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BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF:           :  
SOUTHEAST SUPPLY           :  
HEADER, LLC                 :

Docket No.  
PF06-28-000

Hattiesburg Lake Terrace  
Convention Center  
One Convention Center Plaza  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39042

Tuesday, August 22, 2006

The above-entitled matter came on  
for public meeting, pursuant to notice at  
7:05 p.m.

MODERATOR: JOHN V. PECONOM, FERC

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APPEARANCES:

John V. Peconom, Environmental Biologist  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Scott Flickinger, Contractor  
Tetra Tech NUS  
900 Trail Ridge Road  
Aiken, South Carolina 29803

I N D E X

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1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MR. PECONOM: Good evening,  
3 everybody. On behalf of the Federal Energy  
4 Regulatory Commission I'd like to thank  
5 everybody for coming tonight. I guess, can  
6 everybody hear me in the back? Can y'all  
7 hear me?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Mm-hmm.

9 MR. PECONOM: Okay. Again, on  
10 behalf of the Federal Regulatory Energy  
11 Commission I'd like to thank y'all for  
12 coming tonight. My name is John Peconom,  
13 I'm a Biologist with the Federal Energy  
14 Regulatory Commission. I work in  
15 Washington, D.C.

16 The purpose of this meeting tonight  
17 is to -- to allow for an opportunity for  
18 the public to provide comments on the  
19 proposed Southeast Supply Header Project.  
20 I think many of you probably received in  
21 the mail a Notice of Intent to prepare an  
22 Environmental Impact Statement issued by  
23 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

24 The Southeast Supply Header Company  
25 has approached the Federal Energy

1 Regulatory Commission with a proposal to  
2 build a natural gas pipeline. They have  
3 requested to participate in our pre-filing  
4 process, which this meeting is a part of  
5 tonight. Tonight I'll attempt to and  
6 hopefully succeed at explaining the  
7 processes of how the Federal government  
8 reviews these projects. My goal is to give  
9 you the information so you can understand  
10 how we review these projects; some of the  
11 things that we look at, some of the things  
12 that are involved and how these processes  
13 work. I will attempt to answer any  
14 questions you have on the process. I know  
15 a lot of people are unfamiliar with natural  
16 gas pipeline projects, they don't come  
17 across your property every day, so this may  
18 be brand new to a lot of people.

19 After I explain the processes and  
20 try to clarify questions as best I can  
21 about the processes, I'd like to open up  
22 the meeting for people's comments. And  
23 tonight what we're looking for in comments  
24 is we want to know what you're concerned  
25 about. If you have a safety concern, you

1 know, it would great if you could say to  
2 us, "we're concerned about safety." And  
3 what we'll do is we'll take all these  
4 comments and these concerns and these  
5 issues, and we will take them with us back  
6 to Washington and make sure that we address  
7 them in our review of this project.

8           Because this project is in the  
9 beginning of the pre-filing process --  
10 which I'll talk about a little bit later --  
11 I don't have a lot of specific answers  
12 tonight. What I can do, though, is make  
13 sure that I ask all the questions in the  
14 review process. So, your comments will  
15 help me and help others working with us to,  
16 you know, to answer those questions. So,  
17 if you're concerned about water bodies,  
18 you're concerned about wetlands, if you're  
19 concerned about safety, impacts to your  
20 residence, air quality, all those kinds of  
21 things are the things that we're looking --  
22 (Whereupon, a cell phone rang.)

23           MR. PECONOM: I guess that's a good  
24 note. If you have your cell phone on, can  
25 you please turn it on vibrate or off,

1 please.

2 I guess, before we go further I'd  
3 like to introduce Scott Flickinger who's  
4 sitting next to me here. He works with  
5 Tetra Tech, an environmental consulting  
6 firm that's assisting us with our review of  
7 the project.

8 You may have seen several Southeast  
9 Supply Header employees in the back. We've  
10 asked them here tonight to answer some of  
11 your questions. We've asked them to give a  
12 presentation of the project to help us all  
13 understand a little bit better. We'll ask  
14 one of their representatives of the company  
15 to come up later to kind of explain the  
16 project.

17 Because of the nature of this  
18 meeting and because of time constraints we  
19 will not -- I have asked them not to take  
20 questions. We want to stay focused on the  
21 comment portion of this meeting. However,  
22 they will be available in the back to  
23 answer questions if you have them after the  
24 meeting.

25 As you walked in in the back, you

1 probably saw a couple of sign-in sheets;  
2 one for speakers or people interested in  
3 making comments for the record. I should  
4 point out that we have a court reporter  
5 here with us tonight who will record all of  
6 our comments and your comments and the  
7 things that I'm saying here to put them on  
8 the public record which will be available  
9 for your review in a week or two. We have  
10 the court reporter here to make sure that  
11 we get everybody's concerns down correctly.  
12 Sometimes people can take notes and do them  
13 incorrectly and we want them here to make  
14 sure that everything is in the record and  
15 your concerns are heard.

16 I think what I'll do now is go  
17 ahead and just kind of explain the process  
18 of how the government reviews these  
19 projects. As I said before, the Southeast  
20 Supply Header Project has approached us  
21 about building a natural gas pipeline that  
22 runs from Delhi, Louisiana down to Coden,  
23 Alabama. They have asked and we have given  
24 them our agreement to work with them on  
25 what we call our pre-filing process.

1           The pre-filing process is a  
2           generally six-month process where we work  
3           with the company, landowners affected by  
4           the project, federal agencies, state  
5           agencies that regulate these resources, and  
6           we try to get everybody together and talk  
7           about this project. The project right now  
8           is in the very preliminary stage. They've  
9           been with us in the pre-filing process for  
10          about two months, which means we have --  
11          well, it's been a little longer than three  
12          months, excuse me. They're working with us  
13          and yourselves to kind of define how this  
14          project will go.

15                 If you can imagine a pipeline  
16          route, the pre-filing process is designed  
17          to hear the people's comments so the  
18          pipeline route can change if necessary. If  
19          there's concerns about wetlands, we can  
20          move around a wetland. If there is a  
21          better place to put it, we want to put it  
22          there. The goal of the pre-filing process  
23          is to minimize impacts and to get people  
24          involved early.

25                 Before we had the pre-filing

1 process, an application would be filed with  
2 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
3 and people were kind of surprised by it.  
4 They were concerned that they weren't  
5 consulted earlier and asked their opinions  
6 and their concerns about the projects. So,  
7 the pre-filing process is designed to get  
8 everybody involved.

9 Typically how the pre-filing  
10 process begins is a company will come to us  
11 with a proposal. They'll ask us to  
12 participate in the pre-filing process.  
13 We'll say yes, you know, we'd like to  
14 participate in that process. We'll ask  
15 other agencies to participate in that  
16 process with us, and we'll begin to send  
17 out notices to yourselves and people  
18 potentially affected by the project.

19 The Southeast Supply Header, LLC  
20 sponsored some open houses about a month  
21 ago, and I think some of you may have  
22 participated in them then. That is a part  
23 of the pre-filing process. It's their  
24 opportunity to kind of introduce the  
25 project and give you an idea of what's

1 going on. We work with them and here we  
2 are tonight to kind of hear your comments  
3 on the project now that you've had a little  
4 time to think about it and now that they've  
5 done some work on it.

