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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number
VIRGINIA SOUTHSIDE EXPANSION PROJECT : PF12-15-000
- - - - -x

Fairfield Inn & Suites
Conference Suite
1120 Bill Tuck Highway
South Boston, VA 24592

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting,
pursuant to notice, at 6:37 p.m., Elaine Baum, FERC Moderator.

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. BAUM: Why don't we try to go ahead and get
3 started.

4 Good evening, and thank you everyone for coming tonight. On
5 behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also
6 known as the FERC, I would like to welcome all of you
7 tonight.

8 This is a scoping meeting for the Virginia
9 Southside Expansion Project proposed by Transcontinental Gas
10 Pipe Line Company, also known as Transco. Let the record
11 show that the public scoping meeting in South Boston began
12 at 6:37 p.m. on September 19, 2012.

13 The primary purpose of this meeting is to provide
14 you an opportunity to comment on the project or on the scope
15 of the environmental analysis being prepared for the
16 Project. My name is Elaine Baum and I'm an environmental
17 project manager with the Commission's Office of Energy
18 Projects. With me at the table tonight is Eric Tomasi with
19 the FERC, and working at the sign-in table tonight is Anne
20 Allen and Jennifer Ward from Cardno-Entrix. Cardno-Entrix
21 is assisting FERC in the preparation of the Environmental
22 Assessment, or EA.

23 The FERC is an independent agency that regulates
24 the interstate transmission of natural gas and reviews
25 proposals and authorizes construction of interstate natural
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1 gas pipelines, storage facilities, and liquefied natural gas
2 terminals. As a federal licensing agency, the FERC has the
3 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act
4 to consider the potential environmental impact associated
5 with a project which is under its consideration.

6 With regard to Transco's Virginia Southside
7 Expansion Project, the FERC is the lead federal agency for
8 the National Environmental Policy Act review and the
9 preparation of the EA.

10 As I said earlier, the primary purpose of this
11 meeting tonight is to give you an opportunity to comment on
12 the project or on the environmental issues that you would
13 like to see covered in the EA. It will help us the most if
14 your comments are as specific as possible regarding the
15 potential environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives
16 of the proposed project. These issues generally focus on
17 the potential for environmental effects, but may also
18 address construction issues, mitigation, and the
19 environmental review process. In addition, this meeting is
20 designed to provide you with an opportunity to meet with the
21 Transco Company representatives to ask them questions and to
22 get more detailed information about their proposed facility
23 locations and construction plans.

24 Tonight's agenda is a simple one. First, I'm
25 going to describe the environmental review process and the
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1 FERC's role in this project. Then we're going to let the
2 project sponsor, Transco, give a more complete description
3 of the proposal. After that, we will hear from those of you
4 who have signed up to speak. If you would like to present
5 comments tonight, please be sure to sign the speakers' list
6 at the sign-in table in the back.

7 Now I'm going to briefly describe our
8 environmental review process for you. To illustrate how
9 this process works, we've prepared a flow chart. This was
10 appended to the notice of intent and there are copies
11 available at the sign-in table.

12 Currently, we are near the beginning of our
13 environmental review process and are in the public input
14 opportunities part. Approximately two months ago, Transco
15 held four open house meetings which gave them a chance to
16 explain more about their proposed project as well as for
17 FERC staff to introduce our agency and explain our role in
18 the process.

19 Transco entered into the FERC pre-filing process
20 on June 1, 2012, which began our review of the facilities
21 that we refer to as the Virginia Southside Expansion
22 Project. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to
23 encourage involvement by all interested stakeholders in a
24 manner that allows for the early identification and
25 resolution of environmental issues. As of today, no formal
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1 application has been filed with the FERC. However, the
2 FERC, along with other federal, state and local agency
3 staffs have begun a review of the project.

4 On August 30, 2012, FERC issued a Notice of
5 Intent, or NOI, to prepare an EA for this project and
6 initiated a scoping period. This "scoping" or comment
7 period will end on October 1, 2012. During our review of
8 the project, we will assemble information from a variety of
9 sources, including Transco, the public, other state, local
10 and federal agencies, and our own independent analysis and
11 field work. We will analyze this information and prepare an
12 EA that will be distributed to the public for comment.

13 Once scoping is finished, our next step will be
14 to begin analyzing the company's proposals and the issues
15 that have been identified during the scoping period. This
16 will include an examination of the proposed facility
17 locations as well as alternative sites. We will assess the
18 projects' effects on waterbodies and wetlands, vegetation
19 and wildlife, endangered species, cultural resources, soils,
20 land use, air quality and safety. When complete, our
21 analysis of the potential impacts will be published as an EA
22 and presented to the public for a 30-day comment period.
23 This EA will be mailed to all interested parties.

24 Please note that because of the size of the
25 mailing list, the mailed version of the EA is often on a CD.

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1 That means that unless you tell us otherwise, the EA that
2 you will find in your mailbox will be on a CD. If you
3 prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you, you must indicate
4 that choice on the return mailer attached to the NOI. You
5 can also indicate that on the attendance sheet tonight at
6 the sign-in table.

7 As I mentioned earlier, our issuance of the NOI
8 opened a formal comment period that will close on October 1,
9 2012. The NOI encourages you to submit your comments as
10 soon as possible in order to give us time to analyze and
11 research the issues. If you received the NOI in the mail,
12 you are on our mailing list and will remain on our mailing
13 list to receive the EA and any other supplemental notices we
14 may issue about this project unless you return the mailer
15 attached to the back of the NOI and indicate you wish to be
16 removed from the mailing list. If you did not receive the
17 NOI and you should have, I apologize. The mailing list for
18 this project is large and undergoing constant revision. You
19 can be added to our mailing list by signing up at the sign-
20 in table in the back or by submitting comments on the
21 project.

