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BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION.

COURT DOCKET: PF05-17-000

DATE: APRIL 5, 2006

TIME: 7:17 p.m.

LOCATION: Haverhill City Hall  
4 Summer Street  
Haverhill, Massachusetts 01830

REPORTED BY: Lauren Sullivan, Notary Public,  
Professional Shorthand Reporter,

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APPEARANCES :

JON PECONOM  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
  
BARBARA MOHRMAN  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
  
ROBERT SMALLCOMB  
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY  
  
GUS MCLACHLAN  
MARITIMES & NORTHEAST

1 MEETING MINUTES

2 APRIL 5, 2006

3 PROCEEDINGS:

4 MR. PECONOM: Good evening.

5 I'd like to thank everyone for coming  
6 tonight. I'd like to thank the mayor's  
7 office and the city council for letting us  
8 use their facilities, and especially, I'd  
9 like to thank the mayor one more time for  
10 helping us coordinate this event.

11 Thank you all for coming again.

12 This is a scoping meeting sponsored by the  
13 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for  
14 the Maritimes & Northeast Phase IV  
15 Project. I'd like to kind of give you a  
16 brief overview of what we're trying to do  
17 here tonight.

18 Basically the purpose of this  
19 meeting is to take comments from the  
20 public, and for FERC to explain the  
21 process of how we review these projects.

22 I'm going to spend a few minutes a little  
23 bit later talking about how we reviewed  
24 these projects. We've asked Maritimes &

25

1 Northeast to give an overview of the  
2 project for those of you who are just  
3 getting involved in the process now. We  
4 have a representative from the Department  
5 of Transportation here who will also speak  
6 for a few minutes about their role in the  
7 process.

8 We were here a couple months ago in  
9 Methuen for a similar meeting. We are  
10 back now because of the public interest  
11 because Maritimes & Northeast has added  
12 new alternatives for this project.

13 Tonight's meeting is an  
14 informational meeting. It is designed to  
15 give you, the public, information on the  
16 project and the process and how we review.  
17 It's not a question/answer format-type of  
18 meeting.

19 We do not have the information --  
20 and when I say we, I'm talking about the  
21 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which  
22 I represent -- do not have all the  
23 information right now to answer questions.  
24 However, what we're looking to do is gain

1 input from all of you about what things we  
2 should be looking at.

3 I guess I'll go ahead and start to  
4 talk a little bit about the FERC process  
5 and how these things work.

6 We're here in part of the  
7 Pre-Filing Process, which is when a  
8 company proposes -- and I might be too  
9 hard to hear. I apologize. -- when a  
10 company proposes to build a project, they  
11 ask us to conduct a Pre-Filing Review  
12 Process.

13 A Pre-Filing Review Process is  
14 where we work with the company, concerned  
15 citizens, land owners, resource agencies,  
16 fish and wildlife service, state agencies,  
17 and we all kind of get together early in  
18 the process and talk about how this  
19 project can go forward.

20 We found through experience that  
21 doing a Pre-Filing Process allows people  
22 input early in the process before the  
23 decisions are made. Maritimes is now in  
24 the middle of this process. The meetings

1 we had a couple months ago were part of  
2 the Pre-Filing Process.

3 So a Pre-Filing Process typically  
4 lasts about six months. It involves some  
5 preliminary analysis, a submission of  
6 information by Maritimes & Northeast to  
7 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
8 with some ideas and information about  
9 these and about their proposal.

10 Again, as I stated earlier, we are  
11 here because Maritimes is proposing a  
12 project. They have altered that proposal  
13 since the last time we met, and we'd like  
14 to find out what you all have to say  
15 about that project.

16 Once the Pre-Filing Process is  
17 concluded, Maritimes & Northeast will file  
18 a certificate of application. This is the  
19 more formal process, the more formal part  
20 of the process.

21 Once a certificate application is  
22 filed, Maritimes will have a specific  
23 proposal. It won't be kind of -- right  
24 now it's just alternatives, we'd like to

1 do this, we'd like to do that, we're  
2 thinking about this, we're thinking about  
3 that. When they file a certificate of  
4 application, it will be this is what we  
5 would like to do.

6 From that point, we take all the  
7 information that we that learned in the  
8 Pre-Filing Process, all the comments we've  
9 heard from people, all the written  
10 comments we've received, we take that and  
11 begin to do an environmental analysis.

12 We look at a number of things. We  
13 look at environmental impacts, we look at  
14 aesthetics, air quality, endangered  
15 species, we look at engineering  
16 specifications, we look at impact to local  
17 community, we take into consideration  
18 historical resources. We look at the  
19 general character of the community to see  
20 how a project may affect that.

21 So we do this large analysis of  
22 this project, and then we decide whether  
23 to approve the project or not.

24 We will ask Maritimes in most cases

1 for more information than what they've  
2 given us. We'll ask them to look at  
3 several alternatives, and we'll go through  
4 that whole review.

5 Immediately following the  
6 certificate of application, they will file  
7 an application for resource reports, which  
8 describes the findings and how it will  
9 affect the community and the resources.

10 We'll take that information and  
11 prepare a draft environmental impact  
12 statement. At the time the draft  
13 environmental impact statement is prepared,  
14 we'll open up another official comment  
15 period, taking comments from that, and,  
16 again, from everything we've heard so far,  
17 we'll then issue a final environmental  
18 impact statement, which will be one of the  
19 tools that the Federal Energy Regulatory  
20 Commission uses to ultimately decide  
21 whether or not to approve this project and  
22 how to do that.

23 That's generally how this process  
24 works, as far as how we review this

1 project.

2           There are plenty of opportunities  
3 to comment on the project. We are  
4 obviously taking comments right now.  
5 We've taken them the past few months.  
6 We'll be taking them again throughout the  
7 project until the final environmental  
8 impact statement is issued.

9           I'm going to talk a little bit more  
10 when we get to speakers about ways to  
11 comment on the project.

12           What I'd like to do now, is a lot  
13 of people aren't familiar with the Federal  
14 Energy Regulatory Commission. I'm willing  
15 to kind of take a few minutes and answer  
16 process questions. I can't answer  
17 questions about specific project issues  
18 like why am I, why is this here, what  
19 will this affect? I don't have that  
20 information at this time. But I can  
21 answer procedural questions on how the  
22 process works and how we look at it, and  
23 all the other aspects that FERC will  
24 review during our review process.

1           So if some people have some general  
2           questions about the FERC process, I would  
3           be willing to answer those now.

4           Yes, sir.

5                     UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How  
6           long do you expect the process to take  
7           from the time, let's say, the first  
8           proposal was filed by Maritimes &  
9           Northeast?

10                    MR. PECONOM: The Pre-Filing  
11           Process, of which we're in now, generally  
12           ranges around six months. I think this  
13           Pre-Filing Process will actually be a  
14           little bit longer than six months. So  
15           we'll have a six-month Pre-Filing Process.  
16           Once an application is filed, we generally  
17           take around eleven months or more to  
18           process an application and prepare final  
19           environmental impact statement. So in  
20           total, around 18 months or so, from when  
21           we first hear about it until we issue our  
22           final environmental impact statement.

23                    UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Has  
24           FERC ever denied a project, specifically

1 in a natural gas project?

2 MR. PECONOM: Yes. We  
3 have, you know, based on project and  
4 circumstances, we have denied projects in  
5 the past. That's really an option to a  
6 project. It's guaranteed for approval.  
7 That's why you put in application review  
8 process. So that is a potential outcome.  
9 And an environmental impact statement will  
10 be part of that. The Commission will also  
11 look at economic, you know, demands in the  
12 area. They look at a lot of things;  
13 safety, and a whole host of other aspects.

14 And I specifically work with the  
15 environmental impact statement. I'm a  
16 biologist working on this project. This  
17 project is geared towards the environmental  
18 concerns. We'll obviously take any  
19 comments that you have on the project.  
20 They will all go on the record.

21 And I neglected to mention that we  
22 do have a court reporter here with us  
23 tonight who will be taking down  
24 everybody's comments for the record.

1 Those wishing to get a transcript can talk  
2 to the court reporter after for more  
3 information on how to do that, and I  
4 believe in two weeks or so the project's  
5 transcripts will be available online at  
6 our Web site.

7 Yes.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How  
9 far into the 18-month time frame are we  
10 presently?

11 MR. PECONOM: We're still in  
12 the Pre-Filing Process. So I think -- we  
13 issued the Notice of Intent, I believe in  
14 December or early January. I'd have to  
15 check. But that was basically the  
16 beginning there. So started in December,  
17 about four, five months into this now, I  
18 believe. Any other questions on process?

19 Yes, sir.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What  
21 are the things, some of the things that  
22 you look at to determine what is the  
23 environmental impact?

24 MR. PECONOM: In the

1 environmental review process, we look at  
2 endangered species, affect to water  
3 resources, streams, ground water. We look  
4 at air quality. We look at noise. We  
5 look at safety. Economic impacts. The  
6 impacts to the community. Cultural  
7 resources. You know, artifacts, things of  
8 that nature. Soils, geology, impact to  
9 the farming community, if there's one in  
10 the area, which in this case there is.  
11 Lands. I think that's about it. And I  
12 might be missing one or two, but we do  
13 look at quite a few issues.

14 Yes, ma'am.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do  
16 you have a rating for those different  
17 areas?

18 MR. PECONOM: No. It's a  
19 balancing act. You know, we try to do  
20 our best to balance all these issues.  
21 There's no process where one gets 50  
22 percent of the vote, or, you know, 50  
23 percent consideration and another one only  
24 gets five percent. We do our best to

1 kind of balance it out. And it's tough  
2 at times. But we do do our best to try  
3 and make sure that the community and  
4 everything is served. And when I say the  
5 community, I mean everybody.

6 Yes, sir.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is  
8 there a pumping station similar to this in  
9 operation anywhere nearby?

10 MR. PECONOM: I'm not  
11 exactly sure. I don't know. I think  
12 there must be.

13 MR. SMALLCOMB: There is  
14 nothing in Massachusetts. If you go  
15 further north into New Hampshire, there  
16 are some. But I'm not sure which town  
17 they're in.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
19 Where? I couldn't hear.

20 MR. PECONOM: In New  
21 Hampshire, there's a couple compressor  
22 stations. I was told that there's none in  
23 Massachusetts.

24 MR. SMALLCOMB: It might be

1 Richmond, Maine.

2 MR. PECONOM: Richmond,  
3 Maine, might be the closest compressor  
4 station. So there's natural gas pipelines  
5 all over the country, and they all have  
6 compressor stations

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I  
8 understand.

9 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was  
11 just wondering if there was something  
12 local.

13 MR. PECONOM: I'm not aware  
14 of one. And I've been told here by Bob  
15 -- I'm sorry. I didn't introduce Bob  
16 Smallcomb with the Department of  
17 Transportation. We've asked him to give a  
18 few comments later, and he'll talk a  
19 little bit later about what his agency  
20 does in this whole process. And then with  
21 us is Barbara Mohrman, who's a consultant  
22 to the FERC who helps us in environmental  
23 analysis. There may have also been a few  
24 folks in the back who are with her, her

1       company as well, who will be helping us in  
2       preparation of the environmental outcomes.

3                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did I  
4       just hear you say in the environmental  
5       impact, there is no farmland in this area?

6                   MR. PECONOM: No. I said  
7       there is farmland on this project.

8                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There  
9       is?

10                  MR. PECONOM: Yes. No, I  
11       know. I've seen it. That's one issue we  
12       do look at, the agricultural impact.

13                  And just to let everybody know, as  
14       part of the review process, earlier today,  
15       I was out looking at some of the sites,  
16       and we look at them more -- more  
17       continually to physically look at them.  
18       You know, it's not just somebody sitting  
19       in Washington writing something down. We  
20       come up here and we try to have these  
21       meetings and we get out and walk around  
22       and look at these facilities and see with  
23       our own two eyes what's going on. And  
24       that's important to do, and I always

1 welcome the opportunity to travel over to  
2 the project sites.

3 Yes, sir.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm a  
5 little curious. We read in the paper that  
6 there may be several buildings where the  
7 pumping station would be, and I'm  
8 wondering why they didn't put out some  
9 sort of an artist's sketch of what the  
10 area would look like or what the complex  
11 would look like, and might mention some of  
12 the things that might impact the  
13 community, such as is there a guaranteed  
14 noise level, how the lighting is going to  
15 be, how much oil we might expect in the  
16 area?

17 MR. PECONOM: And answers to  
18 your questions will come in our process.  
19 I'll let Maritimes & Northeast in a few  
20 minutes give you a project overview. I've  
21 asked them only to present and not answer  
22 questions today. They will be available  
23 after the meeting to kind of answer  
24 specific questions like that. Sketches,

1 designs, specifications, all that  
2 information will become available in the  
3 review process.

4 Yes, ma'am.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: As  
6 far as gas prices go, I guess we're really  
7 high. Does a station like this affect our  
8 price of the consumer prices at all?

9 MR. PECONOM: I don't know  
10 if I can answer that question. Actually,  
11 I know I can't. I'm not an economist,  
12 and that's not an issue that I look at in  
13 this process. We can talk afterwards, if  
14 you're still here.

15 Yes, sir.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I  
17 realize this is in the infant stages, but  
18 can you give me some kind of ballpark  
19 figure as far as the selection sites are  
20 concerned? And what I'm mostly concerned  
21 about is the city of Haverhill and Larches  
22 Park (phonetic). Is that off of the  
23 table, or can you give me an answer to  
24 that?

1                   MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

2           Maritimes says -- and I think they'll  
3           share this with you later, identified the  
4           first site that they will come to us with  
5           their certificate of location. That is  
6           the one they would like to use. They  
7           have also identified several alternative  
8           sites, one being the city of Haverhill.

9                   At that time that the application  
10           is filed, we'll look at that preferred  
11           site, we'll look at the other  
12           alternatives, and analyze, you know, each  
13           site to see which one best suits these  
14           facilities.

15                   So at this time, no alternative has  
16           been ruled out from our standpoint.  
17           Maritimes, in their review process, has  
18           looked at several sites, made some  
19           determinations on those, and will put  
20           forth several sites in their application  
21           process.

22                   That application, I believe, is  
23           going to be filed next month, and at that  
24           point we will know officially what the

1 proposed is and what the alternatives are.

2 Does that answer your question?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank  
4 you.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
6 Excuse me.

7 MR. PECONOM: Yes, ma'am.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is  
9 there some way you could -- we couldn't  
10 hear you very clearly.

11 MR. PECONOM: I'm sorry.  
12 Let me see if I can bring this a little  
13 bit closer. I apologize.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I  
15 don't know if it's the microphone or  
16 whatever, but we're losing a lot of your  
17 words.

18 MR. PECONOM: Okay. I'll  
19 see if I can maybe talk a little bit  
20 closer to the microphone, if that helps at  
21 all. I apologize.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank  
23 you.

24 MR. PECONOM: Does anyone

1 have any more questions on the FERC  
2 process?

3 Yes, sir.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Has  
5 Homeland Security been involved with any  
6 of this?

7 MR. PECONOM: They've  
8 received a letter from us indicating that  
9 we are, you know, working on this project,  
10 so, yes.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But  
12 after the fact; you've already chosen a  
13 site off that, right?

14 MR. PECONOM: No site has  
15 been chosen yet. Maritimes has put forth  
16 preferred sites, and we'll then look at  
17 that site as well as other sites then make  
18 a decision on which site is best for this  
19 project.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
21 Because all I know is in the past few  
22 years, while I was working in Everett, the  
23 Yellowman Keith (phonetic) land -- I mean,  
24 disposal terminal over there, if that

1 terminal was blown up, you'd lose five  
2 square miles of area, and that's right  
3 underneath the Mystic River Bridge.

4 MR. PECONOM: Safety is  
5 something we definitely look at in our  
6 analysis.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So  
8 I'm wondering how this -- how these  
9 pumping stations is going to react just as  
10 LGGI terminals?

11 MR. PECONOM: Safety is  
12 something to look at, and the  
13 representative from the Department of  
14 Transportation is here to speak a little  
15 bit about safety. In terms of the  
16 process, I can tell you we do look at  
17 safety issues.

18 Yes, sir.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it  
20 a given that one of these proposed sites  
21 will be selected, or is it possible that  
22 none of these will be selected?

23 MR. PECONOM: That's a  
24 possibility. We may ask them, after

1 looking at all of the sites, we say none  
2 of these are acceptable, we'd like you to  
3 consider another one. So that's possible.  
4 That is a potential. One of them may be  
5 chosen or none of them. Yes, sir.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm  
7 not sure if this is the meeting that I  
8 thought it was going to be. But I think  
9 most of the people that I've talked with  
10 in the Ward Hill area --

11 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: --  
13 are interested in safety issues, like a  
14 plant blows up, evacuations of homes,  
15 noise pollution, the motors that are going  
16 to run this plant, the smell from the  
17 plant. When are we going to get that  
18 information? I know what you're saying  
19 about the environment. I'm a  
20 conservationist. I'm concerned with the  
21 environment. But I'm concerned about the  
22 Ward Hill community, the Methuen community.

23 When are we going to get the  
24 information about this plant? The noise,

1 the whole thing about -- When are we going  
2 to get that information or where can we  
3 get it?

4 MR. PECONOM: All the issues  
5 you identified we consider environmental.  
6 Environmental means water, animals, noise,  
7 safety, air pollution, air effect, I  
8 should say -- are all environmental issues  
9 as far as we're concerned. At the time  
10 Maritimes is working to file a formal  
11 application with us, which should in the  
12 next month, that information will be made  
13 available. So you can look at it then,  
14 and then just make comments based on that.  
15 So that is work coming through the  
16 process.

17 Yes, ma'am.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
19 Before you said that you didn't have any  
20 way to average the two completely  
21 different environmental impacts.

22 MR. PECONOM: Yes, ma'am.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But I  
24 had heard -- and if I'm wrong, that sites

1 have been disqualified because there have  
2 been endangered turtles there or endangered  
3 species, animals. And I'm thinking, are  
4 they more important than, say, a whole  
5 community of people?

6 MR. PECONOM: We do our  
7 best to balance all the issues.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can  
9 you explain that?

10 MR. PECONOM: There's a lot  
11 of things that go into an environmental  
12 review; endangered species, the community,  
13 safety, noise. I can't tell you that one  
14 issue is more important than all the  
15 others. It's kind of delicate balancing  
16 act that we try to do, you know, from a  
17 regulatory perspective.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I  
19 really think you need to put the people,  
20 the economy, and their living environment  
21 ahead of endangered animals. And move  
22 them someplace. I know conservationists  
23 are probably going to say no, you can't do  
24 that, but it doesn't make any sense.

1                   MR. PECONOM:  And that would  
2                   be a great comment.  On the speaker's  
3                   list, we definitely want to hear that.

4                   I want to -- if there is any more  
5                   process questions, about how we review  
6                   things, I want to focus on that before we  
7                   move on.  I saw a hand over here.  Okay.  
8                   One more.

9                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  I  
10                  have a question about the alternative  
11                  sites.  Are they all lumped together with  
12                  equal weight, or is there a list that  
13                  comes through that says this is the first  
14                  site; this is our first alternative,  
15                  second alternative, third alternative, or  
16                  are they are, these all the alternatives  
17                  sites, so we don't choose the preferred  
18                  site, you can take them all the  
19                  alternative sites.

20                  MR. PECONOM:  There's a  
21                  preferred site and there's alternatives.  
22                  So there's no first alternative, second  
23                  alternative, third alternative.

24                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  Okay.

1       So all the alternative sites weigh the  
2       same amount?

3                   MR. PECONOM:  I don't know  
4       if I'd phrase it that way.  We look at  
5       alternatives -- we look at each one  
6       individually.  So one alternative may be  
7       more desirable than the other.  That's  
8       part of our analysis that we do.

9                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  I  
10      guess my question is, if you take a look  
11      at it and you decide that you don't like  
12      a preferred site, do they go to the first  
13      alternative site, then the second  
14      alternative, or do they look at all the  
15      alternative sites together?