6 Other requirements of the pre-  
7 filing process is we'll be meeting with the  
8 agencies. Tomorrow we'll be meeting with  
9 some of the Mississippi State agencies and  
10 some of the Federal agencies that regulate  
11 resources. We try to talk to everybody as  
12 much as we can. We have weekly conference  
13 calls. We do a lot of things to make sure  
14 we get people's concerns addressed.

15 As part of the pre-filing process,  
16 we also work with the company to prepare  
17 resource reports. Resource reports are  
18 what we will use to make our environmental  
19 analysis. I can talk a little bit about  
20 those more later, but that's what the  
21 survey crews you see coming to your  
22 property are doing, they're seeing what's  
23 out there, they're putting together --  
24 putting all that information together in  
25 reports to submit to us. We'll take that

1 information, we'll review it, we'll ask  
2 some questions, we'll work with the  
3 agencies to make sure all their concerns  
4 are addressed. We'll make sure that your  
5 comments and concerns are addressed in  
6 those resource reports. We'll take that  
7 information and prepare an Environmental  
8 Impact Statement.

9 I guess, let me take a step back  
10 because I want to give you an idea of where  
11 we get our authority from. The Federal  
12 Energy Regulatory Commission is given  
13 authority over the construction of natural  
14 gas pipeline projects across state lines.  
15 Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act gives us  
16 that authority. We also work under several  
17 other regulations and laws; the Endangered  
18 Species Act, the National Historic  
19 Preservation Act, the Endangered -- the  
20 National Environmental Policy Act are all  
21 these laws that we work with to -- to  
22 authorize one of these projects.

23 After the pre-filing process is  
24 complete, the company will file a formal  
25 application with us. And then that

1 application will have the resource reports,  
2 which are the results of their surveys.  
3 They'll have any other information that  
4 we've requested from them. We will take  
5 that application, we'll review it, and  
6 we'll prepare what we call a Draft  
7 Environmental Impact Statement. An  
8 Environmental Impact Statement is a review  
9 -- our independent review of the project.

10 So, we'll look to see if they have  
11 addressed water bodies. We'll look to see  
12 if they've addressed ground water. We'll  
13 look at recreation, residences, vegetation,  
14 land use, alternatives to the pipeline,  
15 alternatives to the project. We'll look at  
16 the location, land requirements, safety,  
17 the liability, operation aspects. There's  
18 a lot of -- a lot of things we cover in the  
19 Environmental Impact Statement. The goal  
20 of that is to understand what's going to  
21 happen and what results could come from  
22 that construction project.

23 Once we prepare a Draft  
24 Environmental Impact Statement, we will  
25 issue that to the public for their review

1 to make sure that we've covered everything.  
2 You'll have an opportunity to look at it  
3 then. We will also have another comment  
4 meeting so if we've missed something or you  
5 disagree with something, you can present  
6 that information to us. After we have  
7 those meetings, we'll prepare a Final  
8 Environmental Impact Statement.

9 The Final Environmental Impact  
10 Statement will be issued and will be used  
11 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
12 to determine whether or not to authorize  
13 the project. Obviously, with a project  
14 like this there are environmental concerns,  
15 there are engineering concerns, there's a  
16 lot of different things that are  
17 considered. The environmental aspect is  
18 just one of many. My job here tonight as  
19 the project biologist is to make sure that  
20 we address the environmental concerns and  
21 to analyze the potential impacts to the  
22 environment from the construction and  
23 operation of this project.

24 That is essentially the processes  
25 that we use. Did I cover everything,

1 Scott, in terms of the process?

2 MR. FLICKINGER: Yes.

3 MR. PECONOM: What I'd like to do  
4 now -- and I kind of went through that  
5 quickly and I understand that I may have  
6 -- there may be some questions. I want to  
7 take a couple questions on the process of  
8 the project and how we review these things;  
9 the dates and time lines and things that we  
10 look at. If you have questions about the  
11 project, specifically about what's going to  
12 happen to my trees or what's going to  
13 happen to the pond in my yard, if you can  
14 hold on to those 'til the later part of the  
15 meeting where we'll focus on those a little  
16 bit more. I just want to make sure  
17 everyone understands how we review these  
18 projects from the beginning to the end and  
19 how all this kind of fits together.

20 So, if somebody had a question  
21 about the process I'd be happy to answer  
22 that now. Just feel free to kind of raise  
23 your hand or shout it out. I want to  
24 understand -- I want to make sure everyone  
25 understands how we review these projects.

1 (Whereupon, a member of the audience raises  
2 his hand.)

3 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

4 MR. BATTLE: Two questions.

5 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

6 MR. BATTLE: How many proposals  
7 have reached the preferred process point,  
8 this point in the application process to  
9 FERC that have been approved and then how  
10 many declined?

11 MR. PECONOM: Let me see if I  
12 understand the question: How many pre-  
13 filing processes have we had?

14 MR. BATTLE: In other words, let's  
15 just say that 50 companies have come to  
16 FERC and requested approval or declination  
17 in their process to proceed. In other  
18 words, 50 oil companies came to you and  
19 said we want this permission. How many in  
20 the last 30 years, 25 years, have you  
21 approved and how many have been declined,  
22 and how many have been approved with  
23 significant changes, or where will we find  
24 that type of information?

25 MR. PECONOM: I do not have those

1 specific numbers, but I will go ahead and  
2 try to give you the best answer --

3 MR. BATTLE: Sure.

4 MR. PECONOM: -- I can here. We  
5 get several hundred applications for  
6 various pipeline facilities every year. It  
7 could be as small as two or three miles, it  
8 could be as large as 400 miles. There's  
9 all sorts of different pipeline facilities  
10 that we regulate. So, there are hundreds  
11 of those every year. And some years  
12 there's not as many and some years there's  
13 more. It's a -- It goes up and down. It's  
14 a variable number.

15 How many projects are not approved?  
16 I do not know the exact number there, but I  
17 will say a large majority of the projects  
18 are approved. However, these projects are  
19 not necessarily approved as proposed. So,  
20 in my experience, several projects have  
21 come in with a preferred route or a  
22 preferred way of doing things, and with  
23 working with other agencies and landowners  
24 and whatnot, we have changed -- we have had  
25 the companies change the projects.

1                   MR. BATTLE:  Where would one get  
2 information of that type?

3                   MR. PECONOM:  I think the best  
4 place to find that information is --  
5 actually, there's a couple numbers in these  
6 handouts that were available in the back.  
7 And if you didn't get one let me know, I  
8 can see if I can find another one or two.

9                   MR. BATTLE:  They were out.

10                  MR. PECONOM:  Okay.  You can have  
11 mine.  But, I want to point out I think  
12 everyone -- or hopefully, enough people  
13 picked up the two handouts we had in the  
14 back.  The first one is "Interstate Natural  
15 Gas Facility on My Land:  What Do I Need to  
16 Know?"  There's very basic questions out  
17 there.  This does a very good job, in my  
18 opinion, answering those questions.  Some  
19 of the information that I think you're  
20 looking for is probably in here.

