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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Columbia Gas Transmission, Inc. Docket No. PF12-6-000
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LINE MP LOOP EXTENSION PROJECT

Oregon Ridge Lodge
13401 Beaver Dam Road
Cockeysville, Maryland 21030
Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The public hearing, pursuant to notice, convened at 7:05
p.m., before a Staff Panel:

MEHDA KOCHHAR, Ph.D., Environmental Project
Manager

ERIC HOWARD, Assistant to Dr. Kochhar
DOUG SIPE, Outreach Manager

With:
DOUG HOLLERAN, Manager of Asset Management,
Columbia Gas Transmission, Inc.

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

2 DR. KOCHHAR: Good evening, everybody. Let's
3 start the meeting now.

4 Good evening. On behalf of the Federal Energy
5 Regulatory Commission, also known as FERC, I would like to
6 welcome you all here tonight. This is an environmental
7 scoping meeting for the Line MB Loop Extension Project
8 proposed by Columbia Gas Transmission Company, LLC, known as
9 Columbia.

10 Let the record show the meeting started at 7:05,
11 May 8th, 2012. The primary purpose of the meeting today is
12 to provide you an opportunity to comment on the project or
13 on the scope of the environmental analysis being prepared
14 for the Line MB Loop Extension Project.

15 My name is Mehda Kochhar, I'm with FERC; I'm in
16 the Environmental Branch with the Commission's Office of
17 Energy Projects. With me today at the table tonight is Eric
18 Howard and Doug Sipe, who I was waiting for before; he's in
19 the back. He's our outreach manager. And at the back
20 there's a table, where you're signing up now, there are two
21 people, Howard Bueller and Chevive Ennis. These are all from
22 FERC; they're here to help us out.

23 FERC is an independent agency that regulates the
24 interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas and oil.
25 FERC reviews proposals and authorizes construction of

1 interstate natural gas pipeline storage facilities,
2 liquefied natural gas which is commonly called LNG, and
3 liquefied natural gas terminals as well as the licensing and
4 inspection of hydroelectric projects.

5 As a federal licensing agency, the FERC has a
6 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act,
7 NEPA, to consider the potential environmental impacts
8 associated with a project which is under its consideration.

9 With regard to the Columbia Line MB Loop
10 Extension Project, FERC is the lead federal agency for the
11 NEPA review and preparation of the environmental assessment,
12 we will call that environmental assessment as E.A.

13 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to
14 participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of
15 the environmental document. They may use the document to
16 meet their respective NEPA responsibilities associated with
17 issuing their permit. We have Joe Deviante in the back from
18 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers here today.

19 As I said earlier, the primary purpose of this
20 meeting tonight is to give you an opportunity to comment on
21 a project or on the environmental issues that you would like
22 to see covered in the environmental document. It will help
23 us the most if your comments are as specific as possible
24 regarding the potential environmental impacts and reasonable
25 alternatives of the proposed Line MB Loop Extension Project.

1 These issues generally focus on the potential for
2 environmental effect, but they also address construction
3 issues, mitigation, and the environmental review process
4 itself. In addition, this meeting is designed to provide
5 you with an opportunity to meet with Columbia
6 representatives; to ask them questions and to get more
7 detailed information about their proposed facility,
8 locations and construction plans.

9 We have Doug Holleran here from the Columbia Gas
10 Transmission Company. Tonight's agenda is relatively short.
11 First I will describe the environmental review process and
12 the FERC's role in this project. And then we would have a
13 project sponsor, Columbia, to give a complete description of
14 the project. After that we will hear from those of you who
15 have signed up to speak. If you would like to present
16 comments tonight, please be sure to sign the speaker's list
17 at the sign-in table. Make sure your name is legible so we
18 can read it right and pronounce it, and help me pronounce
19 your name because I may not pronounce it right; sometimes I
20 have difficulty. I apologize for that.

21 Now I want to describe our environmental review
22 process for you. To illustrate how the process works, we
23 have prepared a flow char, and copies of the flow chart are
24 available at the sign-in desk. The flow chart is near the
25 back. If you have time you can look through it and see if

1 it helps; if you have questions, you can ask us.

2 Currently, we are near the beginning of our
3 environmental review process. Here in this area labeled
4 Public Input Opportunities, that is where you have the
5 opportunity to provide us your input. This is the sheet I
6 have at the sign-in table, this is a flow chart. If you
7 look at that chart, the yellow highlighted areas are the
8 ones that designate when you can provide us your input for
9 this project.

10 Columbia entered into the FERC pre-filing process
11 on January 24th, 2012, which began our review of the
12 facilities that we refer to as the Line MB Loop Extension
13 Project. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to
14 encourage involvement by all interested stakeholders in a
15 manner that allows for the early identification of
16 resolutions and environmental issues.

17 As of today, no formal application has been filed
18 with FERC. I repeat: There is no formal application filed
19 with FERC as of now. However the FERC, along with other
20 federal, state and local agency staffs have begun review of
21 the project. That is the process that works for pre-filing.

22 On April 18, 2012, FERC issued a Notice of Intent
23 to prepare an environmental assessment, which is this -- and
24 I'm sure most of you received that document. It's called
25 Notice of Intent. And that tells you how we will proceed

1 with the production of the environmental assessment.

2 The scoping or comment period will end on May 16,
3 2012. And I know there will be several questions about
4 that. Just to explain what this means by it, saying the
5 comment period ends on May 16, 2012, that's specifically on
6 this document because we are supposed to log in how many
7 comments we receive on Notice of Intent. It is for that
8 purpose. But feel free to file your comments anytime you
9 have comments after the date, also. You're welcome to file
10 again also anything you'd like to.

11 During the review of the project, we will
12 assemble information from a variety of sources including
13 Columbia, the public, state, local and federal agencies, and
14 our own independent analysis and field work. We will
15 analyze this information and prepare an environmental
16 document that will be distributed to the public for a
17 comment.

18 Once scoping is finished, our next step will be
19 to begin analyzing the company's proposals and the issues
20 that have been identified during the scoping period. This
21 will include an examination of the proposed facility
22 locations, as well as the alternatives, alternative sites
23 that both Columbia is looking at and we will also look, and
24 any one of you can help us with that, too.

25 We will assess the project's effects on water

1 bodies and wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, endangered and
2 threatened species, cultural resources, soils, land use, air
3 quality, cumulative impacts and safety. When complete, our
4 analysis of the potential impacts will be published in an
5 E.A., which is Environmental Assessment, and presented to
6 the public for a 30-day comment period. We will issue that
7 document to everybody who is on our mailing list, and we
8 will give you 30 days to provide us comments on the E.A.

9 This E.A. will be mailed to all interested
10 parties. Please note that because of the size of the
11 mailing list, the mail version of the E.A. is going to be on
12 a CD. That means, unless you tell us otherwise, the E.A.
13 that you will find in your mailbox will be on a CD. If you
14 prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you, you must indicate
15 the choice on the return mailer attached to the NOI. You
16 can also indicate that on an attendance sheet tonight at the
17 sign-in table.

18 This NOI, the back cover of this, has this
19 mailer, and inside this cover you can identify if you want a
20 hard copy of this, and we will be glad to mail it to you.
21 And also, if you want to remove your name from the mailing
22 list, you can also tell us that on this.

23 As I mentioned earlier, the issuance of the NOI
24 opened a formal comment period that will close on May 16th.
25 The NOI encourage you to submit your comments as soon as

1 possible, in order to give us time to analyze and research
2 the issues. If you received the NOI in the mail, you are on
3 our mailing list, and will remain on our mailing list to
4 receive the E.A. and any other supplemental notices or
5 documents we may issue about the project unless you return
6 the mailer attached to the back of the NOI and indicate you
7 wish to be removed from the mailing list.

8 In fact, there are copies of the NOI available at
9 the sign-in table. I brought copies if somebody wants them.
10 If you did not receive the NOI you should have -- you should
11 have received it, you think; we got something wrong in the
12 address or something, I'm sorry, I apologize for it. Please
13 give us your corrected address and take a copy from there,
14 and we'll correct it on the mailing list.

15 The mailing list for this project is large and
16 undergoing constant revisions. You can be added to our
17 mailing list by signing up at the sign-in table in the back,
18 or by submitting comments on the project. Make sure you
19 write your name and address so that it's legible, because we
20 could make mistakes in reading and spelling.

21 I would like add that the FERC encourages
22 electronic filing of all comments and other documents.
23 These instructions were provided in the NOI; a small
24 brochure that explains FERC's eFiling system is available on
25 our website, and we have brought some extras which are

1 available at the sign-in table. It's this document right
2 here [holding up].

3 Additionally, instructions for this can be
4 located on our website, which is www.FERC.gov under that
5 eFiling link. If you want to submit written comments,
6 please follow the directions in the NOI. This NOI gives
7 detailed instructions as to how to file your comments.

8 It's on page 6, and your comments must be filed
9 with the Secretary.

10 It's very important that any comments you send
11 either electronically or by traditional mail include our
12 internal document number for the project. The docket number
13 is on the cover of this NOI and is available at the sign-in
14 table. If you decide to send us a comment letter, please
15 put the number on it; that will ensure the members of the
16 staff evaluating the project will get your comments as soon
17 as possible. The Docket number for the Line MB Loop
18 Extension Project is PF12-6, P as in Peter, F as in Fred.

19 Now I want to explain the rules of the FERC
20 Commission and for the FERC environmental staff. The
21 Commission is led by five members, who are responsible for
22 making a determination on whether to issue a Certificate of
23 Public Convenience and Necessity to the applicant, which is
24 Columbia here. In this case, that is Columbia.

25 The E.A. prepared by the FERC environmental

1 staff, which I'm part of, describes the project facilities,
2 associated environmental impacts, alternatives to the
3 project, mitigation to allay or reduce impacts, and our
4 conclusions and recommendations. That E.A. is not a
5 decision-making document. Don't think just because we
6 published an E.A. they got authorization; no. It's simply a
7 documentation for the Commission to refer to.

8 It is being prepared to disclose to the public
9 and to the Commission the environmental impact of
10 constructing and operating the proposed project. When it is
11 completed, the Commission will consider the environmental
12 information from the E.A. along with the non-environmental
13 issues such as engineering, markets, and rates in making its
14 decision to approve or deny Columbia's request for a
15 certification.

16 There is no review of FERC decisions by the
17 President or Congress, maintaining FERC's independence as a
18 regulatory agency and providing for fair and unbiased
19 decisions.

20 Before we start taking comments from you, I've
21 asked Columbia to provide a brief overview of the proposed
22 project. With us tonight is Columbia's Mr. Doug Holleran
23 (ph), Manager of Asset Management. Doug?

24 MR. HOLLERAN: First of all, I'd like to thank
25 the FERC staff for inviting us, to give us an opportunity to

1 speak just for a minute.

2 And thank you folks for coming out tonight,
3 because it is Columbia's desire to make sure that you're
4 provided with the information on this project so that you
5 know what we're doing. We're not here to deceive anyone. We
6 want to make sure that we provide you with the information
7 that you need so that you'll know exactly what we're doing
8 on this project.

9 On behalf of Columbia, I would like to thank the
10 folks that came to our open houses that we had, and I see a
11 lot of familiar faces here that were at the open houses in
12 March; and I want to thank you folks for coming there and
13 here again.

14 I want to make you aware that we have an office
15 at Cockeysville, Maryland. It's located in the Hunt Valley
16 business center. And that phone number is: 443-330-5538.
17 So if you needed to stop by, the number is 10946 Beaver Dam
18 Road. We have maps; we have the viewers like you've seen
19 out here if you want to look at a particular piece of
20 property that you have; or just want to talk to someone
21 about construction, there's usually folks in that office
22 every day.

23 I just want to touch on -- because I've just got
24 a brief time here to speak -- so I just want to give you
25 kind of an overview of what this project is. We now have

1 two pipelines that come up, and one of those pipelines, MB,
2 ends at Owings Mills. This project is proposed to parallel
3 MA, which continues on to Rutledge. And from Owings Mills
4 to Rutledge, it's approximately 21.4 miles. And in that
5 21.4 miles we plan on paralleling our MA pipeline the
6 majority of the way to less impact to other resources.

7 When we look at these routes, there's a variety
8 of things that we have to look at; we have to look at the
9 impact to the environment, trees, different species, and
10 also homes, roadways, and et cetera. There's other things
11 that have to be taken into consideration, and we did all of
12 that.

13 What we've come up with -- and again, we're in
14 the pre-filing stages. As Medha said, we haven't got our
15 certificate yet. So we're in the pre-filing stage, and
16 that's what we're doing now; we're coming out and meeting
17 with you folks to see what your concerns are. That's what
18 these meetings are about so that we can recognize what those
19 concerns are and address them with you.

20 At some of our open houses we were able to
21 address some of them immediately. There were some folks
22 that got letters that actually weren't next to the pipeline
23 or near the construction; they were just there because their
24 property line touched within the area.

25 The other thing we want to make sure that you're

1 aware of is that we have land agents that are assigned to
2 different areas. So the land agent that you talked with
3 should be the land agent that you will talk with throughout
4 this project. There will be specific land agents assigned
5 to different districts.

6 And again, we were paralleling the pipeline the
7 majority of the way to lessen the impact. We have a 50 foot
8 right-of-way on MA, we're going to use part of that right-
9 of-way for the construction of MB, and then there will be
10 another 50 foot on the side of that, in areas there will be
11 50 foot temporary construction. There will also be some
12 areas where we will have work space, and that is where we
13 may have to park vehicles, offload pipe or what have you.
14 But those are all marked on the map; you can see all that
15 information out here on the viewer.

16 I want to speak just a few minutes about safety.
17 We've had questions about that; Columbia has a very good
18 integrity management program. When this pipeline is laid,
19 it will be inspected in accordance with the U.S. Department
20 of Transportation; will follow all the guidelines,
21 requirements to lay this pipeline. And then once that
22 pipeline is laid, it falls under our integrity management
23 program, and is basically watched 24/7; the flow of gas, and
24 then periodically we run tests on the pipeline to make sure
25 that we have no internal or external corrosion.

1 Again, I would like to thank you for your time.
2 I appreciate the opportunity to come up to speak with you
3 folks. And if we can help you in any way, that phone number
4 I gave you -- call us, stop by, and if there's any
5 information you need, please come to us. we want you to
6 know. That's our whole goal, is we want you to know what
7 we're doing.

8 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you, Doug.

9 (Pause to add more seating for audience.)

10 DR. KOCHHAR: The representative from Columbia
11 will be available.

12 Is everybody seated? Do we need more chairs?
13 There are a few chairs in front.

14 Anyway, if any one of you is interested in
15 talking with Columbia after the meeting is over, we will be
16 available here to help you answer your questions.

17 We will now begin the important part of the
18 meeting where we hear your comments, and we will first take
19 comments from those who signed up on the speaker's list
20 which was on the table in the back. After we have gone
21 through the list of these who have signed up, if there is
22 still more time available, we will open the floor to others.

23 If you would prefer, you may hand us your
24 original comments tonight, or send them in to the Commission
25 by following the procedures outlined in the NOI. There's

1 also a form on the sign-in table that you can use to write
2 your comments on and give them to me or to any of the FERC
3 staff tonight. There are also instructions on the form
4 detailing how to mail them to the FERC, whether you provide
5 your comments verbally or by mail, they will all be given
6 equal consideration.

7 I'm sure you have noted that this meeting is
8 being recorded by a transcription service. This is being
9 done so that all of your comments and questions will be
10 transcribed and put into the public record. To help the
11 court reporter produce an accurate record of this meeting, I
12 ask that you please follow some ground rules. When you come
13 forward, step up to the microphone right here and state your
14 name and spell it, please, so that the court reporter can
15 take it correctly. Identify any agency or group
16 affiliations that you may belong to, and define any acronyms
17 you may use. Please speak directly into the microphone so
18 your comments can be accurately heard and placed in the
19 record by the court reporter.

20 I also ask that the audience respect the speaker
21 by refraining from being disruptive..

22 We are now ready to call the speakers, and Doug
23 Sipe is going to call in the names according to the list,
24 and please come to the microphone once your name is
25 announced so that we can hear your comments. Thank you.

1 MR. SIPE: Hi, guys, Doug Sipe, I'm also with
2 FERC. I'm the Outreach Manager. Mehda introduced me
3 earlier.

4 I will not that on here there is a speaker down
5 at the bottom. If you signed this speaker sheet down at the
6 bottom of the sheet, if you can remember, I can't make out
7 the name at all. So if you signed this down towards the
8 bottom, you may want to go back at the back table and sign
9 up again so we can call your name. I can't even remotely,
10 even try to wing it, so I don't want to do that.

11 Again, we're here tonight, we're going to go down
12 through here, it looks like we have about 13 speakers signed
13 up. We will try to answer your questions you have here
14 tonight. Again when a speaker is speaking, just respect
15 that speaker. And like I said, we're here to try to help
16 you guys and give you guys as much information as we can.
17 We're not going to know all the answers, but we'll know
18 hopefully some of them.

19 Okay, the first speaker on the list tonight is
20 David Raymuth. And again, I just remind you, when you get
21 up to the microphone if you could state your name and
22 sometimes spell it for the court reporter.

