

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

RE: *
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 PUBLIC HEARING *
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DATE : March 20, 2012
 TIME : 7:10 P.M.
 CLIENT : ACE Federal Reporters
 HELD AT : Club de Leones
 Road 3
 Guayama, 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

PEOPLE THAT SPOKE:

Ms. Ruth Santiago
 Mr. Jorge Ortiz

COURT REPORTER:

Ms. Michelle Acevedo-Viera

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PROCEEDINGS

(7:10 P.M.)

MR. SWEARINGEN:

In the back, am I alright? Yeah? Okay. I've gotten word that a few people are stuck in traffic. I'm going to give it another ten (10) minutes, but at 7:10, we will get started. So, we will give it ten (10) more minutes. Thank you.

OFF THE RECORD

MR. SWEARINGEN:

Okay. If I can ask everyone to take your seats, please.

Good evening. My name is Dave Swearingen and I'm an environmental project manager with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC.

To my right is Andrya Torres Prez, also with the FERC. Phil Suter, also with the FERC, is at the table where you came in. And we also have Elizabeth Dolezal and Jared Brandell with NRG. NRG is an environmental consulting corporation that is assisting the FERC in the environmental analysis. They were at the sign-in table when you came in.

Also, tonight, in the audience we have Sindulfo Castillo and Osvaldo Collazo with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers is going to be a cooperating agency

1 assisting in the preparation of the environmental impact
2 statement. The US Coast Guard and also the Puerto Rico
3 Planning Board have also agreed to be cooperating agencies.

4 So, to welcome all of you here tonight, let the record
5 show that the Guayama scoping meeting began at 7:10 P.M.,
6 March 20, 2012.

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

9 MS. TORRES:

10 Muy buenas noches. Mi nombre es Andrya Torres Prez,
11 como ya Dave mencion. Yo soy de aqu, de Puerto Rico,
12 trabajo para FERC y trabajo en manejo de proyectos en el rea
13 de certificados de gas natural.

14 Mi rol en este proyecto es, m s bien, procesar la parte
15 no ambiental del proyecto y revisar otros aspectos, como
16 ingeniera.

17 Al final de la presentacin, Dave y yo nos vamos a
18 quedar un ratito. As que, si algunos de ustedes tienen
19 alguna pregunta, y desean preguntar en espaol, pueden hablar
20 conmigo o con Dave, con cualquiera de los dos. Muchas
21 gracias.

22 MR. SWEARINGEN:

23 Okay. Thank you. As you can tell, I will be conducting
24 this meeting in English. We have a translation service with
25 the headphones, they will allow for English or Spanish to be

1 spoken and understood simultaneously. So, when the time
2 comes, if you feel like you want to make comments or have a
3 question, and you feel more comfortable doing it in Spanish,
4 that's fine, you go ahead and do it that way.

5 You'll note, also, in the back of the room that we have
6 a court reporter to transcribe the meeting. She's going to
7 be able to transcribe English and Spanish, so we'll have an
8 accurate record of the meeting. The final transcript will be
9 placed into the public file for this project. I'll talk a
10 little bit more on that a little bit later.

11 The purpose of this meeting is to give you the
12 opportunity to provide environmental comments on Excelerate's
13 planned project. Excelerate entered into the FERC Pre-Filing
14 Process on January 11th of this year, through which we began
15 our review of the facilities that we refer to as the Aguirre
16 Offshore GasPort Project.

17 The Aguirre Offshore GasPort Project would deliver
18 natural gas directly to the existing Central Aguirre Power
19 Plant. The power plant is currently powered by imported fuel
20 oil. Excelerate's project would facilitate the conversion of
21 the plant to use natural gas as the primary fuel source. The
22 main facilities that Excelerate is considering are an
23 offshore liquefied natural gas, or LNG, import terminal about
24 four (4) miles of pipeline linking the offshore receiving
25 facility to the power plant. The offshore portion would

1 consist of a fixed platform and a permanent docking of an
2 LNG
3 vessel. Imported LNG would be vaporized into gas at the
4 terminal and then transported by the pipeline to the power
5 plant.

6 In a moment, I'll ask a representative of Excelerate to
7 take the floor to present a more detailed project
8 description. He'll also be able to answer some of your
9 questions regarding the project, and representatives from
10 Excelerate, they're kind of hanging out in the back of the
11 room, well they'll be available for you to catch them for
12 questions after the meeting is over, as will I, and as will
13 the members of the Corps of Engineers.

