn, cmo es ese proceso. Cu l es el costo
9 de esta tubera marina? Porque la Autoridad de Energa
10 Elctrica, una de las cosas que deca era que la tubera no
11 se poda soterrar, no se poda hacer submarina, porque era
12 muy costosa. Qu parte le toca al gobierno? Cu nto ser el
13 costo para el gobierno de este proyecto? Cu nto es el
14 tr fico marino en esa rea? Estaban preguntando ahorita
15 sobre los barcos. Y una de las razones que la Autoridad de
16 Energa Elctrica deca que no se poda hacer esta tubera
17 submarina, era, precisamente, porque en esta rea de la Baha
18 de Jobos, durante pocas de huracanes, los barcos y las
19 barcazas se protegían en esta rea, y eso podra romper la
20 tubera.

21 Vuelvo y digo, no lo estoy diciendo yo. Eso dijo la
22 Autoridad de Energa Elctrica en la declaracin de impacto
23 ambiental del Gasoducto el Sur. Que, de hecho, yo no tengo
24 ninguna oposicin, todava, con el proyecto, porque estoy
25 buscando informacin para poder saber si el proyecto es bueno

1 para la comunidad. Cuando hablamos de ambiente, tenemos
2 que
3 incluir la comunidad. Verdad? Las comunidades que est n
4 all, comunidades pesqueras que viven en el rea.

5 Durante la etapa de construccin, tendr que ser
6 suspendidos o redirigido el tr fico marina del rea? Y
7 tambin, luego de ya construido y estar la tubera, tendran
8 que ser, habran unas restricciones para los pescadores,
9 restricciones para las barcas que van a estar pasando por
10 all, restricciones a la Reserva Estuarina de la Baha de
11 Jobos? Porque la tubera va a pasar, eso es parte de la
12 Reserva Estuarina de la Baha de Jobos. No escuch en la
13 presentacin ninguna referencia en trminos de la Reserva.
14 Y tambn, quisiera saber si ya se ha hecho algn
15 acercamiento a la Reserva Estuarina de la Baha de Jobos, si
16 ellos tienen alguna posicin preliminar sobre esto. Existen
17 especies en peligro de extincin en el rea seleccionada, si
18 se van a ver afectadas. Verdad?

19 De hecho, una de las razones por la que la Autoridad de
20 Energía Elctrica descartaba la tubera submarina era,
21 precisamente, porque en el rea hay especies en peligro de
22 extincin. Y digo esto de la Autoridad de Energía Elctrica,
23 porque nos confunde, al pueblo, a nosotros ac , pues, nos
24 confunde. Antes decan una cosa y ahora est n proponiendo
25 otra cosa. Yo creo que sas son cosas que hay que aclarar.

26 Hay unas preguntas que, quiz s, en trminos ambientales,

1 verdad, cuál es el costo total del proyecto? Cuánto el
2 gobierno tendrá que aportar? Cuál es el costo? A veces
3 dejamos los costos ambientales, no los evaluamos dentro de lo
4 que es el costo real del proyecto. Cuánto será el costo
5 durante el proceso y durante el funcionamiento de este
6 proyecto?

7 Tenemos otra serie de preguntas, pero yo creo que, por
8 lo menos, preliminarmente, hago este tipo de preguntas que
9 estoy haciendo, como les dije, tomando la información de la
10 propia Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica que nos confunde un
11 poco con esta propuesta. Nosotros esperamos poder seguir,
12 verdad, participaremos del proceso y, como dijeron ahorita,
13 que nos iban a estar enviando la información, yo puse la
14 información ahí, para que las personas de la comunidad puedan
15 seguir teniendo información de este proceso. Porque es
16 importante que la comunidad entienda lo que se les está
17 presentando y que sea la comunidad la que realmente decida si
18 el proyecto es beneficioso para la comunidad o no. O sea,
19 que de alguna forma, cuando hablamos del ambiente en el área,
20 no lo podemos dejar, porque, precisamente, como Las Mareas en
21 Aguirre, están en esa área y es importante que tomemos en
22 consideración cómo se afectará la comunidad. El
23 representante de Excelerate iba como que a mencionar cómo se
24 impactará la comunidad. Yo sé que, quizás, hay cosas
25 positivas y quizás negativas. Verdad? Y yo creo que es

1 bueno que nos sentemos. Si hay algo negativo del proyecto
2 y
3 se puede arreglar de alguna forma, pues, que se pueda
4 discutir con la comunidad y se pueda negociar con la
5 comunidad este tipo de proyecto.