16                   MR. PECONOM:  We'll look at  
17      all the alternative sites at the same  
18      time, and then we'll make a decision on  
19      which is the next preferable one that we'd  
20      like to see.

21                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  Okay.

22                   MR. PECONOM:  Any more  
23      process questions?

24                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  Could

1 I go back to a comment that was made  
2 earlier? I'd like to get some  
3 understanding of not the size of Northeast  
4 in terms of the numbers of these  
5 transactions that they've done, also  
6 concerning the comment related to earlier,  
7 now at the site, is it possible to get a  
8 listing of all of these sites they're  
9 studying at this particular point in time?

10 MR. PECONOM: I believe  
11 they're attempting to

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And  
13 also how many of them are in this  
14 particular region if not in this  
15 particular area?

16 MR. PECONOM: To answer the  
17 first part of your question, I believe  
18 Maritimes & Northeast will present some of  
19 the sites they're looking at.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Will  
21 it be at the next meeting?

22 MR. PECONOM: I'm sorry?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Will  
24 it be at the next meeting that we'll get

1 that list?

2 MR. PECONOM: Well, he'll  
3 say that tonight, the sites that they are  
4 considering, they'll share that with us  
5 tonight.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And  
7 how many of these projects have they done  
8 in a region?

9 MR. PECONOM: I don't know  
10 how many Maritimes & Northeast natural gas  
11 projects there are in the region.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He'll  
13 tell us tonight?

14 MR. PECONOM: Well, he'll be  
15 available in the back after the meeting.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.  
17 Will he be on the stage telling all of  
18 us?

19 MR. PECONOM: Yes. He'll  
20 be up on the stage when I'm done here  
21 discussing process, I've asked him to show  
22 a presentation about this particular  
23 project.

24 Due to time interests, I just did a

1 presentation only, and they will be made  
2 available -- they'll be available  
3 afterwards to answer any specific  
4 questions. But we've asked them to speak  
5 specifically about this project and this  
6 project only, and give people information  
7 on what they're proposing to do.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well,  
9 this is supposed to be an informational  
10 meeting.

11 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why  
13 can you structure it and put all the  
14 questions in your box? Why can't we ask  
15 ours and get answers?

16 MR. PECONOM: Well, this is  
17 a FERC informational meeting. This isn't  
18 a Maritimes meeting. They have had open  
19 houses in the past. And they'll be  
20 available outside. I guarantee that they  
21 will be. And they can answer your  
22 questions then.

23 So this is just for us to take  
24 comments. This is a scoping meeting, for

1 me to us, the FERC, to give you  
2 information, and for you to give us  
3 information of what you are concerned  
4 about. Does that answer your question? I  
5 want to make sure --

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
7 Actually, it doesn't, but I'll wait till  
8 later.

9 MR. PECONOM: I want to  
10 make sure that you get your comments  
11 addressed, and Maritimes & Northeast will  
12 be available afterwards to answer  
13 questions.

14 Just to kind of keep this meeting  
15 moving, it's presentation only, and they  
16 will be available afterwards for questions.  
17 Process questions. Yes.

18 MS. MOHRMAN: You may want  
19 to move on.

20 MR. PECONOM: Okay. Let me  
21 take the last two, then we'll move on to  
22 the next part of the meeting.

23 Yes, ma'am.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just

1 a comment regarding the information that  
2 was just made available.

3 MR. PECONOM: Mm-hmm.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I  
5 would argue that M & N and -- have  
6 responded, but not in a language that  
7 myself can personally understand. And I  
8 would argue that most people can  
9 understand. I don't think it's my  
10 responsibility to go and look up the A&T  
11 standard. (Inaudible) X Y Z standard that  
12 they will adhere to.

13 So I think it's partly FERC's  
14 responsibility in this process to get us  
15 the information that we need. And back as  
16 far as December or January, we have  
17 requested a face-to-face meeting with  
18 engineers from M & N, (inaudible), not the  
19 legal people that can tell us what we want  
20 to hear, but people that are skilled in  
21 ability in operating and maintaining these  
22 facilities, and that has not happened. So  
23 I would argue that, yes, we do get the  
24 information, but the information isn't very

1 helpful.

2 MR. PECONOM: Okay. In  
3 departure of the process, there are  
4 several state agencies and federal agencies  
5 that are involved in this process that do  
6 represent, you know, specific issues and  
7 do represent all of you, just as I do, in  
8 this process. And we are looking at this,  
9 you know, and we do understand it's  
10 technical information. We will do our  
11 best to get you that information, you  
12 know, tonight, and M & N will be available  
13 tonight as well.

14 Yes, sir.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.  
16 I'm the (inaudible) from the Methuen  
17 project --

18 MR. PECONOM: Mm-hmm.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: --  
20 (inaudible) project, and a few years ago,  
21 we had a similar situation where Maritimes  
22 wanted to run a proposed pipeline through  
23 the property. We went through this whole  
24 dog and pony show, and we were fortunate

1 to be able to get that pipeline off our  
2 property and further away.

3 MR. PECONOM: Mm-hmm.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can  
5 you go back to those projects that were on  
6 the table two, three, four years ago and  
7 take a look at why it was rejected and  
8 then apply it to now or use it as  
9 reference?

10 MR. PECONOM: Yes. We can  
11 use past projects as a reference, and  
12 that's an excellent case, in terms of past  
13 projects that Maritimes & Northeast has  
14 brought to this area. And we will look  
15 at those environmental impact statements to  
16 see what was done there and why as part  
17 of our analysis for this project.

18 I will be available after the  
19 meeting to answer any more process  
20 questions. At this time, I would like to  
21 invite Maritimes & Northeast to stand up,  
22 come up and give a 15-minute presentation  
23 on their project.

24 I just want to say, again, that at

1 this time, they're not -- I don't want  
2 them to answer -- we're not going to have  
3 them answer questions on the project.  
4 They're just going to give us an overview,  
5 and then they'll be available afterwards  
6 to answer questions on the project. So if  
7 you can hold your questions till the end  
8 of the meeting, it would be really  
9 appreciated. Thank you.

10 Gus McLachlan is with Maritimes &  
11 Northeast, and he would like to speak with  
12 you for a few minutes. Thank you.

13 (Applause).

14 MR. MC LACHLAN: Thank you,  
15 John.

16 Good evening. My name is Gus  
17 McLachlan. I'm the environmental manager  
18 for Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline.

19 As John noted, we want to give you  
20 an update on status of the siting of the  
21 new compressor station in Massachusetts.

22 I would also like to take a few  
23 minutes to cover the following topics:  
24 Why the station needs to be located in the

1 Methuen-Haverhill area, and also what the  
2 station will consist of.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't  
4 hear you.

5 MR. MC LACHLAN: You can't  
6 hear me? Okay. Thanks.

7 I'll cover the following topics:  
8 Why the station needs to be here in this  
9 area, and also what the station will  
10 consist of, and also give a brief update  
11 as to the status of the siting of the  
12 compressor station in this area.

13 I just wanted to note in the back,  
14 we have a number of drawings around the  
15 room. One is a USGS quad which shows the  
16 seven sites that we're looking at. The  
17 other are aerial alignment sheets which  
18 show basically the configuration of the  
19 site as we're proposing. And also an  
20 artist's rendering of what the proposed  
21 facility will look like off of 445  
22 Merrimack Street, which is Simone Farm.

23 What you'll see is two different  
24 views. It's a before and after view.

1 And you'll see one more from an aerial  
2 standpoint, and you'll also see one from  
3 the side.

4 Also, too, as John noted, we'll be  
5 available after the hearing to actually  
6 walk through and talk through any  
7 questions that -- answer any questions  
8 that people may have of us.

9 So why does the station need to be  
10 in this area? As a result of Maritimes'  
11 shipping more gas from the land in Canada,  
12 the Massachusetts compressor station needs  
13 to be sited within the Methuen-Haverhill  
14 area to provide enough delivery pressure  
15 to the Beverly inner connection to make  
16 deliveries to the Algonquin system possible  
17 down in the Boston area.

18 What will the station consist of?  
19 The natural gas compressor station is  
20 similar to a pump station on a water line  
21 or other liquid system in that it provides  
22 the pressure in the pipeline to move the  
23 natural gas.

24 The preliminary design of the

1 compressor station contains one natural  
2 gas-driven turbine compressor located in  
3 its own building, and then the other main  
4 buildings located in the facility will be  
5 a control (inaudible) building, an office  
6 warehouse building, and a garage. And as  
7 I said, they're depicted on the artist's  
8 renderings.

9 Now, the update on the status of  
10 the siting process. Our goal in siting  
11 the facility to balance the pipeline  
12 system design requirements while at the  
13 same time minimizing the impact to local  
14 landowners, community stakeholders and the  
15 environment.

16 At the time of our draft filing on  
17 January 31st, as part of the pre-filing  
18 process, during the pre-filing process, we  
19 have listed six alternative sites and one  
20 preferred site for our Massachusetts  
21 compressor station.

22 They are the Neck Road Rogers Farm  
23 site in Haverhill, the Ward Hill area in  
24 Haverhill, which is by the substation, the

1 Shelley Road industrial building site, in  
2 Haverhill, which to my understanding is  
3 called the BJ Wholesale Club at this  
4 point. The I-495 site. It's a farm  
5 field on the other side of 495, which is  
6 also owned by the Rogers family. The Old  
7 Ferry Road in Methuen, which is the --  
8 pit, which most of you are familiar with.  
9 Merrimack Street, the Kassegian's  
10 (phonetic) property, the driving range in  
11 Methuen, and also the 445 Merrimack  
12 Street. This is how we have it named in  
13 the resource reports, which is the Simone  
14 Farms in Methuen.

15 The Neck Road Rogers farm site was  
16 listed as our preferred site in the  
17 January 31st final. We have continued to  
18 evaluate all of these sites, also  
19 additional sites suggested in Methuen,  
20 Haverhill, Boxford, and North Andover,  
21 based on feedback from landowners and  
22 neighboring residences, the public at  
23 large, public officials, open houses we  
24 sponsored back in November of 2005,

1        comments received at the first scoping  
2        meeting held in January of this year, and  
3        also Maritimes' own review.

4                We also continue to evaluate the  
5        sites to ensure that they've met  
6        Maritimes' engineering and environmental  
7        criteria such as: Proximity to existing  
8        Maritimes' pipeline, which takes into  
9        consideration the length of the  
10       interconnecting pipeline to and from the  
11       compressor station. Land use  
12       considerations: Topography of the site,  
13       environmental impacts, such as weapons and  
14       endangered species, the number of proximity  
15       to the pact of the landowners,  
16       availability of the actual parcel and  
17       noise and visual impacts, considerations,  
18       you know, location in relationship to the  
19       residents of the facility.

20                Based on the evaluations of all the  
21        above, Maritimes has determined that the  
22        Rogers Farm Neck Road no longer meets our  
23        criteria as the preferred site. In our  
24        formal application, FERC application,

1       anticipated to be filed in the middle of  
2       May of this year, Maritimes will be using  
3       the 445 Merrimack Road, Simone farm site  
4       as our preferred site based on engineering  
5       requirements and the fact that it  
6       minimizes residential land use and  
7       environmental impacts.

8               Thank you for allowing me the time  
9       to provide you with this brief update.  
10       Again, we will be in the back after the  
11       meeting to answer any questions that you  
12       may have on the various drawings that we  
13       have in the back of the room.

14               MR. PECONOM: I appreciate  
15       everybody being patient. I know a lot of  
16       people have questions for the Maritimes &  
17       Northeast folks, and they will, again,  
18       like I said earlier, will be available  
19       after the meeting to answer some of those  
20       questions. At this time --

21               Yes, sir.

22               UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why  
23       can't they -- the questions and answers be  
24       on the record, rather than in the back?

1 (Applause).

2 MR. PECONOM: At this point  
3 in the process, some information is not  
4 available. This is a first run meeting.  
5 We don't have all the information.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:  
7 They're gonna give us the information in  
8 the back there.

9 MR. PECONOM: They're going  
10 to try to, yes.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then  
12 let them do it on the record.

13 MR. PECONOM: Well, they've  
14 had meetings before where they've given  
15 information to people. This is -- and I  
16 understand. I'm not trying to be  
17 difficult.

18 But this is a FERC meeting, and I  
19 need to kind of keep it to get the  
20 comments from people about what we need to  
21 be looking at in our office.

22 If people want to talk to them and  
23 find out they want us to look at  
24 something, I want people to write us and

1 tell us what we want -- what you want to  
2 be looking at in our office. So

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You  
4 understand it's going to be wild back  
5 there with everybody trying to speak. The  
6 ideal place is for that gentleman to be up  
7 there, where we talk to you. People are  
8 very in order, somebody stood up --

9 MR. PECONOM: And I  
10 appreciate that, and I'm not trying to be  
11 (inaudible) upon you, I'm very sympathetic  
12 to what you're saying.

13 The purpose of this meeting, why  
14 we're here, The Federal Energy Regulatory  
15 Commission, is to hear what you have to  
16 say. And Maritimes has done open houses  
17 in the past. And that's just not the  
18 purpose of this meeting. And I want  
19 people to have that question and answer  
20 and that's why we've asked them to come  
21 out and make their presentation and that's  
22 why we've asked them to make themselves  
23 available.

24 Really quickly (indicating).

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.  
2 You said that -- or Maritimes said that  
3 they're going to propose mid May that  
4 Simone Farm would be their preferred  
5 choice.

6 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We  
8 just found out about this basically two  
9 weeks ago.

10 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're  
12 up against the clock here as far as the  
13 buzz to the present preferred site. So  
14 shouldn't we have maybe 10, 15 minutes of  
15 his time? Why all of a sudden we've gone  
16 from a Haverhill preferred to a Methuen  
17 preferred, and we had no indication, and  
18 all of a sudden we're now the choice  
19 property.

20 (Applause).

21 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

22 This isn't our first meeting. We've been  
23 in the process for a little while. There  
24 was a meeting in Methuen in January. And

1 that meeting was publicized in the local  
2 newspapers.

3 Again, I'm sympathetic. And  
4 Maritimes will be here in the back to  
5 answer questions.

6 And we will take questions and  
7 comments all throughout the process. Once  
8 May comes, that's not the end of the  
9 comment period. So if you have something  
10 that you're concerned about, and you're  
11 aware of something as it relates to  
12 process, we want to hear that, and we'll  
13 take comments for quite some time. So  
14 when May comes, that's not the end of the  
15 road.

16 At this time, I would like to  
17 invite Bob Smallcomb of the Department of  
18 Transportation, to give a presentation.  
19 We're going to go ahead and begin the  
20 formal speakers part of this meeting.

21 MR. SMALLCOMB: If you can't  
22 hear me well, please let me know.

23 My name is Robert Smallcomb. I'm  
24 an engineer with the Office of Pipeline

1 Safety, which is a branch of the U.S. DOT  
2 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
3 Administration. We go by the acronym of  
4 PHMSA.

5 I'd like to thank John for inviting  
6 me to this scoping session, which the  
7 public has the opportunity to comment on  
8 the siting of the proposed compressor  
9 station, which is a part of the Maritimes  
10 IV Project.

11 My purpose at this meeting is to  
12 assure you that the pipeline and  
13 compressor station receive a favorable  
14 review from FERC. PHMSA will maintain  
15 regulatory watch over the pipeline from  
16 its construction through its testing, and  
17 for its entire operational life.

18 With respect to compressor  
19 stations, they are critical components of  
20 the gas system. Gas flows from high  
21 pressure points to low pressure points in  
22 the pipeline and line pressure loss is due  
23 to friction constrain gas flow.  
24 Compressors increase the pressure at

1 intervals along the pipeline to overcome  
2 the pressure drops and to enhance gas  
3 flow.

4 Some of the safety features -- Some  
5 of the safety features inherent to new  
6 compressor stations, such as the proposed,  
7 are the main compressor buildings must be  
8 located on a property under control of the  
9 operator, away from adjacent property not  
10 under control of the operator, to minimize  
11 the possibility of fire being communicated  
12 to the compressor from the adjacent  
13 property.

14 There must be enough open space  
15 around the main compressor building to  
16 allow for movement of fire fighting  
17 equipment.

18 Some buildings in these compressor  
19 stations in which there is processed gas  
20 must be constructed of noncombustible  
21 materials.

22 There must be two doors in a  
23 compressor building that swing outward from  
24 the inside and operate without a key.

1           Each fence around a compressor  
2           station must have at least two gates  
3           allowing exit to a safe area, and if these  
4           gates are within 200 feet of a compressor  
5           building, the gates must open outward  
6           without a key.

7           Electrical equipment must conform  
8           to the National Electric Code, the  
9           ANSI/NFPA 70, and compressors must be  
10          protected from the interaction of  
11          entraining vapors that may liquify it.

12          There must be an emergency shutdown  
13          system which will block gas out of the  
14          station and blow down the station piping  
15          at a location which will not create a  
16          hazard. These are in quotes, the ESD.

17          The emergency shutdown must provide  
18          for means to shut down gas compressing  
19          equipment, gas firing equipment, and  
20          electrical equipment in the vicinity of  
21          the gas headers and at the compressor  
22          building, except for emergency and  
23          protective electrical equipment.

24          The emergency shutdown system must

1 be operable from at least two locations  
2 outside the gas area of the station near  
3 the exits.

4 Each compressor station must have  
5 pressure relief or other protective devices  
6 to ensure that the maximum allowable  
7 operating pressure of the station piping  
8 is not exceeded by more than 10 percent.  
9 Pressure relief valves must vent to an  
10 area which will not present a hazard.

11 Additionally, there must be  
12 adequate fire protection facilities that  
13 are not affected by the emergency shutdown  
14 system.

15 Each compressor station prime mover  
16 must have an automatic shutdown device to  
17 prevent the prime mover from exceeding the  
18 maximum safe speed; in other words, we  
19 don't want that compressor getting out of  
20 control.

21 Each compressor unit must have a  
22 shutdown or alarm device that operates in  
23 the event of inadequate cooling or  
24 lubrication of the unit.

1           Each gas engine that operates with  
2           pressure gas injection must be equipped so  
3           that stoppage of the engine automatically  
4           shuts off the fuel and vents the engine  
5           distribution manifold.

6           Each gas engine muffler must have  
7           vent slots or holes in the baffles of each  
8           compartment to prevent gas from being  
9           trapped in the muffler.

10          Each building must be ventilated to  
11          ensure that employees are not endangered  
12          by the accumulation of gas.

13          Relief devices must be tested  
14          annually, not to exceed 15 months, to  
15          determine adequacy of the mechanical  
16          condition, capacity, set to control or  
17          relieve at the correct pressure, and  
18          protected from dirt, moisture, and other  
19          atmospheric interferences.

20          Combustible materials must be  
21          stored away from compressor buildings.

22          Gas detector and alarm systems are  
23          required in the compressor building. If  
24          gas concentrations reach 1.25 percent, an

1 alarm must warn persons in the compressor  
2 building area. The operator must maintain  
3 the system and conduct performance testing  
4 on these alarm systems.

5 When an unintended natural gas  
6 release results in a fatality on any  
7 pipeline or pipeline facility, and also if  
8 it results in injury requiring  
9 hospitalization or over \$50,000 in damage  
10 in property, the incident must be reported  
11 to PHMSA. I'm glad that you appreciated  
12 that.

13 From 1984 to March 2006, 1,501  
14 reports were submitted to PHMSA for  
15 on-shore gas transmission pipelines. Just  
16 under 10 percent of these incidents  
17 occurred at compressor stations.  
18 Presently, there are about 1,600 compressor  
19 stations on 323,000 miles of pipeline in  
20 the interstate gas system.

21 In addition, there are numerous  
22 compressor stations on intrastate  
23 transmission lines; however, we do not  
24 have a good estimate of that number.