14 So, right now, I'm going to talk a little bit about the
15 scoping process and public involvement in FERC projects in
16 general. The main FERC Docket Number for the Aguirre Project
17 is PF12-4. The "PF" means that we are in the "pre-filing"
18 stage of the process. Once Excelerate files a formal
19 application, a new docket number will be assigned.

20 The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, requires
21 that the FERC Commission take into the consideration the
22 environmental impacts associated with new natural gas
23 facilities. Scoping is the general term that we use for
24 soliciting input from the public before the environmental
25 analysis is conducted. The idea is to get information and
26 concerns from the public, from other agencies, from

1 environmental groups, whoever wants to be a part of the
2 process, whoever wants and has comments. They let us know
3 those comments and concerns, and then we take those under
4 consideration as we develop the environmental impact
5 statement (EIS). I say "we", that is FERC primarily, but
6 also the cooperating agencies.

7 The scoping period started last month when we issued our
8 Notice of Intent to prepare the environmental impact
9 statement, what we call an N-O-I. In that NOI, we described
10 the environmental review process, some already identified
11 environmental issues, and the steps that the FERC and the
12 cooperating agencies will take to prepare the environmental
13 impact statement. We have extra copies of the NOI at the
14 back, in both English and Spanish, if you need one, and you
15 can put your name on the mailing list, if you are not already
16 on it. If you received the NOI in the mail, then you are on
17 the mailing list, you don't need to add your name again. But
18 I know the mailing list can be difficult to be correct
19 sometimes, and we have the zip code wrong, or the number
20 wrong. If there's anything incorrect about it, now is the
21 chance to let us know, so that we can update our mailing
22 list.

23 So, we'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 for this

1 project. Once the draft environmental impact statement is
2 published, there will also be another comment period, and
3 I'll come back and hold additional meetings in the project
4 area, so that you all can comment on the draft environmental
5 impact statement.

6 So, an important part of the environmental review
7 process, and the preparation of an EIS is determine which
8 environmental resources and the issues that are most
9 important to you. Your comments and concerns, along with
10 those of other people and agencies participating in this
11 process, will be used to focus the environmental analysis.
12 Your comments tonight, together with any written comments you
13 may have already filed or intend to file, will be added to
14 the public record as comments on the environmental
15 proceeding, and they will be addressed in the draft
16 environmental impact statement.

17 So, we take the comments that we've received and other
18 information and work on our independent analysis of the
19 project's potential impacts. I want to be sure that I stress
20 that point. The FERC is an independent regulatory agency, we
21 are not Excelerate, we are not the applicant, it's not our
22 project. We are reviewing the project. What I do with my
23 portion of the role is to review the project for
24 environmental reasons. What Ms. Prez will be looking at
25 will be some non-environmental impacts, later on after the

1 certificate has been filed.

2 Our resource team consists of specialists in all the
3 resource areas that we will be looking at. We have
4 biologists, cultural resource specialists, geologists, soil
5 scientists. We have water quality specialists, air quality
6 specialists. We have LNG engineers that look at the design
7 of the terminal and do inspections. Our contracting group,
8 NRG, also has specialists to help assist in this analysis.

9 So, once the draft EIS is published, we are going to
10 mail that out to all the people on the mailing list. As I
11 mentioned before, that will publicly noticed for additional
12 comments in additional comment meetings. We will then
13 continue our analysis and incorporate public comments into a
14 final EIS, which will also be mailed to all the interested
15 parties.

16 We are going to publish the EIS in both English and
17 Spanish. As we noted in the NOI, the EIS will be distributed
18 on a CD. That means, unless you tell me otherwise, what's
19 going show up in your mailbox is a CD. The CD version will
20 have both the English and Spanish translations of the EIS.
21 If you would prefer a hard copy, that's fine, but you need to
22 let us know. If you want a hard copy, there's a way you can
23 indicate that by returning the mailer from the NOI, you check
24 the box, it says: "I want a hard copy, and I want it in
25 English", or you want it in Spanish. Either way, you can

1 have it that way if you ask. If you don't have your copy
2 of
3 the NOI, or you don't know if you still have it, you can sign
4 up at the back and let us know that you want a hard copy.
5 But I want to stress that, because if you don't let us know
6 you want a hard copy, it's going to be delivered to you on a
7 CD.