23 MR. RAYMUTH: Thank you. My name is David
24 Raymuth. I'm speaking for 15 homeowners in the Delwood and
25 the Johnson's Delight subdivision. We all about the MA and

1 the proposed MB pipeline, and we would like to advise you
2 that we are opposed to the proposed pipeline beyond the
3 existing right-of-way as it exists today.

4 Columbia Gas has not made the case for this
5 further project in our minds. The destruction of forest,
6 wetlands and residential communities seems extremely
7 serious. We've addressed all the items noted in the FERC
8 LOI, and the call for this scoping meeting.

9 We have also proposed some alternative routes;
10 and that is a very brief amount of alternatives. We
11 believe that Columbia has not done any outside-the-box
12 thinking in this, nor planned for any future growth. And
13 the future growth is a concern that should be addressed now
14 rather than late. Because the problem with the MA pipeline
15 right now, there was no future growth planned, residential
16 communities and great parks were built around it, and now
17 they want to come in and take that all away. Does not make
18 any sense to us.

19 The process also to us is being rushed. We were
20 only advised of this meeting on April 16th. At that time we
21 had a relatively nebulous idea of what was happening. We
22 have tried to get details from Columbia; we've gotten some,
23 but as of this date they have not finalized any staking of
24 all the property, so we don't even know what's happening.
25 It is very, very difficult for us to get this kind of detail

1 to you so you can make intelligent comments and decisions
2 further on down the line.

3 So therefore, we go into all this in detail, but
4 we believe that the proposed Columbia Gas right-of-way
5 enlargement is an ill-conceived project; the Federal Energy
6 Regulatory Commission should reject it. We request FERC
7 require a new, in-depth comprehensive study of alterative
8 routes that will allow for future growth and provide some
9 meaningful consultation with all stakeholders early in the
10 process, not in the process.

11 If FERC finds for the proposed MB route, we
12 believe it should be within the existing MA right-of-way,
13 not an expansion thereof. We also ask that the Commission
14 allow us to make additional comments to this document.
15 We'll be filing this on line, and thank you very much for
16 your attention.

17 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you. Regarding the process,
18 Doug Sipe is going to explain the process again and also
19 help us answer the question someday.

20 MR. SIPE: These dates that you have in the NOIs,
21 we hear this -- this isn't my first scoping meeting by any
22 stretch of the imagination. It's something that we always
23 hear about the dates and everyone feels rushed about the
24 dates. Really what they are is they are NEPA scoping time
25 frames. They are set according to -- NEPA stands for

1 National Environmental Policy Act. We have to have certain
2 time frames in there in order to address comments as they
3 come in.

4 The record is going to be open from now until the
5 Commission votes on this project, but we have to have
6 certain time frames set to meet certain time frames where we
7 need to address the questions in a timely manner.

8 We are going to take comments on this proceeding
9 from now up until the Commission votes on this project. So
10 this date, don't be alarmed by this date; that's just kind
11 of the official NEPA end to scoping. In the real general
12 FERC record, scoping ends by definition once they file an
13 application. Once they file an application, we continue to
14 take comments, as you can see by that big flow chart back
15 there.

16 So don't feel rushed by that date, by any means;
17 there's a lot of time between now and when the Commission
18 will vote on this project.

19 Again, as noted, thank you for your comments sir.
20 Alternatives, the proposed route, there's going to be lots
21 of things looked at between now and when they file an
22 application. Once they file an application, we're going to
23 continue to look at certain things, as in alternatives in
24 different routing and different system alternatives and
25 such.

1 This is very early on in the process. Half of
2 the room sometimes likes it to be early on where the staking
3 is not all complete, where the company doesn't necessarily
4 have their mind made up. The other half of the room, we'd
5 kind of like Columbia to have their mind made up and you
6 guys could comment on what the project is. But this is pre-
7 filing; this project is being brought to us in a pre-filing
8 state. So remember, it could change a lot between now and
9 once they file an application or once you see an
10 environmental document from us. Just keep that in mind.

11 DR. KOCHHAR: I would add to that, during the
12 pre-filing process we try to refine the route by addressing
13 all the comments that we have received. So that's why it is
14 helpful for us. If we receive your comments, then we know
15 what else is there that we need to look into. And if
16 somebody identifies an alternative route, we are going to
17 see is that any better? Is there a piece of this project
18 that can be replaced by that route? No.

19 So it helps us get started early on; and that is
20 another reason we like for you to give us comments. But
21 feel free to give us those whenever you can. Thank you.

22 MR. SIPE: The next speaker on the list, Warren
23 Alperstein?

24 MR. ALPERSTEIN: It's Warren Alperstein,
25 [spelling].

1 I live in Beaver, grew up on Deer Creek Court.
2 It's an area that is very much affected by the proposed
3 expansion. I am adamantly opposed, for a number of reasons.

4 Number one, obviously I think everybody would
5 agree, the environment. There is, between Old Manor and
6 Deer Creek Court there's hundreds of acres of environmental
7 area; there's a stream, there's trout, there's endangered
8 species of the Bog Turtle, which you're probably familiar
9 with; there are a number of birds, there are blue herons
10 that are in there.

11 It had been suggested if there's a way to drill,
12 when the folks from Columbia met with us at the Chestnut
13 Ridge Firehouse last week, if there's a way to drill where
14 it wouldn't affect the environment, and the only way I can
15 perceive that is if it's being drilled from a helicopter --
16 I'm not sure how that would happen.

17 (Laughter)

18 That being said, we are worried that wells and
19 septic systems are going to be not just affected but
20 destroyed. Personally, myself as well as my next door
21 neighbors' wells come within five feet of the proposed
22 temporary easement. There's nobody that can convince me
23 that that five feet is going to be protected from a
24 bulldozer backing into my well. Nobody could probably
25 guarantee me that, that that's not a viable possibility,

1 unless Jersey walls were implanted on my lawn to protect my
2 well.

3 I'm concerned about the fact that I have three
4 young boys, that in my back yard -- there will be trenches
5 in my back yard -- that despite efforts by the company to
6 protect my children, there's no way that I'm going to be
7 satisfied that, for the entire summer and months beyond,
8 that my children will be safe from the dangers of heavy
9 equipment being there, not to mention the trenches that will
10 be there.

11 What was deeply concerning, quite frankly, so
12 disturbing and frustrating, is that when the folks from
13 Columbia met with us at the firehouse last week, we asked
14 them about alternative routes and were told: 'We've
15 considered the alternative routes and they're just not
16 viable.'

17 And many of us pressed, what are those
18 alternative routes that you are saying are not viable? We
19 were told we would get that information. So the person who
20 was representing the company could not provide that
21 information, which was fascinating to the 40 some people,
22 most of which are here, were sitting in that room, that
23 you're trying to get our blessing on something, yet you
24 haven't a clue what you're talking about with regard to
25 alternative routes.

1 Now, there's alternative routes that are proposed
2 on the board out there, but it's impossible for us to voice
3 our concerns about things when nobody can now still tonight
4 explain the viability of these alternative routes. So we
5 can say we're concerned about the environment but yet we
6 don't know what these alternatives are. And there has been
7 a total lack of transparency; many of us did not find out
8 about this whole plan until a week ago, and that's not what
9 should be happening. And frankly, it's a shame that our
10 government lets these things happen.

11 Finally we have people that are now here and
12 we're able to express ourselves, hopefully you'll consider
13 what we're all saying. Thank you all for coming, because at
14 least you all seem to have an idea of what's going on here.
15 Thanks.

16 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

17 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Warren.

18 Next speaker, Chris Yoder.

19 MR. YODER: And you got the pronunciation
20 correct; C h r i s, Yoder, Y o d e r. I'm Chair of the
21 Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club, and speaking on
22 behalf of the members in Baltimore County.

23 I fully expect the E.A. will get into the weeds.
24 I expect that an E.A. is going to talk about how many
25 milligrams of fine particulate matter come out of the

1 exhaust of diesel equipment, and we'll talk about grams per
2 cubic centimeter of sediment, and it will talk about best
3 practices, and it gets into the weeds and avoids the big
4 question.

5 Frankly, I expect an E.A. to generate a FONSI --
6 that's not a sitcom character, that's a Finding Of No
7 Significant Impact -- and it will talk about best management
8 practices and mitigation matters. My experience is that
9 FONSI's for projects frequently are issued for projects that
10 do have significant impact; but of course after the impact,
11 it's too late. Best management practices are just that;
12 they're plans. I'd like to point out that I am now in my
13 30th year of my 5 year plan to lose 30 pounds, and I've
14 gained 20.

15 (Laughter)

16 British Petroleum had best practices, or at least
17 would have told us they did, in the Gulf. Best practices
18 guarantee nothing. But as I said, the E.A. is probably
19 going to get into the minutia and not look at the big
20 picture. And I think the big picture is 'why this? why
21 now? why here?'

22 And in conversations in the hall before we came
23 in, I tried to get answers to those questions; I did not. I
24 was told it was for reliability, but I asked "Well, how many
25 times have customers been deprived due to reliability

1 problems in the pipeline? They didn't know of any examples.

2 You know, is there any evidence of unreliability?
3 Is there any assessment of alternative ways of providing
4 reliability? Well, we don't know. Are there other means to
5 deal with the problems of maintenance? They said the gas
6 that comes through this pipeline could come from as far away
7 as Mexico. Well, in that pipeline, or cascade of pipelines,
8 how many places are there where it's single-tracked. You
9 know, why this pipeline here and now? We don't know.

10 And my concern is frankly they're going to double
11 the capacity. Now they say 'Oh, we're going to just ship the
12 same amount of gas.' Well, do we know that that's going to
13 be forever. You don't spend millions of dollars building a
14 hammer without looking for a nail. And they're building
15 double capacity on the pipeline. I suspect at some point in
16 the future, in the life of that pipeline, they're going to
17 say 'Well, we've got to ship more gas through it.'

18 I believe that FERC has an obligation to look at
19 where that gas is going to come from and how it's going to
20 be produced. And frankly, my prediction is that a lot of
21 it's going to come out of the Marcellus Shale Formation and
22 be done by fracking. And I think FERC has an obligation not
23 to do an E.A. but to do an EIS and look at the big picture.

24 Is this going to produce an incentive for
25 transporting fracked gas? If so, fracking is part of the

1 equation. Is this going to produce more greenhouse gas
2 emissions? If so, that's part of the equation, and FERC
3 needs to look at that. And that's basically what we have to
4 say. There are just too many unanswered questions to
5 address, and that FERC needs to look at the big picture, not
6 just the minutia.

7 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

8 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Chris.

9 Next speaker on the list, Charles Fram?

10 MR. FRAIN: We'll work with that. It's actually
11 Frank. My name is Charles Frain [spelling]. I'm from the
12 Grand Lodge of Maryland in Hunt Valley, and I'm here today
13 to talk about how this is going to impact our land.

14 A lot of our land is conservation right now; I
15 don't know how much you're familiar with up here. There are
16 is a retirement community there, it's called the Maryland
17 Masonic Homes. They have been looking for quite a few years
18 to expand and utilize some of this land. Right now the gas
19 line is going to be coming through -- currently there is a
20 gas line -- and they're going to run alongside of it. It's
21 over 3500 feet; a pipe is going to come through. But what
22 it's doing is, it's actually adding another 50 foot
23 easement.

24 Now 50 foot doesn't sound a lot, but since a lot
25 of our land is conservation, there are sections of this

1 property where it's like 29 acres and then another 10 and
2 another 9; but the larger piece, which we have been looking
3 to develop since 2004. We put a lot of time and effort into
4 it, and right around 2008 we were very close to doing it; of
5 course the economy changed.

6 Now what their concern is is that losing this is
7 going to really make a change to our land. The assessment
8 value of the land, what I'm going to be able to do with it,
9 because as we all know the gas line's here, I'm very limited
10 in building above it.

11 We have worked very close with Columbia Gas in
12 the past for other things they've had to do over there, but
13 our big concern right now is that we have no idea how this
14 is going to impact it, because that extra pipeline, that
15 extra 50 foot, is going to make a huge piece of where the
16 land is actually shaped, those gas lines go right down
17 through the middle of it.

18 And the reason that they were bringing this up is
19 in the past we knew they were there and we were working
20 around them. I mean, if the pipeline were to be able to
21 stay within the easement and not have to -- the right-of-way
22 that's there right now, not have to have additional
23 easements, this wouldn't be a problem, because it's already
24 there anyway. But now the fact that we are really waiting
25 to be able to do something with this, and one of the things

1 I will be doing is submitting paperwork and showing all the
2 progress we have been trying to make with this; and I will
3 submit that formally on line, and mail it in.

4 Because it's not that we don't want to help, but
5 it's really going to have quite an impact on what we can do
6 with this property; and we're actually looking to expand our
7 senior living so that we can get more independent people out
8 there in living quarters; and if this changes that, the
9 land, there's not going to be very much I can do with it,
10 unless I make huge parking lots. That's not what they're
11 looking to do. I've got to put new units up and use the
12 land to help us progress and modernize.

13 I just wanted to ask if there would be any
14 consideration on something like this. There's a lot of land
15 out there; I don't know if they can move it around, but
16 right now we've got three gas lines coming through there;
17 it's going to make quite an impact, and I would appreciate
18 any help FERC can give us in looking at alternatives -- you
19 know, it's absolutely necessary. Thank you, and I
20 appreciate your time.

21 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

22 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

23 If you guys have any development around the
24 pipeline itself, like you've been working on development
25 with the county, with the state, whoever it may be, whatever

1 development it may be, submit that information to FERC so we
2 can look at that when we're looking at the actual proposed
3 route and the alternatives associated with that.

4 Any info like that, as early as you can get it to
5 us, would be very helpful.

6 The next speaker on the list, Harry Wilhelm.

7 MR. WILHELM: Harry Wilhelm, and I'm speaking on
8 behalf of my sister, Julie Wilhelm. W i l h e l m.

9 The reason she's asked me to speak to you is
10 because I'm somewhat familiar with the rights-of-way, having
11 spent 48 years with BG&E, 33 of which was in upper
12 management.

13 First of all, your diagram which is attached to
14 the mailing you sent out is misleading, in my opinion,
15 because your construction is planned on the north side, the
16 blue line; and this has the same system on. And then
17 mediating from the, paralleling the existing line and
18 shoving it over on her property, taking 50 foot plus 25
19 foot, which will bring it right up to her house.

20 Now that is zoned RC-5, which is two and a half,
21 two and three-quarters in rock. So in talking to a
22 representative from Baltimore County, that's going to mess
23 up that tract in the future; building a house, locating
24 septic systems and a well. And my feeling is, having worked
25 in this gas construction and rights-of-way, I don't see any

1 need at all for any work space agreements; there's 70 feet
2 on the south side of existing rights-of-way. And the
3 contractor has equipment, and we've used it with BG&E, to do
4 all the construction from one side; otherwise, I'd trench it
5 and put up -- truss it. Then they've got their own
6 equipment with the booms and sleighs, and drop the pipe in
7 the trench.

8 So I want to ask that that be given
9 consideration. I know there are some trees on the property
10 in a line between us and Rittenhouse Road, and although we
11 would lose some of those trees, I think that's not as
12 important as saving some of the other trees; that big
13 construction easement in his pocket, is going to really
14 devastate that woods back there. So that's another reason
15 I'm saying that all the construction should be done on the
16 south side. Take that into consideration.

17 And maybe -- I don't know about having -- you
18 have in that existing 50 foot original right-of-way, but
19 maybe it's a possibility the pipe could be placed in the 50
20 foot and not even require any farther. Now when BG&E
21 paralleled that, they were able to do their line in 20 foot.
22 Of course, that's only 5 foot difference between what you
23 want.

24 But I talked last week with a principal design
25 engineer, and he says he doesn't see any reason why it can't

1 be done in 20 feet rather than 25 feet, if it does go that
2 way.

3 So I thank you for your service.

4 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Harry.

5 Marvin Tenberg.

6 MR. TENBERG: That's M a r v i n and Tenberg, T e
7 n b e r g. I am the Vice President of the Falls Road
8 Community Association, and we represent over 2,700 families
9 in the areas of Hunt Valley and Cockeysville, and we are 65
10 years old.

11 Our main purpose in life is to make this a better
12 community for the people. And we have been hearing from
13 people, and although I live close by, several miles a way,
14 I'm not immediately impacted myself, but we've heard from
15 people and their feelings. So we're very concerned about
16 that.

17 We've also not heard from some of the most
18 important parts of this issue, because the streams, the
19 land, the trees and the wildlife, they can't speak. But we
20 can speak for them, and my determination from the way
21 they're speaking is a 'big thumbs down.'

22 (Applause)

23 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Mr. Tenberg.

24 Harold Burns?

25 MR. BURNS: You got it. B u r n s, Harold -- H a

1 r o l d. Hi. I'm the President of the Falls Road Community
2 Association.

3 I have to start with, Columbia Gas, as far as I
4 can understand it, comes to you with unclean hands; they
5 certainly came to us with unclean hands. It is my
6 understanding that they told our county council that they
7 were not going to go outside the existing right-of-way, but
8 here they are asking to do exactly that. And this
9 misrepresentation was also carried out in the community for
10 three to four months, slowing down what our response would
11 have been. This response is two and a half months. If we
12 had had six, you'd see more people. We will.