1           Over the 22-year period that I just  
2 mentioned, pipeline company employees and  
3 contractors sustained one fatality, 50  
4 injuries, and one firefighter sustained an  
5 injury. No member of the public has been  
6 injured in a compressor station incident  
7 operating under the Federal Pipeline Safety  
8 Code.

9           Since January 2002, when the  
10 reporting requirements were updated, there  
11 have been 40 incidents at gas transmission  
12 compressor stations resulting in eight  
13 explosions, nine ignitions, and two public  
14 evacuations affecting 71 people. None of  
15 these incidents involving explosions,  
16 ignitions, and evacuations resulted in  
17 damage to public or private property.

18                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yet.

19           MR. SMALLCOMB: With regard  
20 to the Maritimes project or any  
21 transmission pipeline, PHMSA's regulatory  
22 oversight measures the operator's  
23 performance to ensure that the pipeline is  
24 constructed of suitable materials, verifies

1       that the welding meets industry standards,  
2       that the welders are qualified, verifies  
3       that the pipeline is coated to assure  
4       effective cathodic protection from  
5       corrosion, and installed to the proper  
6       depth using appropriate backfill, and  
7       confirms the pipeline is properly tested  
8       upon completion to carry the product at  
9       the operating pressure.

10               Beyond the construction process,  
11       PHMSA conducts inspections periodically  
12       over all aspects of the operation and  
13       maintenance of the pipeline.

14               The operator must have a written  
15       plan in place to instruct the personnel  
16       and to relate to federal inspectors  
17       exactly what testing or monitoring is done  
18       and the frequency. In addition to testing  
19       or monitoring and prompt response to  
20       corrective action, the operator must detail  
21       its process to address problems.

22               Examples of the checks that an  
23       operator must have in place are: The  
24       adequacy of the cathodic protection system,

1 monitoring the surface of the pipelines  
2 exposed to the atmosphere, annual testing  
3 of the pipeline valves, pressure regulation  
4 and relief devices to assure that the  
5 pipeline does not exceed its maximum  
6 allowable operating pressure. Periodic  
7 patrolling, leakage survey, and the  
8 operator must follow specific procedures  
9 for leak repair.

10 Beyond the routine functions that  
11 have for decades been the baseline for  
12 operations and maintenance, PHMSA has in  
13 the past few years implemented new  
14 initiatives to ensure pipeline safety. At  
15 the forefront is the Integrity Management  
16 Program. The Integrity Management Program  
17 mandates that operators rely not on spot  
18 checks, but on a comprehensive  
19 understanding of its pipelines using  
20 established risk assessment methods  
21 combined with emerging technology.

22 The Integrity Management Program  
23 requires operators to identify its high  
24 consequence areas and within those areas,

1 to find critical defects and repair them  
2 before a failure occurs.

3 The plan is continual, implementing  
4 up-to-date mapping techniques, hydrostatic  
5 testing, inline inspection of the pipeline,  
6 verification of the inline inspection, and  
7 additional steps to assure that the  
8 pipeline has a realtime file with any  
9 anomalies documented and tracked.

10 To measure the effectiveness of its  
11 Integrity Management Plan, operators are  
12 required to measure performance through a  
13 variety of measurements including test  
14 excavations.

15 In addition to the physical  
16 pipeline itself, Congress has mandated that  
17 operator personnel who perform operating,  
18 maintenance or emergency response, be  
19 qualified in the performance of those  
20 functions. The aim of this initiative is  
21 to minimize operator error in any pipeline  
22 failure. The operator qualification  
23 regulation was stacked on top of the 1988  
24 requirement for operators to perform

1 mandatory drug and alcohol testing for all  
2 employees who perform operations,  
3 maintenance and emergency response  
4 functions.

5 More recently, a new standard was  
6 adopted as a regulation addressing public  
7 awareness. The standard RP1162 requires  
8 operators to identify persons affected by  
9 the pipeline in their community, to inform  
10 the public about recognizing leaks and  
11 taking appropriate action, and to evaluate  
12 the effectiveness of their program.

13 RP1162 establishes lines of  
14 communication and information sharing with  
15 the public, excavators, emergency  
16 responders, and local officials. Operators  
17 are preparing their written plans to  
18 comply with the June 2006 implementation  
19 deadline.

20 The initiatives that I have  
21 described are standard with what PHMSA  
22 does. If procedures are not adequate or  
23 if an operator is not following procedures  
24 as per the regulatory requirements, PHMSA

1 is authorized to seek punitive action in  
2 the form of remedial action, civil  
3 penalties, or criminal action. The  
4 authority is granted by Congress, and the  
5 agency is responsible to Congress for  
6 execution of its mandates.

7 I hope the preceding has been  
8 informative. PHMSA's mission is safety,  
9 and we want to assure the public that its  
10 interests are not ignored in this area.  
11 And I will be around after the meeting.  
12 Thank you very much.

13 (Applause).

14 MR. PECONOM: Thank you,  
15 Bob.

16 Thank you, everybody, for being so  
17 patient. I know everyone came here to  
18 share your comments about the project.

19 At this time, I would like to talk  
20 to you for a couple minutes really quickly  
21 on scoping and making any comments.

22 Speaking tonight is one way to get  
23 your comments into the record. We also  
24 take written comments. There's information

1       about that that can inform you on how to  
2       send us written comments. For those of  
3       you who aren't comfortable speaking, we,  
4       you know, welcome all comments, whether  
5       it's tonight or in written format. So I  
6       just want to make that available. So we  
7       also -- on conclusion of all the speakers,  
8       we'll also open it back up for those of  
9       you who did not sign up at this time.

10                Very quickly, I just wanted to  
11       reiterate the meeting here. We want to  
12       hear what you have to say about this  
13       project. We'd like to know what you are  
14       concerned about. I think the most useful  
15       way to give us your comments is to say  
16       things like, we are concerned about this,  
17       we would like to see this addressed, can  
18       you please consider this. Comments like  
19       that are very helpful for us.

20                Again, as I said, I don't have the  
21       ability to give you specific answers to  
22       your questions at this time. We're  
23       looking for comments and feedback on what  
24       you're concerned about and what issues

1 that you would like to see addressed.

2 So with that -- and again, I just  
3 want to make sure everyone understands the  
4 process, and I'll be available afterwards  
5 to answer questions.

6 At this time, I'd like to invite  
7 public officials to come ahead and speak  
8 forward now.

9 And just in the interest of keeping  
10 people going, we have 40 people here  
11 tonight that wish to speak. If we can  
12 keep it as brief as possible. I want  
13 everyone to say what they need to say, and  
14 we may want to at some point take a quick  
15 break because I know this is long. And  
16 we will go ahead and begin.

17 And for the court reporter, if you  
18 could please make sure to spell your name  
19 and speak clearly so we can capture  
20 everything. And then once the city  
21 officials go through, or -- I'm sorry --  
22 local officials go through, we'll open it  
23 up to everyone who signed up on the list.  
24 So thank you for coming. First of all.

1                   MAYOR FIORENTINI: Thank you  
2 for coming.

3                   My name James Fiorentini. I'm the  
4 mayor of Haverhill. My name is spelled  
5 F-I-O-R-E-N-T-I-N-I.

6                   I want to begin by thanking you for  
7 having us here. When a number of us were  
8 in Methuen back in January, I requested  
9 that you have a second hearing here in the  
10 city of Haverhill, because a number of  
11 Haverhill residents couldn't make that  
12 hearing. How many Haverhill residents are  
13 here tonight? And I indicated that the  
14 Haverhill residents would be here, and  
15 they are. And many of you at FERC told  
16 me privately that you hardly ever do a  
17 second hearing, but I thank you for  
18 listening and I thank you for doing this.

19                   I want to thank the folks at  
20 Maritimes & Northeast for taking two of  
21 our areas off the list and you're going in  
22 the right direction. Take the next two  
23 off the list, and we'll be even happier.

24                   If the last speech concerning

1 safety was designed to reassure us, it did  
2 not. 160 incidents over the past several  
3 years, 40 over the last three years, one  
4 person dead, is certainly not reassuring  
5 news to those of us here in Haverhill. I  
6 would also thank the number of residents  
7 who had brought to my attention a number  
8 of things that have really convinced me  
9 that this is not the best interest of our  
10 city. And I want to thank Counselor Paul  
11 who brought some incidents to my  
12 attention, particularly the incident in  
13 Colorado, I don't want to steal his  
14 thunder, I know he's going to talk about  
15 that.

16 I want to thank the Rogers family  
17 who brought difficult things to my  
18 attention. I've had a chance to meet with  
19 them. But they're going to be speaking  
20 here tonight. I want to thank Dr. Hill  
21 (phonetic) who met with me on behalf of  
22 the working residents. He's been a very  
23 effective spokesperson for you folks of  
24 Haverhill, and I want to thank him for

1 bringing these issues to my attention.

2 I understand, we all understand  
3 every person here, that this has to go  
4 somewhere. We all understand that. We  
5 understand there has to be gas, there has  
6 to be compression. It's a mystery to me,  
7 frankly, and I don't know enough about it,  
8 why the technology hasn't advanced to the  
9 state where we can all be assured that  
10 there is no safety danger at all, but  
11 we're not assured by basis of what we hear  
12 tonight. It's up to you and I'm glad  
13 (inaudible), but you are going to make the  
14 decision about where it goes.

15 I want to bring some things to your  
16 attention about the sites in Haverhill,  
17 because there is no site in Haverhill  
18 that's been proposed that I believe is  
19 acceptable, and certainly none that is  
20 acceptable to the people in Haverhill.  
21 The residents are going to speak, they're  
22 going to say more about it. (Inaudible).  
23 Let me just bring a couple of things to  
24 your attention that might not be apparent.

1           One of the areas is zoned  
2 industrial, and I think everybody knows, I  
3 hope you all knew, that it's not  
4 industrial at all. That area was used by  
5 the Rogers Farm in Haverhill, and as I  
6 indicated in the letter that I sent in to  
7 her, where I outlined in simple detailing.

8           The Rogers Farm is a very long and  
9 noble tradition in the city of Haverhill.  
10 It's part of our history. It's part of  
11 our fabric of life. It's part of our  
12 culture. It's part of our efforts to  
13 rebuild our city and restore pride and get  
14 people and businesses to move here.  
15 Putting it in the middle of Rogers Farm  
16 would destroy that farm. It would not be  
17 in our interest as a city, and I would  
18 hope that you would take that area, not  
19 just off the preferred list, but off your  
20 list entirely.

21           The second area in Haverhill -- and  
22 again, the (inaudible) family who are much  
23 more effective about speaking about this  
24 than I am. The second preferred location

1 is in the middle of a residential  
2 neighborhood in (inaudible) lot. It may  
3 appear from a map that it's not, but there  
4 are actually numerous neighbors in Ward  
5 Hill that are affected by this. They'll  
6 be able to hear it, see it, smell it.  
7 And I'm particularly concerned with the  
8 Ward Hill location with danger. And so I  
9 would hope you would not put it in that  
10 location directly next to the -- some  
11 electricity stations and underneath power  
12 lines. In the middle of a residential  
13 neighborhood in Ward Hill is not in our  
14 interest either. I would hope that you  
15 would take both of these locations off the  
16 list.

17 I'm also aware that somehow or  
18 other you are going to locate either in  
19 Haverhill or in Methuen.

20 We local officials probably have  
21 more influence with FERC in deciding the  
22 mitigation, so (inaudible) putting in  
23 either of the two cities, I urge you to  
24 set up local neighborhood groups to work

1 with you and to make certain that there is  
2 proper buffering, that no resident can  
3 hear this, see this, and there should be  
4 no danger involved to any resident in  
5 either Haverhill or Methuen. I'm here to  
6 speak for my community. There should be  
7 no danger at all to anybody in our  
8 community.

9 This is not in the best interest in  
10 the city of Haverhill, and I hope you'll  
11 take our views (inaudible). Thank you  
12 again for coming to our great city.

13 (Applause).

14 MR. PECONOM: I just want  
15 to say one quick thing. I was just told  
16 informed that we only have this hall till  
17 10:00. So if we can try to keep our  
18 comments to three minutes or less, and if  
19 we have more time at the end, we'll  
20 (inaudible). I just want everyone to get  
21 through and let you speak.

22 MR. HART: My name is  
23 Michael Hart. I'm the president of the  
24 Haverhill City Council. It's a much

1 easier name to spell, H-A-R-T.

2 I'm not going to reiterate what the  
3 mayor said. We're concerned with the  
4 Haverhill sites. We're more concerned  
5 with the Haverhill sites. In particular  
6 for the environmental reasons, which  
7 include safety, as you said, agricultural  
8 reasons, which involved one of our last  
9 working farms, the Rogers Farm. We feel  
10 that all of these sites our inappropriate  
11 for our concerns.

12 Your industry itself uses the term  
13 "high consequence areas." I think all of  
14 these sites are indeed high consequence  
15 areas. Although you've only had 150  
16 incidents in the 22-year period,  
17 nevertheless, the one serious incident in  
18 a high consequence site is going to have  
19 very, very serious ramifications.

20 And there was just one thing that  
21 was said that I was a little perplexed at  
22 in terms of one of your regulations  
23 through the Department of Transportation.

24 If I heard you correctly, one of

1 the regulations is that compressor stations  
2 must be far enough away from non-  
3 controlled sites to prevent the station  
4 from being affected by a fire from a non-  
5 controlled site, and I think it's  
6 backwards. Shouldn't the regulation be  
7 that the compressor stations be far enough  
8 away from non-controlled sites to prevent  
9 an uncontrolled sites, especially  
10 residential, from being affected by a fire  
11 or an explosion from the compressor  
12 station? Thank you.

13 (Applause).

14 MR. HALL: Good evening.

15 My name is David Hall, and I'm the vice  
16 president of the Haverhill City Council.

17 I think it's very important that I  
18 let you people know the geographical area  
19 of the city of Haverhill. And I'm going  
20 to give you a little background of where I  
21 come from.

22 Haverhill is basically 36 square  
23 miles, and we've got probably 65 or 70,000  
24 residents here. And this section of

1 Haverhill, which is called Ward Hill, has  
2 probably got 8- to 10,000 residents.

3 And subsequently, from the proposed  
4 location, any part of the Haverhill sites,  
5 it's a public school area, there is 500  
6 units in one complex with an average of  
7 two and a half persons per unit. There's  
8 a proposed 1500 more units going in over  
9 there.

10 This city of Haverhill, with all  
11 these residents in this area, has one fire  
12 house with one fire truck with three  
13 firemen. One fire house, one fire truck  
14 with three policemen. In this area, which  
15 is 7 to 10 square miles, it's got one  
16 police car with one policeman in it.

17 So if this plant -- and you can  
18 tell me it's a million to one -- all that  
19 one will mean is that it will wipe out  
20 these 500 units, these proposed units,  
21 national grid, which is just down the  
22 street from it, it's got a big power plant  
23 there, the public school, that is gone.  
24 That is gone.

1           Now, I did a little research, and  
2           the gentleman over on the end, have you  
3           ever heard of Fort Lupton, Colorado?

4           MR. SMALLCOMB: Yeah.

5           MR. HALL: You have?  
6           Excuse me? You're familiar with it?

7           MR. SMALLCOMB: Could you  
8           repeat the --

9           MR. HALL: Yeah. Fort  
10          Lupton, Colorado.

11          MR. SMALLCOMB: Okay. I  
12          haven't heard that name.

13          MR. HALL: All right. Are  
14          you aware that there was a recent gas  
15          explosion there?

16          MR. SMALLCOMB: In  
17          Colorado --

18          MR. HALL: Well, this is  
19          Fort Lupton.

20          Now, I've got a lot of  
21          confrontation , and Councilor President  
22          Hart and I spent a considerable amount of  
23          time, and we have some photos of the fire  
24          that took place up there. This is so

1       scary, it's unbelievable. And I got  
2       documentation from the fire chief of that  
3       jurisdiction out there saying how bad it  
4       is.

5               Now, I'm sure that National  
6       Maritimes is going to come and say that  
7       this gas compression station is not the  
8       same as this. It has the basic qualities  
9       of it. It pumps from 250 miles out  
10      there, but it goes through a gas line.  
11      It's the same thing.

12             Now, if I could read you a document  
13      from the Attorney General of Connecticut,  
14      and he disputes -- Now, when you got up  
15      and you made a statement here, federal  
16      stats show there were 38 incidents from  
17      2002 to 2005 when gas compression stations  
18      had to be shut down. Do you agree with  
19      that?

20                   MR. SMALLCOMB: That may be  
21      correct.

22                   MR. HALL: You think that's  
23      correct?

24                   MR. SMALLCOMB: Yes, sir.

1                   MR. HALL: Okay. Thank  
2 you.

3                   Now, Connecticut Attorney General,  
4 Richard Blumenthal, has taken issue with  
5 this analysis of -- from the safety. He  
6 said there have been thousands of  
7 accidents along the nation's 100,000 mile  
8 network of natural gas pipelines in recent  
9 decades. Now, this is from an attorney  
10 general, and he's done his research.

11                  The reason I'm giving you these  
12 stats now is because you people, from the  
13 feds and from the state, are the ones that  
14 are going to make this decision for us  
15 local backyard people. That's what --  
16 evidently, that we're being treated as.  
17 And it's so important that you take under  
18 consideration the seriousness of what is  
19 going to happen to my city and the city  
20 of Methuen. It's that serious.

21                  And with the coverage that we've  
22 got, God forbid that something happens,  
23 and we've got one fire truck with three  
24 firemen and one policeman responding to

1 this.

2           And by the way, our police station  
3 and our fire house is located  
4 approximately two-and-a-half to three miles  
5 away from this proposed place. So this is  
6 something that if it blows, we're gone.  
7 That section of Haverhill is gone  
8 completely. And believe me when I tell  
9 you, I'm going to make this a big issue.  
10 I think that with the documentation I've  
11 got, that will convince you people, who  
12 don't even live in this area, will take  
13 under consideration, our public safety.

14           Now, just let me back up a minute.  
15 I spent 39 years on the Haverhill Police  
16 department. So I know my city. I've  
17 seen similar -- not similar explosions,  
18 but I've seen some disasters, and I know  
19 what it is. And some of these disasters  
20 are people that told me it would never  
21 happen. But it did happen.

22           So, you know, it's so important,  
23 and I beg you tonight to take under  
24 consideration, not to even consider the

1 Haverhill area.

2 Now, I can't really go into the  
3 details about Methuen, because I'm not  
4 that well versed in it. But I'm sure  
5 that their public safety over there is  
6 going to have the same feeling we do.

7 But my obligation here, as an  
8 elected public official, is to get up and  
9 plead with you to consider seriously not  
10 to put this place in Haverhill. Thank  
11 you.

12 (Applause).

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

14 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm not going to use  
15 the microphone. I hope that this will be  
16 all right with the young lady who is  
17 taking notes and taking testimony.

18 And I thank President Hart and  
19 Councilor Hall for having done the  
20 research. I'm only a freshman legislator.  
21 Despite my seniority in age, I am junior  
22 in service. And I've learned, and what I  
23 have learned is respect the people on the  
24 council and people in leadership such as

1 the mayor.

2 But these are the pictures that  
3 Councilor Hall has obtained. I tried to  
4 get him to post them up there. Actually,  
5 he didn't do it, because he's a  
6 considerate person. But these are  
7 frightening. These are frightening.

8 This is an explosion of a volatile  
9 substance, and when somebody tells us  
10 they've only had 40 incidents in the past  
11 three years, I'm scared. It doesn't  
12 belong in an urban setting. Get out of  
13 here.

14 (Applause).

15 I know that this is a FERC meeting  
16 and what they're trying to do is establish  
17 their ground rules and their facts under  
18 their regulations, and it's an  
19 administrative agency, and none of this  
20 recording our voices is going to mean  
21 quite (inaudible). We all know that.  
22 We're accepting that.

23 But politically -- and FERC should  
24 be paying attention to this, because FERC

1 is a political agency, it is -- remember  
2 that, that the head of FERC in Washington  
3 is a politician, and a political  
4 appointee; he's not civil service.

