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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number:
MIDCONTINENT EXPRESS PIPELING : PF07-4-000
PROJECT :
- - - - - x

Delhi High School Auditorium
413 Main Street
Delhi, Louisiana

Thursday, May 17, 2007

The above-entitled matter came on for scoping
meeting, pursuant to notice, at 7:00 p.m.

BEFORE:
CHARLES BROWN, FERC

1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MR. BROWN: Good evening, I am Charles Brown and
3 this is Eric Dills and Katie Grange is in the back at the
4 back table. They work for a third part contractor, Interex,
5 which is the environmental contractor that will be helping
6 us put together a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and
7 the Final Impact Statement.

8 The purpose of the ninth meeting is, of course,
9 to come here and get your verbal comments on what you'd like
10 to see in the environmental document.

11 The format for tonight's meeting is going to be
12 this. I'm going to call -- we have like four or five people
13 who would like to provide verbal comments. They will come
14 up, they'll get those. We've got a court recorder here. We
15 will make those part of the record.

16 After everyone is finished speaking, I'll close
17 the meeting to the record and he can leave. Then we will
18 open up the floor for questions and answers of myself and
19 the company.

20 A copy of the transcript that he will be doing
21 tonight will be available on the Internet in about 10 days
22 if you'd like to get a copy of it.

23 In our notice that we issued on April 27th, we
24 requested your comments and we assigned a deadline of May
25 30th. Now we will take comments after that deadline, but we

1 need your comments as soon as possible to give us time to
2 evaluate the issues that you bring up.

3 The speakers' list is here. These folks will
4 come up, provide verbal comments -- can you hear me -- okay,
5 provide comments. If you don't wish to speak tonight that's
6 fine. We have forms at the back table, you can fill out
7 your comment, you can give it to me, I'll take it back and
8 make sure it gets in the record, or you can mail it in at a
9 later date, just make sure you have the internal docket
10 number, PFO7-4 on anything that you send in to the
11 Commission, so we can get your comment and make sure it's on
12 the record.

13 You can also file comments electronically. The
14 instructions for that were in the notice that we sent out.
15 We have forms at the back table for that also, telling you
16 how to do that and also you can go on our website,
17 www.ferc.gov and go under the e-filing link and it will give
18 you instructions on how to file electronically.

19 The mid-continental project is currently in our
20 prefiling process. A formal application has not been filed
21 with FERC, however. The FERC staff began its environmental
22 review of the project to allow involvement by public,
23 government entities and other interested parties.

24 The purpose of the prefiling process is encourage
25 involvement by interested stakeholders in a manner that

1 allows for early identification and resolution of
2 environmental issues.

3 During the scoping period, we're going to try to
4 gather as much information on this project as we can. Now
5 we get our information from various sources. We get it from
6 the application, we get it from local, state, and federal
7 agencies. We have three different federal agencies that
8 will be helping us; the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Corp
9 of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

10 We also have Louisiana DEQ, will also be a
11 cooperating agency, helping us prepare the Draft
12 Environmental Impact Statement. We do our own research, but
13 most importantly, and I think this is the most important
14 thing about the prefiling process, is we come here and get
15 your comments. We need your input, we encourage your input,
16 we look forward to your input.

17 Any comment you give, I promise you we will
18 analyze the issue and make sure it's covered in the draft
19 and final EIS. Now once we issue the draft, there will be a
20 45-day period for comments. We will come back here, we will
21 take your comments on the draft.

22 If you want a copy of the draft, you can fill out
23 your name and address on the mailing list back there or that
24 notice we sent out, on the back of it, just fill that form
25 out and mail it back in and we'll make sure you get a copy

1 of the draft and the final.

2 Yes sir. Because the thing is, we have 6,000
3 landowners for this project and we only want to send people
4 copies of stuff that they want because one of these thick
5 DEIS cost the federal government \$6.00 to mail. So we only
6 want people who want what they can get.

7 Now after the end of the 45-day period, we'll
8 start organizing all the data to date and we'll put out a
9 Final Environmental Impact Statement. Now that is not the
10 decision making document. That document will go to our
11 Commissioners at FERC and they'll make a decision whether to
12 issue or deny the application.

13 The Commissions at FERC will consider
14 environmental information from the EIS along with non-
15 environmental issues such as engineering, markets and rates
16 in making its decision to approve or deny the project.

17 Its extension does not vote to approve the
18 project, FERC environmental staff -- I'm sorry about that --
19 vote to approve the project, FERC environmental staff will
20 monitor the project through construction and restoration,
21 performing onsite inspections to ensure environmental
22 compliance with the conditions of the FERC certificate.

23 Now basically what that means is, once they start
24 construction, I'll have monitors in the field, six days a
25 week, 10 hours a day, conducting inspection and making sure

1 that they are installing these pipes in and doesn't affect
2 the environmental in any way.

3 At this time I'd like Kevin Dehncke to give a
4 brief overview of the project.

5 MR. DEHNCKE: Welcome. I'm Kevin Dehncke, Vice
6 President and the Director of the Mid-Continental Express
7 Pipeline Project. I'd like to introduce the other members
8 of the project team that are her with me tonight. In the
9 front row here, if you would raise your hands. Thank you.
10 We will be here after the conclusion of tonight's program to
11 answer your questions and to address any individual concerns
12 you may have.