8 Now, I need to differentiate between the roles of the
9 FERC staff and that of the FERC Commission. The Commission
10 is responsible for making a determination on whether to
11 authorize this project. In other words, they will either
12 approve the project and give Excelerate what we call an order
13 or a statement of approval. The EIS, and what I do with my
14 environmental work, does not do that. We compile the
15 environmental information, all the non-environmental
16 information will be compiled as well, and those taken
17 together by the Commission, they will look at all those
18 aspects, and they will decide whether or not to approve this
19 project.

20 The important parts of the environmental impact
21 statement is to describe the project facilities, describe the
22 associated environmental impact of the project, to review
23 alternatives to the proposed project, to discuss mitigation
24 or conservation measures that will help avoid or reduce
25 impacts. FERC staff will also then make our environmental
26 conclusions and our recommendations to the Commission.

1 So, the EIS then is used to advise the Commission and
2 to
3 disclose to the public the environmental impact if
4 constructing and operating this project. Only after taking
5 all this information into account will the Commission make
6 its decision.

7 So, are there any questions about the scoping process,
8 about the FERC process, anything I've discussed so far?

9 Yes, sir, go ahead.

10 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

11 What happens if the, because of the scoping process you
12 decide to give a no to Excelerate's proposal?

13 MR. SWEARINGEN:

14 Okay. The question is... The question is if during the
15 scoping process...

16 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

17 You say, for example, that this project needs a no-go
18 for the contract for the applicant. That is a possibility,
19 right?

20 MR. SWEARINGEN:

21 An applicant, if at some point, the question is, will
22 the applicant at some point, can the applicant decide whether
23 or not to withdraw the project or determine that the project
24 is a no-go. Is that your question?

25 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

26 Yes.

1 MR. SWEARINGEN:

2 Okay. The applicant is under its own, you know, they
3 have a project in mind. If at any point they decide that the
4 project is not profitable, or they no longer wish to pursue
5 it, then they would file a statement with FERC saying: "We
6 are withdrawing the project." And then we stop looking at
7 it. That's entirely on the applicant at this point.

8 Any other questions?

9 We'll have the time for your comments in a moment. So,
10 if you have something in your mind, that's okay, you'll have
11 another chance to speak in a few minutes. Oh, yes, sir.

12 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

13 I know there's a... I imagine there's going to be also
14 a parallel process going on at the state level. How are you
15 going to combine both of them? Are they going to basically
16 be the same or different? So, what's the dynamics on that?

17 MR. SWEARINGEN:

18 Okay. I'll explain that. The question is regarding the
19 state approval process.

20 The FERC requires an applicant to be able to obtain any
21 other necessary permits. So, if the applicant needs a permit
22 from the Corps, the applicant is responsible for obtaining
23 that permit. If the applicant needs a permit from the State
24 Planning Commission, then it's up to the applicant to be sure
25 that it submits an application to the Planning Commission,

1 that the Planning Commission can then accept or not.

2 Where the FERC comes in, is many times these different
3 applications require an environmental review. Our
4 environmental impact statement will cover that environmental
5 review. So that when they look at the application, they can
6 refer back to the FERC EIS and say: "All of our environmental
7 requirements were covered. They don't have to do their own."
8 That's part of the cooperating agency process that I was
9 talking about. The Corps will be a cooperating agency, the
10 Puerto Rico Planning Commission Board has also agreed to be
11 a cooperating agency. So, they will be working with us to
12 make sure that the environmental impact statement contains
13 the information necessary for them to review the application
14 that's in front of them.

15 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone).

16 Thank you.

17 MR. SWEARINGEN:

18 Okay. What I'm going to do now is that I'm going to let
19 Mike Trammel, from Excelerate come up and say a few words
20 about the project.

21 MR. TRAMMEL:

22 Thank you. Hello. Can you hear me? Thank you very
23 much. My name is Mike Trammel. I'm the Director of
24 Environmental for Excelerate Energy. I want to thank you for
25 coming out to the meeting this evening. We appreciate your

1 attendance. We've been working with FERC for a number of
2 years, and we appreciate them having these public scoping
3 meetings.