13 I read your book and it says you're interested in
14 the environmental aspects like geology and soils. Well, the
15 soils up here erode if you look at them funny. The land use
16 is minimal. You've got a space up here that is green, and
17 it is the last space in the Baltimore metropolitan area that
18 is, going from about the Beltway all the way to the
19 Pennsylvania line. We don't like to see it ripped to shreds
20 for 20 miles, 30 miles at a stretch.

21 Water resources, the fish, the wetlands. The
22 streams around here, believe it or not, still have self-
23 sustaining Brook Trout, Eastern Brook Trout populations.
24 That population, those various populations, they hang in the
25 balance. And the slightest change might kill them. Every

1 time another development goes up, the Brook Trout
2 populations go down. Whenever there's more on the surface,
3 like over there at Oregon Grove, the Brook Trout populations
4 diminish a little bit. And sooner or later, they just are
5 gone.

6 So this destruction that you have the power to
7 visit upon us can change the ecosystems that we love
8 profoundly. And this is Baltimore, hon. We're born here,
9 we've been here forever, and we're going to stay here and
10 fight you.

11 (Applause)

12 I know it's not you; that's the libes.

13 Cultural resources; well, it is alleged that Lee
14 might have won at Gettysburg if Stewart wasn't down here
15 partying.

16 (Laughter)

17 But he was, and Lee lost. Vegetation and
18 Wildlife. I'm no expert; oh, I've got a B.S. in biology,
19 but that doesn't make me an expert, but nonetheless I know
20 this: I've been living out here -- well, I've been here my
21 whole life, but I've been living here 25 years and in that
22 time I've seen box turtles disappear, Princess pine, the
23 little tiny green things that grow in the woods disappear;
24 the Eastern Bluebird just about disappear, and the Brook
25 Trout in my stream are -- well, I'm not sure there are Brook

1 Trout in my stream; but I think there are, I hope there are.
2 I say there are.

3 In any case, I don't see anything else disappear.
4 The deer. Now, if you could make them --

5 (Laughter)
6 -- you would be heroes.

7 So I think that you come to us unwelcome -- no
8 offense intended. And Columbia Gas comes to us, as I said,
9 unclean hands just doesn't quite capture it, but it works in
10 the law.

11 We ask you to reject this project, no question
12 about it. It is impossible that this project can go forward
13 and not have a significant impact on this beautiful country.
14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Mr. Burns.

17 Next speaker, Steve Chandler.

18 MR. CHANDLER: My name is Stephen Chandler, S t e
19 p h e n, Chandler, C h a n d l e r. I echo a lot of the
20 things that have already been said tonight.

21 But we're here talking about energy transmission,
22 and electric and gas are in many ways similar; they both get
23 transmitted hundreds of miles, they're a commodity; one watt
24 is pretty much the same as another one, a cubic foot is
25 pretty much the same as another. They disrupt and damage

1 the environment through their transmission, constructing
2 transmission lines, particularly. Both present some kind of
3 a safety hazard, and both have an impact on property values,
4 and nobody wants them in their back yards.

5 What's different is there's different business
6 models. The electric system is operated as a coop, it's
7 built pretty much as a coop, it's founded as a coop, it's
8 operated as a coop. My understanding is that the gas
9 companies operate independently. There are at least three
10 companies, gas and electric companies. One of them,
11 Columbia Transco or the other two that I'm aware of, that
12 operate significant pipelines through this corridor.

13 It seems to me with all the concern that we have
14 about the environment, about safety, about my property
15 value, there ought to be some way to share that capacity so
16 Columbia can do its maintenance during off-peak times,
17 spring and fall typically are off peak -- and not have to
18 build another pipeline. And FERC, it seems to me, maybe it
19 has the way to make that happen.

20 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Mr. Chandler.

21 Next speaker, Richard Field.

22 MR. FIELD: [Spelling] I live between milepost
23 16 and 17 on here. And I've been out of town; I had to take
24 care of mother, who has had a stroke. At any rate, when I
25 got back home and I took a look at the map and read of some

1 of the alternatives that were being considered, and then I'm
2 in impacts on residential communities, because the pipeline
3 comes within 30 feet of my house. And route or route
4 alternatives.

5 When I look at the map, first of all, I didn't
6 see exactly how it would impact my particular property until
7 tonight. All I had was this very rough map. Well,
8 apparently it's not straight along the existing pipeline; it
9 takes all sorts of twists and turns, which to me every time
10 you have a turn in a pipeline, you're going to have an
11 increase in friction. You're going to have to have an
12 increase in power to push the gas through.

13 So I saw tonight in my front yard that basically
14 the line goes through. And then this line will come and
15 sort of go along the street, then cut across the corner of
16 my property, then go through -- I speak for I would say my
17 neighborhood, which is Dunston Lane, Allendale Court, and
18 that area. It comes, the pipeline comes right through
19 there. And as I look at the map, it's going to make many
20 little twists and turns in order to get through, which means
21 of course that they're expanding their right-of-way on my
22 property which, by all representation that I had before was
23 that it was just going to parallel the existing pipeline, so
24 it wasn't going to mean an increase of the right-of-way.

25 Meanwhile, one-quarter mile to the Northwest,

1 paralleling the existing pipeline, there is a corridor of
2 another pipeline that is cut back, and there are no houses
3 that are right along it. In my neighborhood it goes through
4 and it goes very close to several houses, and they're making
5 all these twists and turns in the pipeline, which doesn't
6 seem logical to me from an engineering point of view.

7 But anyway, a quarter mile to the north, and I
8 don't know, it might be a BGE pipeline, but there's a right-
9 of-way. And of course my friends might live off the end of
10 Rodeo Road; that's the pipeline, what it parallels. I
11 wonder why that cannot be used as an alternative for getting
12 through the neighborhood or around the area that I'm in,
13 that they could start at Manor Road and they could follow
14 that right-of-way and not have to have something that's
15 rather convoluted through my neighborhood.

16 And then the other thing that I noticed here is
17 that you can tell on this map, is that once you get up into
18 Harford County, between milepost 18 and 21, the original
19 pipeline goes through actually an area of very beautiful and
20 very expensive homes. And you see that the red there jots
21 off to the southeast, and then heads back up north. And you
22 look at that and you say "Well, of course, it's because the
23 people there who are very wealthy probably have great
24 clout." And then you read back a couple of pages that you
25 see where, between Garrison Forest and Shawan Road, milepost

1 1.4 8.2 and Madison Drive and Jawal Court, milepost 5 to 6,
2 that they are being considered alternative routes. I figure
3 those must be neighborhoods that have clout as well.

4 So I think that for my neighborhood, I just feel
5 that there is an existing right-of-way that has good space
6 on either side that could be used. I didn't really get to
7 this until within the last couple of days. Thank you.

8 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Mr. Field.

9 Maps are definitely crucial to most people and
10 they should be. Again, this is early on in the process.
11 But if you ask Columbia, they should be to provide to you a
12 site-specific alignment sheet of how it crosses your
13 property, how it's proposed now. So they should be able to
14 provide that to you; work with your land agent, work with
15 whoever is speaking to you from Columbia, and they should be
16 able to provide that to you. They have maps in the back,
17 they have computer systems set up now, so they should be
18 able to provide you with a map of how it affects your
19 property.

20 Next speaker on the list, Bobby Zirkin.

21 MR. ZIRKIN: Good evening. Bobby Zirkin, Z i r k
22 i n, and I'm speaking with three hats tonight. I reside at
23 4 Old Manor Court, which is, as Mr. Alperstein talked about
24 before, we border the Beaver Dam Run, which is Department of
25 Natural Resources-protected land. This route goes right

1 between.

2 So I'm speaking as a citizen, as a father of two
3 young girls. I'm also speaking as a Senator from District
4 11; I'm the state senator for the vast majority of where
5 this line cuts through, and I'm just quite frankly speaking
6 as a citizen who cares about the environment, and has
7 learned about these fights, much more than I ever wanted to
8 from Jersey City on down, the types of fights that we're
9 going to have to wage here in District 11 and out to Harford
10 County.

11 So all three of these hats; I respectfully that
12 you now allow this project to go forward and that we look
13 for alternatives to building. Because as many of these
14 speakers have said, this is a beautiful protected area.
15 This is a beautiful environment; we have endangered species
16 along this route, I know some of them have already been
17 found along this route. We have Department of Natural
18 Resources-protected lands, so our State and our State
19 taxpayers have footed the bill to protect land that you
20 can't ride a bicycle through without being in trouble with
21 the law. But yet we would allow trucks to go through, and I
22 understand horizontal directional drilling -- I never knew
23 that term before, but I've learned. And quite frankly, that
24 doesn't cut it. It doesn't cut it just to go underneath a
25 trout stream.

1 A quick story. One thing, I did want to thank
2 you all for coming here; I know that you do this a lot and
3 this is hard to do, and I appreciate your presence here
4 today. Today I was interviewed by WJZ on this issue, and I
5 brought them to the Department of Natural Resources
6 protected land, and right on cue, a beautiful heron flew
7 right in and a stream of ducks came right on cue to put
8 themselves right behind me before WJZ. It would be nice if
9 I could set that up, but it was right on cue, and it was
10 perfect for what it is that we're talking about out here,
11 because all up and down this route, from Owings Mills Mall
12 all the way out, Oregon Ridge, Beaver Dam Run, Rosewood --
13 which I know you're going to talk about in a second, because
14 this goes through Rosewood, which by the way is
15 environmentally-contaminated land in our district, which
16 we'll talk about in a second.

17 All across this route is beautiful land with
18 animals and endangered species and not-endangered species
19 and old trees, and the environment which deserves our
20 protection. So I just came from a meeting of what's called
21 Valleys Training Council. It's one of the big organizations
22 here; and unfortunately, Valleys Training Council has their
23 annual meeting tonight, and this was first on their agenda.
24 And we've been passing out letters; you're going to be
25 getting hundreds of letters for someone to read into the

1 record and get a copy of.

2 I am also speaking here on behalf of myself,
3 State Delegate Dan Morhaim couldn't be here, and State
4 Delegate Jon Cardin, and County Councilwoman Vicki Almond.
5 We're all unified against this project, strongly.

6 I would respectfully say I've met with the folks
7 from Columbia, they're very good lobbyists, but not once has
8 anybody explained to me why this is necessary. I understand
9 why they want it; so will Transco and so will some of the
10 others that transverse our district, but I've never heard
11 from them why this is necessary, or why they couldn't, as
12 somebody spoke before said, use alternatives like the
13 Transco route, which is just one mile south of where this
14 is. What they really need is to be able to maintain their
15 line and keep the gas going. Why couldn't they use some of
16 the other corridors, some of the other lines that are in
17 existence?

18 This process has been rushed. I was on the phone
19 with the governor a few days about this; the staff certainly
20 knew about it but it had not reached his ears. Spoke with
21 Doug Ganzer, he knew nothing about this as well.
22 Congressman John Sarbanes was unaware of this. And these
23 are all phone calls within the last week that I've made, and
24 will continue to. I know the Department of Natural
25 Resources has been in touch with FERC and has said that they

1 can't possibly do an environmental assessment of the
2 magnitude, of this scale, in the time frame before May 16th.
3 And I appreciate, Mr. Sipe, that you talked about how May
4 16th is not a fast deadline.

5 With a route such as this, this deserves at the
6 very least the best environmental assessment you can do, and
7 environmental impact statement. This is an important
8 treasure we have out here; I have lived here my entire life.
9 These are treasures that this path is going through, and I
10 get that 45 years ago a line was built, but that's the line
11 -- if you said, 'let's build a line, let's find a route' and
12 you didn't have one right now, you would never go through
13 the route that they're talking about, through DNR land,
14 through Oregon Ridge; you wouldn't even think about it.

15 So I've spoken with Department of Environment,
16 Department of Natural Resources. I know this morning the
17 Public Service Commission said that they were going to
18 intervene in this case, not just for observation, but they
19 want in on this. We're asking respectfully to put huge
20 brakes on this at the very least; and quite frankly if you
21 can see your way clear to telling them, "No, that would be
22 great, I'm sure, with most of my district."

23 You know, I've been asked by the company to give
24 alternatives. And I said to them, 'That's like me being
25 asked to give alternatives to different ways to do brain

1 surgery, but I'll give it my best shot.' I mean, starting
2 at the Owings Mills Mall there are highways, there are
3 business corridors, and I can give you a lot of them. The
4 general statement I said to them over and over again is:
5 Don't impact these neighborhoods, don't impact these lands.
6 Don't impact the Bog Turtle which is right up and down this
7 route.

8 I said, 'Well, you have these endangered species,
9 so why is it that that's not -- why doesn't that stop this
10 process? Why doesn't that make it go around? And I learn,
11 found in the Federal Register that they had filed with the
12 Fish & Wildlife Service to get -- forgive me if my
13 terminology is wrong -- but a limited exemption to the
14 Endangered Species Act so they could get a permit for
15 'limited takings of endangered species.' I don't know what
16 that means; that sounds like they'd have the ability to kill
17 them.

18 It's a lot of stuff that we're all trying to get
19 our hands around over here, from the governor on down, quite
20 frankly. And I would beg you to make them slow this process
21 down. They told me they wanted to start digging next
22 spring. I mean, my community hasn't even had an opportunity
23 to weigh in; but they will, I promise you. I have hundreds
24 of letters in my hand right now which I'm going to be
25 submitting, and you will be getting thousands more, I

1 promise you. And you'll be hearing from everybody across
2 this district.

3 On behalf of myself, my colleagues -- and I know
4 we're just state legislators, and I know we're just 21 miles
5 on a map from NiSource, the parent company that's waging
6 these types of battles up and down the East Coast, but this
7 is an important of our state, this is an important treasure
8 in Baltimore County, and we are asking you to protect at all
9 costs, and that means not to let them dig through this
10 property.

11 So again I respectfully say thank you for coming,
12 but I would respectfully ask you to tell them no; and at the
13 very least, tell them to look for radical alternatives to
14 going straight through the heart of Green Spring Valley and
15 the Falls Road Corridor.

16 Finally, you should know, this is an example of
17 the lack of homework that's been done on this from the
18 company. Rosewood is an environmentally contaminated land.
19 The reason -- Rosewood is an old mental institution in the
20 middle of my district, which the Board of Public Works has
21 said will be delivered to Stevenson University; it's a
22 growing university in the middle of our district. Which
23 also, by the way, this thing goes right through that new
24 university.

25 So they plan on going through Rosewood. The

1 problem with that, of course, is that you can't set foot on
2 Rosewood right now. You have \$50 million worth of
3 environmental contamination from asbestos to pipes that are
4 in the ground currently. That's why it hasn't been
5 transferred over to the university, and that's the lack of
6 homework that these folks have done on this.

7 That's just one example. Another one is Beaver
8 Dam Run. Again, protected land. The Department of Natural
9 Resources owns that land. We foot the bill for a trout
10 stream that's there, for bog turtles that are there, and
11 other species. And as Mr. Alperstein said earlier, this
12 isn't dropping down from a helicopter; these are trucks that
13 are going to be going through there. You can't protect
14 those habitats with directional drilling.

15 So I apologize for the somewhat disjointed
16 statement. You'll be hearing a lot from all of us, in many,
17 many different ways. Please turn this down or make them go
18 back to the drawing board and say, "Find a new route that
19 does not impact these communities and these tremendous
20 treasures."

21 Thank you very much.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Senator Zirkin.

24 Next speaker on the list, Steve Luray.

25 MR. LURAY: That's Steve with a 'v' Luray, L u r

1 a y. I live at 11 Deer Creek Court, Warren's neighbor. A
2 lot of people have gotten up tonight and spoke about the
3 environment. I will, too, in a minute.

4 But no one has stepped up as an affected land
5 owner. I'm severely impacted by this; and going through the
6 front of my yard, the side of my house within 10 to 15 feet
7 of my house, out through my back yard. I will be pretty
8 much without the use of my back yard, as is Warren, for six
9 to nine months. Let alone private, e-simple use of your
10 house and your property.

11 One of my favorite pastimes in the last week, as
12 is many of yours, is logging onto the FERC website and
13 reading some of the new stuff that comes through, and
14 catching up on some of this. And it dawned on me as I
15 started reading through it that a lot of this stuff by
16 Columbia Gas has really already been done and filed. I
17 don't see them waiting three or four months to file this
18 thing. I am a businessman, and if it's me, I file this
19 thing the 17th or 18th. I would be surprised if they waited
20 three or four months.

21 It seems to me or it appears to me that it's
22 already been written. And my perspective from reading
23 through it was that this route was chosen a long time ago.
24 All the stuff, all the studies have been done; this isn't
25 something that was "Hey, we're going to look at this now."