13 To start off, I just want to explain, I know that
14 the idea of a natural gas pipeline across your land is
15 something that is not welcome by everyone here tonight. I
16 also know that many of you here tonight have questions
17 regarding how the project will affect you.

18 I want to explain why the project is important,
19 give a quick overview of the pipeline, and reaffirm our
20 commitment to work with you to address your issues and make
21 the process as easy as possible.

22 Our nation needs this pipeline and others like
23 it. The use of natural gas, the cleanest burning fossil
24 fuel is expected to grow by 20% in this country by 2025.
25 Fortunately, the central U.S. is home to growing supplies of

1 natural gas and more pipeline capacity is needed to
2 transport that gas from the production fields to consumers
3 across the U.S. who will use it.

4 Historically, pipelines move about 1/4 of the
5 nation's freight, yet by far have the best safety record of
6 any of those transportation methods. At Mid-Continental
7 Express, we are committed to building a safe and operating a
8 safe pipeline.

9 To sum up, new pipeline projects like Mid-
10 Continental Express help improve our nation's energy
11 security through access to a domestically produced efficient
12 fuel, cutting our dependence on foreign energy sources.

13 The pipeline also will help keep energy prices
14 affordable and protect against service interruptions that
15 are common with Gulf Coast supplies.

16 Our project will extend approximately 500 miles,
17 starting at Bennington, OK near the production fields,
18 moving across Northeast Texas, Northern Louisiana, Central
19 Mississippi, and into Alabama. Along way, we want to
20 connect to other pipelines that will transport the gas to
21 markets in the midwest, northeast and the southeast.

22 The project also include compressor stations that
23 will provide power to move the gas across the system. Our
24 goal is to have the project in service by March 1, 2009.

25 As an interstate pipeline system, Mid-Continental

1 Express is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory
2 Commission, also known as FERC, which oversees the
3 involvement of a number of other federal, state, and local
4 agencies.

5 We are working closely with these agencies to
6 ensure that the pipeline we design is safe and is
7 environmentally sensitive.

8 We also want to be sensitive to your concerns and
9 respectful of the neighbors whose land the pipeline -- we
10 are proposing to cross. Mid-Continental Express is a joint
11 venture between Kinder Morgan Energy Partners who will build
12 and operate the pipeline and Energy Transfer Partners.

13 Kinder Morgan with approximately 40,000 lines of
14 pipeline, is one of the U.S. biggest pipeline companies. We
15 post our safety environmental performance on the website and
16 we're proud of the fact that our performance is better than
17 the industry average in virtually all categories of safety.

18 We have already been talking to some of you
19 during the survey process as we fine-tune our proposed
20 pipeline route. A number of factors come into play as we
21 fine-tune the alignment. Our goal is to balance your
22 preferences with environmental issues, safety requirements,
23 and construction needs.

24 In many cases, we have been able to make changes
25 that address individual landowner concerns. We are eager to

1 continue working with you as the project moves forward. In
2 many areas we began sitting down with landowners and have
3 been documenting your specific issues for construction, such
4 as fencing, livestock, timber, and access.

5 Evaluation experts are currently developing
6 market analysis and we expect to begin negotiating easements
7 with landowners in June. While we can't always accommodate
8 all requests, our goal is to find mutually agreeable
9 solutions and work with you.

10 In addition to jobs and economic stimulus,
11 particularly during the planning and construction stages,
12 the project will pay significant property taxes over its
13 lifetime that will benefit schools and counties. The many
14 areas will be among the county's largest taxpayers.

15 We look forward to continuing to work with you
16 and to being a good neighbor for years to come. Thank you
17 for your time and for this additional opportunity to visit
18 with you.

19 I also wanted to just make clear that there are
20 several projects that are going on right now, consecutively
21 with ours, it's the Gulf Crossing Project, the Gulf South
22 Project, and we're the Mid-Continental Project. They are
23 independent projects being installed and operated by
24 different companies and for right now I just want to make
25 that clear that they are different and there are different

1 people running those projects and we just want to set
2 ourselves apart and we want to set ourselves apart by
3 working with each one of you.

4 MR. BROWN: Now we'll get to the speakers. Now I
5 after the four or five speakers come up, if anyone else in
6 the audience want to come back up please do. We will be
7 opened as long as we have to, that's why we are here.

8 Once we hear all the speakers, we will go to
9 questions and answers. When you come to the podium, please
10 state your name and spell it for the record, for our
11 transcriber here. The first speaker is Ruby Nell Meeks
12 Neil, and if you would when you come up, just state your
13 name and then spell it so that when the video is played back
14 for the court reporter, they can transcribe that accurately
15 please.

16 MS. NEAL: R-U-B-Y N-E-L-L M-E-E-K-S N-E-A-L.
17 And to Mid-Continental Express, my first complaint is that
18 we were not contacted until my mother received a letter in
19 the mail Tuesday to tell us about this meeting. And you
20 sent out a letter to all of your people up and down that
21 you're working with, stating that Mid-Continental has
22 contacted all stakeholders about the project, including all
23 affected landowners as defined in Section 157.6(d)(2) of the
24 regulations, except for those affected landowners near the
25 five compressor stations.