5 I would gather that out of the 350,  
6 300 or so people in this audience tonight,  
7 there are no more than one who is in  
8 favor of this.

9 All those in favor of placing this  
10 station in this area, please stand. All  
11 those opposed, please stand. Take a look.

12 (Applause).

13 SPEAKER: Take a look.

14 Again, I want to thank everyone for  
15 letting me issue a statement that I have  
16 been made personally, and I would hope  
17 that maybe it makes an impression upon  
18 those who have to make this decision where  
19 it counts. Thank you.

20 (Applause).

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I  
22 just want to make a couple of comments.  
23 I received a call from Senator Baddour and  
24 Representative Brian Dempsey. Senator

1 Baddour is our local senator, and Brian  
2 Dempsey and Barbara L'Italien are presently  
3 in session in Boston on a matter before  
4 the House there. So that's the reason  
5 that they're not here.

6 But I can tell you that they told  
7 me they were totally opposed to any part  
8 of Haverhill and Methuen, and I'm sure  
9 this is going to be legislation (phonetic)  
10 coming out of their office. Thank you.

11 (Applause).

12 MS. O'BRIEN: I'm City  
13 Councilor Mary Ellen Daly O'Brien, and I'm  
14 here tonight because I am elected by the  
15 people of Haverhill to be one of their  
16 representatives. And I feel that it's  
17 really important that we, as a city, and  
18 especially the elected officials show a  
19 common bond in opposition to this.

20 And I think that my fellow  
21 councilors have certainly said it better  
22 than I could and with more passion, which  
23 is hard to believe, that anyone would have  
24 more passion than me, but they have said

1       it so well. And the pictures that  
2       Councilor Hall has brought with him  
3       tonight have certainly ignited all of us  
4       in opposition, because it is an urban  
5       area, and it is a city, and we do not  
6       want -- nor do our fellow community  
7       Methuen -- we don't want something like  
8       this near the residences, near our  
9       schools.

10             And I think the public safety  
11       concerns are number one. All of the  
12       communities in Massachusetts are feeling  
13       the strain since 9/11, and the financial  
14       impact that that had on Massachusetts and  
15       the local communities.

16             We don't have large firefighter  
17       service, we don't have a lot of policemen.  
18       We have cut back in all of our budgets.  
19       And I feel that we are not prepared, nor  
20       will we get the money to be prepared, to  
21       take something like this on in our  
22       community.

23             The HAZMAT would be through our  
24       fire department, and through (inaudible)

1 police department, and those budgets have  
2 been cut to the bone. We have barely  
3 enough firefighters and police officers to  
4 take care of the normal business that goes  
5 in this community. To add this would be  
6 ludicrous.

7 That's really all I have to say.  
8 I just want you to know that as one of  
9 the city councilors, I'm very much  
10 opposed. Thank you.

11 (Applause).

12 MR. MACEK: Good evening.  
13 My name is Bill Macek. I'm also on the  
14 Haverhill City Council.

15 And I just wanted to register that  
16 in my position as well that this is mis-  
17 sited. In looking at the maps in the  
18 back, I certainly know Haverhill sites  
19 well. I'm not that familiar with the  
20 Methuen sites, but I don't think that any  
21 of them have been well thought out or  
22 researched.

23 When I look at the map as to where  
24 the pipelines were running, dotted lines,

1       it seems to me there are a number of  
2       remote locations that you could have  
3       looked at.

4               I think what you have done is  
5       you've chosen easy sites for access for  
6       you to get there, for your employees to  
7       get to and from. I think you should have  
8       looked at some of the remote sites. You  
9       have easements to get to that whole  
10      pipeline. You might have had to build a  
11      road. You might have a little  
12      inconvenience. It might have cost you a  
13      few more dollars for the cost of gasoline  
14      (inaudible).

15              I believe that all these sites  
16      should be withdrawn and you should go back  
17      to the drawing board. None of these sites  
18      appear to be safe enough for us to risk  
19      them being brought to this area. And I  
20      thank you for your consideration.

21                      (Applause).

22                      MR. CURTIN: I thank you.  
23      My name is John Curtin. I'm a Haverhill  
24      city councilor.

1           I'm totally with you guys. As you  
2 can see, everybody on the Haverhill City  
3 Council agrees. And I agree with the  
4 experts on the Methuen site. And what  
5 Councilor Macek said made really good  
6 sense, and you, the first gentleman, when  
7 you were speaking -- I'm sorry, I don't  
8 remember your name. All right.

9           There was a site you mentioned in  
10 North Andover, it went over real quick.  
11 And when he's talking about a remote site,  
12 where there is absolutely no housing, in  
13 an area probably two to three miles into  
14 the Boxford area, that there were no  
15 homes, there was no concern, other than  
16 wild birds and some wild animals and  
17 whatnot. It is a remote site to get to.  
18 There is access there. There is a road  
19 that comes right down the middle of it.  
20 This is a more appropriate site, taking it  
21 away from the residential area. All  
22 right?

23           And I think you wouldn't have this  
24 number of people sitting here, because

1       there aren't any residents of people that  
2       occupy the home areas or any businesses or  
3       anything. So it's a better spot to put  
4       it in, than putting it in the middle of  
5       the city of Haverhill or town of Methuen.  
6       Thank you very much. I'm totally  
7       opposing.

8                        (Applause).

9                        MS. RAHME: Good evening,  
10       Haverhill and all. My name is Kathleen  
11       Corey Rahme, here with city councilor at  
12       large, vice chairman (inaudible).

13                       (Applause).

14                       MR. LEONE: My name is  
15       Joseph Leone. I'm a city councilor at  
16       East District of Methuen.

17                       (Applause).

18                       MR. LEONE: We're here  
19       representing the City of Methuen. And  
20       also the mayor, William Manzi had a family  
21       issue this evening.

22                       We are bringing with us in hand  
23       various concerns that he has at all  
24       Methuen sites and to the committee up

1       there, and with him in pen includes  
2       Senator Steven Baddour, Representative  
3       Barbara L'Italien. We will not -- in the  
4       interest of time, we will not speak to  
5       this because we want to be able to give  
6       the floor to the many interested  
7       Methuenites who are here this evening who  
8       are passionate about their concerns. So  
9       we stand with Methuen. Thank you.

10                   MR. McDOUGALL: Good  
11       evening, my name is Brad McDougall  
12       (phonetic), I represent Congressman Marty  
13       Meehan who is currently in Washington D.C.  
14       taking votes. They asked me to be here  
15       this evening.

16                   The Congressman's office and the  
17       Congressman has been involved and been a  
18       part of this project and actually since  
19       '99, when Maritimes originally came through  
20       the Merrimack Valley. As a congressman,  
21       he represents both the communities that  
22       are represented here tonight and the 5th  
23       District.

24                   We are continuing to be involved

1 with it, and we appreciate the Mass.  
2 Maritimes' willingness, especially John  
3 Barenthol (phonetic), who represents Mass.  
4 Maritimes, who have been available to our  
5 office and also to the rest of the  
6 Massachusetts delegation.

7 So we are continuing to be involved  
8 and to work with you, FERC, and the  
9 Department of Transportation, and also the  
10 members of the community. We appreciate  
11 your attendance here tonight and thank you  
12 for listening to our community. Thank  
13 you.

14 (Applause).

15 MS. HETEL: Good evening, my  
16 name is Krystine Hetel, I'm a Haverhill  
17 city councilor. And I'd like to register  
18 my opposition to this as well.

19 I don't know if you're aware that  
20 we have, I think it's about 500  
21 (inaudible) in this Merrimack Valley  
22 region, so we seem to be taking in  
23 everybody's trash, and you can certainly  
24 site someplace else so that we don't have

1 to provide the compression station for the  
2 rest of Boston and the state. I think  
3 we're doing our part, is being a member of  
4 the state of Massachusetts without using  
5 this compression station. Thank you.

6 (Applause).

7 MR. PECONOM: Are there any  
8 other public officials here tonight who  
9 would like to speak? Do you all want to  
10 take a quick break, or you want to keep  
11 going?

12 THE AUDIENCE: Keep going.

13 MR. PECONOM: All right.  
14 We'll go ahead, and I'll take the mic over  
15 there with me so I can call the next  
16 speakers up. I'd like to thank all the  
17 public officials for their comments.

18 I apologize. I think what we'll do  
19 is, if I call three people at a time,  
20 they can just line up, keep people moving,  
21 get their comments going. I think that's  
22 probably the best way to do this. And  
23 there are mics on both sides, depending on  
24 where you are sitting, so please come up.

1           Mr. Edward Gomes, Mrs. Anatello,  
2           and I apologize if I mispronounce names.  
3           I'll do my best. And Mr. Charles  
4           Simonian. And if you could, again, just  
5           state your name and spell it for the court  
6           reporter, and speak clearly, we'd  
7           appreciate that. Thank you.

8                       MR. GOMES: My name is  
9           Edward Gomes, G-O-M-E-S. I'm a resident  
10          at 35 Brookdale Avenue in Methuen,  
11          Massachusetts. I'm one of the neighbors  
12          to the Whirlaway property currently under  
13          consideration for the site for the natural  
14          gas compressor station.

15                     I would like to thank FERC and  
16          their representatives for this opportunity  
17          to present a summary of our concerns with  
18          regard to the Maritimes Phase IV pipeline  
19          expansion plan.

20                     At the close of my statement, I'll  
21          present written copies of these comments.

22                     We have previously presented  
23          written and oral comments to FERC.  
24          Tonight I will focus on those issues which

1 I believe requires some of our  
2 interpretation.

3 Proximity to the power lines is a  
4 major concern to our residents. We are  
5 mainly concerned with this proposed  
6 location selection because of its proximity  
7 to the overhead transmission lines. We  
8 believe this represents a safety concern  
9 due to stray light discharge, leakage,  
10 and/or static. Corona discharge is a  
11 known concern with regard to power  
12 transmission lines. It is such a concern  
13 that (inaudible) test equipment is  
14 available to conduct and are predicted in  
15 preventive maintenance inspections for this  
16 issue.

17 Please be advised that even under  
18 the best of conditions, (inaudible) to the  
19 failure of preventive measures (inaudible)  
20 structures (inaudible) electrical  
21 transmission line structures.

22 We already know that there's  
23 proposed locations in the Valley. We have  
24 been provided ample testimony that with

1 the proper weather conditions, the air  
2 pollution is visible along the Valley at  
3 times. In particular, air quality will be  
4 negatively impacted by the solid waste  
5 incinerator located in the Haverhill area  
6 and the tens of thousands of motor  
7 vehicles that pass by over Route 495  
8 daily.

9 In correspondence provided by  
10 Maritimes & Northeast, they've indicated  
11 that, and I quote, "The gas will reach a  
12 point for any gas venting is sited to  
13 ensure that it will be at least 150 feet  
14 from power lines in order to eliminate the  
15 possibility of ignition."

16 I would like to know if this is a  
17 company, industry, or federal standard.  
18 Please provide us some citation so that I  
19 may review that, because I couldn't find  
20 it in any of the FERC regulations.

21 In my professional career as an  
22 environmental health and safety  
23 professional, I've had many (inaudible),  
24 one of them was to be an (inaudible) in

1 command in the event of hazardous  
2 materials emergencies.

3 The benchmark of a first responder  
4 methodology is based on the DOT first  
5 response guideline. This would be a  
6 document used by local fire departments,  
7 police departments, as well as state  
8 emergency response teams.

9 I have reviewed the recommended  
10 response for natural gas leaks first  
11 responder guideline. As an immediate  
12 precautionary measure, isolates the leak  
13 area for at least 100 meters, 330 feet in  
14 all directions. One of the reasons this  
15 action is taken is to minimize the chance  
16 of natural gas release could be ignited.  
17 The guide also recommends (inaudible) for  
18 at least 300 meters, approximately half a  
19 mile.

20 I would like to know if Maritimes &  
21 Northeast has used Cantel or an equivalent  
22 software to help review emergency incident  
23 scenarios involving the total facility and  
24 its proximity to Route 495 and high

1       tension power lines.

2               This software takes into  
3       consideration dispersion of hazardous  
4       materials during an incident, having run  
5       scenarios which include gas releases with  
6       the wind blowing towards the power lines.  
7       And this exercise confirmed that 150 feet  
8       is adequate to eliminate the possibility  
9       of ignition. Why would one safety zone be  
10      330 feet and another be 150 feet?

11              Maritimes has indicated that at  
12      this site the danger point would be about  
13      500 feet from the power lines. This would  
14      seem to offer some additional distance to  
15      mitigate risk. However, at this early  
16      stage in planning, how can you be assured  
17      of this distance?

18              I have reviewed the maps placed on  
19      the file. They would indicate that much  
20      of the facility located on the land  
21      adjacent to the Whirlaway property. So  
22      already we have some confusion related to  
23      the property lines.

24              I might add that the property owner

1 has actively supported our efforts against  
2 the selection of the Whirlaway compressor  
3 station site.

4           Additionally, I have concerns with  
5 regard to the transmission right-of-way.  
6 Can the electric company expand  
7 transmission lines within the existing  
8 right-of-way and ultimately reduce the  
9 safety zone? Have you secured agreement  
10 to stop this from happening in the future?  
11 Can the electric company increase the  
12 width of the right-of-way (inaudible)  
13 resulting in deprivation in the safety  
14 zone?

15           The electric company is currently  
16 conducting upgrades to transmission lines  
17 in the area. This region has been  
18 identified as needing construction  
19 improvements. How will this affect the  
20 future of the safety zone? It's 500 feet  
21 cast in stone.

22           Maritimes & Northeast's response  
23 seemed to focus on the location of gas  
24 venting pipe used for routine releases.

1 Our concerns are also focused on releases  
2 that may result in routine maintenance and  
3 on other uncontrolled or unexpected  
4 situations.

5 We are not familiar with the  
6 detailed operations of a natural gas  
7 compressor station, so we must rely on  
8 Maritimes and the government in this area.

9 I understand that these operations  
10 typically distribute over ten square acres  
11 required to build a facility. Will any  
12 natural gas facility be located less than  
13 330 feet from high tension lines? Will  
14 any of the natural gas and pipe system be  
15 located less than 330 feet or beyond any  
16 transmission lines?

17 The proximity to the highway is an  
18 ignition source and traffic accidents are  
19 a concern as well.

20 Correspondence from Maritimes &  
21 Northeast had mentioned that compressor  
22 stations located approximately 800 feet  
23 from the highway poses essentially no risk  
24 to the public.

1           I understand that these operations,  
2           again, are typically distributed over ten  
3           acres. Will any of the natural gas  
4           facility be located less than 800 feet  
5           from the highway? Will any of the natural  
6           gas or pipe systems be located less than  
7           800 feet?

8           We are pleased that Maritimes has  
9           given us a chance to look into the impact  
10          of the facility by placing the  
11          installation 400 feet from the highway.  
12          However, our concerns go beyond impact.

13          This highway is a major commercial  
14          roadway supporting the northeast corridor  
15          and transport significant volumes of  
16          hazardous materials on a daily basis. We  
17          have a concern that a raised roadway will  
18          act as a barrier allowing hazardous  
19          materials released to flow down to a lower  
20          level, which will serve the location for  
21          the natural gas facility.

22          We have further concerns of traffic  
23          accidents involving materials such as  
24          propane and gasoline, will provide vapors

1       which can be taken into the gas facility,  
2       resulting in an explosion or some other  
3       type of incident.

4               Recent accidents in the compressor  
5       stations. Over the last few weeks,  
6       newspapers have been carrying local stories  
7       related to natural gas pipeline explosions.  
8       These incidents should be a wake-up call  
9       for the industry. The distribution  
10      system, including the compressor station,  
11      is a highly engineered system of checks  
12      and balances designed for the safe  
13      efficient distribution of compressed gas.

14              However, this system of operation  
15      is not without risk. As an environmental  
16      and safety and health professional, I  
17      understand that it is not likely that all  
18      accidents (inaudible) or mitigated to  
19      (inaudible). The recent accidents noted  
20      in the media support this assumption. At  
21      best, we can reduce the risk and plan for  
22      appropriate emergency response.

23              With this in mind, I'd like to  
24      stress, once again, that the Whirlaway

1 site is not an acceptable site for the  
2 natural gas compressor station. The close  
3 proximity to Route 495 and multiple  
4 electrical transmission lines located  
5 within the property provide an unlimited  
6 number of scenarios which can result in  
7 increased risk and/or disaster.

8 Additionally, it would be  
9 difficult, at best, to coordinate the  
10 actions of multiple utilities and/or  
11 disrupt the flow of traffic on Route 495  
12 as part of an emergency response activity.

13 Based on the review of documented  
14 pipeline emergencies, coordination with  
15 electric companies and other utilities  
16 seems to have been an issue. It was  
17 noted in the Federal Register dated May  
18 23rd, 2005.

19 I understand that the National  
20 Transportation Safety Board does not  
21 explicitly require operators to have  
22 procedures with preplanning with electric  
23 and power utilities. The Maritimes &  
24 Northeast have a cooperative working

1 relationship with the electric company  
2 which operates transmission lines located  
3 on the Whirlaway site. Have they  
4 consulted the electric company prior to  
5 final site selection in order to address  
6 any safety issues raised by the proposed  
7 location of the facility?

8 We have concern with regard to  
9 noise. We appreciate the comments from  
10 Maritimes & Northeast made to me, both the  
11 Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the FERC  
12 noise regulations, as well as consulting  
13 public officials to address a particular  
14 issue of local concern.

15 We understand that part of the  
16 compressor station development process will  
17 include the measurement of existing noise  
18 levels and identifying noise-sensitive  
19 locations around the proposed site.  
20 Computer projections that they've used to  
21 predict the resulted noise level at  
22 sensitive locations.

23 Maritimes & Northeast has also  
24 indicated that station design will be

1 modified as necessary to ensure that the  
2 operable standards are met.

3 Typically, as computer noise  
4 projections are developed, you offer  
5 several scenarios with regard to noise  
6 accentuation, least effective production to  
7 most effective production, depending on the  
8 level of engineering implemented as part  
9 of the facility design.

10 Will local officials and the public  
11 have access to review these various  
12 options? Will the local officials and the  
13 public be directly involved in the  
14 decision? Will Maritimes & Northeast  
15 implement best available control  
16 technologies?

17 We have additional concerns with  
18 regard to the Whirlaway site. The  
19 location of Route 495 to the south of the  
20 -- facility and the Whirlaway building to  
21 the east serves barriers which would  
22 negatively impact expected noise  
23 accentuation accomplished by distance.

24 The only remaining noise

1        accentuation direction will be north into  
2        the neighborhoods or west into the  
3        wetlands and that path, what affect will  
4        this have on the existing habitat? Any  
5        noise sent into the westerly direction  
6        would more than likely be brought back  
7        into the neighborhoods by prevailing winds.  
8        How would this be mitigated? All of these  
9        objections will add to the difficulty in  
10       estimating realistic noise accentuation and  
11       the expected impact on the neighborhood.  
12       The compressor facility will generate noise  
13       in a primary direction. What direction  
14       will that be, as neighbors want to know.

15                In the letter referenced above,  
16       Maritimes & Northeast failed to address  
17       questions raised for acuity. We all knew  
18       that the FERC statement seemed to focus on  
19       the original siting process criteria and  
20       does not address ongoing operational  
21       concerns.

22                What requirements are in place to  
23       protect the neighborhood over the long  
24       haul? How are the neighbors assured that

1 the original noise level will be  
2 maintained? What monitoring programs will  
3 be put in place to ensure compliance? If  
4 monitoring programs will be put in place,  
5 are they coordinated by any type of  
6 independent party, conducted by an  
7 independent party? Are the results made  
8 available to the neighbors? Over the time  
9 period, are they conducted annually, semi  
10 annually, over the lifetime of the  
11 facility? Is the company required to  
12 properly maintain sound accentuation  
13 technology?