21                   There's also another handout which  
22 is "Your Guide to Electronic Information at  
23 FERC."  So, for those of you that are  
24 computer savvy and have internet  
25 connections and access, you can look up a

1 lot of information on the projects on line.  
2 This kind of explains how to do that. The  
3 website would be a good place to start.

4 There's also a number for External  
5 Affairs at the Federal Energy Regulatory  
6 Commission in both of these handouts that  
7 you can contact to find out specific  
8 information.

9 For those of you that have this  
10 "Guide to Electronic Information at FERC,"  
11 I want to point out on the back there's a  
12 little space that says, "Your Project  
13 Docket Number Is," the project docket  
14 number for this particular project is PF-  
15 06-28. And what the project number is it's  
16 the number we use internally at FERC to  
17 collect all the information. Everything  
18 that we issue, everything that's submitted  
19 to the Commission, all the information,  
20 reports, letters, is all put into our  
21 system, our public system and you can find  
22 all that under PF-06-28.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Would you  
24 repeat that number a little bit slower,  
25 please?

1                   MR. PECONOM: Yes, ma'am, I'm  
2                   sorry. It's P as in Paul, F as in Frank,  
3                   06-28-000. This handout explains how to  
4                   access the FERC website and walks you  
5                   through the steps of how to find this  
6                   information. The FERC website, if you  
7                   didn't get one of these handouts, is  
8                   www.ferc.gov, f-e-r-c.g-o-v. And for those  
9                   of you that are computer savvy, I think our  
10                  system does a really good job of having  
11                  that information available. It takes a few  
12                  minutes to get through it, but a lot of  
13                  it's there. You can look at other projects  
14                  that have been approved, some of the  
15                  modifications made to them. You can look  
16                  at other things that are out there and, if  
17                  you have some time, really understand what  
18                  goes on.

19                 MR. BATTLE: One final question --

20                 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

21                 MR. BATTLE: In the process on Page  
22                  2 it states that, "The pipeline company  
23                  would seek to negotiate a mutually  
24                  acceptable agreement. However, if the  
25                  project is approved by the FERC," which is

1       you gentlemen, "that approval conveys the  
2       right of eminent domain." What statutes  
3       that I can go to grant that empowerment to  
4       the FERC?

5                   MR PECONOM: The statute number and  
6       the exact location --

7                   MR. BATTLE: Sure.

8                   MR. PECONOM: -- I do not know,  
9       however, I can try to address this question  
10      a little bit because this is part of the  
11      process.

12                  MR. BATTLE: Right. Exactly. It's  
13      a major part of the process.

14                  MR. PECONOM: It is. It's a  
15      concern for a lot of people.

16                  MR. BATTLE: Sure.

17                  MR. PECONOM: The United States  
18      Congress have given the Federal Energy  
19      Regulatory Commission, the group I work  
20      for, the power of eminent domain to  
21      construct natural gas pipeline projects  
22      that cross interstate lines. When we  
23      authorize a project, after the  
24      Commissioners have voted yes or no whether  
25      or not to approve the project -- and,

1 Scott, you'll correct me if I  
2 mischaracterize this -- we allow pipeline  
3 companies to use that authority to take the  
4 land, if necessary. Now, I shouldn't say  
5 "take the land," that's -- that's the wrong  
6 word and I apologize because I --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: No, no,  
8 no, no, you're right. Hey, you're right.

9 MR. BATTLE: We'll let you err in  
10 judgment there --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: You erred  
12 in judgment, but that's a good way to  
13 explain.

14 MR. BATTLE: At least he didn't say  
15 "confiscate."

16 MR. PECONOM: And I think the  
17 question's in here. However, they can't  
18 just take it. I mean, no one can take your  
19 property from you. They -- companies and  
20 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
21 included, need to give you fair market  
22 value for that property. It's been my  
23 experience with these projects that no one  
24 wants to -- these companies don't want to  
25 use their eminent domain authority. They

1 don't want to use that from us. It's a  
2 very expensive way to go. They would like  
3 to work with landowners as much as  
4 possible. However, as stated in the Notice  
5 of Intent, that is -- we do have that  
6 authority.

7 MR. BATTLE: Well, that's -- where  
8 would one find the statute? And then it  
9 also mentions that -- I'm just citing here  
10 that, um, "would initiate condemnation  
11 proceedings in accordance with the state  
12 law." So, I'm assuming that's the state  
13 law of Mississippi, not the state law where  
14 the corporation is domiciled?

15 MR. PECONOM: Yes, it is. In this  
16 handout on Page 15 you'll see that the very  
17 last question on that page talks a little  
18 bit about eminent domain.

19 MR. BATTLE: Does it cite the  
20 statute?

21 MR. PECONOM: Actually, I think it  
22 does here. It says "Section 7H of the  
23 Natural Gas Act and procedures set forth  
24 under the Federal Rules of Civil  
25 Procedure."

1 MR. BATTLE: Oh, great. Thank you.

2 MR. PECONOM: And I'll give you  
3 mine so you can have that to review.

4 MR. BATTLE: All right. Thank you.

5 MR. PECONOM: Does anybody else  
6 have a question on the process, about how  
7 we review these things and some of the  
8 things involved with the process?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: What  
10 happened to a one-time payment to the  
11 landowner? The Federal government wouldn't  
12 allow the landowner to receive, like, a  
13 levy from that point on since it's going to  
14 be in use across the landowner's property  
15 even though the landowner doesn't really  
16 want it to be there?

17 MR. PECONOM: The Federal  
18 government does not get involved with  
19 negotiations between the landowner and the  
20 pipeline company. And to be honest, I'm a  
21 biologist and I'm not the most familiar  
22 with that issue. However, I can get to you  
23 after the meeting and find out a little bit  
24 more about that for you. And I think some  
25 of the SESH representatives are here

1 afterwards and they can probably answer  
2 your question on that and -- that's  
3 something I would like to point out earlier  
4 was that SESH representatives are here and  
5 will be available in the back of the room  
6 afterwards to answer specific questions you  
7 might have.

8                   And I want to give you an answer to  
9 your question as best I can. I honestly  
10 don't know and we'll talk to you after and  
11 make sure I can get you that information.  
12 And if you've got questions I want to  
13 answer them as best I can. So, please, if  
14 you do have any questions on the process,  
15 feel free to ask them. If you think of  
16 them later go ahead and catch me after the  
17 meeting, we can talk a little bit about the  
18 process then.

19                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: If they go  
20 through your property like that do they put  
21 you out that way you can't use all the gas  
22 you want?

23                   MR. PECONOM: What we'll do now  
24 since we've gone through the kind of  
25 process -- and I hope everyone's

1 comfortable with it, and if they have  
2 questions later they can ask me -- what I'd  
3 like to do now is ask a representative of  
4 SESH to come up and give us a little more  
5 information about the project and what  
6 they're proposing to do. Mr. Paul Groskoff  
7 with the Southeast Supply Header, LLC is  
8 going to give us just a brief presentation.  
9 Again, as I said before, we've asked them  
10 to not take questions because we'll -- this  
11 meeting is our meeting here to take your  
12 comments and concerns. However, they will  
13 be available in the back after the meeting  
14 to answer questions you may have.