6 Por lo menos sas son las preguntas que tengo por ahora
7 y que esperamos que podamos participar del proceso luego.
8 Gracias.

9 MR. SWEARINGEN:

10 Okay. Thank you Mr. Guzm n. You brought up some
11 questions, and I can answer a few of those, generally, and a
12 couple of them specifically. The rest of them, I will differ
13 until the environmental impact statement. And also, you
14 might have asked those to Excelerate directly at the end of
15 the meeting.

16 Your question about how is the pipe going to be run from
17 the offshore facility to the Aguirre gas plant. What
18 Excelerate is proposing right now is to lay it on the sea
19 floor. And they are not proposing to bury it at this point.
20 We will be looking at alternatives, not just routing, but
21 also, methods.

22 So, an alternate method of the pipeline is burial of
23 various... You can do a trenching type of burial, or
24 jetting. To make a trench you can do HDD, which is a
25 horizontal directional drill, for some portion of it. Those
26 are all alternative construction techniques and we will look

1 at those in the environmental impact statement. But what
2 we
3 have in front of us from Excelebrate is a proposal to lay it
4 on the sea floor.

5 Another general question you asked was about endangered
6 species and about the Reserve. Part of my job is to do
7 consultations with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the
8 National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA). NOAA is in charge
9 of managing the Reserve. I have already been talking with
10 the Fish & Wildlife Service and NOAA. They will be in
11 consultation with us. I met Monday, no, I'm sorry, on
12 Tuesday with representatives of the Fish & Wildlife Service,
13 and my intention was to meet with representatives of NOAA,
14 but they were unavailable at this time. However, I will
15 continue to follow up with that. They, both the Fish &
16 Wildlife Service and NOAA will be part of the process that we
17 go through when we develop the environmental impact
18 statement. So, those issues, definitely will be addressed,
19 and we are already looking into them.

20 The questions you brought up about the other pipelines,
21 the Va Verde pipeline, the Gasoducto pipeline, and the
22 conclusions that those agencies or those documents came up
23 with, I can't speak to that, because I didn't write those
24 documents, and I don't know what they said in those
25 documents. I will say that Excelebrate was not the project
26 proponent for those particular projects. So, not being

1 intimately familiar with those, correct me if I'm wrong,
2 but
3 I think the Corps of Engineers was doing the review for Va
4 Verde. Is that correct? So, I don't know what the Corps of
5 Engineers concluded regarding that particular project. But
6 that's not the project we are looking at. My goodness.

7 So, this EIS is not going to be evaluating the Va Verde
8 pipeline. However, an onshore pipeline to deliver gas to the
9 power plant is an alternative way to get gas to the power
10 plant. There's no denying that. So, we will compare a
11 project, not necessarily the exact Va Verde project, but a
12 project delivering natural gas via overland pipeline as an
13 alternative to this, to Excelerate's proposal. And so, we
14 can do a comparison. Say what's the benefits, the pros and
15 the cons of this versus the pros and the cons of this. We'll
16 have our conclusions. We'll draw our conclusions based on
17 that and make our recommendation based on that.

18 So, at this point, I can't go into any more details
19 about the analysis, but that's the procedure that we will use
20 to take a look at that.

21 Your other questions about the costs, and you had a
22 couple of other technical questions, I would ask that you
23 address those to Excelerate. You also asked questions about
24 marine traffic. That's definitely something, you know, will
25 it be redirected during construction, will it be fishing
26 restrictions. As you may be aware, the US Coast Guard, I

1 mentioned that they are going to be instrumental in
2 developing the review of this project. The US Coast Guard,
3 whenever there's an LNG ship docking area, the Coast Guard
4 will have some kind of security zone. They will be
5 inspecting that facility. So, the Coast Guard will have
6 permitting requirements as well. That will all be discussed
7 in the environmental impact statement.

8 Okay. Mr. Guzmán was the only person who signed up to
9 speak. However, the meeting is open, so if anybody else
10 wants to give environmental comments? And I would, again, I
11 would ask you to focus on the environmental aspects of this,
12 because I really can't answer too many more questions about
13 what Excelerate plans to do. Okay. We'll go ahead and have
14 you, and then, you can be next. So, go ahead.