14 We are under the impression that an  
15 alternative method of power compression  
16 station may offer better sound reduction  
17 and eliminate additional air pollution. A  
18 natural gas turbine-driven compressors  
19 versus electric motor-driven compressors.  
20 Did you evaluate this option? Do electric  
21 motor-driven compressors generate less  
22 sound? I would assume this to be the  
23 case, as much of the noise from natural  
24 gas turbine compressors is related to the

1 intake and exhaust air associated with  
2 turbine operations.

3 In summary, you evaluate the seven  
4 sites proposed by Maritimes & Northeast.  
5 The Whirlaway site has the least  
6 acceptable environment, when you consider  
7 the number of safety risk factors present  
8 and available at the site. High tension  
9 lines converse the site, high voltage are  
10 present over the site, high volumes of  
11 road traffic from 495 border the site,  
12 high volumes of hazardous materials move  
13 along the border of the site, (inaudible)  
14 abutting the property line acts as a  
15 physical barrier and compound any emergency  
16 response plan, and close proximity to the  
17 neighborhood.

18 It is because of these negative  
19 environmental factors that I would  
20 recommend that the Whirlaway site be  
21 removed from further consideration as a  
22 natural gas compressor station. Thank  
23 you.

24 (Applause).

1                   SPEAKER: My name is  
2                   (inaudible). I have lived at 5 Brookdale  
3                   Avenue. I've lived there for 42 years,  
4                   and my grandfather had been there since  
5                   1948.

6                   On any given day, when there is an  
7                   accident on 495, this happens about three  
8                   or four times a month, we can't get out  
9                   of our street if you live down in that  
10                  area. I'm against the site of the runway.  
11                  Traffic pours out from the Haverhill 495  
12                  onto 110 or from Methuen. It's just  
13                  almost impossible to get out of your  
14                  street on any of these given days.

15                  All the things that Ed just spoke  
16                  about, I would like to reiterate the high  
17                  tension lines, the high voltage over this  
18                  site, the high volume of traffic on that  
19                  road. We really feel very strongly that  
20                  the Whirlaway would not be -- we would  
21                  like you to take it off the preferred  
22                  site.

23                  I've been sitting here this  
24                  evening. I didn't make the Methuen

1 meeting. I'm just very bothered. I do  
2 agree with a lot of what the Haverhill  
3 people said, that it really shouldn't be  
4 in a residential area at all. And it's  
5 really sad that we have the neighborhood  
6 half a mile up the street from us. We're  
7 against our site, they're against their  
8 site. Preferably, it probably isn't in  
9 your best interest financially. We don't  
10 have a lot of political clout as they did  
11 in Haverhill, and I understand why they  
12 don't want it on the Rogers line either.

13 But you know what, we're just  
14 people that have been in this neighborhood  
15 for our over 40, 50, 60 years. These are  
16 our homes. We settled here for a reason.  
17 We didn't move out for a reason.

18 Take it upon yourself to look at  
19 other sites. Even if it means that you  
20 have to spend a little bit of money. The  
21 government has the money. Think about the  
22 people for a change. That's what we want  
23 you to do. We want you to take the  
24 Whirlaway off the preferred site. Thank

1       you for listening.

2                       MR. SIMONIAN: My name is  
3 Charles Simonian, not to be confused with  
4 the Simone site that was publicized in the  
5 Tribune today.

6                       In opposition to the locating of  
7 gas pumping station at the Whirlaway  
8 driving range in Methuen, I would like to  
9 submit the following: During the few warm  
10 days that we've already had, I've noticed  
11 hundreds of golfers using the range.  
12 Facilities like this are irreplaceable as  
13 an integral part of our whole community.  
14 By the time this summer is over, thousands  
15 of golfers from all the neighboring towns  
16 will use this golf driving range. There  
17 is no substitute for the Whirlaway in the  
18 entire area.

19                       The Whirlaway site is adjacent to a  
20 well-established residential neighborhood,  
21 single family middle class homes with a  
22 lineage that goes back over a hundred  
23 years. I've lived there myself my entire  
24 life, so far. Many children live in these

1 houses. School buses come and go during  
2 the school day. During warmer weather, we  
3 are accustomed to an outdoor style of  
4 living. Our windows are left open as we  
5 sleep. We don't want this to be lost to  
6 us.

7 Ours is indeed a neighborhood that  
8 is stable and works very well. It's home  
9 to several hundred people. To suddenly  
10 place a noisy, odorous facility with the  
11 potential for hazard in the midst of our  
12 neighborhood and our living area is an  
13 intrusive affront to us. Thus far, we've  
14 been able to live in a semi-rural  
15 environment, enjoying all the wildlife and  
16 the sounds that accompany it. I feel that  
17 much of this lifestyle will be destroyed  
18 if the proposed pumping station is located  
19 at the Whirlaway site. Thank you.

20 (Applause).

21 MR. PECONOM: The next  
22 speakers on our list are Ms. Mary  
23 Simonian, Ms. Linda Joyce, and Ms. Jane  
24 Hardiman.

1 MS. SIMONIAN: Hi. We meet  
2 again.

3 Mary Simonian, S-I-M-O-M-I-A-N.  
4 Again, that was my husband's cousin, and  
5 not to be confused with the Simone farm,  
6 please.

7 Last January 12th, we met in  
8 Methuen, and we appreciate you having  
9 another meeting. I wish -- before I say  
10 what I want to say, I wish from the  
11 deepest of my heart that I could just tell  
12 the Maritimes gas people to take this  
13 project and move it, just move it, just  
14 take it away.

15 I live at 532 Merrimack Street, as  
16 I said. This is next door to the  
17 Whirlaway site. It's my back yard. I've  
18 said that before, and I'll say it again.

19 I have lived there for 43 years.  
20 Since we've first been married. My  
21 husband has been there for 69 years, and  
22 his mother and father before that. We  
23 have raised two children, which we  
24 considered to be a safe and friendly

1 environment. We now have a grandchild who  
2 spends a great deal of time with us, and  
3 we would like to be able to give him the  
4 opportunity that we gave our children.

5 My husband owns a business on our  
6 property, and although we may be  
7 retirement age, we still both work. We  
8 have experienced some changes in our 43  
9 years, including the noise level. It's  
10 gotten louder, and of course the new  
11 construction all around us. I think we've  
12 given enough in our neighborhood. The gas  
13 compressor station would only add to the  
14 worry and concern that we have along with  
15 the daily goings on.

16 And Mr. Smallcomb, you scared the  
17 heck out of me. I was scared before, but  
18 I'm twice as scared now.

19 I wish you could find a site that  
20 would not impact our neighborhood, a  
21 neighborhood that, by the way, has third,  
22 fourth and fifth generations of families  
23 making it their home.

24 I appreciate the Haverhill people.

1 I appreciate some of the support that they  
2 also give Methuen. I also give it to  
3 them.

4 I wish that you could eliminate the  
5 Whirlaway site completely, not as a  
6 preferred site, not as an alternative, but  
7 completely.

8 Thank you for your time, and we  
9 hope that you seriously, seriously take  
10 our genuine concern for our safety, along  
11 with any more noise and, of course, our  
12 property value. Thank you very much.

13 (Applause).

14 MS. JOYCE: My name is  
15 Linda Joyce, J-O-Y-C-E, and I do want to  
16 thank you for holding this additional  
17 hearing. We appreciate having the  
18 opportunity to speak to the additional  
19 Simone site for this gas compressor  
20 station.

21 I'm a trustee at The Landing  
22 Condominium in Methuen, which is directly  
23 adjacent to the Simone farm site. There  
24 are 55 homes in our community. We live

1 in a wonderful neighborhood that's bordered  
2 on both sides by farms and on another side  
3 by the Merrimack River.

4 And the Merrimack River, as you  
5 probably know, has been cleaned up  
6 significantly in recent years. We've  
7 planted trees along the river. It's  
8 inhabited by wildlife and bald eagles,  
9 which are enjoyed by all of us who live  
10 there.

11 To place a facility, such as the  
12 gas compressor station proposed by  
13 Maritimes & Northeast, within 1800 feet of  
14 our homes, will have a significant impact  
15 on our property values and quality of  
16 life.

17 There are no natural barriers  
18 between our homes and the Simone farm  
19 site. If the compressor station is  
20 located on the Simone farm, the facility  
21 will be directly visible from most of our  
22 homes, most of which are located on a hill  
23 that overlooks that site.

24 Any odor, noise, or nighttime

1 lighting will also have a direct impact on  
2 us. If there is any type of accident  
3 there, which requires emergency evacuation,  
4 we only have one road in, and we also run  
5 into the same issues that were mentioned  
6 on Route 110, when the traffic can just be  
7 horrendous.

8 We know from the news recently that  
9 there have been two accidents, and even  
10 though it seems to be somewhat minimized  
11 as to the number of accidents related to  
12 gas compressor stations, we still submit  
13 that most of them are located in various  
14 parts of populated areas, and not in  
15 densely-populated areas such as we have.

16 For many, if not all of us, our  
17 homes are the biggest investment that we  
18 have, and it's where we've invested most  
19 of our time and money and energy over the  
20 course of our lives.

21 When we purchased our homes, it was  
22 with the knowledge that the farms on both  
23 sides of us were subject to restrictions  
24 from development because of the

1 Agricultural Preservation Restriction Act  
2 Chapter 61A.

3 Now, for most of us, the knowledge  
4 of those restrictions was a big  
5 significant factor in determining that we  
6 wanted to live at The Landing. It has  
7 given us a wonderful quality of life  
8 today.

9 We also feel that if these  
10 restrictions are taken away and the site  
11 is allowed to be developed, that it will  
12 have a very negative impact on the value  
13 of our homes, and it may make it difficult  
14 to sell them at all.

15 We request that you do not approve  
16 the Simone farm site, and we also request  
17 that you consider locations that are far  
18 away from any residential community, both  
19 in Haverhill and Methuen. We think that  
20 is really important. These are very  
21 densely-populated areas, and we appreciate  
22 your consideration in these concerns.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause).

1                   MS. HARDIMAN: I'd like to  
2           thank you for holding this meeting to  
3           allow me to express my concerns and the  
4           concerns of the homeowners at The Landing  
5           over the proposed Simone farm site for the  
6           Maritimes & Northeast compressor station.

7                   My name is Jane Hardiman,  
8           H-A-R-D-I-M-A-N. I'm a member of the  
9           board of trustees of The Landing, and also  
10          a resident.

11                  We chose a rural setting for our  
12          homes, desiring a peaceful, pleasant place.  
13          Farms abutting on two sides and the  
14          beautiful Merrimack River make for a  
15          tranquil setting. We are able to enjoy  
16          the sounds of birds in the morning, all  
17          the eagles resting in our trees, possums  
18          running across the property, and even our  
19          beloved skunks. They're all just a part  
20          of the wildlife at the community.

21                  The pool is directly adjacent to  
22          the Simone farm, and has been enjoyed on a  
23          hot summer day by both the young and the  
24          old. A quiet walk along the river and

1 throughout the complex allows us to enjoy  
2 our surroundings. Nights are dark, save  
3 for occasional street light, and open  
4 windows allowing a refreshing wind to flow  
5 the house. It's a relaxing place to  
6 return to after a hard day of work.

7 We only wish to enjoy this simple  
8 life of living here; to walk in the fresh  
9 air in quiet, garden with calmness, a  
10 relaxing swim in a pool, and to sit on  
11 our deck. All of this would end if the  
12 compression station was to be built in  
13 such close proximity to our property. The  
14 constant noise of the station, the lights  
15 on 24/7, the belching of gases into the  
16 air.

17 And if I may, a quote from  
18 Earthworks Action site. "In many  
19 residential neighborhoods, especially low  
20 density and rural areas, the nighttime  
21 noise level is very quiet. According to a  
22 Colorado-based noise consultant, ambient  
23 noise levels in residential areas are  
24 frequently as low as 35 dBA during the

1       nighttime, and are occasionally lower. In  
2       these situations, if oil and gas  
3       facilities are allowed to emit noise at 45  
4       dBA, the noise will be perceived by many  
5       as being twice as loud as the ambient  
6       noise in the area." It would destroy the  
7       tranquility of our homes and wildlife  
8       would be no longer.

9               We do not want to constantly worry  
10       about safety issues; fires, evacuations,  
11       toxins in the air, soil, and water and  
12       security. With only one road in and out,  
13       could we be evacuated with safety?  
14       Accidents happen. That's why they call  
15       them accidents.

16              Living right next door to this  
17       pumping station, what would our quality of  
18       life be? Certainly not what we know now.

19              I request that you remove the  
20       Simone farm as a site for the station.  
21       The impact to the community and its  
22       quality of life is at stake, as is every  
23       other resident who lives near sites that  
24       are being considered. I want to thank you

1 for the opportunity to speak.

2 (Applause).

3 MR. PECONOM: The next three  
4 individuals are Mr. Daniel Shine, Mr. Tom  
5 Joyce, and Ms. Deb Rogers-Thornton.

6 MR. SHINE: Good evening.  
7 My name is Daniel Shine, S-H-I-N-E, and I  
8 reside at 28 Landing Drive in Methuen. I  
9 first want to thank the FERC  
10 representatives for the opportunity to  
11 present further testimony relating to the  
12 site selection of the proposed gas  
13 compressor station identified as PF05-17.

14 I'm a homeowner and trustee of The  
15 Landing in Methuen, and I'm here this  
16 evening to dispute Maritimes & Northeast's  
17 claim that some of their chosen sites in  
18 Methuen are suitable for the composed gas  
19 compressor station. My comments this  
20 evening represent the view of The Landing  
21 trustees, the homeowners and residents of  
22 The Landing.

23 We have been told Maritimes &  
24 Northeast and FERC are sensitive to the

1 proposition raised when they proposed a  
2 construction site in a highly populated  
3 area.

4 We are here tonight to conclusively  
5 demonstrate that one of those proposed  
6 sites in Methuen, Simone farm, is indeed a  
7 highly populated area. We want to call  
8 your attention to the fact that  
9 immediately adjacent to the Simone farm,  
10 housing is primarily condominiums, whose  
11 population density is much higher than in  
12 areas primarily comprised single family  
13 homes. That ratio is three to five times,  
14 easy.

15 If we assume that your published  
16 comments relating to not wanting to put  
17 stations in highly populated areas are  
18 sincere, then I offer that the site named  
19 Simone Farm on Merrimack Street in Methuen  
20 is not suitable. We have brought aerial  
21 photographs for your convenience and offer  
22 that there are hundreds of homes and  
23 businesses, perhaps 250 to 300, within a  
24 half mile radius of the proposed Simone

1 farm site. The Landing, 65 homes is built  
2 on 17 acres; Parish Heights, 130 homes;  
3 Summer Crossing, 12 homes, and Old Ferry  
4 Garden Condominium Association, 40 homes,  
5 are adjacent to or within a quarter mile  
6 radius of the proposed Simone farm site.

7 It is not our intention to choose  
8 other sites for your consideration, but we  
9 do suggest that there are proposed sites  
10 that are much more secluded and would then  
11 further protect the population by the  
12 natural terrain characteristics of their  
13 location.

14 These aerial photographs speak for  
15 themselves. They conclusively demonstrate  
16 that the placement of a compressor station  
17 at the Simone farm location would be  
18 irresponsible and contrary to your  
19 previously stated consideration for high  
20 population areas.

21 We also want to call your attention  
22 to the safety concerns we have. The  
23 noise. That's a big one. Light,  
24 pollution, and the impact on the quality

1 of life that people have paid dearly for  
2 by choosing The Landing as a residence.

3 There is little doubt that the area  
4 will also suffer irreparable financial  
5 damage to the housing prices if this  
6 station is built on the Simone farm  
7 property.

8 We met Monday afternoon in the  
9 Methuen mayor's office with Maritimes &  
10 Northeast. And during the question and  
11 answer period, in the answer to a direct  
12 question from a trustee, Maritimes &  
13 Northeast representatives said that a  
14 compressor site has never been approved by  
15 FERC in an area like this, so densely  
16 populated.

17 So our question to you this evening  
18 is: If you've never done it before, why  
19 now and why here?

20 In closing, we urge you to continue  
21 to seek alternative sites that protect all  
22 adjacent property, and to specifically  
23 reject the Simone farm site as not  
24 suitable due to the surrounding high

1 population density.

2 We are confident that when you  
3 comprehensively review the Simone site we  
4 have brought to your attention, you will  
5 agree that it is not suitable for this  
6 proposed gas compressor station.

7 Thank you for your concern and  
8 anticipated consideration with the site  
9 selection. Contact us if you need any  
10 further information, have any questions, or  
11 come and visit and walk around the  
12 property with us. Thank you.

13 (Applause).

14 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.  
15 My name is Tom Joyce, J-O-Y-C-E. I'm also  
16 a resident at The Landing.

17 I thank you for having this meeting  
18 tonight and having the opportunity to  
19 speak at it.

20 Others here tonight have addressed  
21 very real concerns they have with the  
22 placing of the Maritimes & Northeast's gas  
23 compression station on Simone farm land.  
24 They have addressed such things as safety,

1 constant additional noise, constant  
2 lighting, reduced quality of life and  
3 enjoyment and reduced property values,  
4 among other things.

5 I would like to address a different  
6 issue. I believe it's a very basic  
7 issues, the issue of right and wrong.

8 As you probably were aware and have  
9 heard here tonight, and will hear here  
10 tonight, there were and still are  
11 agreements in place between the state of  
12 Massachusetts and the owner of the Simone  
13 farm land.

14 The agreement with the state was  
15 made for value received by the farm at the  
16 time. It was binding on any and all  
17 successors to that farm. The agreement  
18 with the state of Massachusetts is an  
19 agricultural protection restriction, calls  
20 for the land to be set aside for farming  
21 purposes only in perpetuity.

22 It is our understanding, from the  
23 representatives with Maritimes & Northeast,  
24 that the current owner of that land, Norma

1 (inaudible), is willing to sell a portion  
2 of that land, Commonwealth of  
3 Massachusetts, Chapter 61A of the APR  
4 agreement, to Maritimes & Northeast, for  
5 the purpose of constructing a gas  
6 compressor station.

7 In order to do this, our  
8 government, first the federal government,  
9 in order to approve this site, and  
10 secondly, our state government, by taking  
11 whatever action it needed to take, would  
12 be saying that they are willing to remove  
13 some or all of the land from the  
14 restrictions of the APR agreement.

15 This agreement is in effect a  
16 covenant between our government, the state  
17 government in this case, and the farmer  
18 and his successors, and by extension, all  
19 of the people who put their faith in the  
20 government to live up to and enforce the  
21 covenants it makes in anything other than  
22 the most extreme circumstances.

23 I believe a breach in this faith is  
24 a very serious matter, and goes directly

1 to the trust the citizens can have in  
2 their government. Many people, as you  
3 will hear during this meeting, put their  
4 faith and trust in the government to live  
5 up the (inaudible).

6 This fact should go without saying.

7 The most secure debt in the world  
8 is a debt issued by the United States  
9 Treasurer, because it is backed by the  
10 full faith and credit of the United States  
11 government. I suggest that the people at  
12 The Landing and the other people in the  
13 surrounding area should be able to rely on  
14 the full faith of the United States  
15 government and its agency, in this case,  
16 FERC, to honor the covenants entered into  
17 it by its state governments.

18 What message is sent to the people  
19 if they don't -- at any level is willing  
20 to set aside such covenants? And why is  
21 this even being considered?

22 According to Maritimes & Northeast,  
23 it's because they have a willing seller.  
24 Is that all it takes to back away from

1 the covenant to protect farm land, a  
2 willing seller?

3 Well, there's another willing  
4 seller in the picture also, Mr. Jaubuir,  
5 who owns approximately 30 acres that is  
6 further removed from the Simone site.