1 This appears to me it was chosen a year or two years ago.
2 But that's just my take on it.

3 Yes, I live -- every morning I get to lean and
4 turn around and look at Deer Creek or Beaver Creek, and it's
5 right next to my house. Yes, there's all kinds of deer and
6 there's nesting pairs of Canadian geese there at the moment.
7 Yes, blue heron and everything else. When I do talk to
8 Columbia Gas, behind me we're not talking about directional
9 drilling, we're talking about plowing right through the
10 thing, with a ten foot wide trench, six foot deep and just
11 absolutely destroying something that has, to my knowledge as
12 I start reading it now, conservation easements on it, et
13 cetera. I just don't understand that.

14 Yes, it is a Class II trout stream as well. Yes,
15 I'm a member of Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited. It
16 offends me to have it plow right through a trout stream.

17 That's about all I have to say. Thanks
18 everybody, and I appreciate it.

19 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

20 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Mr. Luray.

21 Cheryl Aaron.

22 MS. AARON: My name is Cheryl with a C, Aaron, A
23 a r o n. I'm here on behalf of the Greater Greenspring
24 Association and I live on St. Thomas Lane, which runs
25 parallel to Rosewood.

1 It wasn't until this evening when I came here and
2 looked at the map and discovered that it was so ironic that
3 Columbia Gas thinks it's a good idea to have its game begin
4 running through Rosewood. As Senator Zirkin has just
5 stated, it is a cesspool.

6 I have worked for 20 years along with Senator
7 Zirkin to resolve the Rosewood issue. We brought Stevenson
8 University to the table. Stevenson University is still
9 sitting at that table because of the remediation costs.
10 They are mind-boggling. It is full of asbestos, it is full
11 of coal ash underground, it is full of interlinking tunnels,
12 there's contaminated groundwater, and I find it an
13 abomination for Columbia Gas to think a good idea to go
14 digging around on property that you cannot step foot on
15 because it is that contaminated.

16 They start digging -- I love the trees, I love
17 the animals, I even love the deer. But I love the people
18 that live in that area, including the students at Stevenson
19 University, the students at Genese High School and the
20 little kids that come to the nature center more. You start
21 digging that contamination out and that pollution becomes
22 airborne, the consequences are going to be huge.

23 I am asking you to deny this application because
24 their game out of the gate is flawed.

25 (Applause)

1 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Ms. Aaron.

2 Next speaker, Ben Lowentritt.

3 MR. LOWENTRITT: That was Ben, B e n, last name L
4 o w e n t r i t t. I'm going to be very brief. I'm
5 speaking on behalf of myself as a homeowner between the
6 Delwood and Beaver Brook developments on Joel Court.

7 Obviously, my home is directly affected, my
8 septic is directly affected, 25 to 30 trees on my property
9 are directly affected. And I think some of the thing that's
10 making all of us very uncomfortable is that the initial
11 claims, when we've had very nice, open discussions -- I
12 shouldn't say open -- nice discussions with the people from
13 Columbia Gas, the claim that this is for reliability is
14 silly and insulting, because we know that they're going to
15 be increasing capacity; and frankly it would be better for
16 them just to say -- and that kind of sets the tone for a lot
17 of the discussions.

18 It's also very insulting for them to come out and
19 say "Well, we've considered alternate routes and this is the
20 least impactful route." You know, least impactful to whom?
21 Because clearly it's the least expensive for them to drill
22 right along their own property. It doesn't make sense for
23 all the rest of us where, the claim that "Well, there's an
24 easement there" -- you know, that was an easement 45 years
25 ago. All of the developments have gone up to that easement,

1 and obviously it's now the most impactful route because
2 they're trying to add 50 feet onto that.

3 I really don't want to get into a lot of what was
4 discussed because I think, I really want to thank Senator
5 Zirkin for his great words. But, you know, I would just
6 really beg you as well to refuse this and to look for either
7 a plan, preferably not including any increase in the size of
8 the easement if it had to go in that area, but certainly
9 looking for something in a clearly different direction;
10 either through existing easements or some of the roads and
11 highways that are in the area that really wouldn't impact
12 neighborhoods. Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Mr. Lowentritt.

15 Now I'm down to that one name that I can't read.

16 Did anybody that I -- go try to sign back up?
17 Could be a speaker here that signed in again, that went back
18 to the table?

19 AUDIENCE: Does it start with 't'?

20 (Laughter)

21 MR. SIPE: Thiona -- I want to say I can't read
22 it. So that was our fault, it was our fault on the back
23 table for not --

24 AUDIENCE: Under No. 17.

25 MR. SIPE: No. 17 on the speaker's list, correct.

1 AUDIENCE: I'll go.

2 (Laughter)

3 MS. TORRE: My name is Tina Torre, T i n a T o r
4 r e.

5 Sorry.

6 MR. SIPE: That's fine.

7 MS. TORRE: First I'd like to say that I am a
8 11th grade AP environmental student. I just took my AP
9 environmental test yesterday. I very much enjoyed that
10 three-hour test.

11 Anyway, yes, just pretty much. Actually, I did
12 have to write an essay earlier in the year about fracking,
13 which a gentleman mentioned earlier, is using sand and water
14 and pressure to shatter what is it, shale rock, in order to
15 withdraw that natural gas. And let me just add that that
16 releases all kinds of runoff, so those chemicals are going
17 into whatever water you're doing that around, and
18 particulate matter.

19 And on top of that, the very vague description
20 the gentleman gave at the opening of this hearing for the
21 proposed pipeline, and it said that you guys had analyzed
22 the risk of environmental impacts and also the resources. I
23 was like, "Hold on a second. You analyzed it, but where are
24 your plans?" Like, I don't see anything physically in front
25 of me that makes me believe or reassures me that this is not

1 going to affect as much as what's been presented, like the
2 Rosewood issue.

3 Furthermore, I can throw anything together and
4 turn it into a teacher last minute. I mean, I'm just as
5 worried about deadlines as you guys are; I mean, who wants
6 to get a bad grade? But at the same time while you worry
7 about deadlines, you should worry about dead zones that
8 you're going to create when you throw together a plan that
9 you don't even think of and it ends up being devastating to
10 millions of people and animals.

11 And with the environment, you know over the year
12 I've learned that it's like a tripod; you knock out of its
13 legs and then the whole thing falls; it can't stand without
14 one or the other. And you take, let's say for example an
15 endangered species or a threatened species, and you just
16 worry about them, that's not solving your problem. You
17 take out any species, and it's going to directly affect
18 whatever food source that is, and under that it's a system;
19 you can't avoid one without hurting the others.

20 And then of course lastly the fact that, why is
21 this necessary? Don't fix something that's not broken.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

25 Next speaker, Barry Zirkin.

1 MR. BARRY ZIRKIN: Same last name as Bobby,
2 because I'm his father. But I'm speaking as a Johns Hopkins
3 University professor who knows a little something about the
4 environment, and about the difference between sound bytes
5 and data.

6 So what we've heard from the gentleman who
7 started this is that homes, trees, species, the environment
8 have all been looked at. Who by, and what exactly did they
9 do? That's not easy. It's not easy to do an appropriate
10 study. Who did that, who paid them to do that, and what
11 exactly did they find?

12 Words are easy, data are not so easy; and the one
13 thing that we do know is that this land is pristine, that
14 there are an awful lot of things that are involved if in
15 fact that pristine environment is wrecked, which could very
16 well happen by this. Everybody has said it the right way.

17 So where are the data? What are the
18 environmental impacts? What exactly are they, and how
19 exactly does the company know that they will be minimal; and
20 what exactly will they mitigate? What's 'mitigate'? And
21 what will they do to mitigate? Mitigate what?

22 How many people will be affected? Anybody figure
23 that out? What land will be affected? Has anybody looked
24 at that. I think the answer to all of that is 'no.' I
25 think the answer to all of that is that we're getting

1 political sound bytes and very little more than that; and
2 hopefully you guys will not allow that to occur. Hopefully
3 you guys will answer the questions and hopefully this thing
4 won't go forward.

5 Money is the driver, just say it. Money is the
6 driver. Fracking is the reason, and people and the
7 environment are at stake. I hope you guys will seriously,
8 seriously consider looking at the facts, not the words.

9 (Applause)

10 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

11 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Mr. Zirkin.

12 Just for the record, the environmental analysis
13 has not been complete on this project. We are still waiting
14 for information as in an application from Columbia Gas. We
15 take that application and the data that they provide us, and
16 then we do an environmental analysis on that data; and then
17 also look at the data to make sure that it's sufficient for
18 what they're asking for.

19 We can ask additional data request questions. We
20 talk to these guys throughout the whole, entire pre-filing
21 process and then even after they file the application to
22 address comments.

23 AUDIENCE: And that's going to take a while.

24 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes, it will.

25 AUDIENCE: -- to do those things; it will take a

1 while.

2 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes, it will. What I said is that
3 we will be analyzing and looking into all of the factors
4 that I mentioned. We are only in the third month of the
5 pre-filing phase here; there's a long way to go. And until
6 Columbia files all the information to our satisfaction,
7 nothing is going to be done. So it doesn't matter what
8 schedule they have; it has to matter what we have with us
9 and how we think it can work.

10 MR. SIPE: I see some hands. After I get through
11 these speakers, because they signed up to speak I have to be
12 respectful to that, then we can take some questions and
13 answers in the session after this. But let me get through,
14 there's five more speakers here and then we'll take some
15 questions, okay? Sorry about that, but I just have to be
16 respectful here.

17 Next speaker on the list, Dana Stein.

18 MR. STEIN: Good evening. Dana Stein, S t e i n.
19 I'm a State Delegate for this district, same district that
20 Senator Zirkin represents; and just as he did, I want to
21 thank you for coming here tonight.

22 There are three main points I would like to put
23 forth for your consideration. First, I respectfully suggest
24 that the Commission take a careful look at any demand
25 analyses that underlie Columbia Gas's application. The

1 reason I say is the PJM which, as you know, has interstate
2 authority over many electric utilities, just last year
3 scaled back their demand projections for much of their area;
4 and as a result said that projects that they were insisting
5 upon that utilities undertake for increased reliability,
6 that the timeline for this could be pushed back in some
7 cases by several years. Because the demand analyses that
8 those projections were initially based didn't take into
9 account the 'great recession.'

10 So obviously utility consumption on the electric
11 side has gone down, and I would be shocked if it wasn't the
12 same case on the gas side. So I would strongly urge that,
13 just as PJM took a critical look at the demand assumptions
14 underlying their requirements at the time that electric
15 utilities upgrade for reliability that the Commission take -
16 - you know, again with a skeptical outlook at any demand
17 analyses underlying Columbia Gas's application.

18 Second point goes to the environment impacts.
19 Senator Zirkin and others have spoken very eloquently about
20 that. My point here is that the State has a substantial
21 investment in the area that this pipeline -- the existing
22 one goes through and the expanded one will go through.
23 There's been mention of DNR protected areas, haven't looked
24 at the rural legacy areas in Baltimore County, but I'm sure
25 that this pipeline goes through at least one rural legacy

1 area. These are areas that the State has invested millions
2 of dollars protecting, and there's a reason why they were
3 given that designation; and that is to minimize the impact
4 from the initial development infrastructure and the like.

5 So this will have a substantial impact, this dual
6 pipeline will have a substantial impact; areas of the state
7 has a big investment, so I would strongly recommend that the
8 Commission push back the deadline for the pre-application
9 process until the Department of Natural Resources has had
10 the opportunity to do a full analysis.

11 My third comment goes to, I guess what -- to one
12 of the arguments that's made in favor of the timeline. The
13 suggestion is made that "Well, because the current pipeline
14 has been in place for 50 years, people bought homes adjacent
15 to these pipelines, knew that they were there. And so
16 therefore they shouldn't be too concerned about the fact
17 that 'well, there's going to be another pipeline put down'
18 even if it means an expanded right-of-way."

19 My response is true that landowners very well
20 knew about the existing pipeline that's there; but they
21 probably had no expectation that the right-of-way could be
22 conceivably expanded by 50 or 75 feet. I am not one of the
23 owners that is affected; however, we're all -- of course we
24 live in an age where there's significant utility
25 infrastructure. My house, of course has a telephone pole in

1 the back of our house and in the front of our house. I
2 certainly knew that, buying it. But if a utility company
3 came to me and said 'Well, we want to get an extended right-
4 of-way 25 feet onto your property, and conceivably move some
5 wires and maybe even a pole 25 feet in' I would object. I
6 would say "That was never my expectation that that would
7 ever happen.

8 So I can certainly understand and sympathize with
9 objections of those landowners that would be affected by
10 this expanded pipeline. And I strongly urge you to take
11 those objections into account. Thank you very much.

12 (Applause)

13 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

14 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

15 Next speaker on the list, Howard Cardin.

16 MR. CARDIN: That's Cardin, spelled C a r d i n.
17 First name is Howard.

18 When I came here this evening, I did not expect
19 to speak. But as I have listened to all these folks speak,
20 I felt constrained at least to give my thoughts and what I
21 have gotten from this evening. We've heard from trees,
22 streams, birds, the turtles, trout. We've heard about all
23 of these wonderful things that are here and are destined to
24 be destroyed.

25 I can only think back when the rockfish were

1 getting ready to be gone from the Bay and our officials were
2 wise enough to enter into plans and programs to save the
3 rock, the same thing with the crabs. Is that what we're
4 going to have to do now? Are we going to now have to go
5 into some kind of program in order to try to come back where
6 we are today because we have to have this pipeline go
7 through? I hope not.

8 I think these folks can tell you exactly what we
9 have, what we have seen in the past, and what we don't want
10 to see in the future.

11 We've heard all these wonderful things that are
12 here, and we're asked to give them up for what? Because we
13 are told that 40 or 50 years ago there was an easement
14 created. And because of that, we should do the same thing
15 now. Well, I want to tell you, if you try to run your
16 business today the way it was run 40 years ago, or these
17 people try to run their business the way it was 40 years
18 ago, or if I try to practice law with law that is 40 years
19 old, we're all out of here; it'll never happen.

20 In my field, you bear the burden of proof. If
21 you can't bear the burden of proof, then you lose. And I
22 say to you these people have borne their burden of proof,
23 and Columbia has not.

24 (Applause)

25 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

1 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Mr. Cardin.

2 Next speaker, Danielle Lapinski.

3 These names are a littler easier than when I was
4 in Louisiana, trying to pronounce Cajun names; I butcher
5 those.

6 MS. LIPINSKI: So it's Danielle Lipinski, L i p i
7 n s k i. I'm here as a representative from the Maryland
8 League of Conservation Voters.

9 We are concerned about the proposed expansion of
10 the Columbia Gas Transmission pipeline, and we will be
11 examining the environmental impact statement when it becomes
12 available.

13 We share the concerns with many local property
14 owners around the impact of this expansion on preserved open
15 spaces in Baltimore County. Preserved land such as
16 easements around Beaver Brook and Beaver Dam Run should be
17 kept pristine.

18 We also believe that limited investment dollars
19 should be contributed towards renewable energy sources and
20 not fossil fuels such as hydraulic fracturing, which is --
21 minimum causes for environmental and health impacts. We
22 hope that you take all this into consideration in your
23 application process, and thank you so much for your time.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

1 Next speaker, Liz Enwhisel {ph}?

2 MS. ENWHISEL: I'm a resident of Baltimore
3 County. I just learned about this yesterday, so I'm really
4 coming with more questions than a statement. Maybe I should
5 wait to raise my hand; but I just wanted the group to hear
6 the questions that I've been puzzling over since I learned
7 about this, about 24 hours ago.

8 The first question is, what is the scope of
9 review here? I mean, are we past the decision of whether
10 there will be a pipeline, anywhere? Or just where that will
11 be sited? So that's one question.

12 I want to know what the pipeline connects to. I
13 mean, the map out there shows us where this terminus --
14 where the two termini, or it begins and ends, the new
15 parallel route. What is it connecting to and why is really
16 the larger question. I mean, the good folks who are living
17 in the pathway of this proposed pipeline, you know, we're
18 hearing the on the ground stories of what kind of
19 environmental impacts that we can expect.

20 I want to zoom out a little bit. Yes, fracking
21 is in the air here, and I don't think that can be ignored.
22 It's the big elephant in the room; it is the driver here,
23 and I want to know therefore what the pipeline is connected
24 to; is it going to be bringing natural gas down from
25 Pennsylvania? Where is it going? And I haven't seen any of

1 that in any of the materials that they'll be seeing here
2 tonight.

3 Again, the hydraulic fracturing concerns me
4 deeply; we've all heard about it, I've read a fair bit about
5 it, I have to understand it for the nature of my work.
6 There are emissions of methane, which has 20 times the
7 global warming potential of carbon dioxide. We've got
8 tremendous water quality issues, we have proprietary
9 chemicals being used to force the natural gas out of the
10 ground, we can't even know what those chemicals are in most
11 cases. We have environmental footprints that go all the way
12 out to Minnesota to get the sand to bring in to Pennsylvania
13 and other places in the Marcellus Shale, to help force the
14 fluids down into the ground.

15 So there's huge issues here. I don't know how
16 far this environmental assessment scopes out, but it should,
17 because we can't consider this in a vacuum. Yes, it has
18 impacts here in Baltimore County and Harford County, but it
19 has larger impacts; and as long as our decision makers at
20 FERC and all the way down to the local levels are making
21 stovepipe decisions, we're going to continue to have
22 environmental impacts that affect us all the way from here
23 to Minnesota and back. And globally, really, when you
24 consider the global warming potential of the methane, it's
25 huge. It's huge.