15 MR. BURGOS:

16 Buenas noches. Yo soy Melquades Burgos Acevedo,
17 pescador de la comunidad de Aguirre. Yo toda mi vida he
18 vivido en la comunidad Aguirre Monte Soria.

19 TAQU GRAFA:

20 Puede repetir su nombre de nuevo, por favor?

21 SR. BURGOS:

22 Dgame?

23 TAQU GRAFA:

24 Puede repetir su nombre de nuevo, por favor?

25 SR. BURGOS:

1 Melquades Burgos Acevedo, pescador comercial de
2 Aguirre.

3 Es la primera vez que vengo. Mi hermano me trajo, me
4 avis. Y yo toda mi vida he vivido en Aguirre y pesco por
5 toda esa rea. Y desde que yo me conozco en esta rea,
6 siempre ha sido impacto ambiental bien fuerte para los que
7 vivimos all. Desde Aguirre, la Central y todo eso, nos ha
8 hecho mucho afecto como pescadores, tambien. Y queremos
9 saber como pescadores, qu impacto tiene sobre los pescadores
10 esta construccin a cuatro (4) millas afuera, donde nosotros
11 tenemos equipos de pesca, como nasas y buceamos por toda esa
12 rea, porque es rea de pesca. Qu restricciones tenemos
13 con relacin a esto?

14 S, queremos que nos explique y qu daos y qu
15 perjudicial ser para cada uno de nosotros, porque yo,
16 actualmente, tengo equipo en toda esta rea? Especialmente,
17 por toda esta rea, pesco. Yo pesco por toda esta rea,
18 buceo por toda esta rea, que es rea de pesca, rea de
19 langostas, tambien. Y aqu mayormente tenemos equipo. Qu
20 impacto va a hacer con nosotros esta construccin ah? Y qu
21 nos van a dar a nosotros o qu restriccin tenemos con
22 relacin a esto?

23 MR. SWEARINGEN:

24 Okay. Those particular issues that you've brought up,
25 will definitely be discussed in the environmental impact

1 statement. Once we have that analysis and we issue the
2 draft
3 EIS, you read it, you come back to this meeting, and you tell
4 me if I did a good job or not, and you tell me if I've
5 addressed your comments. And if not, I'll apologize, and I
6 will do better to address those comments. Yes, sir.

7 MR. FERN NDEZ:

8 Buenas noches. Mi nombre es Gilbert Fern ndez. Como mi
9 compaero aqu, he vivido toda mi vida en Aguirre, y la
10 preocupacin ma es la siguiente, igual que l, no lo voy a
11 repetir para hacer el cuento corto, hago lo mismo que l pero
12 en diferente forma. Hasta tenemos la misma edad, lo que yo
13 traigo es, que estas vistas deben llevarlas m s cercano
14 adonde el rea que m s se afecta. Y el rea que yo veo aqu
15 marcada, esto es preliminar, pero cuando se haga, como es,
16 factible y seguro, que les informen m s cerca al barrio,
17 porque aqu tenemos m s que dos, los dem s ni se han
18 enterado, y si no, no han podido llegar. Yo creo que la
19 comunidad de Aguirre se merece eso, porque la playa,
20 perdonando la gente de la playa, no est tan cerca adonde
21 nosotros estamos. Como la planta, cuando hicieron una sola
22 vista, hicieron la planta ah al lado, ruido, todo. Y qu
23 efectos va a tener esto, no normal, porque yo lo s y la
24 gente lo van a saber de los informes que ustedes den, es
25 sobre en el terreno, en el terreno, en la comunidad, qu
26 efectos va a tener, cmo es, para toda la comunidad? sa es

1 mi pregunta y muchas gracias.

2 MR. SWEARINGEN:

3 Okay. Thank you. Anybody else? Yes, sir.

4 MR. GONZ LEZ:

5 Buenas noches. Para efectos de record, Ernesto Gonzalez
6 Dvila.

7 Yo tengo dos preguntas, pero antes, no soy residente de
8 aquí, o sea, soy de Tallaboa Encarnación, Peuelas. Estoy
9 aquí, pues, obviamente, nosotros estamos sufriendo en carne
10 propia por más de cincuenta (50) años tanta contaminación y
11 tanto peligro de explosiones. Mis preguntas van dirigidas a
12 eso, casualmente. Una de ellas es, ¿qué garantías tiene esto
13 de que no haya un accidente, una explosión? Ya sabemos que
14 aquí en esta zona es donde entran todos los huracanes y los
15 malos tiempos. Así que, me gustaría saber ¿qué garantía?