7 Mr. Jaubuir's -- land already has a  
8 gas pipe line running through it as well.  
9 This past Monday in the meeting that Mr.  
10 Dan Shine spoke about, when we asked  
11 Maritimes & Northeast about this land,  
12 they told us they considered it wetlands,  
13 and that there were wood turtles on The  
14 Landing. When we asked Maritimes to  
15 address this question that the gentleman  
16 asked earlier, when we asked Maritimes &  
17 Northeast to identify another area anywhere  
18 in the country that was in the middle of  
19 such a densely populated area. They  
20 referred us to a facility in Hamilton  
21 (phonetic), New Jersey.

22 Yesterday when I spoke to the  
23 Whippity (phonetic) Township fire chief,  
24 whose area of coverage includes that

1 station, he told me it was not in a  
2 residential area, and that the nearest  
3 house was about three quarters of a mile  
4 to a mile away. He categorized the  
5 stations -- there are actually two of them  
6 -- as being a swamp land outside of the  
7 outskirts of town, near the municipal  
8 airport. He did this without me  
9 mentioning anything about wetlands. He  
10 was simply describing where the stations  
11 were situated.

12 From what I understand, in  
13 conversations with Mr. Jaubuir, some of  
14 his land is wet, but approximately 75  
15 percent is not. This leaves about 28  
16 acres of dry land that is available, where  
17 only seven or eight is needed.

18 As to the turtle population, I've  
19 lived -- I've lived 64 years of my life  
20 not knowing anything about wood turtles.  
21 Since this matter has come up, I know I'd  
22 recognize one now if I saw one, which I  
23 don't believe I ever have. I've also  
24 learned that they habitat encompasses an

1 area from Nova Scotia in New Brunswick  
2 south to northern Virginia, and west  
3 through Pennsylvania and eastern Ontario.  
4 They also reside in Michigan, Wisconsin  
5 and Minnesota.

6 I think it's fair to say that if  
7 the turtles in question, plus seven or  
8 eight acres of the 38 acres of Mr.  
9 Jaubuir's land, they will still lead a  
10 full and happy life and flourish there and  
11 throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick  
12 and the broad area of our country that I  
13 previously mentioned.

14 All this by the way of illustrating  
15 that the Simone land is far from the best  
16 location, and that other reasonable sites  
17 exist, areas that do not involve undoing a  
18 covenant protecting farm land.

19 If we're going to approve the  
20 Simone site and thereby forget the process  
21 (inaudible) land of the covenant, with  
22 respect to this land would be wrong,  
23 particularly when other reasonable or be  
24 it perhaps not as convenient alternatives

1 exist to Maritimes & Northeast.

2 We believe in sound process with  
3 the safeguards established by the APR, the  
4 covenant, would be less respected and in  
5 the not too distant future, additional  
6 lands, perhaps up to and including all the  
7 land, would be surrendered to other uses.  
8 It would send a message to the people in  
9 the area that the government and its  
10 agencies would back away from perfectly  
11 valid agreements, agreements that the  
12 people relied on for making perhaps their  
13 largest investment, purchasing their home  
14 if it suits the purposes of the government  
15 or the purposes of a private company,  
16 simply because it's convenient and not  
17 because it's absolutely necessary.

18 I'd just like to cover one thing  
19 that was not in my notes, but with regard  
20 to the safety issue.

21 If the statistics were meant to  
22 comfort us, I don't think they really did.  
23 And I think I'd like to make the point by  
24 bringing out -- I just finished reading a

1 book, it was on the New York Time  
2 bestsellers list, it's very popular in  
3 this state. The Brothers Bulger.

4 When the federal authorities were  
5 finally wrapping up these criminals who  
6 ruled the streets of Boston for over 20  
7 years, they were amazed by the level of  
8 crime and the amount of protection they  
9 had. And one of them queried, "How could  
10 this happen in America?" The response of  
11 the criminal was, "We weren't in America,  
12 we were in Boston."

13 And I submit to you that you're not  
14 in America; you're in Massachusetts, and  
15 any statistic you have with regard to  
16 construction or anything else that is  
17 undertaken under the government or an  
18 agency of the federal government or  
19 companies with the federal government, you  
20 need to look no further than the Big Dig.

21 To say it -- we look at that. We  
22 see what the government does on the Big  
23 Dig or the school houses (inaudible). And  
24 we are very, very concerned about having a

1 gas compressor station anywhere near a  
2 residential area.

3 I certainly hope that other people  
4 have said it who are not there, but please  
5 take it away from residential area. Put  
6 it somewhere where it's remote. If  
7 something happens, it won't cause the  
8 devastation that it could cause. And  
9 these are different times than 20 years  
10 ago. There are people looking to hurt us.  
11 There are people looking to cause chaos.  
12 I really suggest that you look for  
13 something that is not in a highly, highly  
14 residential area. Thank you for your  
15 time.

16 (Applause).

17 MS. ROGERS-THORNTON: My  
18 name is Deborah Rogers-Thornton,  
19 R-O-G-E-R-S, T-H-O-R-N-T-O-N.

20 I would like to thank Maritimes &  
21 Northeast Pipeline for re-evaluating and  
22 removing the Rogers Spring Hill farm as a  
23 preferred site for the compression station.

24 I would like to offer my most

1 heart-felt thanks to everyone who sent in  
2 letters of support for Rogers Spring Hill  
3 Farm. I believe that it impacted this  
4 process and they definitely made an impact  
5 on us, particularly my parents, Richard  
6 and Betty Rogers. Thank you.

7 As I stated before in my letters  
8 and conversations with Maritimes &  
9 Northeast, as well as the Federal Energy  
10 Regulatory Commission, my parents' property  
11 Rogers Spring Hill Farm is meant to be  
12 that, a farm.

13 In 12 days it will be 104 years  
14 old. Over the past century, five  
15 generations of Rogers have had the honor  
16 of being stewards of the land.

17 While we are no longer the  
18 preferred site, we are still listed as an  
19 alternative site.

20 The area they have sited is in the  
21 middle of our farm, where our  
22 pick-your-own strawberries are grown, our  
23 pumpkins are harvested, and our apple  
24 trees blossom. It is also with thousands

1 of school children come for farm tours.  
2 Every year we open our farm to thousands  
3 of people to enjoy what is considered to  
4 be the backbone of America.

5 In the state of Massachusetts,  
6 agricultural land is an environmental and  
7 natural resource. This site is in the  
8 heart of our farm, which is in the heart  
9 of my father.

10 To understand fully what this means  
11 to my family, you must be able to  
12 understand my father, Richard. He is the  
13 hardest working person I have ever had the  
14 honor of knowing. He has dedicated his  
15 life, heart and soul to Rogers Spring Hill  
16 Farm. For the last 55 years, since he  
17 was 14 years old, he has devoted himself  
18 to the land. He is up every morning by  
19 5:30 and rarely completes his day before  
20 6:00 p.m. He does this six, sometimes  
21 seven days a week, regardless of the  
22 weather. There is work to be done and he  
23 will do it. A man with this much  
24 conviction is far more connected than most

1 can understand.

2           Farming is not just a way of life,  
3 but rather his life. Farming is not a  
4 choice, it's a calling. There will come a  
5 time when many farmers feel they are not  
6 able to continue farming, and that is  
7 their decision to make. However, for  
8 someone to make that decision for a farmer  
9 is not acceptable. Farming fresh produce  
10 will be a thing of the past if we allow  
11 our farm to be taken. Not only will  
12 small family farms become extinct, but  
13 also so will the family farmer.

14           I appreciate this opportunity to  
15 speak on this topic. Thank you.

16                       (Applause).

17           MR. PECONOM: In looking at  
18 the time, we have 45 minutes left, and I  
19 want everybody who signed up to speak to  
20 get a chance to speak. I would just like  
21 people to consider, you know, the person  
22 after them, and hopefully we get out of  
23 here at 10:00, because we don't have the  
24 meeting hall much after that.

1           So the next three individuals are  
2 Ms. Ann Marie Fogg, Ms. Brenda Maurais,  
3 and Ms. Bernice Burke.

4           MS. FOGG: Good evening.  
5 Thank you for allowing me to speak to you  
6 tonight.

7           My name is Ann Marie Fogg, F-O-G-G.  
8 I am a real estate professional with  
9 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in  
10 the Merrimack Valley, and I am also a  
11 resident of the community.

12           As a real estate professional, I  
13 feel I am both knowledgeable and qualified  
14 to speak to you regarding the negative  
15 impact on property values if the proposed  
16 Simone farm is to be used as a compressor  
17 station.

18           There is a significant stake at  
19 hand, not only for The Landing, but for  
20 the community of the Pleasant Valley and  
21 the town of Methuen.

22           When we purchased our homes, the  
23 security of knowing that Simone Farms was  
24 under contract, quote unquote, was a vital

1 part of all our decision making. That  
2 written promise is on the verge of being  
3 grossly violated with this proposal.

4 Not only were we expecting to  
5 maintain a relatively quiet and  
6 agricultural setting, but the entire  
7 community will now be thrust into a  
8 commercial, nonresidential environment, and  
9 that is not fair. It's simply wrong.

10 With all the abundant efforts to  
11 beautify and protect the Merrimack River,  
12 this particularly unspoiled waterway and  
13 waterfront, the idea of a gas plant on the  
14 Simone farm would not only move Methuen  
15 backward, it would take us all backward.  
16 You will destroy the financial and  
17 environmental investment in this town for  
18 years to come.

19 The Landing, if you don't know, has  
20 been regarded by many, and referred to by  
21 many, especially in the real estate field,  
22 as a gem in Methuen, a hidden treasure, a  
23 rare find, a sanctuary. It is a gem  
24 because of its location, its privacy, its

1 wildlife, its unspoiled waterfront. It is  
2 our gem, and it also happens to be my  
3 gem.

4           You must have gems of your own at  
5 home. Whether it be on your hand or your  
6 neck or your wrist or your private  
7 collection, wherever it may be, or even in  
8 a safety deposit box. Is that where you  
9 keep your gem? Think about it. How  
10 would you feel if someone touched your  
11 gem, damaged it, moved it, and or even  
12 broke into your security deposit box? You  
13 would protect it at all costs, wouldn't  
14 you?

15           You are now attempting to break  
16 into our security deposit box, and we will  
17 not stand for it. You can stop this  
18 process. You can look elsewhere. You  
19 know that. We know that. Leave this gem  
20 untouched. Thank you.

21           (Applause).

22           MS. MAURAS: Hi, my name  
23 is Brenda Maurais, M-A-U-R-A-I-S. I live  
24 at The Landing. I have been there for

1 many years. The things that I was going  
2 to say have already been said by most  
3 everyone here, so I'm going to depart from  
4 that.

5 I'm at a stage of my life now  
6 where my biggest investment is becoming  
7 very important to me. I'm ready to  
8 retire, and I'm hoping that my investment  
9 is going to help me through my retirement  
10 years.

11 This is certainly going to make a  
12 change in that. I'm very upset about  
13 that. I've loved living at The Landing.  
14 It's time to move on. But I want the  
15 people who come to live there to enjoy it  
16 as much as I did; the idyllic setting.  
17 It is just absolutely beautiful there. I  
18 am so happy that I had the opportunity.

19 One thing I noticed tonight is I  
20 commend the Rogers people for defending  
21 their property. Where are the Simones  
22 defending their property and ours tonight?  
23 I really feel badly. I think that they  
24 have sold us out. We have been their

1 customers, their neighbors, their friends,  
2 and what have they done to us? I think  
3 they have defected from everyone, all of  
4 us and the east end included. Thank you.

5 (Applause).

6 MR. PECONOM: The next three  
7 speakers we have are Ms. Diane Zappolo  
8 (phonetic), Mr. Ron Petite or Petit --  
9 excuse me, I apologize and Mr. Dan  
10 Burneika. I apologize if I get these last  
11 names wrong. Any of these individuals  
12 here?

13 MR. PETTIT: Ron Pettit,  
14 P-E-T-T-I-T, 50 Landing Drive or Landing  
15 Complex, Methuen. Thank you again for  
16 letting us have this opportunity.

17 They say that repetition is good,  
18 so in that vein quickly. Yes, we're  
19 concerned. We're concerned about the  
20 safety factor. Within a half mile to a  
21 mile of the Simone farm, there are five  
22 condo complexes, there are many homes,  
23 there's a child care center, there's two  
24 office buildings, a restaurant complex, and

1 of course the Simone farm. The gas  
2 company has a good safety record from,  
3 what I've been told and from what we've  
4 read, but the Colorado explosions naturally  
5 caused us all more concern than we may  
6 have had before, and it's hard to ignore  
7 it.

8 The area that we live in has a  
9 bigger concern. We have one exit. It's  
10 Ferry Road. It's the only way in. It's  
11 the only way out. And this must be  
12 remembered when you think of any hazard  
13 that may happen, like an explosion or a  
14 fire with gas involved. We have no place  
15 to go, along the river or out Ferry Road  
16 to Route 110.

17 Methuen and Haverhill areas are  
18 populated areas. And I understand that  
19 there was a farm that was offered as a  
20 location, and the reason it was taken off  
21 the record was because of an endangered  
22 species, a turtle, which we have heard  
23 about tonight.

24 Again, my question is: Aren't

1 people more important than a turtle? I  
2 respect nature. I enjoy nature. I enjoy  
3 the woods. But again, the complex of  
4 people that are involved here, it seems,  
5 would come first.

6 And finally, we have property  
7 values, and we all have to think of those.  
8 We moved in to this location five years  
9 ago. It's probably our retirement home.  
10 It's a beautiful complex. My wife was  
11 born in the Valley years ago, and we love  
12 it here. And we thank you for your  
13 consideration in looking at other  
14 locations.

15 (Applause).

16 MR. BURNEIKA: Dan Burneika,  
17 B-U-R-N-E-I-K-A, 56 Landing Drive.

18 Repetition may be great, but I  
19 would prefer not to repeat what everyone  
20 else has already said.

21 You've gone over the environmental  
22 issues. You've gone over the safety  
23 issues. You've gone over all the other  
24 things that will impact us as a community

1 and as a town.

2           However, the reasons that my wife,  
3 Ellen, and I moved into The Landing, and  
4 into this particular part of Methuen in  
5 particular, was because of the farm land,  
6 because of the river, because of the  
7 views, because of the peacefulness, and  
8 that's going to disappear if this is  
9 allowed to go forward on the property next  
10 to us.

11           And I just certainly urge you to  
12 find somewhere else to put that.

13           Resale values of our property --  
14 although I'm not looking to retire anytime  
15 soon -- certainly is someplace I'm looking  
16 forward to, at least having property  
17 values increase, so that the resale value  
18 of our major investment, whatever it be,  
19 to come back and benefit us. Thank you.

20                           (Applause).

21           MR. PECONOM: The next three  
22 individuals are Mr. Bruce Benski  
23 (phonetic), Ms. Ann Hentz and Ms. Leslie  
24 Hilton.

1 MS. BENSKI: Hi. He had to  
2 go home and relieve the babysitter. I'm  
3 actually considering filing an expense  
4 report with M & N for all my babysitting  
5 fees.

6 That aside, we would like to say a  
7 few comments at the second meeting. I'm  
8 sorry. My name is Christine Benski. I'm  
9 obviously not Bruce Benski. We live at  
10 316 Ferry Road in Ward Hill, Mass, the  
11 other end of Ferry Road at one time was  
12 connected by Ferry to Methuen and  
13 Haverhill.

14 So a few comments, and then perhaps  
15 from a different perspective. Simply  
16 said, we don't want to see it. We don't  
17 want to smell it. We don't want to hear  
18 it. And we don't want to have any  
19 vibrations in the ground. The Simone farm  
20 location is actually closer to my home on  
21 Ferry Road, so the proposed site that was  
22 on the Rogers farm. So there is no  
23 bubble that exists between the Haverhill  
24 and Methuen. It's a river. And it's

1 open air, and that site is actually closer  
2 to our home and the homes on Ferry Road  
3 than to the Rogers site.

4 That aside, maybe a different  
5 perspective on this Phase IV project is  
6 actually five compressor station in Maine  
7 and one compressor station in  
8 Massachusetts. Now, obviously this  
9 pipeline has existed for more than three  
10 years now and there is obviously gas  
11 moving through this pipe. There was  
12 actually a petition about it -- to  
13 increase the pressure about a month or two  
14 ago. To increase the pressure to the  
15 pipe, you have to pump that from  
16 somewhere, so obviously the increase of  
17 the pressure, the capacity for compressor  
18 station upstream of Massachusetts.

19 So maybe M & N should just consider  
20 not building a Massachusetts compressor  
21 station and allowing whatever flow they  
22 can obtain with the five compressors  
23 stations in Maine can be just that, the  
24 flow that they're gonna get, the

1 deliveries that they're gonna get to the  
2 end of this pipeline, and just take any  
3 pipeline proposed for the Merrimack Valley  
4 off the docket. Thank you very much.

5 (Applause).

6 MS. HENTZ: I'm Ann Hentz,  
7 H-E-N-T-Z. I live at Number 7 at The  
8 Landing.

9 Once again, many of the things that  
10 I would love to say offered, but if I  
11 don't say them, I'm going to burst. So I  
12 will say them again hopefully quickly.

13 Besides along being what they are,  
14 I feel like I should be thanking all of  
15 you for allowing us the opportunity to do  
16 this. But in fact, I would be far, far  
17 happier if we did not have any reason to  
18 be here at all.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Move  
20 closer to the mic.

21 MS. HENTZ: Yes, ma'am.

22 When I heard the litany of safety  
23 features that are apparently required in  
24 order to keep us safe, it really scared

1 me, because it showed me the number of  
2 places in this compressor station that  
3 could go wrong, that you need to guard  
4 against. So I am not relieved.

5 Also the statistics on the  
6 incidents did not make me feel very good,  
7 because, as far as I'm concerned, one  
8 incident is too many. I got to remind  
9 you guys we are not numbers. We are  
10 people.

11 Back to what I had planned on  
12 saying -- except I wasn't even going to  
13 talk tonight at all, because I was too  
14 tired. But I got too excited, and I had  
15 to put my name on the list.

16 I am concerned about safety. Last  
17 fall we know that there were explosions  
18 (inaudible) plan. Should that happen at  
19 the proposed site -- now I'm specifically  
20 speaking about the Simone site, because it  
21 abuts our land at The Landing. But I'm  
22 also concerned about the Naches site  
23 (phonetic) and about the Ward Hill site in  
24 Haverhill, so I'm going to speak

1 specifically about the Simone site, but  
2 please, my heart goes out to all of these  
3 sites. They're all bad.

4 In any case, should we have an  
5 explosion, either accidental or purposeful  
6 -- and we cannot rule that out in this  
7 day and age -- the results could be  
8 devastating.

9 Sir, on the end, I'm sorry to keep  
10 picking on you, but your statistics were  
11 the ones that made me crazy.

12 You mentioned that one of the  
13 safety features for a compressor station  
14 was that it had to have two gates to  
15 ensure safe egress should there be an  
16 accident.

17 I'd like to make sure that all of  
18 you realize that we at The Landing have a  
19 single access road in and out. Sir, I  
20 believe that that gives us only one gate.  
21 And that one gate does run right along the  
22 Simone farm. So it's us trying to get  
23 away from all the flames and the smoke and  
24 the fumes, and we carry all the flames and

1 the fumes and -- scary things, so we would  
2 not like that, and I think it would be  
3 very dangerous. I don't think evacuation,  
4 truly, would be possible.

5 I am mostly concerned about  
6 certainly our health issues and concerns  
7 about people, but I am also concerned  
8 about our wildlife. Bald eagles are a  
9 protected species. I'm not sure exactly  
10 whether they're endangered, protected, et  
11 cetera, at this point. But they're coming  
12 back, the bald eagle conservation is  
13 coming back. Eagles are regularly seen  
14 flying up and down the river and regularly  
15 seen perching directly outside our windows  
16 in the trees that abut the flames and the  
17 smoke and the fumes.

18 So I'm not thinking that this is a  
19 good thing to do. I suggest that even  
20 without the flames and the potential for  
21 explosion, the 24-hour lighting, the sound,  
22 and all the things that go along with a  
23 compressor station, cannot be good for  
24 these eagles and I suspect will alter

1 their flight patterns and will alter their  
2 perching patterns, and I thought that that  
3 was illegal.