1 The National Academy of Sciences came out with a
2 study looking at the greenhouse gas impacts of natural gas
3 extraction, the methods that we're using; and they're
4 astounding. We will not stand to gain for in some cases up
5 to 300 years in terms of the greenhouse gas emissions, so-
6 called savings of natural gas.

7 So I don't think it's wise to scope the issues as
8 narrowly as just Baltimore County and Harford County, and I
9 don't know whether the rules of the game allow us to zoom
10 out and look at the bigger issues. But I think in honesty,
11 we really need to do that.

12 The other question I have, the connections
13 question, the scope of review, is whose data? Whose data
14 are you going to look at besides the petitioner here?
15 Hearing that you had three months to look at their data.
16 Well, who else in this room has had a chance to submit data?
17 Who even knew?

18 So these are all questions, and I certainly hope
19 we get some enlightenment on that this evening. Thank you
20 very much.

21 (Applause)

22 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

23 I'll just answer some of these questions right
24 now, because out of the speakers, unless you guys ask direct
25 questions or something I know I can answer to help you out.

1 That was one of the first speakers that actually asked
2 direct questions.

3 Past review. This is -- again, reinstate: This
4 is very early on in the process. This is like if this
5 project is just being introduced to you guys, okay, so don't
6 worry about the timeline; the scoping time frames. Yes, we
7 want you guys to get your comments in as soon as possible,
8 but you have time.

9 We don't have -- we have enough information to
10 give you guys a Notice of Intent. Enough information to
11 give you guys this. We are here tonight to hear from you
12 guys and take your comments and concerns. The companies,
13 part of the pre-filing regulations need to take the concerns
14 and comments that they're hearing tonight and address those
15 to us. They have time frames set upon them, too. So this
16 is early on; we don't have the environmental data, much of
17 it that we're analyzing to this point yet. That's one
18 question.

19 The connection was explained earlier, and the
20 Columbia guys themselves are in the back of the room. Doug
21 who gave the presentation, he can show you how this pipe is
22 being connected; but it's basically connecting where there's
23 a void in the MB line. So if you look at a pipeline system,
24 you may have parallel lines that assist them. Some of them
25 may not extend to each other. They may loop a system.

1 So further on down the line, whatever part of
2 their system, they may loop it and end in a certain area.
3 And then once they need to do something else to their
4 system, they may attach to that loop a little bit further up
5 the line, and then keep going. So this is connecting, and
6 they can show you that in the back, which would probably
7 explain it better than I just did.

8 Marcellus, we knew that was going to come up, and
9 fracking. That will be discussed somewhat in our
10 environmental assessment. But it will be somewhat; it will
11 be discussed in the cumulative impact section, it will be
12 discussed somewhat. Again, we don't regulate Marcellus or
13 the fracking or the production end of natural gas. We don't
14 regulate the BG&Es, we don't regulate the producers, we
15 don't regulate the gathering lines.

16 So in other words, for the general person you
17 have a production where they're producing, whether it be
18 Marcellus or out of any natural gas basin across the
19 country. From that production system they have gathering
20 lines. Gathering lines connect that to normally a
21 processing plant where they clean up the gas, they take some
22 of the natural gas liquids out, they take some of the
23 natural gas out, and they send it on down to whatever system
24 they need to, okay.

25 Where that gathering line would connect into the

1 interstate system is where FERC takes over regulation.
2 Jurisdiction, we could be here talking all night, on
3 jurisdiction. We get jurisdiction questions all the time.

4 Columbia, we do regulate the interstate system
5 that they run, but not the gathering or the Marcellus or the
6 fracking that gets involved; but we will discuss that.

7 The data that we are receiving is coming from
8 Columbia. As part of our regulations, as part of FERC's
9 regulations, they have to file certain data per regulation,
10 per under oath. They have certain criteria they have to
11 meet in order even to attempt to file that application. If
12 they don't file that application, or if they don't file the
13 data correctly in that application once it comes in the
14 door, we can reject that application. Or we can ask a real
15 lengthy data request question.

16 But through the pre-filing process, this process
17 is designed to take all comments, take all concerns for you
18 guys to work with the company, for the company to work with
19 you guys, and getting that data however they see fit;
20 providing it to us -- we also work with the company to get
21 that data. Once they file the application, then we review
22 it.

23 It's basically like a deck. If you have a deck
24 to be put on the back of your house, who's providing the
25 county with that data? You guys are. Right, then the

1 county reviews that data and they either accept your permit
2 or they don't accept it, or they have some types of
3 conditions put upon that.

4 So that was the questions I got out of that, and
5 I hope I answered them. If I did not answer them -- I can't
6 answer the questions right now, you have to wait a second.
7 Because I have two more speakers, I think. Three. Two
8 more speakers then we start taking questions, okay?

9 This one I can't read very well. Channon Levy.

10 MR. LEVY: C h a n a n Levy, L e v y. I come
11 here as a resident of the community, 1 Old Manor. And the
12 proposed pipeline would go within about 10 or 15 feet of my
13 house.

14 Yes, we knew there was an existing pipeline
15 there, but when we bought the house, we never had the
16 expectation that -- I mean, the problem with it is a couple
17 things. Columbia Gas, when they came and staked it, nobody
18 ever gave us any information about this; we only found out
19 by talking to some of our neighbors about this, and then
20 eventually they had an agent that came, dropped a card by
21 the house.

22 There was never really any form of discussion or
23 any open communication in it. I mean, our questions are a
24 couple. We're worried about the environmental aspect, you
25 know, for the protected land and the stream and everything

1 else. The other thing we worry about is the safety of our
2 children with things that you have already echoed to other
3 people in terms of the construction and everything else. I
4 have a four year old; this thing runs right through our
5 playground, right next to our well; so there's a lot of
6 issues there.

7 The other issue is, does the company really need
8 to demonstrate to you guys what the necessity of this thing
9 is? If they're running the same capacity, it doesn't really
10 make any sense why you want to expand it. I think
11 hopefully, in your decision process, you look at the
12 environmental aspect obviously; but you also have to look to
13 see if there is a real need for this. You know, just saying
14 that they just want to make sure the people have adequate
15 service or whatever doesn't really make any sense from a
16 scientific standpoint or from any production standpoint. It
17 doesn't really make any sense unless they're planning to
18 push more gas through this pipeline in the future. And if
19 that's the case, they need to outline that to us at this
20 point.

21 And I hope you consider the citizens' part of
22 this. They can make all these glib political statements
23 and everything else, but the main issue for us is number
24 one, the environment, where we live, the pristine nature of
25 it; it's a beautiful area and that's the reason why we

1 choose to live there. And just the environmental impact and
2 the wildlife and everything else that's out there, and also
3 it backs on our homes -- these are things that we invest a
4 lot of resources, things like that in. Our wells, which the
5 area we live in the wells -- it's very difficult to get
6 groundwater to even meet the state minimum requirement for
7 wells; in our area are fairly difficult to get, and some
8 people in our development have two wells, even, trying to
9 meet the minimum. So that's also an issue.

10 So I think there's going to be such rapid
11 destruction; I mean, the fact that a pipeline was there 45
12 years ago, 50 years ago when nobody lived there but it was
13 just farmland, I mean it's kind of ridiculous just to assume
14 that you're just going to run a much larger pipeline through
15 an area where people are living.

16 It's not like when you go to any planning stage
17 of any -- anyplace, when you've got to look at the existing
18 situation, not the situation that was there 45, 50 years
19 ago. That's all I've got to say. Thanks.

20 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

21 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. SIPE: The need question has come up a good
24 bit tonight, and let me explain. You have the outreach
25 manager here, you have the environmental staff here. That's

1 just one part of what goes in to the application that they
2 send in to FERC. We also have, we work for the Office of
3 Energy Projects where that information comes into.

4 You also have the Office of Energy Market
5 Regulation, you know, the rates and tariffs in the market
6 behind this application.

7 Again, we are staff, and the people who work for
8 these offices are staff. What happens is all that
9 information comes in, we prepare an environmental document,
10 other parts of FERC prepare, they input stuff into the order
11 along with the environmental analysis. That goes upstairs,
12 where the Commission will vote -- and what they vote for
13 here, remember I'm just echoing what Mehda said earlier, is
14 a public need and necessity. That's what the certificate
15 issues here, the public need and necessity.

16 AUDIENCE: But if they can go out of the domain
17 or anything like that, if people don't cooperate, don't they
18 have to show a need that that's a greater benefit to the
19 public as opposed to just the fact that they can come up
20 with just an easier route for them?

21 You really have to show a benefit, and unless
22 they show a benefit, I can't see how you can let them push a
23 project when the general population is opposed to it.

24 AUDIENCE: Well, also, how --

25 MR. SIPE: Sir, just wait. We can't have the --

1 I apologize. We have a court reporter up here, and if you
2 guys start talking back and forth, the record won't be
3 complete.

4 I just wanted to go over how the Commission votes
5 out the project; in that it's a public need and necessity,
6 that is all taken -- there's a lot of things taken into
7 consideration for that, and the environmental analysis is
8 just one of them.

9 One more speaker, then we can do some questions
10 and answers.

11 John Guth.

12 MR. GUTH: John Guth. I'm one of the landowners
13 that is significantly impacted by this proposed pipeline,
14 and I'm opposed to it on a number of levels. Certainly the
15 environmental issues that have been raised tonight are a
16 great concern of mine, and I stand to lose some significant
17 property and a significant stand of wooded area.

18 But what I'm frankly surprised that nobody's
19 actually mentioned tonight are the safety concerns and the
20 potential dangers that are involved with the natural gas
21 industry, and particularly the excavation around existing
22 gas lines.

23 More than 2800 significant gas pipeline accidents
24 have been reported across the country since 1990, a third of
25 them causing deaths and significant injuries. So that's

1 what, 140 a year, so that's one every three days.

2 So a significant natural gas pipeline accident
3 occurs approximately every three days in this country. I
4 think many people in this room are probably familiar with
5 the San Bruno accident of a couple of years ago. September
6 9, 2010 -- let me just refresh your memory -- a 30-inch
7 diameter segment of an interstate natural gas transmission
8 pipeline known as Line 132, owned and operated by the
9 Pacific Gas & Electric Company, ruptured in a residential
10 area in San Bruno, California.

11 PG&E estimated that 47 million standard cubic
12 feet of natural gas was released, and the natural gas
13 ignited resulting in a fire that destroyed 38 homes and
14 damaged 70. Eight people were killed, many were injured,
15 and many more were evacuated from the area.

16 July 15, 2011. In Ohio a ruptured natural gas
17 line main led to the closure of State Route 795 in
18 Perrysburg Township. This pipeline is owned and operated by
19 Columbia Gas.

20 In January of this year, just this year, in
21 Eastern Kentucky a gas line owned by Columbia Gulf, which is
22 a sister company of Columbia Gas Transmission, a subsidiary
23 of NiSource as well, exploded and forced the evacuation of
24 30 to 35 homes.

25 And then finally, in November of 2011, in

1 Artemas, Pennsylvania, Bedford County, a Columbia Gas
2 compressor station broke out in fire. Residents in the area
3 were evacuated as a result of that incident.

4 From the American Gas Association, what is the
5 leading cause of natural gas pipeline accidents? The
6 leading cause of accidents in both transmission and
7 distribution systems is damage by digging near existing
8 pipeline.

9 So frankly, I'm extremely concerned about the
10 potential dangers of excavating in such close proximity to
11 the existing two pipelines. My property is just one where
12 the proposed route is crossing one of the existing
13 pipelines, that are crossing an existing Columbia Gas
14 pipeline. And I know that from what I've heard here
15 tonight, there are going to be deviations from the existing
16 right-of-way in many other cases where it sounds like
17 there's going to be crossing of the existing pipeline.
18 Obviously they're going to be need to be digging right where
19 those existing pipelines are.

20 So my question is, who is assessing these safety
21 issues? How are we, as citizens and community members,
22 property owners that are concerned for the safety of our
23 families, who is going to provide us the guarantees about
24 these safety issues?

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 MR. SIPE: We will, in the environmental document
3 that we produce -- thank you, sir. for your comments. We
4 will have a safety section as part of that. We work with
5 the Department of Transportation, PHMSA; the Pipeline and
6 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. These pipes have
7 to be built to their standards, to the PHMSA standards, to
8 the DOT standards, and that is who monitors the safety of
9 these projects, of all pipelines, not just natural gas.
10 Liquid petroleum, oil, all pipelines goes through the
11 Department of Transportation.

12 One last speaker here just came up.

13 I think it's the same speaker.

14 SENATOR ZIRKIN: I apologize. The Councilwoman
15 texted me 20 minutes ago and asked --

16 MR. SIPE: No, that's fine.

17 SENATOR ZIRKIN: Apologize.

18 MR. SIPE: Go ahead.

19 SENATOR ZIRKIN: I have to listen to my
20 Councilwoman. So she wanted me to read something into the
21 record for you, on her behalf.

22 Dear Secretary Bose: I am writing in strong
23 opposition to the construction of a new natural gas pipeline
24 by Columbia Gas, the proposed route would damage non-tidal
25 wetlands, wildlife habitats and very mature ecosystems.

1 Columbia Gas has not demonstrated a need for this project,
2 and were this pipeline approved it would set a dangerous
3 precedent for the construction of additional lines to
4 sensitive environmental areas: Greenspring Valley, the
5 Falls Road corridor home to several streams, many of which
6 have forest buffers. These streams feed into our local
7 tributaries which then feed into the Chesapeake Bay.

8 In order to make way for heavy construction
9 equipment, Columbia would clear trees that are crucial for
10 filtering nutrients, sediment and other pollutants that
11 would otherwise contaminate our nation's largest estuary, the
12 Chesapeake Bay.

13 The area between milepost and 8.2 -- she has a
14 very thorough staff -- is home to several species of
15 wildlife, including the Bog Turtle. As you know, U.S. Fish
16 & Wildlife Service considers these turtles threatened under
17 the ESA. Columbia's parent, NiSource, rather than exploring
18 alternatives to destroying the important habitat, has
19 applied for an exemption to the ESA. Further, NiSource
20 completely ignored Maryland's own list of endangered and
21 threatened species.

22 This pipeline would endanger mature ecosystems
23 and publicly-protected land including Windbrook Wildlife
24 Management area, Gunpowder Falls State Park, and Oregon
25 Ridge park. Within these parks are some of the larger trout

1 streams in Baltimore County along with habits for a diverse
2 set of wildlife.

3 Construction of this pipeline would disrupt the
4 enjoyment and protection of these local treasures. For
5 example, Beaver Dam Run, which we talked about before,
6 located in the Beaver Brook community is protected by the
7 Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Columbia Gas's
8 plan to right through this protected land is an example of
9 the company valuing profit over environmental
10 responsibility.

11 Beaver Dam Run is home to hundreds of species;
12 geese, heron, beaver, fox, cardinals, blue jays and so much
13 more. It contains a protected trout stream. Columbia's
14 attempt to cross this environmental treasure is but one
15 example of the proposed route that must be altered, not
16 mitigated.

17 I respectfully request that the FERC deny
18 Columbia Gas's application for its proposed pipeline. As an
19 alternative to construction of this new pipeline, Columbia
20 should utilize existing infrastructure owned by Transco or
21 others less than one mile away from its proposed route,
22 should the need arise. Should the Commission determine that
23 Columbia may proceed with the new line, I would implore the
24 Commission to demand alternatives to the proposed route that
25 do not do damage to our beautiful and fragile ecosystems.

1 I would suggest that our community, our political
2 leadership and our state and local agencies have not been
3 given sufficient time under Columbia's timetable to register
4 our concerns, and offer construction alternatives. Please,
5 under no circumstances, allow Columbia to pursue the project
6 without a much more full vetting of community environmental
7 concerns.

8 In conclusion, I respectfully request the
9 Commission to deny Columbia's application for a new
10 pipeline. A little area in Baltimore and Harford County,
11 though a small dot on the national map, is a treasure worth
12 preserving. Please do not allow this company to sacrifice
13 that treasure.

14 Vicki Almond, Councilwoman.

15 She represents the vast majority of this
16 district. So thank you for allowing me to read that into
17 the record.

18 MR. SIPE: Thank you, Senator.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. SIPE: Now, this is how the question and
21 answer period kind of needs to work. It may be troublesome.
22 We can do it one or two ways. I would like to keep it in
23 the record so the people here tonight, that are not here
24 tonight get to see what was discussed. But in order to do
25 that, when you guys ask questions, you have to get up to the

1 microphone and state your name.

2 Again, after we close the formal part of this,
3 Medha will do that, the court reporter can leave then; he
4 doesn't need to stay here, and we can ask, go back and forth
5 with anything you want to talk about, that's up to you guys.
6 But if you guys have anything to ask right now, you have to
7 get up to the mic and state your name, and then we'll
8 address your question.