15 MR. GROSKOFF: Thanks, John.  
16 Again, my name is Paul Groskoff, I'm the  
17 Project Director for the Southeast Supply  
18 Header Project. What I'd like to do is  
19 tell you a little bit about the project and  
20 where we're at in the process that John has  
21 just described.

22 The Southeast Supply Header Project  
23 is approximately a 270-mile, 36-inch  
24 pipeline that traverses from Delhi,  
25 Louisiana to Coden, Alabama. The purpose

1 of the project is to bring gas from the  
2 domestic new gas supplies that have been --  
3 that are being drilled in East Texas and  
4 North Louisiana and bring those gas  
5 supplies to the southeast markets as well  
6 as to the multiple pipelines that we'll  
7 interconnect with in the state of  
8 Mississippi.

9 So, the project right now, as John  
10 has indicated, is in the FERC pre-filing  
11 process. We have proceeded with developing  
12 the initial resource reports which provide  
13 information on the route, provide  
14 information on the environment that we  
15 cross on the proposed route, and provide  
16 that information to the Federal Energy  
17 Regulatory Commission and their contractors  
18 for them to go ahead and do the evaluation  
19 on that.

20 The way we get the information, or  
21 gather the information, is a process in  
22 which -- that y'all have been to some  
23 degree involved with where we will do an  
24 initial determination of a route corridor  
25 that we would like to, um -- we would like

1 the pipeline to cross. Once we do that we  
2 then determine what landowners are involved  
3 in that corridor, contact those landowners  
4 to seek permission to gain access to the  
5 property in which to conduct several  
6 surveys.

7 The first of the surveys is a civil  
8 survey for establishing a -- actually a  
9 corridor that we would -- we need to  
10 investigate. The second type of survey is  
11 an environmental survey where we will look  
12 at the -- um, we'll do -- we'll have  
13 environmentalists go through there and  
14 investigate to determine if there are  
15 wetlands, if they -- what type of land use  
16 it is; is it forested, is it pasture land,  
17 and they'll develop reports on that. We'll  
18 have another set of survey individuals that  
19 come across there that are looking for  
20 archeological artifacts or historic  
21 information that the proposed route may  
22 cross. Looking for, for instance, arrow  
23 heads, civil war or other historic  
24 artifacts that are structures that need to  
25 be preserved or avoided. They will do an

1 investigation of that proposed route  
2 looking for those types of -- those type of  
3 -- evidence of those types of sites.

4 So, then all that has to be then  
5 taken into a report and provided in to, as  
6 I indicated, to the Federal Energy  
7 Regulatory Commission. Once they do the  
8 determination of whether or not this is --  
9 what the environmental impacts are, then  
10 our representatives will come back to the  
11 landowners and actually determine the  
12 actual final location of the pipeline. And  
13 at that time we would be in the process of  
14 negotiating an easement to locate the  
15 facility across the land. We have not --  
16 We have not got to that point of the  
17 project. That is one of the future phases.

18 At this time we have just now  
19 completed the three surveys that I've  
20 indicated and are in the process of  
21 developing our reports.

22 John, that's our status of the  
23 project. As far as schedules on the  
24 project, our intent is to actually file the  
25 actual application with the Federal Energy

1 Regulatory Commission in November of this  
2 year. Following the -- providing that the  
3 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
4 approves the application, our plans would  
5 be to begin construction of the facility in  
6 late 2007 and have the facility completed  
7 by mid-year 2008.

8 MR. PECONOM: Before I ask for  
9 people's comments, I wanted to add to some  
10 of the project description I gave earlier  
11 and reiterate a few things. Currently  
12 right now we are in the pre-filing process  
13 which means nothing has been finalized.  
14 There's no proposal out there other than  
15 the very basic one. And what the pre-  
16 filing process is designed to do is to get  
17 people's feedback and input so that we can  
18 make changes to the project.

19 Our goal is to minimize impacts of  
20 proposed projects. As a government  
21 regulator I work for all of you, and I also  
22 work for companies, and I also work for the  
23 environmental resources that are out there.  
24 So, what we try to do is balance out  
25 everybody's interests and concerns and it's

1 a tough thing to do sometimes. However, I  
2 want you to know that we do look out for  
3 everybody's -- or we try our best to look  
4 out for everybody's concerns and interests.

5 The pre-filing process is -- as  
6 Paul stated, will go on 'til November. So,  
7 this is the time now to kind of raise your  
8 concerns and your issues. Once they file  
9 an application we will still review what  
10 they've submitted and you'll still have  
11 opportunities to comment.

12 For those of you here tonight that  
13 do not want to speak, I encourage you to  
14 write a letter, to send an e-mail, let us  
15 know what your comments or concerns are.  
16 Both of these handouts, as well as the NOI  
17 that you should have received in the mail,  
18 highlight ways to contact the Federal  
19 Energy Regulatory Commission; U.S. Mail,  
20 electronic mail are the two best ways, most  
21 commonly used ways to get us comments. The  
22 comments you have tonight will be on the  
23 record and put into our record system.

24 As I said earlier, there will be  
25 multiple opportunities to comment on the

1 project. This isn't the only time that you  
2 can let your concerns be known. I know  
3 when I go to meetings a lot of times I  
4 listen and it takes me a little while to  
5 process what I've been told. So, it's -- I  
6 often make comments the next day or have  
7 questions the next day. So, I fully expect  
8 and encourage everyone to send in comments.

9 Yes, ma'am?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: I have a  
11 question. He said they completed the three  
12 surveys as far as archeological, land and  
13 water and all that, all we've seen or  
14 talked to is people that's walked through  
15 to get a layout of where the line's going  
16 to go. We hadn't seen or talked to anybody  
17 else about them completing that. How have  
18 they completed it if we hadn't seen them?

19 MR. PECONOM: I can talk a little  
20 bit about surveys and how that fits in the  
21 process and that's one of the initial  
22 things that a company will do when they  
23 decide to build a project -- propose to  
24 build a project, I should say. They'll do  
25 three types of surveys. I don't know the

1       specifics of when the survey crews go  
2       through. I believe they contact -- they  
3       should have contacted affected landowners  
4       about these surveys and then they'll go  
5       through and use that information to provide  
6       us the resource reports.

7                I think your question might be --  
8       they might be able to answer your question  
9       directly after the meeting, but I don't  
10      know when these things specifically  
11      occurred. However, I do know those surveys  
12      do occur to provide us information we need  
13      to analyze the impacts to the environment.