4 I wanted to tell you a little bit about Excelerate
5 Energy. We did have a meeting in Aguirre for some who
6 attended. Excelerate Energy is located in the Woodlands,
7 Texas, North of Houston. So, we're a Texas based energy
8 company. We are involved in the marketing, transportation of
9 liquefied natural gas, and also in the development of
10 infrastructure for the regasification delivery of natural gas
11 to customers around the world. We have completed seven (7)
12 similar facilities as we are proposing here in Aguirre. So,
13 we have several years of experience on building these things.
14 I can't go into much more detail than what you have in the,
15 it was a very good explanation of the specifics of the pieces
16 of equipment that are going to be installed. What I can tell
17 you is the background on the project and why we are here.

18 In 2008, we approached the Puerto Rico Electric Power
19 Authority with our technology to bring natural gas to the
20 Island. We had understood that there was a push to convert
21 the power plants from fuel oil to natural gas. And with our
22 experience around the world, with similar applications, we
23 approached PREPA at that time, and have been listening to
24 PREPA and their needs, and we have developed what we now have
25 the Aguirre GasPort Project.

1 In our discussions with PREPA, the Aguirre Power
2 Plant
3 was selected for several reasons, as one of the largest
4 capacity power plants in the system. It also had the largest
5 fuel usage and, therefore, the benefits for PREPA to convert
6 to, and their plants convert to natural gas. The first
7 station that was agreed upon was Aguirre. The... Let me
8 see...

9 The plans for Aguirre is to deliver initially
10 approximately 250 million cubic feet of natural gas as a
11 primary fuel for the facility. And our offshore facility
12 will also provide for the power plant 3.2 billion cubic feet
13 of storage as far as LNG. We have a 151,000 cubic meter
14 vessel that will be offshore. I wish I had the... I can
15 show you some pictures of the vessels later.

16 Where we are currently, as they've said, we are in the
17 pre-filing process. We are working with the FERC on some
18 field surveys that we are doing. Some may have seen vessels
19 going out into Jobos Bay and beyond. We are currently
20 wrapping up geophysical surveys. We have a little bit more
21 to do that, then we will evaluate the data, and in late
22 April, the next phase will be vessels out in the bay doing
23 some geotechnical.

24 The reason that we do this is that we want to ensure
25 that we are placing the facility in the least environmental
26 impact locations. And all of the results will be published

1 in the environment impact statements, and will be
2 available
3 to the public.

4 Our schedule, right now, within, is to complete our
5 application sometime, hopefully by this Summer, the pre-
6 filing portion of this. And beginning the NEPA processes
7 they've talked about sometime late Summer, early Fall, where
8 we'll be in the full public review period. We are estimating
9 approximately a year for all the public involvement and
10 comments until we have come to a decision from FERC.

11 If we are approved to go forward, the construction
12 process will begin upon that approval, sometime in 2013. And
13 we have a nine (9) to twelve (12) months construction window
14 that we are looking at with the hopes to be in service for
15 PREPA in second or third quarter 2014.

16 As he mentioned with the FERC process, this is a full
17 public process. We encourage, as FERC does, to participate
18 and ask questions. And Excelerate Energy is pleased to be
19 involved in working on the Island for this purpose. And we
20 will be available through the process to respond to any
21 questions. Thank you very much.

22 MR. SWEARINGEN:

23 Okay. Thank you, Mike.

24 Now we are going to move into the part of the meeting
25 where we hear your comments. So, right now, I have a sign-up
26 sheet, one person that signed up to speak, and I'll ask her

1 to come up. And after that, I'll open the floor, and
2 anybody
3 else who has an environmental comment, can go ahead and make
4 that comment.

5 Like I said, the purpose of that is so that we
6 understand the environmental concerns. We take those back
7 with us in order to complete the environmental assessment.
8 If you have simple questions, we might be able to answer some
9 of those right now. But our position here is not to be able
10 to solve all the environmental problems at this table. So,
11 it's to let us know what we need to work on over the upcoming
12 months as we move forward with this project.

13 Now, I want to mention that there are several ways that
14 you can provide comments. Coming up and speaking is one
15 method. We also have a comment form in the back. If you'd
16 rather write it down, you can write your comments down on the
17 sheet and leave it with us. You can take it home, fill out
18 your comments, mail it in. The NOI also had the information,
19 I'll go over it a little bit later, as well, about how to
20 mail in the comments or use the FERC web site in order to
21 send in comments. It doesn't matter how you get them to me.
22 A comment is a comment, whether it's spoken, written, or
23 filed electronically. The important thing is that we hear
24 what you have to say.