9 MR. GROSCHAN: My name is Jim Groschan, G r o s c
10 h a n, and I have a couple of questions.

11 One of them is, who analyzes and verifies the
12 environmental impact statement that Columbia gives to you?
13 Who are your scientists and how in-depth is the process of
14 looking at the information they give you; because there
15 information is certainly going to be self-serving, and to
16 their best interest. So that's the question on the
17 environmental end.

18 On the homeowner's end, landowners end, and I'm
19 sure there's law about this, but it just seems not really
20 consistent with our constitution that a for-profit company
21 like Columbia can walk into my front yard and say, "Listen,
22 if you don't give me what I want, we're going to take it via
23 eminent domain." They're not a public utility, as far as I
24 understand; they're not building a road for the benefit of
25 others or something of that nature. So I just find it

1 astounding that they have that power of eminent domain and
2 can -- if they get your approval, that they could basically
3 inflict that on me, on my neighbors, on other homeowners. I
4 think the rights of individuals certainly should have some
5 sway over the rights of large companies.

6 DR. KOCHHAR: I'll answer your first question.

7 [to Mr. Sipe:] You can answer then.

8 Columbia does not prepare the environmental
9 impact statement; that is we who prepare that. We get the
10 data from them, we ask for information, what we need, they
11 have to provide it. We also verify that with state and
12 local agencies and federal agencies.

13 For example, all the streams are identified and
14 checked by Corps of Engineers as well as Maryland Department
15 of Environment; also DNR is involved in the conservation
16 easements and everything.

17 We had a meeting this morning with DNR and we
18 were trying to gather the information from them. So we do
19 discuss these things with other involved agencies, whether
20 they are local, state or federal. So the data that we get
21 from Columbia is verified independently by us, okay?

22 Does that answer your question.

23 MR. GROSCHAN: By your scientists, not by
24 administrators?

25 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes. We are scientists. By the

1 way, I'm an ecologist.

2 MR. GROSHAN: Okay.

3 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

4 Doug, do you want to answer the second?

5 MR. SIPE: Yes. The staff we have, there's about
6 60 of us that look at these pipeline projects on the
7 environmental side. We have archaeologists, we have
8 biologists, we have land use people, we have geologists, we
9 have the whole gamut. We could write these E.A.s just from
10 staff, and that is what we're going to do with this one
11 here.

12 DR. KOCHHAR: Let me add something more to it.
13 An environmental impact statement is not the case at this
14 point. At this point we are looking into an environmental
15 assessment. That does not mean that it cannot rise up to
16 that level.

17 Secondly, each natural resource is verified by a
18 specific resource person. We have individuals who do
19 cultural resources, separate one will do wildlife and
20 vegetation, there is another one who will do threatened and
21 endangered species, geologists, water scientists.
22 Everything, you name it down the line, we have specifically
23 trained analysts who do analysis and verify and work with us
24 on that to develop our Environmental Assessment.

25 Does that answer your question? Okay.

1 MR. SIPE: And I was wondering when the eminent
2 domain word was going to come up here tonight. With my
3 outreach role, I speak to the industry nonstop about that
4 word.

5 Eminent domain is conveyed through Section 7 of
6 the Natural Gas Act. So when a company receives a
7 certificate of public need and necessity, eminent domain
8 conveys with that. Not until the Commission votes on a
9 project do they have that authority.

10 Now they could have -- and I'm not familiar in
11 Maryland, I live here but we don't have a lot of pipelines,
12 interstate guys coming through here -- they may have certain
13 State eminent domain for survey, they may have some State
14 eminent domain for even acquiring that right-of-way for the
15 pipeline. But we make the final decision. That's a company
16 risk when they do that.

17 But eminent domain -- if you are hearing that
18 from Columbia, the threatening remarks of eminent domain, we
19 definitely want to hear that. We want to work with their
20 land folks and with their whole project team on how to
21 convey that. It is a requirement of ours, when they
22 initially start talking to you, that they disclose that they
23 have eminent domain.

24 The industry doesn't really like it, because the
25 companies can do everything right in general, and as soon as

1 they mention the word 'eminent domain' everything they said
2 went out the window, to some people. So it's a touchy
3 subject, we understand it, it does convey with the public
4 need and necessity. But they don't have it now.

5 AUDIENCE: This isn't a question, this is a
6 comment, about eminent domain.

7 In Maryland --

8 MR. SIPE: We can't --

9 DR. KOCHHAR: Would you say your name, please?

10 AUDIENCE: -- BG&E does not have the right to bar
11 -- until the case is tried.

12 MR. SIPE: As a landowner, when a company asks
13 you guys, 'Can we survey your property?' You can say no.
14 'Can we come on your property to do anything?' you can say
15 no. They don't have the right to enter your property until
16 the Commission votes on that project; and if approved, then
17 eminent domain conveys with that. Not until that point you
18 guys don't have to allow them on your property.

19 Then you're wondering, 'Okay, where do they get
20 the data? Where do they get the environmental studies, where
21 do they get the analysis?' At that point a lot of it is
22 done through information from agencies in desktop studies,
23 because there are a lot of studies that can be done just on
24 a computer for a lot of the environmental analysis.

25 Then, once, if a project comes through FERC's

1 door and FERC approves it, they have to go back out and
2 truth that. And at that point, if they would find something
3 environmentally, the route may have to change, again. So
4 that's just a little bit on -- I know it's confusing;
5 remember, it's early on in the process. You guys can submit
6 letters to FERC, you can contact -- we have a help line at
7 FERC, all the information is in that Notice of Intent. You
8 can call the help line at FERC, you can call Office of
9 External Affairs, you can send letters to staff. So there's
10 a lot of avenues there for you guys to answer questions.

11 DR. KOCHHAR: Not directed to staff; comments
12 should come to the Secretary of the Commission, not staff.

13 MR. SIPE: You're next.

14 AUDIENCE: (Off mic.)

15 MR. SIPE: Okay. Sir?

16 MR. LEAHY: I'm John Leahy, Jr. That's L e a h
17 y. I'm a landowner on 12919 Falls Road. I have a couple
18 comments, but I'll frame them as questions. This is the
19 question and answer period.

20 But what I want to know is, from an environmental
21 standpoint, how is Columbia Gas going to replace the 100-
22 year old Copperhead Beach tree on my property that they're
23 going to take down? How are they going to replace the 30-
24 foot holly tree, the two 30-foot Magnolia trees, and the
25 several tulip trees that are all going to come down, as well

1 as probably 15 Cypress trees that basically make the border
2 from my property to my neighbors.

3 So I don't know how that's ever going to happen.
4 And then on the safety issue, which I thought was great that
5 someone brought that up, I will offer some anecdotal
6 evidence. There are some folks that probably have never
7 heard this, but the last time Columbia Gas came through my
8 property, for the fiber optic cable about 10 or 12 years
9 ago, a 10-inch drill bit ended up in my back yard. It was a
10 wayward bit as they were drilling, and I was away. My wife
11 calls "Oh, we've got a problem." I said "What's that?"

12 "There's a drill bit in the back yard." "Like,
13 what are you talking about?"

14 I came home, there was a drill bit 4 and a half
15 feet sticking out in the middle of my back yard. Now my
16 kids were all little kids at that point, and they were all
17 goofing around -- it probably was 15 feet from the swing set
18 where the kids were.

19 So we ended up having to extricate that drill
20 bit. There were some negotiations with Columbia Gas to get
21 that resolved.

22 So I have a real big question about safety. In
23 fact, by the way, some of our neighbors down the road -- I
24 guess one of the drill bits went through their pool house,
25 too, by the way; just in case you wanted to know. There's a

1 big question about safety.

2 So until all those questions are answered for me,
3 I'm vehemently opposed to the whole project. Thank you.

4 MR. SIPE: Thank you, sir.

5 Again I state that the safety part of their
6 application is handled by PHMSA, the Pipeline and Hazardous
7 Materials Safety Administration. We will discuss safety in
8 that. I can't speak much to the fiber optic line because
9 it's non-jurisdictional to us. I can assume what happened,
10 but I don't want to make any assumptions.

11 MR. LEAHY: Well, I'm a real life example.

12 MR. SIPE: I agree with you.

13 MR. LEAHY: It's in the record.

14 MR. SIPE: The tree situation, that is something
15 you definitely want to work out with Columbia. You know,
16 there are things that these guys are able to do to avoid
17 disrupting certain things if they would have to come through
18 that area.

19 DR. KOCHHAR: Let me add to that, there is a
20 technique, they can bore under the tree without disturbing
21 the roots. I've seen on some of the projects it has gone
22 through and trees are fine, no problem.

23 But, I'm not siding with Columbia, I'm just
24 letting you know that there is a technique available. It's
25 a very short drill that they do, they just go bore under it,

1 and out; doesn't take much time. It's just like boring
2 under roads and highways, the same way they do that.

3 MR. SIPE: There's a lot of techniques these guys
4 can use when it comes to certain things with respect to what
5 Medha said, they can do that in certain situations; but with
6 trees that are that close to pipelines, the roots --

7 DR. KOCHHAR: Because it varies with the
8 situation; where it is, how it is, and there are a lot of
9 different things that we have to look into.

10 MR. SABIE: Hi, I'm Nick S a b i e.

11 Real quick, I just want to cut to the chase. You
12 guys have done this before; you've been up and down the
13 United States, how many times has it been overturned?
14 That's my first question.

15 The second question: What is it going to take to
16 do that? Is it letters, is it people who get on your
17 website? Do we need a mass amount of people just to keep
18 flooding you with information? I mean, I'm an engineer, but
19 I don't know how to determine what's the best way to do
20 something with gas lines. I mean, so you can't -- you're
21 expecting us to like -- what's it going to take for us to
22 stop this? Is it lawyers, is it getting our congressman
23 involved?

24 We're a small population here, and it's only
25 affecting a certain amount of people in the area, and here

1 you've got a big gas company that's going to -- you know,
2 has a zillion dollars. I just want to know what it's going
3 to take, very simple. And if one has ever been overturned.

4 MR. SIPE: I knew that was going to come up, too.

5 I've answered these questions a lot, so I'm not
6 going to sugarcoat it by any stretch; but that question is a
7 tough one.

8 How many projects has FERC overturned? Not many.

9 Now, we always say, I say this in all my outreach
10 speeches; we're not an advocate for the project, we're an
11 advocate for our process.

12 So I've seen a lot of projects come through our
13 door just like this one is. And while coming through the
14 process, the project just kind of goes away because of
15 opposition against it, environmental. The biggest thing
16 that could halt a project is, and this is Commission policy,
17 is the market determines the need for these types of
18 projects.

19 There have been a number of projects that have
20 been certificated through FERC and never built because the
21 market goes away from that type of project.

22 So there are a number of factors, yes; we'll take
23 all of your concerns, the Commission weighs all concerns
24 equally. The policy for the Commission, I'm just stating
25 policy, is the market determines the need and necessity for

1 these projects.

2 Now that's not saying once the project comes in
3 front of us when it goes through the pre-filing process or
4 it doesn't. There's projects that don't go through the pre-
5 filing process that they just file an application with us.
6 They're usually on the smaller end, with non-impact. But
7 when they come through the pre-filing process, all these
8 concerns are vetted into it; the project is normally
9 changed, adjusted, tried to the best of the applicant and
10 tried to the best of FERC. You know, because we have to
11 analyze every project put in front of us. We can't just
12 stand up and say 'Nah, this one's no good.' We at Staff
13 can't say that; we have to analyze every project, put our
14 findings to the Commission.

15 So a number of projects we have certificated or
16 authorized, because that's another -- like the Cove Point
17 facility in Maryland, that's a Section 3 authorization,
18 that's a liquefied natural gas terminal, that's a different
19 authority; there's been a number of those authorized, a
20 number of project certificated, that has never been built
21 because the market goes away.

22 Or they can't satisfy the environmental
23 conditions put upon them. See, when we submit our findings
24 to the Commission, we say "Okay, this project is proposed
25 this way" fine, by whoever the applicant is. But they have

1 to be able to satisfy these environmental conditions put
2 upon in order to construct. It's kind of a phased
3 authorization.

4 The Commission votes on the project. If
5 approved, the company has to satisfy the conditions, not
6 just environmental conditions, but engineering, market,
7 tariff conditions, whatever's in the order that comes from
8 the Commission. They have to send in an implementation plan
9 to us saying how they're going to abide by those conditions
10 and how they're going to construct it.

11 Then -- just wait -- it's not just us that has
12 the final say. It's other federal agencies that have to
13 issue permits, too. We're the lead federal agency
14 associated with interstate natural gas pipelines, but you
15 have the Army Corps of Engineers, you have the state agency
16 who has federal authority for the 401, you have the SHPO,
17 which is State Historic Preservation Officer. You have a
18 number of agencies that also have to issue permits, and
19 that's part of our condition: The applicant must satisfy
20 and achieve and get basically all federal permits associated
21 with this project to go forward.

22 So there's a number of things that can stop these
23 projects, but we have to analyze every one of them put in
24 front of us. So does that help you out a little bit?

25 MR. SABIE: Well, it seems to me we have a 3,000

1 pound gorilla against us, and it's just not going to happen.
2 So what is it going to take? I mean, if it has something to
3 do with getting our governor involved or our state
4 representatives?

5 MR. SIPE: You have representatives in the room
6 that spoke tonight. You can go to your state senators, you
7 can go to your federal senators, you can go to your
8 governor, you can go to a number of different avenues to
9 voice concerns at FERC; they're all comments and they'll all
10 be equal --

11 MR. SABIE: Can I ask one more question?

12 MR. SIPE: Sure.

13 MR. SABIE: Is this on the agenda of Obama? I
14 heard this was an agenda of Obama's to get this thing
15 through.

16 MR. SIPE: Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005,
17 okay. Part of that is to expedite energy infrastructure.
18 They went through all the federal agencies, and we all had
19 to develop regulations around that.

20 We've changed our regulations because of that,
21 but that's our charge from that Act, is to expedite energy
22 infrastructure. Now that doesn't mean -- you know,
23 'expedite' many mean to you guys like two weeks from now,
24 but it's a process. These guys, we accepted them into the
25 pre-filing process, they must be in the pre-filing process

1 at least for six months. Now it's not mandatory; they can
2 opt out of pre-filing and just file that application.

3 I'm a liaison to the industry, I speak to the
4 industry all the time. I'll be in Houston next week
5 speaking to the industry, actually this company again. We
6 advise them against that, because if their application is
7 not complete, we can reject it and they have to start all
8 over again. And then, once they file an application,
9 certain timelines because of what I just mentioned in
10 expediting energy infrastructure applies to us. If they
11 don't have all the information to us, we send a data request
12 out, stopping all progress until they provide it to us.

13 So there's many mechanisms we have at FERC. If
14 we don't have the information, we're not going forward.
15 Okay?

16 AUDIENCE: I can't remember the right word for
17 this, but there are some things that we can do to lessen the
18 use of our own energy.

19 DR. KOCHHAR: Excuse me. Could you please spell
20 your name?

21 MS. COEHLO: Oh, I'm sorry. Sunny Coelho, C o e
22 l h o. There are some things that we can do to use less
23 energy. And though not everybody can do some of the things
24 that we've done, but we covered our back roof with solar
25 panels, and so we're using almost no electricity at this

1 point. Actually, our meter is going backwards. We're so
2 happy about that.

3 But we do have, I can't think of the name of our
4 hot water system, but it's just a little box on the wall,
5 it's the instant hot water; we have as much hot water as we
6 ever need. We have three golden retrievers, I take a
7 shower, my husband takes a shower and we shower every one of
8 the dogs and we never run out of hot water, then we can do
9 the laundry right after. We never run out. And we use
10 very, very little gas to do that. It takes very little gas;
11 our gas usage is minimal. So if everyone switched to that
12 kind of hot water burning instead of a big tank it would
13 really help. Then we wouldn't need as much gas, they
14 wouldn't need an additional pipeline.

15 It's just one way to cut back. If there's
16 anything you can do to make your energy usage more
17 efficient, then we wouldn't need as much, then they wouldn't
18 have a reason to do this. It's just a suggestion.

19 MR. SIPE: Thank you.

20 Can I go to the right side of the room here?
21 I'll get back to you. I'm balancing.

22 And I will add that FERC, unlike a lot of other
23 agencies that we have to cooperate with and work with to get
24 this information, FERC has a balancing issue. We have to
25 look at the environmental impact and we also have to make

1 sure the pipe is in the ground to provide to people the gas
2 we need to. So it's a balancing impact the FERC has to
3 provide, unlike other agencies that are just looking at the
4 environmental side, or whatever it may be.

5 Sir?

6 MR. HARMAN: I'm George Harman, H a r m a n. I'm
7 on the Board of the Hanover Road Association and another
8 organization on the west side that represents Owings Mills.

9 I'm a little bit confused tonight because I don't
10 know whether to support or oppose this. And the rationale
11 is, I don't understand the need. The need has not been
12 presented, as far as I'm aware, to let us know whether it's
13 a local need, a State need, or a national need that's being
14 addressed.

15 If I were to join with most of the residents here
16 today in opposition, I don't know what the alternatives are,
17 the big regional alternatives. Are there other companies or
18 other lines of Columbia in the region that could handle the
19 need? I could end up by opposing this and finding the
20 alternative to be in my back yard, and then I would be in
21 opposition and ask everybody to join me.