14               Earlier I used the term  
15      "Environmental Impact Statement," and I  
16      don't think I did a very good job of  
17      explaining that. The National  
18      Environmental Policy Act requires that all  
19      federal actions or projects approved by the  
20      Federal government do a thorough  
21      environmental analysis. The Environmental  
22      Impact Statement is that analysis. We look  
23      at, as I said before, wetlands, water  
24      bodies, safety, air quality, noise,  
25      alternatives. I think all those things

1       were highlighted in the Notice of Intent;  
2       recreation, impacts to the economy, so  
3       there's a whole suite of things we look at.  
4       And here it is in the NOI, it's geology,  
5       water resources, wetlands and vegetation,  
6       fish and wildlife, threatened and  
7       endangered species, land use, air quality,  
8       archeological sites, reliability and  
9       safety, these are all the things that we  
10      look at in the project. As the biologist I  
11      look at all the biological impacts of the  
12      project.

13                        We use the information provided by  
14      the company as well as our consultations  
15      with the federal agencies, the state  
16      agencies and individuals like yourselves to  
17      make sure that all the information is  
18      there. We take that, we look at it, we  
19      prepare an Environmental Impact Statement  
20      which -- which is our report essentially on  
21      the impact of -- the potential impacts of  
22      the project. Again, the Commission will  
23      use that document to decide whether or not  
24      to approve the project.

25                        UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Do they

1 have a time line?

2 MR. PECONOM: Yes. The pre-filing  
3 process generally runs six months, which is  
4 where we're at now. Once the pre-filing  
5 process is complete there is -- the formal  
6 application is filed, which is around  
7 November, beginning of November. From that  
8 point, in approximately four months, we  
9 will prepare our Draft Environmental Impact  
10 Statement. At that point we'll issue that  
11 for public review and have initial meetings  
12 to hear people's concerns and comments  
13 about that document. Four months after  
14 that we will issue a Final Environmental  
15 Impact Statement which takes into  
16 consideration all the comments that we  
17 heard on the draft.

18 The Commission will then take  
19 another month or two generally to -- to  
20 decide how to -- whether or not to approve  
21 the project. So, there's quite a bit of  
22 time left in this process and there's quite  
23 a bit of time for comments and changes and  
24 your concerns to be expressed.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: How far

1 are them things allowed to be to a house?

2 How close?

3 MR. PECONOM: The proximity to  
4 residences -- and that is actually in the  
5 NOI here, the handout, it's on Page 7 -- it  
6 varies from project to project depending on  
7 what happens there. I can tell you we  
8 definitely look at impacts to residences.  
9 That's one of the things that we look at in  
10 the Environmental Impact Statement. Nobody  
11 wants a pipeline going through the middle  
12 of their house. We don't want pipelines  
13 going to schools, you know. We look at a  
14 lot of different things to make sure that  
15 we minimize impacts as much as possible.  
16 So, as I said, that's something we'll look  
17 at.

18 I don't have specific answers  
19 tonight because the information's still  
20 being developed. They just completed their  
21 surveys. Tomorrow we meet with state  
22 agencies and make sure that we hear their  
23 concerns and ask questions about what  
24 they're concerned about.

25 As information becomes available it

1 will be in the public record which I spoke  
2 about earlier, on the internet.

3 Yes, sir?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: We're at  
5 the point where we're expressing concerns  
6 now?

7 MR. PECONOM: In about one minute.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Oh.

9 MR. PECONOM: I just wanted to wrap  
10 up and make sure I explained the process as  
11 best I could. It's an important part and I  
12 want to make sure everyone understands it.  
13 Again, I'll be available afterward.

14 Yes, sir?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 8: Will we be  
16 able to -- the ones that didn't get  
17 handouts can we get handouts before we  
18 leave?

19 MR. PECONOM: I believe so. I  
20 think we have some more in the car. And if  
21 I don't have handouts they're available on  
22 our website, and I can get you one in the  
23 mail as well, give me your address  
24 afterwards.

25 MR. FLICKINGER: Why don't you mark

1 -- if you don't get one -- I don't believe  
2 we have any more of these, but we'll check.  
3 If you don't get one just meet the young  
4 woman who was doing the sign-in, just have  
5 her put a star next to your name and we'll  
6 make sure that we get one of these out to  
7 you unless you have internet access. This  
8 is available on the internet, not quite in  
9 the glossy fashion.

10 MR. PECONOM: Okay. Does anybody  
11 else have questions on the process, some of  
12 the things that we look at and review?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Is there  
14 any concerns about functioning oil well,  
15 maybe an abandoned oil well they might  
16 could get back in? Is there a distance you  
17 have to be from that oil well that's  
18 abandoned and can possibly be dropped back  
19 into service again?

20 MR. PECONOM: We'll look at oil  
21 wells, mining operations, water supply  
22 wells, all those things we'll look at in  
23 our analysis -- septic systems, things like  
24 that will all be included in our  
25 Environmental Impact Statement.

1                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Is there a  
2 distance from that well that the pipeline  
3 has to be that you know of? Or who could I  
4 talk to to find out?

5                   MR. PECONOM: We can ask the  
6 representatives after the meeting if they  
7 know. I know it varies from state to  
8 state. There's different regulations. I'd  
9 have to check with the regulations here in  
10 Mississippi. And that's a good comment,  
11 and actually that's the kind of comments  
12 we're looking for is you're concerned  
13 about, you know, oil resources that may be  
14 in close proximity to the project. That's  
15 something that we need to make sure that we  
16 look at.

17                   I mean, we will -- there's a lot of  
18 things that we already look at and there's  
19 some things that, you know, maybe I don't  
20 know to look at and that's one of the  
21 things that I'd like to know. As I said, I  
22 don't live in Mississippi, I'm in  
23 Washington. I'm responsible for reviewing  
24 this project so that's why I'm down here,  
25 to listen to what you folks are concerned

1 with and make sure that we cover that.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: Are any of  
3 our Mississippi representatives here?

4 MR. PECONOM: Well, we're having a  
5 meeting tomorrow with the state agencies  
6 and the federal agencies that work for  
7 y'all in Jackson. So, we'll be meeting  
8 with the Fish and Wildlife Service --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: I was  
10 hoping -- I was wondering if there were any  
11 here.

12 MR. PECONOM: I don't believe -- I  
13 don't believe they're here tonight, but  
14 we'll be meeting with quite a few of them,  
15 six or seven agencies total tomorrow to  
16 kind of touch on their concerns.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: What would  
18 be their names; do you know?

19 MR. PECONOM: I have a list of the  
20 individual contacts I have and, um, I can  
21 -- I have that list somewhere here.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Will that  
23 be part of the record?

24 MR. PECONOM: It'll be part of the  
25 record, yeah. It'll be available on the

1 record.

2 Process question? I thought I saw  
3 somebody in the back.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 10: Yes, sir.  
5 When and how are we going to find out the  
6 precise course this line is intended to  
7 take?

8 MR. PECONOM: As I said before, in  
9 the pre-filing process there's a certain  
10 amount of movement around that's going on  
11 as we try to find the best possible route.  
12 When the company files their application  
13 around November 1st, they will have a  
14 preferred -- a proposal in there and that's  
15 where they'll say this is what we'd like to  
16 do, so that will be the preferred route.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 10: You know,  
18 nobody here can comment one way or another  
19 about the project tonight without knowing  
20 where the line's intended to go.