22 I would like to add that the FERC encourages
23 electronic filing of all comments and other documents.
24 There are a few small brochures and CDs at the sign-in table
25 in the back that explain FERC's e-filing system. Also,
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1 instructions for this can be found on our website,
2 www.ferc.gov, under the e-filing link. If you want to
3 submit written comments, please follow the directions in the
4 NOI.

5 It is very important that any comments you send,
6 either electronically or by traditional mail, include our
7 internal docket number for the project. The docket number
8 is on the cover of the NOI. If you decide to send us a
9 comment letter, please put that number on it. That will
10 ensure that members of the staff evaluating the project will
11 get your comments as soon as possible. The docket number
12 for the Virginia Southside Expansion Project is PF12-15-000.

13 Now I want to explain the roles of the FERC
14 Commission and of the FERC environmental staff. The five-
15 member Commission is responsible for making a determination
16 on whether to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and
17 Necessity to the Applicant. In this case that is Transco.
18 The EA prepared by the FERC environmental staff, which I am
19 a part of, describes the project facilities and associated
20 environmental impacts, alternatives to the project,
21 mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts, and our conclusions
22 and recommendations. The EA is not a decision document It
23 is being prepared to disclose to the public and to the
24 Commission the environmental impact of constructing and
25 operating the proposed project. When it is completed, the
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1 Commission will consider the environmental information from
2 the EA along with the non-environmental issues such as
3 engineering, markets and rates, in making its decision to
4 approve or deny Transco's request for a certificate. There
5 is no review of FERC decisions by the President or Congress,
6 maintaining FERC's independence as a regulatory agency and
7 providing for fair and unbiased decisions.

8 After we hear comments tonight, we will take
9 questions about agency roles or process. Before we start
10 taking comments from you, I have asked Transco to provide a
11 brief overview of the proposed project. Here is George
12 Angerbauer, who's going to give a brief presentation.

13 MR. ANGERBAUER: Good evening, everyone.

14 On behalf of Williams, we are pleased to present
15 this brief overview of the Virginia Southside Expansion
16 Project to you tonight. My name is George Angerbauer, A-n-
17 g-e-r-b-a-u-e-r, and I'm responsible for public outreach for
18 the project.

19 Williams' Transco pipeline is a major transporter
20 of energy, delivering much of the natural gas consumed in
21 the mid-Atlantic region and about one-fourth of the natural
22 gas consumed in Virginia. Williams is developing the
23 proposed Virginia Southside Expansion Project to provide
24 clean-burning natural gas to Dominion Virginia Power's new
25 1300-megawatt electric power plant planned in Brunswick
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1 County. The project would fuel additional power generation
2 in the region with clean-burning natural gas, replacing two
3 coal-fired power plants in eastern Virginia.

4 If the project is approved, the Virginia
5 Southside Expansion would expand the existing Transco
6 pipeline facilities in southern Virginia to provide the
7 250,000 decatherms of natural gas per day required to serve
8 the new power station by 2015, with construction starting in
9 2014. The project proposes to build a new compressor
10 station in Pittsylvania County and approximately 100 miles
11 of new 24-inch diameter pipeline extending from the Transco
12 mainline in Pittsylvania County through Halifax, Charlotte
13 and Mecklenburg Counties, and terminating in Brunswick
14 County. Approximately 90 percent of the route would be
15 collocated within our existing transmission corridor,
16 minimizing impact on property owners and the environment. A
17 complete and thorough environmental analysis will be
18 conducted as part of our FERC application process.

19 As noted earlier, we are currently in the pre-
20 filing phase of the FERC process, and as part of this
21 process we've sought input from the community and local
22 agencies to identify issues and address them and your
23 concerns. In July we hosted open houses across the proposed
24 project route. We invite you to contact us and meet with us
25 to discuss any questions you may have about the project or
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1 its potential impact on you or your property. Our land
2 agents are available to talk with you at your convenience.
3 We have a toll-free number, e-mail address and other
4 important information on our website at
5 www.williams.com/southside.

6 Pipeline safety is the single most important
7 component of our operations. We are regulated by the
8 Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous
9 Materials Safety Administration. The steel pipe we used in
10 our construction is manufactured to strict safety
11 specifications, and a protective coating is factory-applied
12 to repel moisture and other corrosive elements. In addition
13 to other safety measures, and prior to placing the pipeline
14 in service, we will examine the pipeline inside and out
15 using highly sensitive inspection tools. We will also test
16 it by filling the pipeline with water and raising the
17 pressure of the water well above our maximum operating
18 pressure, holding that pressure test for several hours --
19 that's to ensure there are no leaks -- then releasing the
20 water at permitted locations.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to provide this
22 brief overview. As a project team, we are committed to
23 continuing to work with you and other members of your
24 community to understand your concerns and address them in
25 the most reasonable, appropriate way.

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1 We will be here after this formal part of the meeting to
2 answer questions you may have, and to discuss the maps and
3 drawings which we have in the back.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MS. BAUM: Thank you, George.

6 We did not have anybody who actually signed up to
7 speak tonight. But is there anybody who would like to say
8 anything or have any comments?

9 MR. TOMASI: Does anybody have any questions
10 about our process or the role of the agency, or anything
11 like that?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. BAUM: Well, then, without any speakers, the
14 formal part of this meeting will conclude. However, if
15 there is anybody who does have any questions, we will stay
16 here for a little while after if you have individual
17 questions and would like to talk to us.

18 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
19 Commission, I would like to thank all of you for coming
20 tonight. Let the record reflect that the Virginia Southside
21 Expansion Project scoping meeting concluded at 6:50 p.m.

22 (Whereupon, at 6:50 p.m., the meeting was
23 adjourned.)

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