22 So I think we've got the cart before the horse,
23 when you come in with a project like this. If this is
24 strictly an industry need of Columbia, and is not a
25 statewide need or a national need, I think we need to know

1 that information up front; and I think the whole process is
2 remiss in not presenting that to the community to begin
3 with. Thank you.

4 MR. SIPE: Thank you. That's a very good
5 question or a very good comment, like everyone's been -- I
6 know I shouldn't have said his is very good and everyone
7 else's wasn't --

8 (Laughter)
9 -- but just because I answer that a lot.

10 Remember, we are a federal agency. So we look at
11 the interstate grid of natural gas. We do not look at
12 region or state-specific need of gas. That's done within
13 your states. You have some state people here tonight that
14 you could ask that question to. Again, because we have to
15 look at the interstate grid wherever the gas comes in, how
16 it gets through the interstate system. Just like this gas
17 is flowing from -- could be flowing from down south.

18 I'm not even sure, with Columbia Gas, and that
19 would be a question for them, if all these lines are
20 bidirectional. Sometimes gas can only go one way. So
21 that's another part of the equation. That will be in their
22 application.

23 I've worked with the industry, again at this
24 specific point for years and you guys have to explain need
25 better for your projects for the average person and for the

1 federal agencies and state agencies. So that's something
2 we'll be asking Columbia ourselves, what's the need.

3 And then just like we have a certificates person
4 here tonight, that's part of the system and alternatives
5 that we do look at. We do look at other systems, like the
6 Transco system or Tennessee system, any system that's
7 running through here. Not BG&E, because we don't regulate
8 those guys. And, you know, how can this be done
9 differently? So that's all taken into consideration.

10 MR. WHEELER: If I could add one little tidbit
11 here --

12 DR. KOCHHAR: Say your name.

13 MR. WHEELER: Howard Wheeler, I'm with the FERC,
14 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

15 Columbia has represented that the purpose of this
16 is system reliability, and that's what they've kind of put
17 on the table so far. And that is basically the question of,
18 what's the purpose of the need?

19 So we will be -- in part because of some of the
20 issues that were raised tonight and in part because some of
21 the questions we have on our own is to be asking them about
22 that, about the future possible expansions and other use of
23 the capacity. But that's just what's on the table at this
24 point.

25 And that's generally a good reason to propose a

1 project at the FERC, is for system reliability in general.

2 MR. HARMAN: If I could just follow up with that,
3 is it their need or is it a regional/national need that
4 they're trying to address? And I fear that it's just their
5 local need, their industry need and not the national need
6 that's being addressed in this situation.

7 MR. WHEELER: That will come out of the analysis,
8 from this point forward.

9 MR. SIPE: I didn't forget about you, did I?
10 Came right back. Howard kind of took your spot there.

11 MS. TRACEY: I'm Nina Tracey, and I work right in
12 the Falls Road corridor. I'm a realtor and have been for
13 20-some odd years here, with Coldwell Banker.

14 My concern is the value of the properties that
15 are adjacent to any -- any utility is always less. And I
16 find it extremely interesting that in this 30 percent
17 downturn of real estate values in Maryland, that now is the
18 time that they're coming through with this utility; and
19 they're asking for a larger space. Eminent domain is
20 possibly being given without a value attached to it -- I
21 don't know, because I don't know how that works, but I'm
22 assuming it's just 'take it, not pay for it.' And I find
23 that to be highly, not what our government is supposed to
24 do. It's supposed to be protecting our citizens, and it will
25 make it even worse to try to sell properties that are

1 adjacent to utilities if it's put in their heads, buyer's
2 heads that "I don't want to adjacent to that. Oh, yeah, and
3 that's already in the ground."

4 And you can't tell me that down the road it won't
5 be widened, because here's the federal government doing it
6 to you right now. So it went in one time and people
7 objected, I'm sure. And now it's being widened.

8 So I don't understand how the federal government
9 can do this without applying values, and if they were going
10 to apply values, I would recommend placing values on every
11 property adjacent that come from around 2005, -6 or -7, not
12 2009, -10, -11 and -12. Because we're about to hit with
13 more foreclosures across the board and it's just going to
14 drive the market further down. So I just find that very
15 interesting.

16 Then one last question. I don't understand
17 because I'm not an engineer, but Baltimore City is going
18 through a time with water line replacements, right? You
19 would think that they're making them better as they're
20 putting in the new stuff. Why can't they just pull up one
21 of their lines that's in the existing path now, make it
22 better, and then replace the one next to it as they go
23 along? I know that sounds extremely expensive for the
24 company, but tough! Thank you.

25 MR. SIPE: Good points.

1 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you very much. I was waiting
2 for these two questions to come up.

3 MR. SIPE: Let me address those. One is, FERC
4 does not look -- we don't negotiate land deals. or land
5 rights. One, eminent domain is not a taking; I heard that
6 word. It's an easement that the company acquires from you
7 for the use of your land. So they don't necessarily take
8 it, because some day these pipelines could go out of
9 service, and they abandon these pipelines, and the land
10 reverts back to you.

11 I want you guys to, when you're talking to
12 Columbia about this, ask to see the existing easement that's
13 on your property. Because you may have bought the house
14 when, because this pipeline has been in forever, just ask
15 them to see the existing easement.

16 Eminent domain, the actual values is decided by
17 the courts. What Columbia will do, and any company across
18 the nation would do, is they would go into the local
19 counties and state agencies to try to determine the land
20 value. They want to give you fair market value for --

21 MS. TRACEY: Present.

22 MR. SIPE: Whatever, present. Well, there's a
23 lot of different ways it's done; in each State it's always
24 different.

25 They will look at fair market value and then if

1 they want to offer you a deal for them to put a pipeline
2 onto your property, you know, they can do it now if they
3 want to; it's all subject to what FERC does. They can -- a
4 lot of times they're not going to make any payment or
5 anything until the project is decided upon.

6 But eminent domains aside, historically for
7 pipelines, to be honest with you across the country, the use
8 of eminent domain is very, very low. Usually the companies
9 are able to negotiate the land easement with whoever and
10 move forward with that. If it has to go to court, the
11 companies will either use state or federal court for that
12 eminent domain proceeding.

13 And then they take in all the facts, how you
14 negotiate that easement between you and the company, and
15 then the court will decide a fair market value for your
16 property. And it's all based off if they receive the
17 certificate from us. Because they don't even have eminent
18 domain authority until then. Okay?

19 MR. RAYMUTH: David Raymuth again.

20 You indicated that there are a lot of approvals
21 from a lot of different agencies including lots of approvals
22 from other parts of FERC that are involved in this thing.
23 Well, you've got the economic part -- and all these
24 different -- you know --

25 MR. SIPE: Staff.

1 DR. KOCHHAR: It's the input. It's the input you
2 get from different departments, but it's one authorization.

3 MR. RAYMUTH: Okay, inputs. There's one
4 authorization but there are all these different inputs, and
5 you're in the environmental end.

6 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes.

7 MR. RAYMUTH: But in the economic end and the
8 needs end and all that stuff, how do we address those people
9 other than talking to you? We had asked Columbia Gas, at a
10 meeting we had; Columbia had showed us a -- you know what a
11 Gantt chart is? With all the approvals needed and all this,
12 timelines and all this stuff -- and they said "Well" -- we
13 said, we started taking notes -- "we will send that to you."
14 This was on April 12th. "We will send that to you." Our
15 lawyer was present -- we had a lawyer with us. And "we will
16 send that to you so you can see what all these things are."

17 They have yet to send it to us, including
18 multiple requests from our lawyer and ourselves, so that we
19 know where all the points of pressure are. We don't know
20 that. We are just individual homeowners stuck in this
21 process. And until they are being forthcoming, and only you
22 seem to have the clout to make them be forthcoming, we want
23 that chart. We want to know what is ahead of us as far as
24 approvals go.

25 DR. KOCHHAR: Let me try to answer.

1 MR. RAYMUTH: And that's only fair.

2 DR. KOCHHAR: Let me answer your question. You
3 have two parts to it.

4 First of all, you can write in your comments
5 anything specific that you are saying right now.

6 MR. RAYMUTH: We have.

7 DR. KOCHHAR: It will be addressed because all
8 these comments are looked at by all the departments. If it
9 is environmental it comes to us, if it is rates it goes to
10 Rates, if it is need it goes to them; they all evaluate it.
11 And they will give their input, which will be included in
12 the assessment -- then not in the environmental assessment,
13 in the assessment when the Commissioners evaluate the
14 project and what is to be done with this project. That's
15 one answer.

16 The other part that you Columbia has not given
17 you the Gantt chart, I don't know what Gantt chart they're
18 talking about, but the permits -- well the Gantt chart you
19 get, what is to be done, when and how --

20 MR. RAYMUTH: Yes, well --

21 DR. KOCHHAR: -- after the application is done.

22 MR. RAYMUTH: This one was four pages long.

23 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes. Well --

24 MR. RAYMUTH: Four pages of approvals that had to
25 be given.

1 DR. KOCHHAR: Exactly, but --

2 MR. RAYMUTH: We want to know what those are.

3 DR. KOCHHAR: Okay, the approvals, they have to
4 submit to us a list of permits that are required for this
5 project. Whether they are state, whether they are local or
6 whether they are federal. They provide a listing of that
7 and what specific authorization or approval is required.
8 And that permit, that permit table is filed with us with the
9 pre-filing. And it is updated from time to time.

10 If you eSubscribe --

11 MR. RAYMUTH: Well, if it's in the pre-filing,
12 can't we see it on line now?

13 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, you can ask them, this should
14 be public information. It's on our eLibrary.

15 MR. RAYMUTH: Is it on eLibrary right now?

16 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes, it is. If you go through the
17 filing you will find, go to the monthly report, simple as
18 that. There are two monthly reports that have been filed
19 and there is a table for permits on that. You can look into
20 that, what is required. And then say "Hey, you have this,
21 what else is coming up?" Because some of those things are
22 updated from time to time as they learn what is impacting.

23 MR. RAYMUTH: But you're saying the entire chart
24 is not on there.

25 DR. KOCHHAR: The chart they prepare at the end,

1 just before construction --

2 MR. RAYMUTH: Why can't they do it in the
3 beginning? Why can't you require them to do it in the
4 beginning?

5 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, this is a table that is
6 serving the same purpose for us as to what they need.

7 MR. RAYMUTH: This part, not this part. We don't
8 care what's going to happen next October, but we want to
9 know that we've got to be preparing to respond to this
10 particular need at some point in the future.

11 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, all we require is --

12 MR. RAYMUTH: And we don't know that.

13 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, all we require is the listing
14 of permits and approvals that are required to construct this
15 facility.

16 MR. RAYMUTH: But is it all on one page, in one
17 document?

18 DR. KOCHHAR: No. It's usually three to four
19 pages, depending on what State it is, what --

20 MR. RAYMUTH: Okay, but you're saying I can go to
21 your website and print out four pages and it will have
22 everything that we need.

23 DR. KOCHHAR: Theoretically, yes, because that is
24 --

25 MR. RAYMUTH: No theoretical. You're talking

1 like Columbia Gas --

2 DR. KOCHHAR: This is to be updated. That's why
3 I said look at the monthly report, because it is to be
4 updated from time to time. That's what they're learning as
5 they find out what land they're crossing, what else is
6 necessary.

7 MR. RAYMUTH: Thank you.

8 DR. KOCHHAR: It's difficult, but that's how it
9 is that they've got to work with it.

10 MR. SIPE: Sir, the information you're asking for
11 is a little bit different. I think you guys are a little
12 confused there. The Gantt chart -- you want a process of
13 what's next.

14 MR. RAYMUTH: We want to know where the pressure
15 points are.

16 MR. SIPE: The pressure points for you guys to
17 have public input opportunities?

18 MR. RAYMUTH: Yes, yes. Right now the only one
19 we know of is this particular meeting.

20 MR. SIPE: Well, as we said, all comments when
21 they're sent in to us or sent in to the other agencies,
22 wherever you want to send them; you know, you could send
23 them to your states, to your locals, whoever, then come to
24 your Senators or they can just come from you -- they're all
25 treated equal. So there's really no pressure point that

1 you're looking for. Like you can keep submitting comments
2 if you guys find different things throughout the process,
3 okay?

4 That process flow chart is about as close as what
5 you're going to get because they don't have necessarily a
6 Gantt chart -- we don't have one for every project because
7 every project is different. Just keep sending your
8 comments, we'll try to address your concerns and so will the
9 applicant, because they have to.

10 You raised your hand several times.

11 MS. GUARNACCIA: Teri Guarnaccia.

12 I live in Greenspring Ridge, which is an affected
13 area; several of my neighbors and I will be affected by the
14 proposed pipeline, and there is of course an existing
15 pipeline now.

16 I have a series of questions. Would you prefer I
17 ask them all at once, or ask and get responses?

18 MR. SIPE: Go ahead.

19 DR. KOCHHAR: Go ahead and try, either way.

20 MR. SIPE: We're open here. Can't you tell?

21 MS. GUARNACCIA: If I've understood the process
22 on an environmental assessment versus an environmental
23 impact statement, the impact study is something that is more
24 in-depth and more broad. Is that correct?

25 DR. KOCHHAR: That's very true, but they may have

1 effect also on the environment.

2 MS. GUARNACCIA: And is there ever a case where
3 you do an environmental assessment which then leads to an
4 impact study?

5 DR. KOCHHAR: We have done one I know of, long
6 time back.

7 MS. GUARNACCIA: I see. Is the reason that an
8 environmental assessment is being proposed is because this
9 is a loop project?

10 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, no; not necessarily because
11 it's a loop project. An environmental assessment is done
12 for all projects.

13 MS. GUARNACCIA: Well, why not an EIS, then?

14 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, EIS has different
15 requirements. We have to see what is impacted. Is there a
16 may effect situation in some of the resources? Or how big
17 those are.

18 Well, you can see guidelines, and that is what we
19 have to follow for that.

20 MR. SIPE: The actual definition of environmental
21 assessment is you prepare that to determine if you need to
22 prepare an environmental impact statement. Okay? The
23 applicant will give us that environmental analysis.

24 To be honest, the way the FERC does it is -- what
25 FERC does along with -- unlike other agencies, we just deal

1 with pipeline projects. So the companies come in with a
2 proposal, they sit down and talk with us about it, if you're
3 going to enter pre-filing. We look at the information that
4 they have, the routing, the line, whatever it may be. We
5 make a call at that point -- you know, they have their call.
6 Sometimes they'll come in and say 'Hey, we want to do an
7 EIS.' We're like 'No, we think this project warrants an
8 E.A.' or vice-versa.

9 They come in, they made their analysis. At this
10 point we're considering E.A.. With our 30 plus years
11 experience in pipelines, you know, that's where we make
12 those decisions. Now that's not saying that that can't
13 change down the line, but that's just the call that's made
14 this early on in the process.

15 MS. GUARNACCIA: And do the comments that you
16 receive from interested parties ever affect that decision?
17 Or is that something you make solely on the data that you
18 get from the applicant?

19 DR. KOCHHAR: It's both. It's both.

20 MR. SIPE: I mean, the comments -- the definition
21 of a stakeholder is anybody. Could be someone from a
22 different country; doesn't have to be the ones just affected
23 here. But a lot of that decision-making comes from the
24 comments received from landowners, people who are here
25 tonight, agencies; both local, state and federal government

1 agencies.

2 MS. GUARNACCIA: And if I understood the process,
3 what's posted on your website is the permitting process,
4 what the applicant is required, or all of the information
5 that the applicant requires of you is made available to
6 people who are interested in it.

7 MR. SIPE: Under the pre-filing regulations,
8 which they had to satisfy in order for us to accept them
9 into this process. I can start spitting regulations to you,
10 but it's 157.21 is a regulation under 18 CFR 49; they're our
11 regulations. They have to satisfy those regulations in
12 order for us to accept them in to the pre-filing process.
13 They were just made up under the Energy Policy Act.

14 The exhibits, the other permits and stuff that
15 they need from local, state and federal agencies, they're in
16 this permit. It's called Exhibit -- what is it, Howard?
17 Exhibit H and Exhibit K. So it's in the pre-filing
18 information that they already sent in.

19 MS. GUARNACCIA: So that's the information the
20 federal regulation says what they have to send to you. I'm
21 a little more interested in what they have to send to us.
22 Because I have to tell you, I found this little map back
23 here inadequate.

24 I mean, this is it? This is all you have to show
25 me?

1 MR. SIPE: Yes, but the map there is from our
2 NOI. Remember, this is 20 miles of pipe. We can't, as
3 federal language, include alignment sheets with this file.
4 This is just an overview.

5 MS. GUARNACCIA: But how is it feasible for
6 someone to say, 'Your client should focus on potential
7 environmental effects, reasonable alternatives and measures
8 to avoid or lessen environmental impacts.' How are we
9 supposed to do that? Is there any information that we're
10 entitled to?