21 MR. PECONOM: Well, there's a line  
22 out there right now. Now, is that line set  
23 in stone? No. It's a corridor, I should  
24 say, where the line will go.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 10: I don't

1 know where it is and this lady said she  
2 didn't know where it is. Where -- How do  
3 we find out where it is?

4 MR. PECONOM: I think the best  
5 thing to do is ask some of the  
6 representatives here after the meeting  
7 where they're looking at the pipeline right  
8 now and we'll know that --

9 MR. FLICKINGER: He's got a general  
10 depiction on that map, and if you're in  
11 close proximity then ask one of these  
12 company representatives.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 10: Do they  
14 have maps that have the lines drawn on  
15 them?

16 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 10: They have  
18 ownership maps showing how it crosses  
19 different ownerships?

20 MR. PECONOM: Yes, sir.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 10: Why are  
22 those not out here where we can see them?

23 MR. PECONOM: They're under  
24 development. They're working on them.  
25 They will be provided in the application.

1 That's one of the things that we look at.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 10: But by  
3 then it's too late.

4 MR. FLICKINGER: No, it's not. You  
5 have -- You have another period to comment  
6 once the Draft EIS is put out.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: They  
8 actually had an open house earlier in the  
9 year. The people that headed the last  
10 meeting had the maps out where we can  
11 actually see them. They contacted us and  
12 actually make a corridor where they were  
13 going to go with it.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 10: I think  
15 my invitation got lost in the mail.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: They can  
17 give you a copy of the map.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: It's my  
19 understanding -- did they not give you an  
20 invitation if it was going to cross your  
21 land to come to the open house?

22 MR. PECONOM: Part of the open  
23 house process is potentially affected  
24 landowners should have received an  
25 invitation to attend the open house. I

1 believe they also advertised in local  
2 newspapers about the open house and tried  
3 to get the word out as best they can.

4 Yes, sir?

5 MR. MARSHALL: My name is Charles  
6 Marshall and I'm Forrest County Board  
7 Supervisor, District 2, and the land  
8 crosses the northern part of my district  
9 and the northern part of District 3 --  
10 that's Lynn Cartlidge and he's not able to  
11 be here. Most of the questions that I have  
12 from my constituents are; what is -- what  
13 kind of affect on the economic value of  
14 surrounding lands where this line goes  
15 through?

16 MR. PECONOM: And I think we're  
17 starting to move into the comment section  
18 of this meeting, I think -- and I'll answer  
19 your question in just a moment. I think  
20 people have gotten a good handle of the  
21 process and I think now would be the time  
22 to move into the comments.

23 We look at socioeconomics, we look  
24 at impacts, financial impacts to  
25 surrounding areas. I want to answer your

1 question. That is something we look at. I  
2 don't know the answer tonight because I'm  
3 still waiting for that information. That  
4 is something we will look at in our  
5 Environmental Impact Statement.

6 MR. MARSHALL: You're talking about  
7 environmental impact, you know. I thought  
8 maybe, you know, you knew just about how it  
9 was going to impact our future development,  
10 future economic development, or how close  
11 you're going to be able to, you know, build  
12 to this line; that's environmental.

13 MR. PECONOM: And environmental, I  
14 guess, can sometimes be misleading. It's  
15 financial impacts or, you know, impacts to  
16 the economy are part of our review.

17 MR. MARSHALL: All right.

18 MR. PECONOM: I don't know that  
19 question tonight because the route hasn't  
20 been filed with us or proposed -- you know,  
21 a filed proposed route, I should say.

22 MR. MARSHALL: Right.

23 MR. PECONOM: But, when that comes  
24 in then we'll be able to do that analysis  
25 and determine what are the economic impacts

1 to the area, the adjacent lands.

2 MR. MARSHALL: Right. But, once  
3 it's installed it's not going anywhere no  
4 time soon. So, it's going to really impact  
5 a lot of people.

6 MR. PECONOM: Well, I think we've  
7 covered the process fairly well. And if  
8 people have questions about the process,  
9 feel free to catch me after the meeting.

10 What I'd like to do now is open up  
11 the meeting -- I'll put the microphone over  
12 here on the podium -- and go ahead and ask  
13 people to come up. We have a sign-in list  
14 and I believe we had one or two individuals  
15 sign up. Once we go through that  
16 individual, I'll go ahead and ask others  
17 that are interested in making comments on  
18 the project. And I think the best way,  
19 from my experience, for comments are is  
20 just to say we're concerned about this; I'm  
21 concerned about that; this issue is  
22 something that I'd like to see addressed in  
23 the Environmental Impact Statement.

24 And, again, I don't have specific  
25 answers, but I want to make sure I get the

1 information to make sure I get your issues  
2 and concerns addressed. So, I think that  
3 would be the best way to do it.

4 When you come up, please state your  
5 name so the court reporter can get it in  
6 the record and get your comments accurately  
7 recorded in the record. So, I'll go ahead  
8 and take this over there and then we will  
9 ask Ms. Barbara Newell --

10 MS. NEWELL: I decline at this time  
11 to make any statements.

12 MR. PECONOM: Yes, ma'am. And I'll  
13 go ahead and open it up and if y'all wanted  
14 to come up one at a time.

15 MR. BATTLE: I'll start.

16 MR. PECONOM: Okay. Let me go  
17 ahead and put this over there for you.

18 MR. BATTLE: My name is Mike  
19 Battle, B-A-T-T-L-E, I'm a landowner in  
20 Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi and my  
21 concerns are several in nature. The first  
22 was addressing the process itself and the  
23 time lines of the process. I think this  
24 was alluded to later -- earlier where we're  
25 asked to make comments or express concerns,

1 but really not knowing the true impact on  
2 us as individual landowners.

3 In that regard a major concern is  
4 the location of the compressor stations.  
5 This was not disclosed in the first meeting  
6 that they had a couple months ago as far as  
7 a specific location. The locations of  
8 booster stations. The locations of 12  
9 interconnect and M&R stations, three -- and  
10 I don't know what a pig -- a pig landing  
11 and receiving facility is a concern, but  
12 I'm not sure of the definition of pig  
13 landing -- but, seriously, where these  
14 things are located. Because I think that  
15 impacts tremendously from an environmental  
16 standpoint as far as several of the  
17 specifics mentioned in your document on  
18 sound pollution, visual pollution, use of  
19 land, environmental issues, et cetera, as  
20 it said in the brief information we got.  
21 These take up more land than the 100 feet  
22 or 50 feet of permanent easement. So, it's  
23 difficult to express concerns if one  
24 doesn't know where these are located.

25 Secondly, a major concern of mine

1 is reliability and safety and the  
2 enforcement once these lines are put in.  
3 And I have concerns because it's not  
4 disclosed to me or any documents I've  
5 received on who's responsible for the  
6 enforcement once you say from an  
7 environmental standpoint here's what we  
8 want, here is what's acceptable, here's  
9 what the Federal government demands as far  
10 as protecting the environment, here's what  
11 you have to do to enforce those.