16 La otra es, ¿qué tiempo de durabilidad tiene, o sea, el
17 gas que no está pasando como pasa con el petróleo? Que,
18 obviamente, se gasta o se utiliza y hoy día está bien caro y
19 las consecuencias las pagamos todos nosotros, que, pues,
20 obviamente, la energía, los costos de la energía. Y sabemos
21 que el gas es más limpio, pero, obviamente, donde yo vivo hay
22 emanaciones, hay escuelas, han habido emanaciones hasta en
23 este último año, el año pasado. Y obviamente, nosotros
24 tenemos preocupaciones enormes, porque, obviamente, es la
25 comunidad, que es la que más se afecta, pues, se habla

1 grandemente de los efectos que hay a toda la ecologia y a
2 todo el sistema y a la naturaleza. Pero, m s que nada, como
3 dijo el compaero Vctor, las comunidades son las m s
4 afectadas. Y obviamente, en una explosin de gran magnitud
5 no se afecta la comunidad m s cercana, se expande,
6 obviamente, lo que les llaman la parte esta expansiva, que se
7 puede expandir. As que, por favor, que nos orienten en ese
8 aspecto. Y que, obviamente, en la parte, nosotros vivimos
9 ah en Tallaboa, en la parte emocional y psicologica, la
10 tenemos latente todo el tiempo, pues, hemos sufrido en varias
11 ocasiones fuegos, explosiones, y pues, lo podemos palpar
12 desde nuestros hogares, porque estamos muy cercanos a eso.
13 O sea, sa es mi pregunta y mi... Gracias.

14 MR. SWEARINGEN:

15 You brought up some questions and concerns regarding
16 safety. That is definitely one of the things that we look at
17 in the environmental impact statement. We will have a whole
18 entire chapter dedicated to safety, not just safety of the
19 pipeline, but the safety of the LNG terminal, the safety of
20 the tanker ships.

21 The FERC has, like I said, you know, the inspections in
22 thresholds that we require to be met from the applicant. The
23 Coast Guard has permitting thresholds as well as does the US
24 Department of transportation regarding the pipeline. So, all
25 of that will be discussed in the environmental impact

1 statement.

2 Anybody else? Okay. What I'm going to do... Oh, yes.
3 Go ahead.

4 LCDO. SANTOS:

5 S, muy buenas noches. Mi nombre es el licenciado
6 Andrs Santos, vengo aqu de parte del Sindicato que agrupa
7 a los empleados de la Autoridad de Energa Elctrica, la
8 UTIER.

9 B sicamente, esto es algo preliminar, pero me gustara
10 que la declaracin de impacto ambiental federal que se
11 realice tome en consideracin dos (2) elementos, aparte de
12 los que ya se hayan mencionado. Uno de ellos es, si es
13 cierto, o si me pueden adelantar la contestacin, si es
14 cierto que el hecho de que ocurra una fuga de gas en el agua,
15 al ser estas aguas tan salinizadas, no, unas aguas tan
16 salina, si eso tiene algn tipo de reaccin, tipo explosiva,
17 no tanto as como una explosin directamente con fuego, no,
18 del gas natural, pero s, he ledo que la sal, el agua salina
19 tiene un tipo de reaccin particular con el gas natural.

20 La otra pregunta, me parece que podra ir, quiz s un
21 poco m s dirigida en cuanto al proyecto, pero la voy a hacer
22 por si acaso se tiene que tomar en consideracin en cuanto a
23 las alternativas que se consideraron a la hora de realizar el
24 proyecto. Y me gustara saber sobre que esta declaracin de
25 impacto ambiental no fuera fragmentada y que tomara en

1 consideracin en sistema elctrico de Puerto Rico como un
2 todo, y de esa manera, la gente de Excelerate nos dijeron si
3 se ha tomado en consideracin las aguas del Atl ntico para
4 realizar este tipo de proyecto, y qu avanzado est n esas
5 conversaciones con PREPA, con la Autoridad de Energia
6 Elctrica, para, pues, gasificar las plantas del Norte. sas
7 son las dos (2) preguntas que tengo por el momento. Muchas
8 gracias.