25 So, what I'm going to ask you to do is that when you
26 come up, because we are being recorded by a court reporter,

1 the court reporter the only way that she can transcribe
2 this
3 is if we are speaking into the microphone. So, I'm going to
4 ask you to come up to the podium there, and be sure that you
5 speak into the microphone, state your name, spell it for the
6 record, and if you are representing a group or an agency,
7 that you also let us know who you're representing.

8 So, we have Ruth Santiago.

9 MS. SANTIAGO:

10 Buenas noches a todos. Mi nombre es Ruth Santiago. Se
11 deletrea R-U-T-H, Santiago S-A-N-T-I-A-G-O. Trabajo con
12 varios grupos comunitarios aqu en el rea Sureste de Puerto
13 Rico.

14 Tengo varias preguntas. Creo que me tengo que acomodar
15 un poco mejor. Okey. Primero, he escuchado, o vi un
16 documento que indica que las preocupaciones que se han
17 recibido hasta ahora, son con relacin a los pescadores
18 recreativos. Cmo se impactaran con este proyecto?
19 Entiendo que en nuestra rea, verdad, hay muchos pescadores,
20 tambn, artesanales. Hay comunidades que, de una manera u
21 otra, dependen de la Baha de Jobos donde se propone el
22 proyecto. Y entiendo que, aparte y en adicin a los
23 pescadores recreativos, hay que tomar en cuenta esos usos de
24 las comunidades que circundan la Baha de Jobos.

25 Quisiera saber, con relacin a los usos de agua que
26 tiene el proyecto, qu cantidades est n envueltas en trmino

1 de agua del mar para el uso del proceso del proyecto? Y
2 tambin, cmo impactara esto la vida marina, verdad, el
3 fitoplancton, ese tipo de cosas?

4 Con relacin al agua, tambn, nos interesa saber las
5 descargas que propone el proyecto, y especialmente, a qu
6 temperaturas, verdad. Porque ya tenemos una situacin bien
7 difcil con la planta en trminos de descargas de aguas
8 termales y el impacto que tiene sobre la baha.

9 Entiendo que es necesario una explicacin sobre el
10 proceso de convertir el liquido a gas natural, como tal, que
11 no lo he visto, hasta el momento. Y entonces, en trminos de
12 los generadores que mencionan en el proyecto, cmo funcionan
13 y qu impacto tienen los generadores de nitrgeno, los de
14 diesel', todo esto que mencionan en el breve documento que
15 est disponible, hasta ahora?

16 Qu cantidades de agua potable? Que mencionan que
17 necesitan para el proyecto. Y cmo se va a disponer del
18 agua usada? Verdad? Porque hablan de unos tanques de aguas
19 usadas, pero no conocemos las cantidades, ni el uso que, y
20 cmo es el proceso de disposicin.

21 A qu se refieren con sistemas de procesos de apoyo?
22 Que vi una referencia a eso. Entonces, mencionan la
23 embarcacin, verdad, la embarcacin que se propone usar para
24 servir como de almacn, verdad, o de receptor del gas o del
25 liquido de gas, liquido de gas, no, que se convierte a gas

1 natural. Esa embarcacin entiendo que ya est construida y
2 quisiera saber si es apta, verdad, para las condiciones
3 especificas del rea dnde se propone, debido a que vi una
4 referencia a que es una embarcacin adaptada al Norte del
5 Atl ntico. Y hay condiciones distintas aqu, verdad? As
6 que, necesitamos saber si est preparada para esas
7 condiciones, tambien.

8 En trminos de los recursos, y los impactos al
9 ecosistema de la Baha de Jobos, pues, habla de un plan de
10 restauracin. Obviamente, necesitamos saber qu, cu l sera
11 el rea a ser impactada. Vi, verdad, que hay unas
12 referencias al estudio bntico y reas que se mencionan.
13 Pero, aparentemente, no se va a muestrear toda el rea,
14 verdad, sino que solamente algunas partes. Y por lo tanto,
15 nos preocupa el impacto a ese ecosistema si no se va a
16 determinar cu l es el recurso completo.

17 Volviendo a los usos humanos por un momentito. Hay por
18 ah una ruta de kayak establecida por el Departamento de
19 Recursos Naturales y Ambientales, que no conocemos cmo se
20 podra impactar con este proyecto. Entendemos que no se ha
21 dicho nada con relacin al nivel de ruidos que genera el
22 proyecto y cmo eso puede impactar tanto comunidades como,
23 tambien, vida marina. Ya en combinacin con la Planta de
24 Aguirre, entendemos, pues, que podra ser sustancial, verdad,
25 en los niveles de ruido, si esto va a aadir.