12 We've had a recent situation in  
13 Alaska, I think everyone's read about,  
14 after we had great -- I think great  
15 analysis from the Federal government. We  
16 had great proposed oversight as far as the  
17 environmental impacts and we're caught  
18 today with an embarrassing situation, both  
19 the oil company because lack of  
20 enforcement, lack of due diligence and  
21 oversight on their part.

22 We have the same situation today in  
23 Jefferson Davis County from a company  
24 called EOG Resources and four other oil and  
25 gas companies that are doing significant

1 exploration of oil and gas in our county.  
2 The Federal government expressed major  
3 concerns over the proximity, the location  
4 of these wells, they made major concessions  
5 to EOG Resources, which used to be ENRON  
6 until a couple years ago, of saying, look  
7 we're going to grant this. We're going to  
8 give you tax exemptions, but we're  
9 concerned over the environment, here's what  
10 we want you to do; A, B and C. Then they  
11 turn the enforcement of that over to the  
12 state of Mississippi, Mississippi Oil and  
13 Gas Port. And I've got significant  
14 concerns over the lack of enforcement, from  
15 my perspective, over the chemicals  
16 remaining in the ground from these residual  
17 pits because the Federal government's  
18 interpretation, what they wanted done from  
19 the environmental standpoint and what we're  
20 allowing from the state standpoint. So,  
21 I've got the same concerns over this.

22 You do your job, you're comfortable  
23 with it, you do a great job saying here's  
24 what we want, here's what needs to be done,  
25 and then who enforces it? And in ten

1       years, twenty years, thirty years we have a  
2       problem and our water resources are  
3       impacted and our ability to grow crops and  
4       to drink water and we glow at night,  
5       hypothetically, who in the hell do we turn  
6       to? So, that -- that's a major concern.  
7       It's not the good work you'll do, but what  
8       happens when you turn it over. And I'd  
9       like to know, specifically, my concerns,  
10      who's going to do that and who is  
11      accountable and responsible?

12                 One of the major things I've seen  
13      working with the Federal government is we  
14      have great, great people on the front end,  
15      but then on the back end there's a lot of  
16      things there's no accountability, no  
17      responsibility. And I'll assure you I'll  
18      be glad to give you two feet of files to  
19      show you my concerns over a previous  
20      approved oil and gas exploration where the  
21      Federal government expressed concerns over  
22      the environment, allowed the company to go  
23      ahead and do it, and please come to Jeff  
24      Davis County or I'll be glad to show you  
25      some aerials tonight of what the impact is.

1                   So, um, those are my concerns and  
2                   thank you very much.

3                   MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

4                   Does anyone else have any concerns  
5                   or comments they'd like to express about  
6                   the project?

7                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Basically,  
8                   sir, we're pregnant, aren't we? There's no  
9                   turning back. This thing's going to go  
10                  through whether we like it or not.

11                  MR. PECONOM: The project has not  
12                  been approved yet.

13                  UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Whoa,  
14                  whoa, whoa. The Federal government is  
15                  going to approve it. Maybe not as  
16                  presented.

17                  I've been burned before.

18                  MR. BATTLE: Not by them.

19                  MR. PECONOM: Seeing as, I guess,  
20                  no one would like to express any more  
21                  comments at this time, again, I'd like to  
22                  encourage everyone to write provided that  
23                  they do have comments. I'd like to -- I'm  
24                  going to stick around the meeting as long  
25                  as anybody would like me to to answer

1 questions as best I can about the process  
2 or any other things that, you know, you  
3 might have concerns with or anything at  
4 all.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: I'd like  
6 to say I had the same concerns as what he  
7 does in Covington County with a well that  
8 was abandoned on my property. And, um, I  
9 saw the same thing happen to myself, you  
10 know. We got no answers, nowhere to go,  
11 and that's what my concern was also. And I  
12 think he made a real excellent point  
13 because they're doing -- the same company  
14 is doing it right down the road from my  
15 house in Covington County and who's  
16 regulatory -- who's regulatory (sic) and  
17 all that stuff going on over there and what  
18 they're going to do with it?

19 MR. PECONOM: And I guess I should  
20 point -- I should point out that  
21 enforcement and operation -- and operation  
22 is something we do consider in the  
23 Environmental Impact Statement as well --  
24 the Department of Transportation monitors  
25 -- and correct me, Scott -- Scott's the one

1 with the operation --

2 MR. FLICKINGER: Yes, the operation  
3 side, DOT takes care of that.

4 MR. PECONOM: DOT is responsible  
5 for the -- after construction the DOT takes  
6 it from there and does the monitoring  
7 enforcement.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: The  
9 Mississippi DOT would do that?

10 MR. FLICKINGER: No. In this case  
11 it's the Federal.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: The  
13 Federal DOT? Is that on oil and gas?

14 MR. FLICKINGER: That's just for  
15 the gas side.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: That's  
17 just for y'all. The pipeline that  
18 you're --

19 MR. FLICKINGER: Right.  
20 Interstate --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: --  
22 proposing?

23 MR. FLICKINGER: When it's  
24 interstate situation.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Who can do

1 it?

2 MR. PECONOM: Oil and gas lines are  
3 different -- are regulated differently.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Is it  
5 regulated in the state itself?

6 MR. PECONOM: I'm not an oil line  
7 guy. I mean, natural gas is what I do, so  
8 -- but, maybe one of the representatives of  
9 the company might know who to refer you to  
10 in terms of oil enforcement there.

11 Again, I encourage everybody to  
12 take advantage of the representatives being  
13 here to ask your questions.

14 Yes, sir?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 11: I live on  
16 a property that it's proposed to go through  
17 the back of my property here in Forrest  
18 County. How safe is natural gas? I mean,  
19 is -- from your point, you're a biologist,  
20 would you have it run through your  
21 property?

22 MR. PECONOM: Safety is something  
23 we look at in the Environmental Impact  
24 Statement. I live in the city. I live  
25 downtown and stuff. However, that's safety

1 and that's what I'm hearing is you're  
2 concerned about safety. Safety is  
3 something that we will look at in our  
4 Environmental Impact Statement.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 11: But, what  
6 if we -- if it's concerning your property,  
7 would you object by the gas line running  
8 across your property?

9 MR. PECONOM: There are thousands  
10 of miles of pipeline, both oil and natural  
11 gas, running all throughout Mississippi and  
12 the Gulf Coast and it's a pretty -- a  
13 pretty common thing. I don't think you can  
14 go 15 or 20 miles without tripping over a  
15 pipeline of one type or another. Natural  
16 gas pipelines are relatively safe. I don't  
17 -- you know, accidents do occasionally  
18 happen, you know. We've all seen examples  
19 of that with the B.T. line. We see about  
20 it on the news from time to time. Every  
21 day there are thousands -- there's  
22 thousands of miles of pipeline operating in  
23 this country.

24 Yes, ma'am? Are these comments you  
25 want to express or just kind of general

1 questions of the process?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: I got a  
3 question.

4 MR. PECONOM: All right.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: All right,  
6 now, if you're from Washington can there be  
7 another meeting set up with people from  
8 Mississippi that are over our conservation  
9 in our state, another meeting so we can  
10 actually talk to people that are here  
11 local?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: Somebody  
13 that we can contact --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: Right.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 7: -- when  
16 something goes wrong with what we have here  
17 'cause y'all going to be in Washington.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: You don't  
19 know how Mississippi laws are.