9 MR. SWEARINGEN:

10 Okay. The question you had about gas leaks and reaction
11 with sea water, that will be discussed in the environmental
12 impact statement.

13 Your general question about the electrical system of
14 Puerto Rico as a whole and whether or not other PREPA plants
15 may be looking to regasify or to use gas, I can't answer that
16 question. That's probably outside the scope of the EIS.
17 That would be a determination of a contract between another
18 company wanting, whether it's Excelerate or somebody else, if
19 they want to bring gas to one of the northern plants, that's
20 not this project, so, we won't be looking at that wide of a
21 scope.

22 Anybody else? Yes, Mam.

23 MS. KLUM:

24 My name is Susan Klum and I've lived in Puerto Rico for
25 fifteen (15) years. I've been in Salinas for the past two

1 (2) as a cruiser, we're going to be a cruiser. I have a
2 question and I don't know if it will affects anything, but
3 you were saying that it's going to be four (4) nautical miles
4 offshore. As far as I understand...

5 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

6 The total...

7 MS. KLUM:

8 Right.

9 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

10 No, no...

11 MS. KLUM:

12 Right, right, right. But as far as I know, three (3)
13 nautical miles outside of Puerto Rico is considered
14 international waters. Is there any, was there any thought
15 given into that? Because if anything happens there, who is
16 responsible? Is it on American soil, or is it in
17 international soil? That's my question.

18 MR. SWEARINGEN:

19 Okay. I think I can answer that question. There is a
20 line of demarcation between what is considered to be a deep
21 water port and what is considered to be an inshore type water
22 port.

23 A deep water port is lead by the Coast Guard. If this
24 were a deep water port project, the Coast Guard would be the
25 people up here taking the lead of this meeting, of these

1 types of meetings. I believe that the line is five (5)
2 miles. It's not three (3) miles. I believe it's five (5)
3 miles. Is that correct? Oh, I see a figure of nine (9)
4 miles in the back. Okay. Now there's a twelve (12) mile.
5 Okay. Do I have thirteen (13), thirteen (13) going... Okay.

6 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

7 Internationally it's a twelve (12) mile limit. Some
8 countries impose shorter limits, but in the United States
9 it's twelve (12) miles.

10 MR. SWEARINGEN:

11 Okay. The audience member indicated that for the United
12 States it's twelve (12) miles. Now, I'm not a nautical
13 lawyer. My understanding is that the Puerto Rico is a little
14 bit different than the international standard of twelve (12)
15 miles, which is why it is less. So, regardless, it is not
16 three (3) miles, and that is why the FERC is taking the lead
17 on the actual facility itself.

18 Now, the Coast Guard will be instrumental in making sure
19 that these flagged ships coming in meet all of the shipping
20 standards, in the shipping, you know, the permitting they
21 have to inspect the ships, and everything like that. So, the
22 Coast Guard doesn't just hand it over to FERC and say: "You
23 go." The Coast Guard will be involved, but they do not, they
24 are not the organization, I mean, I'm sorry, the agency
25 responsible for the citing. FERC has the citing authority

1 for this project.

2 Is there anybody else?

3 Okay. This has been a really good meeting. I hope that
4 you got something out of it. I certainly did. I've got a
5 lot of things right here in my notes to take back and have my
6 team work on for the environmental impact statement.

7 I will stay around for ten (10) or fifteen (15) minutes
8 if you have questions for me. Excelerate people will stay
9 around for as long as you have questions for them. And thank
10 you for your time.

11 So, I'm closing the formal part of the meeting. Anyone
12 wishing to purchase a copy of the transcript, can make those
13 arrangements with the court reporter.

14 Within the FERC web site, www.ferc.gov, there's a link
15 called the e-Library. We have all this information in the
16 back, but what it does if yo go into e-Library, you can sign
17 up through the web site in order to get all the information
18 about this project sent to you on e-mail links. It's very
19 helpful if you want to keep up with it.

20 So, on behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
21 Commission, I want to thank you all for coming here tonight.

22 Let the record show that the Salinas Scoping Meeting
23 concluded at 8:21 P.M. Thank you.

24

25