1 Vimos algo de documentacin fotogr fica del estudio
2 bntico y entendemos que, quiz s, que sea recomendable tomar
3 videos, verdad, mientras se est haciendo ese estudio, para
4 que, entonces, la documentacin pueda ser m s completa.

5 De hecho, y perdonen que vuelva de nuevo a un punto
6 anterior, pero en el propio documento que est disponible
7 para el pblico hasta el momento, indica que probablemente se
8 van a encontrar con la especie Acropora. Y que esta especie,
9 si no se muestrea el rea completa donde ubica, que es muy
10 probable, se estima, verdad, que se puede caer en un error
11 significativo en trminos de la poblacin de esa especie.

12 Tenemos varias preguntas, verdad, sobre este proceso y
13 los impactos, tanto sobre las comunidades, como en el
14 ecosistema. Y esperamos, pues, que se puedan ir aclarando
15 para beneficio de las comunidades y el ecosistema. Muchas
16 gracias.

17 MR. SWEARINGEN:

18 Alright, thank you, Ms. Santiago. I really appreciate
19 it. You've, obviously, done your homework, and that makes
20 this meeting so much more productive for me to know that you
21 have actually identified most, if not all, of the impacts
22 that we are going to be looking at. So, just to sum up, you
23 asked a lot of questions, and you had comments concerning
24 water quality and fishery impacts, and use of the bay about,
25 perhaps, kayak routes, talking about the amount of water that

1 would be used for when the vessels were docked there, how
2 it
3 would affect fishermen, how it would affect the ecosystem,
4 benthic impacts, marine life impacts. You wanted to know
5 about the vaporization process, the use of fresh water, and
6 the disposal of the waste water. You asked about the support
7 vessels. You asked about whether the vessel was adapted to
8 the North Atlantic, whether it would be appropriate to use it
9 here. You also asked about noise levels, and how the noise
10 would affect the human community, as well as the marine life
11 community. And you also had comments about the survey
12 methodology. I might have missed one or two of your points
13 speaking, but I have them all written down, they're on the
14 transcript.

15 Everything that you mentioned will be addressed in the
16 environment impact statement. We have our resources
17 specialist already starting to look at those issues. Now,
18 Excelerate hasn't actually filed any information regarding
19 those issues yet. So, I don't know exactly, I can't answer
20 any questions about, you know, what this impact is going to
21 be, or how this is going to actually turn out. But over the
22 next year or so, give or take, we will be looking at these
23 exact types of impacts and resources. So, I want to thank
24 you for bringing those to our attention.

25 Ms. Santiago was the only person who signed up to speak.
26 However, this is an open meeting at this point. So, if

1 anybody has a comment or a concern, all you have to do is
2 raise your hand, and I'll invite you to come up.

3 Yes, sir, go ahead. I remind you to, for the record to
4 state and spell your name, and if you are representing any
5 organization to let us know.

6 MR. ORTIZ:

7 S, buenas noches. Soy Jorge Ortiz. J-O-R-G-E O-R-T-I-Z,
8 residente de Guayama y participo en varios grupos
9 comunitarios que defienden tanto la naturaleza y el ambiente,
10 como el patrimonio historico. Adem s, trabajo con una
11 agencia de gobierno que tiene que ver con patrimonio
12 historico, pero no vengo a traer ninguna posicin oficial de
13 dicha agencia.

14 Tambin hay preocupacin sobre otros elementos que
15 quisiera aadir, que incluye, primero, si se estudiaron
16 alternativas de rutas para esta tubera. Nmero dos, si se
17 considera que el proyecto de colocar gas natural va a ser un
18 proyecto con una duracin limitada. O sea, que el correr
19 esta planta con gas natural es una medida que no va a durar
20 para siempre. Me preocupa la reversibilidad de cualquier
21 intervencin que se haga de colocar una tubera desde el mar
22 hasta la planta termoelctrica y los efectos permanentes que
23 pueda tener sobre la ecologa, y sobre recursos naturales
24 subacu ticos, que seguramente vamos a encontrar en este
25 lugar.

