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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

Olde Dominion Agricultural
Conference Center
19783 US Hwy 29 Suite G
Chatam, VA 24531

Thursday, September 20, 2012

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting,
pursuant to notice, at 6:40 p.m., Elaine Baum, FERC Moderator.

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. BAUM: Good evening, everybody. We're going
3 to go ahead and get started.

4 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
5 Commission, also known as the FERC, I would like to welcome
6 all of you tonight. This is a scoping meeting for the
7 Virginia Southside Expansion Project proposed by
8 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, also known as
9 Transco. Let the record show that the Public Scoping
10 Meeting in Chatham, Virginia began at 6:40 p.m. on September
11 20, 2012.

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

22 The FERC is an independent agency that regulates
23 the interstate transmission of natural gas and reviews
24 proposals and authorizes construction of interstate natural
25 gas pipelines, storage facilities, and liquefied natural gas
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1 terminals. As a federal licensing agency, the FERC has the
2 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act
3 to consider the potential environmental impact associated
4 with a project which is under its consideration. With
5 regard to Transco's Virginia Southside Expansion Project,
6 the FERC is the lead federal agency for the National
7 Environmental Policy Act review and the preparation of the
8 EA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 When complete, our analysis of the potential
22 impacts will be published as an EA and presented to the
23 public for a 30-day comment period. This EA will be mailed
24 to all interested parties.

25 Please note that because of the size of the
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1 mailing list, the mailed version of the EA is often on a CD.
2 That means that unless you tell us otherwise, the EA that
3 you will find in your mailbox will be on a CD. If you
4 prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you, you must indicate
5 that choice on the return mailer attached to the NOI. You
6 can also indicate that on the attendance sheet tonight at
7 the sign-in table in the back.

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

23 I would like to add that the FERC encourages
24 electronic filing of all comments and other documents.
25 There are a few small brochures and CDs at the sign-in table
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1 that explains FERC's e-filing system. Also, instructions
2 for this can be found on our website, www.ferc.gov, under
3 the e-filing link. If you want to submit written comments,
4 please follow the directions in the 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 this 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 PL12-15-000.

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

9 After comments tonight, we will take questions
10 about agency roles or process. Before we start taking
11 comments from you, I have asked Transco to provide a brief
12 overview of the proposed project. So with that, here is
13 Stewart Roach.

14 MR. ROACH: On behalf of Williams, we are pleased
15 to present this brief overview of the Virginia Southside
16 Expansion Project to you tonight. My name is Stewart Roach,
17 R-o-a-c-h, and I'm responsible for local district
18 operations.

19 Williams's Transco pipeline is a major
20 transporter of energy, delivering much of the natural gas
21 consumed in the Mid-Atlantic region and about one-fourth of
22 the natural gas consumed in Virginia. Williams is
23 developing the proposed Virginia Southside Expansion Project
24 to provide clean-burning natural gas to Dominion Virginia
25 Power's new 1300-megawatt electric power plant planned in
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1 Brunswick County. The project would fuel additional power
2 generation in the region with clean-burning natural gas,
3 replacing two 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 250,000
7 decatherms of natural gas per day required to serve the new
8 power station by 2015, with construction starting in 2014.
9 The project proposes to build a new compressor station in
10 Pittsylvania County and approximately 100 miles of new 24-
11 inch diameter pipeline extending from the Transco mainline
12 in Pittsylvania County, VA through Halifax, Charlotte and
13 Mecklenburg Counties, and terminating in Brunswick County,
14 VA. 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 FERC noted, we are currently in the pre-filing
20 phase of the FERC process, and as part of this process we've
21 sought input from the community and local agencies to
22 identify and address issues and concerns. In July we hosted
23 open houses across the proposed project route. We invite
24 you to contact us and meet with us to discuss any questions
25 you may have about the project or its potential impact on
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1 you or your property. Our land agents are available to talk
2 with you at your convenience. We have a toll-free number,
3 e-mail address and other important information on our
4 website at www.williams.com/southside.

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

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

25 Thank you.

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1 MS. BAUM: Actually, we did not have anybody who
2 signed up to speak tonight. However, is there anybody who
3 would like to say anything?

4 (No response.)

5 MS. BAUM: Does anybody have any questions about
6 FERC or our process?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. BAUM: All right.

9 We will be staying after the meeting for a little
10 bit if anybody has any questions or would like to talk. So
11 with that, the formal part of this meeting will conclude.

12 On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory
13 Commission, I would like to thank all of you for coming
14 tonight. Let the record show that the Virginia Southside
15 Expansion Project Scoping Meeting in Chatham, Virginia
16 concluded at 6:50 p.m.

17 (Whereupon, at 6:50 p.m., the meeting was
18 adjourned.)

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