11 MR. SIPE: Remember, this is early on. That's a
12 Notice of Intent. That's the first thing that you're going
13 to see. Along with that, you're probably going to have a
14 visit -- you should, if you're not you should be telling us
15 -- you're going to have a visit from a land agent. Or
16 another professional within Columbia. Could be an engineer,
17 could be --

18 MS. GUARNACCIA: An engineer of Columbia's?

19 MR. SIPE: Of Columbia's. They are going to
20 provide you, they're going to show you the maps, they're
21 probably obviously probably ask you to survey your property;
22 they're going to be talking with you through this phase.

23 The environmental analysis that we're asking from
24 an NOI, we're asking you guys to follow the process. I know
25 it's troublesome; that's what you have us to do, right, for

1 you as federal employees; but follow the process and watch.
2 As they submit information in on the record you can comment
3 on that information.

4 MS. GUARNACCIA: So you are our advocate in this
5 process?

6 MR. SIPE: We -- yes, we work for all
7 stakeholders, yes. We do the environmental analysis of
8 these proposals, and provide it to you for comment.

9 MS. GUARNACCIA: But based on the information
10 that they give you?

11 MR. SIPE: Yes, as long as they satisfy the
12 regulations for that information.

13 MS. GUARNACCIA: Okay.

14 MR. SIPE: If you can think about it, like I said
15 earlier, just remember -- it just goes down in the local
16 government. If you have a deck or whatever to be put on
17 your house, you provide that information to the county.
18 They make their call on it. In this, they're required to
19 provide us certain information.

20 MS. GUARNACCIA: When I'm building my deck,
21 however, I have all of the information. Columbia is
22 building the pipeline here, on my land. I don't have all
23 the information. It is not the same process, and I
24 respectfully disagree with you, a taking through eminent
25 domain, even if it's only an easement, is a taking of a real

1 property interest, and it is taking. So I have to disagree
2 with you there; it is taking away somebody's property. It
3 may not be fee simple, but it is a taking.

4 DR. KOCHHAR: You can also go, on Columbia's
5 website, which is www.ngts.com, and they also have a toll-
6 free number specifically for this project, which is 888-499-
7 3450. And you can ask them for a specific parcel
8 information. They are supposed to provide you the
9 information that you need to understand what the project is
10 and what is within your property.

11 Actually, you can ask the neighbors so that you
12 can see how the line is moving from one end to the other.
13 So you should contact Columbia with this toll-free number
14 and get the information. We will tell them again, we have
15 told them this thing before; they're supposed to provide you
16 any information that you need to satisfy yourself to
17 understand the project.

18 MS. GUARNACCIA: How do people who are not, and
19 didn't get this little letter in the mail and/or hopefully
20 didn't ignore it, supposed to find out about that phone
21 number? How are the environmental groups, who might have
22 the ability to make these kind of assessments.

23 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, the assumption there is that
24 Columbia provided this information prior to coming to us.
25 I'm hearing that today, and believe it or not, they will be

1 told 50 more times to go get it done now. I have also
2 called them last week about this; where is your toll-free
3 number? And apparently they said they did send it to me, I
4 didn't find. So I asked them to give it to me.

5 That's why I wrote it here, because I knew
6 somebody today is going to ask me about that. But feel free
7 to call them and ask for it. And if you want, you can take
8 it from me now.

9 MS. GUARNACCIA: Great. Thank you, I'll come get
10 it.

11 DR. KOCHHAR: Okay.

12 MR. SIPE: And everything's not on eLibrary,
13 either. They're also required to -- eLibrary is a system
14 that we have at FERC that stores all information, whether it
15 comes from us, Columbia, other agencies, you guys, whoever
16 it may be.

17 Also, the information that Columbia is going to
18 submit to us, they're also required to put in public
19 locations, so you guys can view those accordingly.

20 AUDIENCE: It's been two hours since I last spoke
21 to you, but I have a question: A lot of people have brought
22 up the environmental and the safety issues, and they're a
23 little skeptical. And they should be, when you look at what
24 happened in the Gulf of Mexico.

25 You know, safety, environment -- it was a

1 horrible job. And I just listened to a report just the
2 other day, and there's not a whole lot been done. Why
3 should we even believe that this is going to be done in a
4 manner that would satisfy the safety and environmental
5 conditions when we see what happened so poorly in the Gulf?

6 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you. Sir?

7 Just make sure you state your names again.

8 MR. WILHELM: Harry Wilhelm; I testified before.

9 Just a question to you: Did FERC send a copy of
10 your application to the Office of the People's Council for
11 their comments to you?

12 DR. KOCHHAR: I can't tell you that because I
13 don't remember the whole mailing list.

14 MR. WILHELM: I was just wondering whether they
15 get a copy of it.

16 DR. KOCHHAR: If you'll provide me the name and
17 address I can check on my mailing list. If it is not sent,
18 I can send it to them. And you can take a copy of the NOI
19 today if you want; it's at the sign-in table.

20 MR. WILHELM: What I've heard tonight, there's so
21 much opposition to it, and I would urge anybody here to send
22 their comments to the People's Council. Send her a letter
23 and get her involved.

24 DR. KOCHHAR: Let me ask one question here. Did
25 you all get any information about Columbia's open houses

1 that were organized in the month of March? There were four
2 open houses. I was here for all the four. I did not see
3 this representation. And they told us that they advertised
4 it and they informed people.

5 Okay, thank you. We'll take care of that.

6 AUDIENCE: They may have advertised it, I guess
7 in the local fish wrap. I don't know where.

8 MR. ENGEL: My name is Don Engel, D o n E n g e
9 l.

10 I'm wondering when the eLibrary will detail
11 geospatial data, be made available at some point? I agree
12 that this map is pretty unusable in terms of knowing which
13 process. And it's nice to give it a go and see whether
14 one's individual home is nearby or whether everyone's
15 neighbors are affected. To be able to just play with the
16 data, see the full map. Is that something we ever have the
17 right to do?

18 MR. SIPE: Once they file an application, they
19 will be filing alignment sheets along the way. And the
20 alignment sheets that you look out there tonight, they're
21 not just a topo. What we have to put in an NOI is just a
22 topo map to give you an overview of where the project is,
23 for a project of 20 miles.

24 The alignment sheets, they will file those, and
25 they will be publicly available at FERC.

1 DR. KOCHHAR: We will request Columbia to go
2 ahead and put their line, all the information, alignment
3 will get onto their website so you can look through the map
4 and scroll and see where your property is. Because they do
5 have on their monitors. I know last time in the open houses
6 they showed it to everybody who ever came to look at it.

7 MR. SIPE: You're looking for the Google
8 information, basically.

9 MR. ENGEL: I'm looking for longitude and
10 latitude data. When I asked them outside, they told me they
11 could show me whatever I wanted to see here and now, but
12 that the full information was proprietary.

13 DR. KOCHHAR: Oh, I see. Okay.

14 MR. ENGEL: And it doesn't seem like we're going
15 to be able to comment; but having it be proprietary is fine.

16 MR. SIPE: Yes, that is a concern. I mean, I
17 work with the industry in general, the RWAs, a lot of the
18 associations. They're just not going to hand out their
19 routes to everybody. Okay, "Here's our Google data on all
20 of our route." As companies they're not going to do that,
21 but they will allow you to come in and view that information
22 all you want. But they're not going to hand you the route.

23 There's a lot of reasons behind that, too.

24 MR. ENGEL: If I may, it seems one reason is if
25 we did have that data, we could perhaps use that to cross-

1 reference with phone books and the like, and organize. And
2 without having that information we're unable to know the
3 full extent of all our neighbors who are affected, we're
4 unable to work together to have a unified voice.

5 So I understand that it's in their interest to
6 not share that information, but it seems that if it's part
7 of the plan that will be enacted in the FERC, to comment on
8 the plan as it being enacted as a community, it would be
9 perhaps equalizing if we could see that information.

10 MR. SIPE: Okay. You could also -- it's
11 something you're going to have to go work with the company,
12 because we don't require it.

13 Again if you guys, and you brought up the unified
14 voice. If you guys are working with attorneys on these
15 projects -- and sir, you mentioned it before -- I just
16 recommend that your attorney, make sure that when you're
17 working with your attorney, a lot of times attorneys will
18 work directly with the companies in trying to resolve
19 whatever it may be, and not keep FERC in the loop of what's
20 going on. That's your call, you're allowed to do that; but
21 just understand that whatever situation you may be talking
22 about, we could change it, because we don't know that
23 information.

24 I can give you stories of attorneys calling me
25 and asking me, "Who do you think you are? I had a route

1 negotiated with, between the company and this landowner, and
2 you just come in and change it." I'm like, "Whoa, wait a
3 second here. We're a federal agency. We're allowed to do
4 that."

5 So just make sure if you're working with an
6 attorney, you want to ask them to make sure that they
7 provide us the information to keep us in the loop. We can
8 keep it confidential, too.

9 MR. LOWENTRITT: It's Ben Lowentritt, L o w e n t
10 r i t t.

11 You're obviously hearing a lot of concern over
12 the lack of certain independent assessment from an
13 environmental impact. The companies had as long as they
14 wanted to prepare this pre-filing statement where they say
15 this is the least impactful route.

16 Is there any way that, even if we bond together
17 to enlist an independent organization to do an environmental
18 estimate, even a small part of this, that we can get that to
19 you? Is there any reasonable expectation that we can get
20 that to you before this decision is made? It's hard for us
21 to understand how we could ever get that information done in
22 a time where you could actually view it. I understand we
23 could submit it to you, but in the current process, it just
24 seems like there's no way. I mean, it's not possible.

25 MR. SIPE: I mean scheduling this project,

1 they're three months in, per se.

2 MR. LOWENTRITT: But they might have had two
3 years to prepare the document.

4 MR. SIPE: Well, they have to satisfy the pre-
5 filing regs for us to accept them in; that's how long. A
6 lot of these projects are forecasted out forever; we don't
7 even know about them.

8 Three months from now I know that Columbia
9 probably wants to be able to file that application, if
10 they're ready.
11 So they're going to file an application, they're going to
12 have that data. You're going to get the data somewhat about
13 the same time we do.

14 So yes, a consultant can take that data, any
15 consultant, environmental consultant, and do an
16 environmental analysis, an E.A. on that data, and submit it
17 in to FERC.

18 MR. LOWENTRITT: There's no independent
19 information. I mean, I guess it's based on their
20 assessment, which is biased; naturally, seemingly. Now I
21 know you're thinking that these are not, that these are
22 objective findings; but they're subjective. I mean, they
23 really are.

24 MR. SIPE: Go look at our regulations, under 18
25 CFR 49, under 380.12. That is what they are required, under

1 the environmental analysis, to file. It's pretty detailed
2 in there. Look at that data, you know the information we're
3 looking for. Up front they have to file that information.
4 Unless they tell us why they're not.

5 And also work with your state agencies, too.
6 Because they also have to file state permits.

7 AUDIENCE: I've got a question. Should I say my
8 name again?

9 MR. SIPE: Sure.

10 AUDIENCE: You know.

11 Need. You mentioned need as one of the few
12 reasons these things tend to be overturned.

13 MR. SIPE: No.

14 AUDIENCE: No?

15 MR. SIPE: Market.

16 AUDIENCE: Market. Does the market -- could this
17 go to a port for ships and be shipped elsewhere, and how
18 would that relate to the market? Is export off of a ship --
19 because we're not too far from --

20 MR. SIPE: From Copelin?

21 AUDIENCE: So I don't know if that's part of this
22 or not.

23 MR. SIPE: Remember, this is an interstate
24 system. So gas can come in from about anywhere, depending
25 on how the system is designed. Like I said, Columbia's

1 system, I'm not sure if everything on that is bidirectional.
2 A lot of the older systems are not. That would be something
3 I'd have to ask Columbia, or you guys would have to ask
4 Columbia.

5 But some of the newer systems, you know, they are
6 bidirectional; so yes, they could receive gas from the Gulf,
7 they could receive gas from Marcellus, they could receive
8 gas from wherever and interject that into the interstate
9 grid. Could some of that gas go to a liquefied natural gas
10 terminal and be exported? Sure. But the companies have to
11 come in and ask us, and we have to grant that.

12 There's right now a push in at FERC, you know,
13 you're going to see some projects coming in for
14 liquefaction, okay? Liquefaction projects, that's what
15 happens. LNG is liquefied natural gas. It's very, very
16 cold, it's a liquid, and shipped in boats, tankers. Brought
17 to port, stored there, when it's needed to be injected into
18 the system, the interstate system, it's heated back up,
19 turned back into a gas form, a gaseous form, and sent down
20 the pipeline.

21 On the flip side of that with all the Marcellus
22 and everything and all the shale plays throughout this
23 country, which we are pretty fortunate that we have with the
24 price of gas where it is now, you look at yes, that gas
25 could come back, go to those liquefied natural gas

1 terminals, be re-liquefied, stored in tanks, put onto boats,
2 and exported. But that all has to be, come through us.

3 AUDIENCE: That would count as market, though,
4 because being exported through here. Because being exported
5 through here; that's part of the market determination?

6 I think you're saying yes.

7 MR. SIPE: Well, not for this -- I mean, I don't
8 know what they're going to tell us in this application, what
9 their need is. That's what they need to tell us in their
10 application.

11 AUDIENCE: And we'd all see that, if part of the
12 market was getting it out to a port? It would be in their
13 application to be filed.

14 MR. SIPE: But you -- you're asking a very
15 complicated question.

16 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes. But for exports specifically,
17 there has to be a DOE permit, also. DOE has to permit them
18 to do export, and they have to tell them where the gas is
19 coming from, where it is going to. And we don't have any
20 such thing so far, none for this project; it's a dinky
21 little project. This is nothing much that I can tell you.

22 You know, we worry about those things when you
23 have 600 plus miles and LNG connected to that, because
24 they've got to have somewhere, some hub to push it to. From
25 there it is taken to the terminal and out to the boat.

1 AUDIENCE: When they do that, they do it 600
2 miles at a time?

3 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, no. They can have a network
4 of interstate pipelines where the other companies feed their
5 lines into.

6 MR. SIPE: You have to look at the interstate
7 grid.

8 DR. KOCHHAR: It's a very complicated thing; it's
9 not so easy, it's a whole network. But export is totally
10 different from what this project is.

11 AUDIENCE: Thank you. I don't need to be asking
12 these questions.

13 MR. SIPE: No; these questions are --

14 DR. KOCHHAR: It's a valid question.

15 MR. SIPE: -- I mean, we're not going to have all
16 the answers for sure. But right now the meat of this
17 project is reliability. So are they going to link that
18 somehow to shipping Marcellus gas? I doubt it.

19 AUDIENCE: So they have to show the liability.

20 MR. SIPE: Yes, they have to show the need of
21 this project, yes.

22 DR. KOCHHAR: Keep in mind, to push gas through a
23 big pipeline, they've got to have enough pressure. That
24 means they have to have something else in between that can
25 push the gas. It reduces its pressure as it moves down the

1 line. So there are many factors. I mean, we can go and
2 spend all day and talk about it, but -- it's not that easy
3 to answer that question.

4 AUDIENCE: Thank you.?

5 AUDIENCE: Will the transcript be on eLibrary?

6 MR. SIPE: Yes.

7 DR. KOCHHAR: Yes. Maybe within a week or so.

8 MR. SIPE: Sir? We're soon going to -- we're
9 going to stick around here, but we're soon going to close
10 the formal part of this meeting, maybe after this comment,
11 and we'll be around here to answer questions.

12 MR. DAVIS: My name is Charles Davis. I just
13 want to add in another factor to consider. I work as a
14 free-lance ecologist, and by coincidence, I also did my
15 master's thesis right here at Oregon Ridge.

16 Oregon Ridge Park happens to be a special place
17 for the National Science Foundation, because Baltimore is
18 one of the two cities in the United States that has the
19 Baltimore Ecosystem Study that's been around for 20 years.
20 And I just want to make sure that is in here. Oregon Ridge
21 has basically the control sites at the far end of the
22 urban/suburban continuum. And those sites are right here,
23 nearby the alignment, so. Which also means there's lots of
24 data for this area.

25 DR. KOCHHAR: Thank you. We are working with DNR

1 to identify those resources here.

2 MR. DAVIS: Okay. Again, this is separate from
3 DNR.

4 DR. KOCHHAR: Well, no, they have to identify
5 what is there, what kind of property or land use a given
6 parcel is.

7 MR. DAVIS: Yes, yes, but I'm talking
8 specifically about the National Science Foundation's long
9 term ecological research project.

10 DR. KOCHHAR: But they have to know --

11 MR. DAVIS: -- they will know.

12 DR. KOCHHAR: That's what I'm saying; that's our
13 source to find out the information.

14 It's about 10 o'clock. We need to close this
15 meeting officially; and the court reporter has to go home,
16 too.

17 So I say here that we closed the meeting, it's
18 10, 5 after 10. Thank you all for coming here, and I really
19 appreciate all your input. Believe it or not, we take all
20 your comments, and we will look into it. It's not a quick
21 overnight thing; it's going to take a while. And until we
22 are satisfied, Columbia is not going anywhere. So keep
23 giving us your input.

24 If you have any further questions we are here,
25 we'll be glad to help you in whatever way we can. Thank you

1 very much once again.

2 (Whereupon, at 10:05 p.m., the scoping meeting
3 concluded.)

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