4 Another thing that concerns me is  
5 loss of faith.

6 We purchased our homes with the  
7 understanding that surrounding farms would  
8 be farm land forever. For many of us, it  
9 is one of the many reasons that we  
10 purchased these places. And now we find  
11 not only was that false, that information  
12 was false, and somehow we now feel lied  
13 to. But an industry, both potentially  
14 dangerous and certainly intrusive, may now  
15 wind up there. I can't -- I can't tell  
16 you how that makes me feel.

17 I am concerned about potential  
18 health issues around the fumes emitted,  
19 the noise, the 24-hour lighting, how will  
20 this affect humans living nearby, not to  
21 mention the wildlife.

22 And finally, I am so saddened by  
23 the unavoidable loss of property value.  
24 Carl and I are finally at a time in our

1 lives, where, over the next few years --  
2 not now, but over the next few years, we  
3 could expect to sell our property to  
4 provide retirement income. That's why we  
5 invested in this. We now find ourselves  
6 in a position where that retirement income  
7 is being jeopardized, not by our own  
8 choosing, not by poor investing, not by  
9 some mistake that we had made, but by the  
10 unmarked actions of others, over which I  
11 am hoping we have some control, but I'm  
12 not so sure that that's the case.

13           Personally, I can't imagine taking  
14 actions that would take income away from  
15 other human beings and possibly endanger  
16 their health and most certainly affect  
17 their quality of life.

18           I suggest that the Simone site is  
19 not appropriate. I suggest that the other  
20 sites that we've heard about are also not  
21 appropriate. I ask that you choose a  
22 compressor site that is in a remote  
23 location, and which will have a far less  
24 impact on your fellow human beings. Thank

1       you.

2                       (Applause).

3                       MS. HILTON: I guess I'm  
4 next. Let me just start off, I've changed  
5 a little bit. I'm Leslie Hilton, Farwood  
6 Drive.

7                       We're talking about big oil  
8 companies here that probably are behind or  
9 are the parent company that Maritimes &  
10 Northeast are building this compressor  
11 plant for.

12                      Yes, we need the energy. Is this  
13 a project for a residential area, I think  
14 not. We're talking about a road that  
15 corporate America cannot afford to build  
16 in a rural area. I have spoken to both  
17 fire chiefs in De Beque, Colorado and Fort  
18 Lupton, Colorado. The second explosion in  
19 Fort Lupton started at 11:33 a.m.

20                      Now, I think I heard somebody down  
21 there from Maritimes lobby saying that  
22 they're going to disguise some of the  
23 buildings to look like barns. Well, the  
24 bald eagles will be able to tell and so

1 will we, when the barn is 150 feet up in  
2 air being held up by flames from the first  
3 explosion. That will be our time to  
4 evacuate, since this is no Reverse 911  
5 line in the state of Massachusetts, there  
6 isn't in Methuen and there isn't in  
7 Haverhill. And I'm speaking for everyone  
8 here, you can take your plant and you can  
9 find a rural area and build it some place  
10 else.

11           There was gentleman here from  
12 Methuen that said that he spoke to someone  
13 in New Jersey and was agreed at the  
14 Methuen meeting that they have never  
15 remembered building this type of stuff in  
16 such a heavily dense populated area. Why  
17 now?

18           I spoke to people down in  
19 Brookfield, Connecticut, the fire chiefs  
20 down there. They want to build one of  
21 these plants within 1,000 feet -- I'm  
22 sorry, 1,900 feet of an elementary school  
23 of one thousand students. They don't  
24 care. They have asked very few people.

1       They know (inaudible) pay off and they  
2       know how many millions it's going to take.

3               Well, I suggest to you there in the  
4       back, you go into the Shriners Burn  
5       Center, and you smell the burning flesh  
6       from the people that lived through an  
7       explosion. It's not pretty, and it's  
8       nothing like you'll ever want to smell  
9       before. You get in there, and you smell  
10      it or you put yourselves in the houses on  
11      the site that you're going to build, and  
12      you take that chance. Two explosions one  
13      week in Colorado.

14              Now, if you are going to build in  
15      Methuen or you are going to build in  
16      Haverhill, I suggest that you start  
17      digging into your pocketbooks because you  
18      are going to come up with money to buy  
19      the fire departments and ambulances for  
20      every single fire station.

21              I suggest, and I haven't heard it  
22      said before, that you should have your own  
23      fire stations on these sites. If the Mt.  
24      Washington Hotel in Brentwood, New

1 Hampshire, can have its own fire station,  
2 big Mobil Oil in corporate America can  
3 have their own fire stations on these  
4 sites. I don't want to hear they're just  
5 being disguised as barns. I want safety  
6 issues, and I want money put into the bank  
7 of wherever you put this.

8 If you're going to put it out in  
9 the country, you take care of them out  
10 there. You take care of safety. You  
11 take care of safety in Haverhill and  
12 Methuen. Wherever you have put it, you're  
13 going to pay big time.

14 You think they're rioting in the  
15 streets in California? I came from the  
16 '60s, I was taught to question authority,  
17 not to trust the government, not to trust  
18 corporate America, because you run these  
19 politicians, you put them in office.

20 I will not stand for it. Everyone  
21 I know will not stand for this. This is  
22 the biggest investment of our lives.  
23 These firefighters put their lives on --  
24 every single day, their lives are on the

1 line. This time, you're paying. You come  
2 here into our neighborhoods and you build  
3 this facility, you're going to pay big  
4 time, and you're going to pay the City of  
5 Haverhill or the City of Methuen or the  
6 City of Boston, but the facility and the  
7 support of the personnel that they do not  
8 have financially. I guess that's about  
9 it. Thank you.

10 (Applause).

11 MR. PECONOM: Before we move  
12 on to the next speakers, I want to just  
13 say really quickly, I realize this is very  
14 emotional for some people, and I respect  
15 that. And I would just ask when people  
16 make comments, they direct them towards  
17 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,  
18 because this is our meeting and this is  
19 our responsibility to complete this  
20 project.

21 And just to kind of keep the  
22 comments short and brief, if you can.  
23 Just try to remember to keep them focused  
24 on us. This is our meeting here tonight,

1 to listen to what you have to say, your  
2 thoughts, and to make sure that we review  
3 them in our environmental analysis. And I  
4 certainly understand that this is very  
5 emotional for people.

6 So I'll go ahead and call the next  
7 few individuals. Mr. Peter Kohnstan, Mr.  
8 Andrew Longo, and Mr. Herbert Patraro  
9 (phonetic).

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll  
11 pass.

12 MR. KOHNSTAN: Good evening.  
13 My name is Peter Kohnstan, that's spelled  
14 K-O-H-N-S-T-A-N.

15 I'm the project manager with  
16 National Grid responsible for the current  
17 construction work at Ward Hill substation  
18 here to represent National Grid.

19 In the U.S., National Grid  
20 transmits and distributes electricity and  
21 natural gas to nearly four million  
22 customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire,  
23 New York and Rhode Island. National Grid  
24 is one of the proposed alternative sites

1 at Ward Hill, and is concerned about  
2 potential impacts to our existing  
3 substation, electric transmission, and  
4 distribution facilities, and potential  
5 impacts to future developments.

6 National Grid has already permitted  
7 a new distribution substation at the Ward  
8 Hill site and will need to carry out  
9 significant work with the distribution  
10 facilities that are adjacent to the  
11 proposed site.

12 National grid filed a motion to  
13 intervene in the preceding on March 30th  
14 to express our interest in the project and  
15 to ensure that we're being kept fully  
16 informed to allow us to protect the  
17 interests of our customers served by the  
18 facilities in this area.

19 The Ward Hill substation is a  
20 critical part of our system infrastructure,  
21 and is a wedge pin in the provision of  
22 reliable electric supply to northeast  
23 Massachusetts.

24 National Grid doesn't question or

1       oppose the need for a compressor station,  
2       but we urge the Commission to consider  
3       National Grid's obligations to service  
4       customers with reliable electric delivery  
5       service from Ward Hill site.

6               Our interest is in maintaining  
7       flexibility to develop (inaudible) and deed  
8       in property as necessary to achieve this  
9       in a safe, effective, economic and  
10      efficient manner for the benefit of our  
11      transmission and distribution systems.

12             National Grid expects to submit  
13      additional comments to the Commission in  
14      writing on April 14th. We thank you for  
15      this opportunity.

16                     (Applause).

17             MR. PECONOM: The next three  
18      individuals are Ona Blanchett (phonetic),  
19      Heather Bevilacqua, and it looks like Ms.  
20      Carolina Keefe (phonetic). I apologize  
21      again, if I'm --

22                     MS. BLANCHETT: It's okay.  
23      It's an odd spelling. The name is Ona  
24      Blanchett. Spelled with an O, not an A.

1 I live at 540 Merrimack Street. And I am  
2 the wife of Gregory Blanchett, and I  
3 apologize if I get a little emotional.  
4 But that land and that house, my husband  
5 and I, from documentation we have, can  
6 trace it about 200 years at this land.  
7 And it's all we have left of them.

8 My mother always said to me that  
9 it's our obligation to speak for those who  
10 cannot speak.

11 So I'm speaking tonight for Greg's  
12 grandfather, his grandmother, his mom Helen  
13 and his father Jim, all who died before  
14 their grandchildren were born and who  
15 lived at 540 Merrimack Street.

16 Now, my husband and I have had many  
17 opportunities to go to many other places,  
18 but we chose to stay here for our children  
19 to have some kind of touch with their  
20 roots, with his family, because that is  
21 all they have. A few pictures, a few  
22 documents.

23 And you've heard some of the other  
24 people in the neighborhood who have been

1 here for 40 years. Like I said, from the  
2 documentation we can find, we can go back  
3 about 200.

4 I can tell you stories about the  
5 house that one of Greg's best friend's  
6 lived in with his wife and their kids,  
7 about how that house was used by the  
8 Armenian people trying to come to the  
9 United States. I have that document.  
10 That house was a safehouse for them.

11 I can tell you all the stages of  
12 that land. I can show you pictures. I  
13 have boxes of them. But I'm not here to  
14 go off on that. You want to come see  
15 them, you said you'd love to see, come on  
16 down to this house, come see my beautiful  
17 field that everyone here knows, that on  
18 any given day, you will have deer.  
19 There's a mother red fox that has come  
20 back every year for the 15 years I have  
21 known my husband. Every year. I can  
22 tell you about the two redtail hawks that  
23 hang out in my apple tree and the  
24 generations of bald eagles, of pictures of

1 generations of bald eagles living in the  
2 tree right in front of my picture window.

3 I'm asking you and I'm begging you,  
4 please do not let this so. There are no  
5 ways out if there is a disaster for anyone  
6 in any of these locations. Okay. I've  
7 seen it when snow falls and the kind of  
8 traffic. It takes me at least 45 minutes  
9 to go a quarter of a mile. I can't even  
10 imagine what it would be like if there was  
11 panic on top of traffic. And I cannot  
12 risk my two beautiful boys. I cannot risk  
13 them. And I'm a mom, and that's why I'm  
14 speaking tonight, for those who cannot  
15 speak. And I know if they were here,  
16 they would be speaking, and they would be  
17 speaking very loud. And if anyone wants  
18 to see the documentation of this area, of  
19 this heritage, of the history, stop by my  
20 house, I'll be more than happy to provide  
21 it.

22 (Applause).

23 MS. BEVILACQUA: My name is  
24 Heather Bevilacqua. I live at 55 Landing

1 Drive, B-E-V-I-L-A-C-Q-U-A.

2 Everything has just about been said  
3 that I had in mind to speak about tonight.  
4 I bought the land four years ago, coming  
5 from a fairly rural area before that, and  
6 picking the land because of its  
7 tranquility, the nice weather. We all  
8 like to sit out on our decks, and walk  
9 down by the river, sit by the pool. It's  
10 very peaceful. We all live stressful  
11 lives. It's a nice place to come home  
12 to. I travel a lot. I always look  
13 forward to coming home to the peacefulness  
14 of it all.

15 And as everything has been  
16 mentioned before, this is going to change  
17 our quality of life. We don't need this  
18 intrusive building next to us. The farm  
19 should remain a farm, and that's all we're  
20 asking. So I think there are many other  
21 sites that you could find. Thank you.

22 (Applause).

23 MR. PECONOM: The next three  
24 individuals are Mr. Mark, is it Fleischer?

1 Looks like Darlington, or maybe Davidson,  
2 maybe, and then Mr. John Antini  
3 (phonetic), Ainton. I apologize. From  
4 Bradford.

5 MR. FLEISCHER: Hi. My  
6 name is Mark Fleischer, F-L-E-I-S-C-H-E-R.  
7 I also live at The Landing.

8 I think everyone has summed up  
9 everyone's feelings about this project.  
10 We just don't want it. It needs to go  
11 somewhere else. I've lived at The Landing  
12 for probably close to 18 years now, and I  
13 enjoy it very much. I brought my son up  
14 there. It is very quiet. I love the  
15 outdoors, and having this thing there just  
16 would really jeopardize that lifestyle we  
17 have.

18 I have, unfortunately, lost my job  
19 twice in the last four years. I don't  
20 have a pension, so I'm banking on The  
21 Landing as my pension, and to lose that  
22 would be devastating. It's the only  
23 correct financial decision I've probably  
24 made in my life, and I'd really hate to

1 see myself lose that, as well as everyone  
2 else here.

3 There has to be somewhere else to  
4 put this. This pipeline goes from Nova  
5 Scotia to, what, Boston? There has to be  
6 some rural area between 2,000 miles worth  
7 the pipeline. So please reconsider this.  
8 We don't need it. Haverhill doesn't need  
9 it. Make a better decision. Thank you.

10 (Applause).

11 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Arnold  
12 Henderson, Mr. Eric Jaubuir and Ms.  
13 Deborah Barstow (phonetic).

14 MR. JAUBUIR: I'm the guy  
15 nobody likes here. I own 38 acres that  
16 abuts the 54 abandoned acres that I  
17 offered to Maritimes. It is not heavily  
18 populated. I know Mr. Simonian will -- me  
19 for this, but nobody wants it in their  
20 back yard.

21 There is about -- wetlands. They  
22 do have the turtle issue to deal with, but  
23 they didn't have a problem dealing with  
24 the turtle issue when they wanted to put

1 it through my property, which they did.

2 My property abuts the -- station  
3 that's presently there. I know the other  
4 Old Ferry Road is a contaminated site,  
5 that's why they're not really selective to  
6 that. I've offered my property to them as  
7 well. It's -- like I said before, it's  
8 not in a densely populated area -- as  
9 densely populated.

10 Mr. Simonian, come on up to New  
11 Hampshire, 75 acres, 100 bucks a month, no  
12 taxes, and we still can do the budget.

13 MR. PECONOM: Can you just  
14 state your name for the record real quick?

15 MR. JAUBUIR: Oh, I can do  
16 that. Eric Jaubuir, J-A-U-B-U-I-R.

17 (Applause).

18 MS. BARSTOW: Debra Barstow.  
19 I live on Baltic Street in Methuen.

20 I oppose the pumping station, not  
21 only do I oppose all the noise from the  
22 building, but the running of the station,  
23 also the unsightly look of smoke stacks  
24 and pipelines, the -- farm lands will

1       affect my neighbors and family.

2               I also worry about the harmful  
3       toxic chemicals that may affect my family.  
4       As a wife whose husband had to go through  
5       cancer treatment, I never want to see  
6       anyone putting my three young children to  
7       go through that. I want them to have  
8       clean fresh air to breathe. I worry about  
9       the environment, the bald eagles that nest  
10      there, the water supply, and even any  
11      terrorists targeting the station. Also,  
12      any explosions that occur. There were two  
13      in Colorado that happened within two weeks  
14      of each other.

15             I bought my home in Methuen to live  
16      free from these kinds of dangers, to live  
17      in a safe, clean and beautiful town.  
18      You'll be taking this away from my family  
19      as long as I live in Methuen.

20             There must be a better location  
21      without causing so much distress to the  
22      neighborhood. You are not just affecting  
23      our lives, but the property values of  
24      hundreds of homes.

1           Please reconsider a much better  
2           location away from people's lives and  
3           homes. Thank you.

4                        (Appause).

5                       MR. PECONOM: The next three  
6           individuals are Asha Casai, David Detora  
7           and Ken Knight.

8                       MS. CASARA: My name is  
9           Asha Casai, A-S-H-A, C-A-S-A-I. I live at  
10          60 Landing Drive. I have three words for  
11          you: Location, location, and location. I  
12          have other words for you also, but those  
13          are the three words I want you to take  
14          away from me tonight.

15                      My husband and I bought our first  
16          home at Landing Condominium two years ago  
17          hoping that many of our residents, our  
18          neighbors are saying they've been there 18  
19          years, 20 years, hoping to raise a family  
20          in a quiet, serene and peaceful  
21          neighborhood.

22                      I didn't want to move into a rural  
23          setting, and my husband convinced me to  
24          move to that area, and after two years, I

1 love it, and everybody that comes to visit  
2 us from all over the states, from England  
3 where my family is. My husband is so  
4 proud of where we live, he takes them down  
5 to the river, down to the farm. Some  
6 people who are tempted to pick up a head  
7 of lettuce from the farm. It's such a  
8 privilege, an honor to be in that area.  
9 And if the compressor station opens at  
10 Simone Farms, our quality of life will be  
11 direly affected.

12 I would be thinking twice about  
13 opening the windows for quote, unquote,  
14 fresh air or drinking tap water. These  
15 are all concerns that quality of life,  
16 safety, health issues. I work in health  
17 care. I don't even want to think about  
18 the consequences that this would raise.  
19 And walking by the river in the evenings.

20 Now, spring and summer, this is  
21 when we bump into all our neighbors. Our  
22 front doors are open. Our windows are  
23 open. Everybody runs into each other.  
24 They all come into our homes. I have a

1 feeling that these things will be lost on  
2 these things. And I know you were saying,  
3 sir, it's a fine balance from turtles or  
4 whatever and these condominiums. I would  
5 think it's not a clear matter. It's a  
6 very clear cut, obvious solution here, and  
7 don't do this. This is also an investment  
8 to us. We're young, and we invested  
9 whatever we had in this property so we  
10 would see a return on our investment. And  
11 it's sad to see that that we would be  
12 making a mistake. Thank you.

13 (Applause).

14 MR. DETORA: My name is  
15 Dave Detora, D-E-T-O-R-A. I live at 14  
16 Lennox Ave., which is within half a mile  
17 of the Whirlaway and the Simone site.

18 My concern is mostly the safety.  
19 You have a major highway that abuts the  
20 Whirlaway site. You have the high tension  
21 power lines that abut and also cross over  
22 the Whirlaway site. And you have a large  
23 neighborhood with several hundred homes  
24 that abut the Whirlaway site.

1           And because of the highway, the two  
2           unique highways, the 215 and 495, the  
3           river, the high tension power lines, that  
4           neighborhood, or residential neighborhood,  
5           is enclosed, and there's only one way out,  
6           and that's 110, Merrimack Street, which  
7           the Whirlaway site is on. There's no  
8           other -- there's no other back roads or  
9           behind a neighborhood to get out. It's  
10          blocked off.

11           So in case of an emergency, both  
12          the Simone and the Whirlaway site would  
13          cause a huge evacuation problem. I have  
14          this in writing, and I will pass it over  
15          to you.

16                           (Applause).

17           MR. PECONOM: The next three  
18          individuals are Mr. Steven Rogers, Mr.  
19          Richard Rogers and Ms. Brenda Clark.

20           MR. STEVEN ROGERS: Good  
21          evening. Thank you. We've certainly been  
22          in contact a great deal with Burke and  
23          made our opinion very clear.