20 MR. PECONOM: We're the lead  
21 Federal agency responsible for overseeing  
22 this project, however, we do consult with  
23 all the Mississippi agencies, state  
24 agencies. And my recommendation would be  
25 to jump on the website or the phone book

1 and give a phone call and grab somebody's  
2 name and tell them your concerns.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: I thought  
4 that's what this meeting was for tonight  
5 was for our local people was to be here to  
6 tell us about our local area.

7 MR. PECONOM: Well, we've invited,  
8 um -- this NOI was sent to all affected  
9 landowners, it was sent to elected  
10 officials, representatives, state  
11 agencies --

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: And nobody  
13 showed up.

14 MR. PECONOM: -- and I can't -- you  
15 know, I --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: You're the  
17 only one here?

18 MR. MARSHALL: Yeah.

19 MR. PECONOM: It appears to be so.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 9: Yeah, we  
21 appreciate you showing up.

22 MR. MARSHALL: Do like Forrest  
23 County, call your supervisor.

24 MR. PECONOM: And I encourage  
25 everyone to contact their representatives,

1 that's their job.

2 In the back?

3 MS. WATTS: Yes, I'm Carolyn Watts  
4 and my husband and I own a little bit of  
5 property in Perry County and we had moved  
6 back to Perry County in March and have  
7 started to clear land to build a home.  
8 And, um, then we get the notification that  
9 there is a possibility of a pipeline coming  
10 through. And, um, needless to say we were  
11 concerned about that because there is  
12 already an existing pipeline very close to  
13 the area that we're going to -- we want to  
14 build on.

15 We were informed and -- that there  
16 would be a survey team coming through the  
17 area. And, um, we had the survey people  
18 come through, they state right in the  
19 middle of the house site. At this point  
20 I'm not -- in hearing your comments, I'm  
21 not sure which way we should go with that.  
22 I've had two people from the pipeline  
23 header company to, um -- it's my  
24 understanding that we should just go ahead  
25 and proceed with our plans.

1                   We've had house plans drawn up by  
2                   now, the land has been cleared, we've got  
3                   the water meter in, the temporary light  
4                   pole up and so forth. But, what I think  
5                   I'm hearing that you might have said is  
6                   that we might do all of this, build a house  
7                   and whatnot and then it would be taken  
8                   anyway. Um, I'm uncertain as to whether I  
9                   understood that correctly or what.

10                   MR. PECONOM: And I'm understanding  
11                   that you're concerned about your residence,  
12                   and I believe a lot of people in this room  
13                   are concerned about their residence.  
14                   That's probably the number one comment that  
15                   we get at these meetings are people  
16                   concerned about their homes. This is where  
17                   they live, this is where they raised their  
18                   family, it's a very personal and emotional  
19                   thing and I respect that, I have a house,  
20                   too you know. We're all concerned about  
21                   that. We look at residences, it's  
22                   something we take very seriously. We look  
23                   at the construction procedures that go  
24                   anywhere near a house. We look at the  
25                   location of the pipeline to see how close

1       it is running to homes and barns and sheds  
2       and businesses. I don't have a specific  
3       answer for you tonight in terms of what  
4       that impact could be to your house. I can  
5       tell you that's something that we will look  
6       at. We'll look at maps, we'll talk to  
7       agencies. You know, we're here tonight to  
8       talk to you about that so that we know  
9       we're concerned about your residence.

10               MS. WATTS: Well, whom should I  
11       talk with tonight?

12               MR. PECONOM: I think you can talk  
13       to me after the meeting and then you can  
14       also take advantage of the representatives  
15       here tonight and ask them questions and  
16       maybe they can give you a better idea of  
17       where the pipeline's going through for your  
18       part of the state.

19               It sounds like we're moving into  
20       questions and people are done expressing  
21       their comments at least on the record. If  
22       no one wants to express any comments on the  
23       record, what I'll do is go ahead and close  
24       the meeting and then for those that want to  
25       go ahead and go home they can, and for

1 those who'd like to stick around and ask  
2 more questions we'll go ahead and stay.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 11: I feel  
4 like you danced around my question. I  
5 asked if it's your property would it be all  
6 right with you.

7 MR. PECONOM: If I had it on mine  
8 I'd be fairly comfortable with a natural  
9 gas pipeline there.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 11: My big  
11 concern is it's ironic, I live right at an  
12 area where, um, I can't get Cable Vision  
13 from either Comcast or Galaxy because I  
14 live right -- right in the middle to where  
15 neither company will run it to me. And I  
16 can't get natural gas, but yet a half mile  
17 up the road they have natural gas. But  
18 they're talking about putting this big  
19 pipeline through the back of my property  
20 and without, you know -- and there's a  
21 possibility I still won't be able to get  
22 natural gas.

23 MR. FLICKINGER: These pipelines  
24 are more like your interstates --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 11: Right.

1 That's what I've been told at the last  
2 meeting, but I mean, it's -- it's kind of  
3 frustrating that you can't get natural gas  
4 yourself when you know how many, you know,  
5 billions of gallons of gas will be running  
6 through that through the years.

7 MR PECONOM: Yes, ma'am?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 12: We have  
9 -- Where we live at in Covington County and  
10 Jeff Davis County line we have 7 -- 5 lines  
11 already going through there and some of  
12 them been there for 40-something years and  
13 we've not had any problems.

14 MR. PECONOM: I think that's a  
15 common experience. You know, the safety  
16 issue goes there and land use issues also  
17 affected there.

18 So, I think if no one else has any  
19 comments I'll go ahead and close the  
20 meeting and I'll stick around and people  
21 can ask the representatives of Southeast  
22 Supply Header Company, you know, any  
23 questions they may have. So, I'll go ahead  
24 and close the meeting. I'd like to thank  
25 y'all for coming.

1                    Again, I encourage everyone to  
2                    submit comments at any point through this  
3                    process. Feel free to come up and ask me  
4                    any questions you might have and I'll stick  
5                    around as long as it takes. Thank you very  
6                    much.

7                    (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:00  
8                    p.m.)

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REPORTER'S PAGE

I, Lisa Bell, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Mississippi, the officer, as defined in the Mississippi Code of Civil Procedure, before whom this meeting was taken, do hereby state on the Record:

That due to the interaction in the spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes in thought, and/or talk over;

That same is the proper method for a court reporter's transcription of proceeding and that the dashes (--) do not indicate that words or phrases have been left out of this transcript;

That any words and/or names which could not be verified through reference material have been denoted with the phrase "(phonetic)."

Lisa Bell, CCR, CVR  
Certified Court Reporter

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This certification is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and original seal on this page.

I, Lisa Bell, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Mississippi, as the officer before whom this meeting was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing 63 pages were reported by me in Stenomask, were prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That I am not of counsel or to the parties herein; am not otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter; and am a valid member in good standing of the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Certified Shorthand Reporters.

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