1 Eso tambien implica de que esto, aunque muy bien lo
2 dice
3 el aviso de intencin de que se van a hacer evaluaciones con
4 respecto a la Ley Federal de Preservacin Histrica,
5 Seccin 106, tambien quiero alertar de que aqu existe una
6 Ley de Arqueologa Subacu tica estatal, que tambien requiere
7 evaluar los impactos que puede tener sobre recursos
8 culturales sumergidos, que yo me sospecho que en esta rea
9 son bastante abundantes.

10 As que, sas son, b sicamente, las preocupaciones que
11 las recapitulo, que es la reversibilidad de esta
12 intervencin, la, este, si se estudiaron rutas alternas para
13 colocar el tubo, porque esto est pasando por el mismo medio
14 de la Baha de Jobos, que es un rea que es una Reserva
15 Estuarina federal que se maneja bajo un acuerdo cooperativo
16 con la National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration' y el
17 Departamento de Recursos Naturales. Y es una de las pocas
18 Reservas Estuarinas as declaradas bajo la bandera de Estados
19 Unidos. Lo otro es, como expliqu, el impacto de Recursos
20 Culturales y el hecho de que tambien se requiere que cumpla
21 con leyes estatales relacionadas, especficamente, a
22 arqueologa subacu tica.

23 Y sas son las preocupaciones que traigo a su
24 consideracin. Muchas gracias.

25 MR. SWEARINGEN:

26 Okay. Thank you very much. You brought up some really

1 good points about some aquatic archaeology and the
2 historical
3 aspect of the bay.

4 You had a question about the duration of the project.
5 Just as a process question or response, if the applicant at
6 some point wanted to decommission the project, we call that
7 abandonment, they build it and after some number of years or
8 something they say: "We are no longer going to use this",
9 they have to file another application with the FERC that will
10 evaluate the environmental impacts of abandoning the project.
11 So, then we would have to do another NEPA analysis, if and
12 when the project was then decommissioned.

13 So, I can't answer the question about the, I can't see
14 the future of the project, but if it were to be requested for
15 abandonment or decommissioning, we would do another
16 environmental review of that. So that that can answer that
17 particular aspect of your question.

18 The resources you brought up about benthic resources and
19 things like that, the subaquatic archaeology, we will look
20 into that. The EIS will cover those aspects.

21 Thank you very much for your comments. Is there anybody
22 else who would like to come up and speak?

23 Okay, now, if you are driving home and you think of,
24 "Oh, man, I should have... I thought something, and I want
25 to say something", that's when you use the form, you write it
26 out and mail it in, or use the, if you have internet access,

1 you can use the FERC web site, and I'll talk about that in
2 a
3 little bit. You can do it. So, don't feel like you've
4 missed your chance if you think about something later on
5 tonight or tomorrow. Yes, sir, do you have some questions,
6 or do you want to address the Board?

7 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: (Speaks out of microphone)

8 Are you going to answer or...

9 MR. SWEARINGEN:

10 Well, it depends on what the nature of your questions
11 are. If the nature of your questions are very specific and
12 technical, what I'll ask you to do is just have an informal
13 chat. Are they questions about the project to Excelerate or
14 are they questions to me at FERC?

15 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON:

16 No, the project itself. I'll ask them.

17 MR. SWEARINGEN:

18 Okay. Okay. Okay. What I'm going to do right now, I'm
19 going to close the formal part of the meeting. But I'm not
20 going to leave quite yet, and the folks that I mentioned from
21 Excelerate aren't going to leave quite yet, and the folks
22 from the Army Corps of Engineers aren't going to leave quite
23 yet. We'll stay around for a few minutes. So, if you have
24 some informal questions, you want to look at some maps that
25 the company has, or talk to them, you can also use that time,
26 this time for that.

1 So, I'm going to close the formal part of the
2 meeting.

3 Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of the transcripts, should
4 make those arrangements with the court reporter.

5 Within the FERC web site, that's www.ferc.gov, there's
6 a link called e-Library. If you type in the docket number,
7 which for this project is PF12-4, you can use e-Library to
8 gain access to everything on the record concerning this
9 project. That includes, all the filings and information
10 submitted by Excelerate that are public, and then anything
11 that the FERC Commission or the FERC environmental staff
12 happens to issue, you can keep track of that.

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

15 Let the record show that the Guayama Scoping Meeting
16 concluded at 7:48 P.M. Thank you.

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