24           Our farm means an awful lot to our

1 family. My children, my oldest son worked  
2 every day with my father this past summer.  
3 It's something we do, not for the money  
4 and not for any other reason that that's  
5 -- it's our life. It's the way we choose  
6 to spend our time.

7 Our whole family basically lives on  
8 our street, and it's a lot to become a  
9 tremendously close family, especially in  
10 today's time when people are so mobile.

11 I hear, you know, in our  
12 discussions early on in this whole  
13 process, that we were certainly the  
14 primary site for a fair amount of time.  
15 There was arguments as to why it couldn't  
16 be at one site because there was some  
17 contamination there or another site because  
18 there were turtles and wetlands and so  
19 forth.

20 I mean, we're not dealing with  
21 companies that can't afford to do this.  
22 We're talking about the company --  
23 arguably the largest company in the world  
24 is Exxon/Mobil, and the 190th largest

1       company in the world, which is Duke  
2       Energy. Combined, they had sales last  
3       year -- of profits last year of almost 40  
4       million dollars. And I don't begrudge  
5       anybody from making profits, and that's  
6       why they're in business.

7                But I think that one of the things  
8       that this is -- this allows -- that FERC  
9       allows these two companies to put a gas  
10      pipeline in, not for the betterment of  
11      society, they're doing it for only one  
12      reason, and that's to make profit. They  
13      really aren't concerned about us as  
14      citizens; they're concerned about making a  
15      profit.

16               And the federal government allows  
17      for them to propose to take land in many  
18      different ways, whether it's by eminent  
19      domain and so forth. And I understand  
20      that when they put a pipeline in, that it  
21      has to go from point A to point B, it has  
22      to go through someone's property. I guess  
23      it has to be taken.

24               In our case, we are not a willing

1 seller. We are adamant about not selling  
2 our land. There are people that have  
3 expressed an interest in selling their  
4 land. I don't see how we could have our  
5 property taken -- potentially taken by  
6 eminent domain, which is the process that  
7 would absolutely have to happen in our  
8 case. I don't know where the argument  
9 would be that our place could be chosen  
10 over willing sellers.

11 And I think that, you know, when  
12 you think about the canyon site, the  
13 federal government is allowing these two  
14 companies to make a profit at their  
15 endeavor. Why isn't it a public good for  
16 them to have to clean up a contaminated  
17 site in order to use the contaminated  
18 site? Or -- I mean, that just, to me,  
19 seems like it's a win-win. I mean, I  
20 don't know if it would impact the  
21 neighbors. I can't speak for that,  
22 because I don't really know where that  
23 site is. But if it's contaminated, it's  
24 gotta be cleaned up by somebody, let them

1 clean it up, and then use the site. Then  
2 everybody benefits.

3 I think there was a little bit of  
4 a misunderstanding as well of the wood  
5 turtle issue. Wood turtles are not an  
6 endangered species. They're not recorded  
7 by the federal government as an endangered  
8 species. They are considered as a  
9 special concern.

10 There are 200 habitat sites  
11 identified in the state of Massachusetts  
12 for wood turtles, and I think that site --  
13 and, again, I'm not familiar with where  
14 that -- the boundaries are and how it  
15 impacts residents there, and I don't mean  
16 to put it in anybody else's jar, and  
17 that's not my intent.

18 But if that's (inaudible) site -- I  
19 talked to Ed two or three days ago. I  
20 told them I'd help him build bomb shelters  
21 for the wood turtles, or, you know, put  
22 some alarm systems in whatever, so if the  
23 thing's gonna blow, they can get under  
24 cover.

1           But I really think that, again, I  
2       don't know the site as far as the  
3       residents. But if it is a remote site,  
4       that certainly should warrant consideration  
5       more than next to people's homes and  
6       destroying their livelihoods if that indeed  
7       is the case. Thank you.

8                        (Applause).

9           MR. RICHARD ROGERS: My name  
10       is Richard Rogers, I live at 3 Ferry Road.  
11       I'm the Rogers from (inaudible) not from  
12       Haverhill. Although my ancestors were  
13       (inaudible) Robinson.

14                   Ferry Road. Have you heard of that  
15       street before? That's the access to the -  
16       - nice condominiums, The Landing  
17       condominiums, (inaudible) all of us. One  
18       exit out. In my front door -- actually,  
19       when I sit on my front steps many a  
20       nights, (inaudible), directly in the line  
21       of site is Simone farm stand. And if I  
22       understand it right, from the sketches in  
23       the back, this is exactly where they want  
24       to put these units and where they are.

1 My right side also looks directly at 495.

2 I look at 495 all the way to Westgate. I

3 sit here in the summer, in the fall and I

4 watch the traffic and I watch the cars.

5 It's a very beautiful place to live.

6 I guess I'm perplexed here why, if

7 this Commission is here to talk about

8 safety and economic and environmental

9 issues, we're putting in -- and if I

10 understand it right, one of the most

11 densely populated areas you can possibly

12 think of around here. And if I understand

13 it right also, it probably is one of the

14 -- the most -- if you go ten miles north,

15 you have Plaistow, you have New Hampshire.

16 I work on a house in New Hampshire. I

17 see the pipeline, and I see all of the

18 unused land that is really wide open. You

19 go over near Boxford, you go over near

20 (inaudible), places where there's not

21 populated.

22 We're talking about lines,

23 community. We're talking about the --

24 what I hope is an evaluation within line

1 of site of the Simone farm facility, it's  
2 roughly 30 to 50 million dollars in  
3 residential property values. You're  
4 putting that in there, it's gonna have a  
5 dramatic effect on many of the individuals  
6 here who have spoken tonight, on their  
7 personal lives.

8 The safety issues. I feel for  
9 Haverhill. I feel for Methuen. I feel  
10 for the roadway, the Rogers farm, the 495,  
11 wherever it may be. It doesn't seem to  
12 be reasonable. But obviously, business  
13 being business, it isn't reasonable. As a  
14 matter of fact, outside the individuals  
15 and personal concern, the National Grid,  
16 like you stood up, that's a corporation  
17 saying they have concerns. Although it's  
18 nothing to do with personal safety,  
19 personal losses or issues where  
20 environmental concerns (inaudible), they're  
21 worried about putting it in such an area  
22 that it's going to affect millions of  
23 customers of their service.

24 If I understand this right, the

1       pumping station has no benefit to the  
2       Merrimack Valley. It's to the south  
3       shorers, so we're thinking all the  
4       negatives of this, and the whole area is,  
5       to service somebody that is outside of the  
6       area because maybe there is some economic  
7       concern with the Maritime or the companies  
8       they're all working with to save a few  
9       dollars. It's so inappropriate, and I'm  
10      surprised it's gotten to this stage.

11                They have the hearings here. I  
12      didn't really go to the one that was in  
13      January, but March the 30th, I received  
14      this at my house. That happened to be  
15      how many days ago? And how am I supposed  
16      to react or all these people here? Some  
17      of us have been involved in it for a  
18      couple months now. I don't know where it  
19      goes, but I know we've had our share of  
20      fights and concerns in North Andover and  
21      the number of transfer stations and the  
22      number of trash stations and everything  
23      else that goes on, and it seems to be --  
24      for some reason the Merrimack Valley seems

1 to be drawn into this all the time, it  
2 seems to be a good site for anybody who  
3 wants to come in. (Inaudible). But they  
4 seem to get what they want, and this is  
5 just totally wrong and inappropriate, and  
6 there are thousands of lives on the line.

7 I know you said the safety records.  
8 I'm gonna count. I know numbers and I  
9 know stats. It takes one time. One  
10 time. And if anything was to happen, it  
11 doesn't affect the National Grid; it'll  
12 affect millions of people. So I vote for  
13 you to lose all the places and you go  
14 forward. This is nothing compared to  
15 what's gonna happen in the near future.  
16 Thank you.

17 (Applause).

18 MR. PECONOM: Did I call --  
19 I'm sorry, go ahead.

20 MR. RICHARD ROGERS: My name  
21 is Richard Rogers also. I don't know  
22 which one of us was supposed to talk, so  
23 we can both talk. I live at 133 Neck  
24 Road in Ward Hill. I own and operate

1 Rogers Spring Hill Farm. I'd like to take  
2 this opportunity to publicly thank everyone  
3 that's giving us support here in the last  
4 couple months.

5           Tonight was the first time that  
6 I've seen a detailed map of the proposed  
7 site, which is known as the Neck Road  
8 Rogers Farm Site. This site is in very  
9 close proximity to a lot of people. In  
10 fact, during the working day, it's going  
11 to take a lot of fertile, productive acres  
12 from our farm, which is highly utilized.  
13 Also to use this site, I would say they  
14 have to run the gas line, I guess, a  
15 double gas line approximately a quarter of  
16 a mile through more of our farm. It  
17 takes a lot of what you can farm and some  
18 things you can't grow over the gas line,  
19 like anything that's permanent; trees,  
20 apple trees, Christmas trees. So the  
21 overall affect would be -- it would be a  
22 big affect on the overall operation of our  
23 farm. Thank you.

24           MS. CLARK: My name is

1 Brenda Clark, no E.

2 As a resident of 538 Merrimack  
3 Street for six years, I've had the  
4 pleasure of living at (inaudible), finding  
5 the park's nature. As many have mentioned  
6 tonight, the bald eagles. Each winter,  
7 between November and March, several bald  
8 eagles have been attracted to our area of  
9 the Merrimack River, especially between  
10 (inaudible) which is Whirlaway, and the  
11 542 (inaudible) Street.

12 These eagles come to perch and eat  
13 from the river. On January 21st of this  
14 year, many neighbors, my daughter,  
15 strangers, and I were fortunate to see a  
16 bald eagle perched on one of the trees in  
17 front of our homes eating a fish. It was  
18 an amazing site to my daughter to witness  
19 something that usually can only be seen on  
20 the Nature channel. I've met several  
21 people who come from other towns to see  
22 the eagles on Merrimack Street in front of  
23 our homes. These eagles are a gift to  
24 us, and to see the population growing even

1 more is a gift. There are weeks when I'm  
2 seeing one or two eagles perched on the  
3 trees every day or two for two to three  
4 hours at a time.

5 My concern is (inaudible) will  
6 require the eagles to perch in another  
7 area. The pictures that I have provided  
8 and plan to give to you are of the eagles  
9 that I've taken in January.

10 The other thing I'm concerned about  
11 which goes with the traffic safety. Last  
12 summer we had a tractor-trailer truck who  
13 lost control of the truck because he was  
14 sipping coffee. It caught on fire, the  
15 guy had to jump off just to the bridge.  
16 If it was 3- to 500 feet back, it would  
17 be near some homes or on the wetland. I  
18 don't want it here. Thank you.

19 (Applause).

20 MR. PECONOM: Our next three  
21 individuals are Mr. Robert Thompson, Lee  
22 MacAlivis (phonetic) and Liz Rogers.

23 And after these individuals are  
24 done speaking, we can open it back up and

1 anybody else that wants to speak and go  
2 ahead and come forward now, because that  
3 was the end of the sign-up list. If  
4 anybody else is interested in making  
5 comments.

6 MS. ROGERS: My name is  
7 Elizabeth Rogers. My husband Richard and  
8 I own the Rogers Spring Hill Farm on 53  
9 Neck Road, Ward Hill.

10 First of all, I would like to thank  
11 all the people that have supported us in  
12 our fight to keep our farm. As many  
13 letters show, many residents in the  
14 Haverhill area value our farm as the  
15 important cultural and natural resource  
16 that it is.

17 As far as our family goes, this  
18 land has been in my husband's family for  
19 104 years. It is his heritage. We would  
20 like to pass this heritage down to our  
21 children.

22 Richard has spent all of his life  
23 on the farm. It is his life. If you  
24 take this land away from him, what is

1 going to happen to him?

2 We ask that Maritimes to remove  
3 Rogers Spring Hill Farm from the list.  
4 Thank you.

5 MR. WILSON: Tom Wilson, 10  
6 South Pearson Street, Ward Hill.

7 I wasn't going to talk tonight. I  
8 promised my wife I wouldn't. My name has  
9 been in the paper enough, and been on TV  
10 enough and on city council meetings here  
11 in Haverhill. But I just wanted to say a  
12 few things after hearing most of what  
13 everyone has been saying tonight.

14 And of course, John, you and I  
15 talked earlier tonight about issue. And  
16 one of the issues you had said to me was,  
17 we look not into just the environmental  
18 impact of the compression station, but the  
19 compression station on top of everything  
20 else that we have.

21 And I just wanted to say, although  
22 someone was just mentioning it, if you  
23 were to look at the maps that Maritimes  
24 has out back there, and you were to put a

1 pin in the Merrimack River between Spring  
2 Hill Farm and Simones Farm, and then draw  
3 a three-mile radius circle from there,  
4 what you would find is four towns; parts  
5 of Haverhill, parts of Methuen, parts of  
6 Lawrence, parts of North Andover. And  
7 although many things have changed in the  
8 past year or two, one of the things that  
9 we do know is that on the shores of the  
10 river, there are four to five trash  
11 burning facilities pumping who knows what  
12 chemicals into the air that we're  
13 breathing, whatever chemicals into the  
14 river itself or whatever else is going on.

15 Next to those lands -- next to  
16 those trash burning facilities are  
17 landfills, that are also on river's edge,  
18 putting whatever we know what going into  
19 the river.

20 If you were to sit there and say  
21 does -- is the compression station going  
22 to have a severe environmental impact on  
23 us? Maybe, maybe not. We don't know  
24 that until, of course, it's built.

1           But we've already got so many  
2       dumps, so many trash burning facilities,  
3       so many other ugly things within this  
4       little breach of an area of the Merrimack  
5       Valley. I think as you said earlier,  
6       enough is enough.

7           We just have too much to go right  
8       now. I think we're just becoming the  
9       dumping ground of the state of  
10      Massachusetts or the federal government,  
11      whichever way you want to look at it and  
12      how it goes.

13          And, you know, Steven Rogers was  
14      right, you know, they're powerful enough  
15      to put it anywhere they want, and we hear  
16      it from the city government, we hear it  
17      from the state government, we hear it from  
18      the federal government. All this stuff is  
19      for the good of the country, the good of  
20      the state, the good of the city. Tax  
21      dollars, whatever you want to call it,  
22      comes from the city politicians.

23          Now, when I was working with my kid  
24      the other day doing history lessons,

1       they're learning about the Constitution and  
2       all these other federal government  
3       documents in school and everything. And  
4       one of the things that you always saw in  
5       it was the federal government, state  
6       government, and city governments were  
7       designed for the good of the people, not  
8       for the good of the country, not for the  
9       good of the state, not for the good of  
10      the city, but for the good of the people.  
11      And everyone's concern is, yes, safety,  
12      this, this and this. We've done enough  
13      here. It's time that we find other places  
14      for it.

15             And I understand it has to be on  
16      this line. Why does it have to be in the  
17      Methuen and Haverhill area have never been  
18      told to us. They said oh, there's North  
19      Andover, there's Boxford, and that's that.  
20      He did not mention why specifically it has  
21      to be in Haverhill or Methuen.

22             And you know, I've read the  
23      document. These compression stations can  
24      be anywhere from 60 miles to 100 miles

1       apart from each other. Well, that's fine.  
2       60 miles, 100 -- that's a 40-mile leeway.  
3       Why can't it go 10 miles to the north in  
4       the desolate areas of some of the woods in  
5       New Hampshire, or two, three miles south  
6       to the big woods in Boxford or whatever's  
7       there?

8               I know there's a golf course there  
9       in Boxford, and I understand maybe there  
10      is some hills and some wetlands. But you  
11      know, it's not a densely populated area.  
12      And if we were to fight that, oh, we  
13      don't want it in a highly densely  
14      populated area, that's fine. If you guys  
15      in Maritimes are willing to put it in a  
16      densely populated, populated area, great.  
17      Pick another densely populated area.  
18      Because Haverhill, Methuen, North Andover,  
19      Lawrence have got enough garbage coming in  
20      and pumping out.

21             Do you really want to put it in  
22      another densely populated area? That's  
23      fine. Put it in Boston. Put it  
24      somewhere else that doesn't have the

1       spewing garbage that we've already been  
2       picking up for the last couple of decades,  
3       if that's what you really want to do.  
4       Put it in a densely populated -- put it  
5       another densely populated area. If it has  
6       to go in one of those areas, then pick  
7       something else, or at least ask them to  
8       look somewhere else in the desolated areas  
9       of New Hampshire.

10               I understand that we're the nearest  
11       one to this one coming in. We're in  
12       Massachusetts. The nearest one is in  
13       Maine. Why not New Hampshire? Why is  
14       New Hampshire left out of this? I  
15       understand maybe it's because there's a  
16       branch in Methuen where one section goes  
17       to Dracut or Lowell, and the other section  
18       goes down to Beverly. And, okay.  
19       Engineers should be able to tell us that  
20       it has to go here, specifically for this  
21       particular reason. But we've never been  
22       told that.

23               And, you know, people are asking  
24       earlier tonight, answers. Why can't we

1 get answers? We haven't gotten answers.

2 I was at the FERC meeting in January. I  
3 have read the letter that they replied  
4 back to us, and I read it going, this is  
5 just political talk. That's all it was.  
6 I didn't understand it. Not because I'm  
7 dumb, but it was all political talk.

8 I want the answers and at least  
9 tonight, I found out who's in charge of  
10 this, the Department of Transportation. I  
11 didn't want know what the standards were  
12 for these facilities or who was going to  
13 oversee what gets done. I didn't know if  
14 they were going to oversee themselves in  
15 the building of this property. Are they  
16 going to oversee their own protection? I  
17 didn't know of any of that until tonight.  
18 At least I found that the Department of  
19 Transportation is gonna make sure that the  
20 way they're building this, they're building  
21 it right. It's just one of those things.

22 And personally, I don't think it  
23 belongs anywhere in the Merrimack Valley,  
24 whether it's Methuen, Haverhill or

1       wherever, even Boston. It doesn't belong  
2       here. We've got enough stuff here that we  
3       have to deal with already. Put it  
4       somewhere that nothing else exists. Put  
5       it somewhere, you know, yeah, there's no  
6       turtles that we have to worry about. Just  
7       put it somewhere so far away that people  
8       and homes just don't ever have to see it  
9       or deal with it ever again, and that we  
10      don't have to breathe it. We're breathing  
11      enough stuff as it is in this section of  
12      the greater -- of the Merrimack Valley.  
13      Enough is enough. Thank you.

14                        (Applause).

15                       MR. PECONOM: Would anyone  
16      else like to speak at this time?

17                       UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just  
18      a follow up.

19                       There's been a lot of talk tonight  
20      about the Jaubuir site, that it's in some  
21      desolated area. The fact of the matter  
22      is, it's only a few hundred feet behind  
23      the Whirlaway site. It has all of the  
24      same problems, the Whirlaway sites has;

1 overhead power lines, proximity to Route  
2 495, further into the wetlands. It's not  
3 an acceptable site, and it obviously abuts  
4 our neighborhood. Thank you.

5 MR. PECONOM: I'd like to  
6 thank everybody for coming tonight. I  
7 appreciate all your comments. We  
8 certainly have a lot of them on the record  
9 tonight. We look forward to working with  
10 you in the future, and I hope you have a  
11 good night. I'll be around as well in  
12 the back to answer any questions. And  
13 thank you very much. Good night.

14 (Applause).

15 (Proceedings concluded at  
16 10:20 p.m.)

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1                   COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

2

3                   I, LAUREN SULLIVAN, A Professional

4 Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in

5 and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

6 do hereby certify that the witness whose

7 deposition is hereinbefore set forth was

8 duly sworn, and that such deposition is a

9 true record of the testimony given by the

10 witness.

11                   I further certify that I am neither

12 related to or employed by any of the

13 parties in or counsel to this action, nor

14 am I financially interested in the outcome

15 of this action.

16                   In witness whereof, I have hereunto set

17 my hand and seal this       day of

18 2006.

19

20

21

22                   Lauren Sullivan

23                   Notary Public

24

25                   My commission expires October 5, 2012