1 We were never contacted and we are near one of
2 those compressor stations too, which is, according to your
3 website, is going to be located in Union Parish near
4 Perryville, Louisiana, possible future, it says. Perryville
5 is not in Union Parish. Perryvill is in Washta Parish.

6 Also, when I looked on your website to get a map,
7 my complaint is that this pipeline is going straight and all
8 of a sudden it makes this big bow to the north. That's me,
9 that big bow to the north.

10 It states on your website that you're putting a
11 compressor station at mile point 249.7. My property is at,
12 approximately, according to your map, would be at 250 --
13 251. I'd like to sell you out my little dab of property for
14 your compressor station because otherwise you're going to
15 just ruin my little bit of land, which is only about 18
16 acres.

17 And my aunts and cousins are on either side of my
18 property, they received contacts. People came to their
19 door, knocked on their door and talked to them. But we
20 don't have anything on our property except an existing
21 producing gas well and a small ammonia pipeline that comes
22 from over Sterlington and goes to I don't know where. So
23 I'm already loaded down with pipelines.

24 Also on your website, no, no, this is on the
25 Federal Energy Commission's website, one of the complaints

1 that was written in from a gentleman, I don't know if I
2 should call his name --

3 SPEAKER: No no, that's fine, sure it's part of
4 the record, he is part of the record, so go ahead.

5 MS. NEAL: Charles L. Harper at 10368 Highway
6 143, Farmville, Louisiana, zip code 74241, which is Rocky
7 Branch. He attended the Monroe meeting and he was upset
8 because this pipeline was coming through Rocky Branch and
9 cause some people to lose their houses. He drew a little
10 map and propose this bow in the pipeline so it didn't go
11 through Rocky Branch, so it could come up on our property.

12 Well I don't know how many people it's going to
13 affect there besides the aunt and her two daughters that
14 have houses there, next to me. I have no idea, because we
15 could not get any information this fast from your company to
16 see exactly where the property was going to be touched.

17 I also have a map of my property and my aunts'
18 and cousins' property. The total is about 40 acres and
19 that's just a little bit. Another question, how long has
20 Mid-Continental Express been formed as a company? How long
21 have you been in existence?

22 MR. BROWN: You can answer that question. I'd
23 rather wait until the end, but go ahead and answer that one.

24 MR. DEHNCKE: The company is a joint venture
25 between Kinder Morgan and EFC Energy Transfer Partners and

1 it is probably been in existence for, I would say, six
2 months or six to eight months.

3 MS. NEAL: So you have no safety record as of
4 yet. So we're running off of Kinder Morgan safety record,
5 which is not that well. They had 44 major accidents since
6 the year 2003.

7 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Next speaker is Julie
8 parks.

9 MR. PARKS: Jule J-U-L-E W-I-L-L-I-A-M P-A-R-K-
10 S, My brother and I are property owners in Sterlington,
11 Louisiana. About a year ago -- well less than a year ago,
12 about six months ago we received in certified letters from
13 Mid-Continent wanting permission to survey our property or
14 what have you.

15 I called the number in Monroe, Louisiana and then
16 I called an 800 number and advised them I want no one on my
17 property, no one has permission to survey until you've had
18 these meetings. And then of course, brother went to one of
19 the meetings and I'm at the meeting tonight.

20 He has talked several times and I've talked to
21 one of the gentleman, Charlie Turnics with Mid-Continental
22 and he's talked with one person, another person left a
23 message recently on his voicemail. We reiterated we wanted
24 nobody on our property.

25 I have Mid-Con proposed pipeline stakes on my

1 property right now. Somebody has violated the Louisiana
2 trespass law. It's against the law, criminal trespass when
3 you go on somebody's property without their written
4 permission. I'd like to know why went on my property and
5 who put those stakes there and I'd like those stakes removed
6 as soon as possible.

7 Also, initially this pipeline went on property in
8 Union Parish. Of course we're stuck with Gulf Coast -- Gulf
9 Crossing which has a very poor record. We have leaks all
10 over the pipeline on our property right now. They've come
11 in, they've bulldozed or pushed our fences down, taken our
12 metal post and put them around where they're doing the
13 repairs on their pipeline. You can that number in Houston,
14 and they'll look into it.

15 Then to find out well, they hire these private
16 contractors that come in on your property and you know, they
17 don't care about your property and then leave, then you ask
18 your attorney, well what can we do, well it will cost more
19 than it's worth to pursue it, so you might as well forget
20 about it, you know. That that's where FERC comes in.

21 I've contacted FERC in Washington a number of
22 times and nobody -- it's the same old thing, nothing we can
23 do, you know. They refer you to the pipeline company.

24 MR. BROWN: I tell you what, from now on,
25 anything with Mid-Continental Express, you contact me. I'll

1 give you my card.

2 MR. PARKS: I'd appreciate that and I'd
3 appreciate it if you would tell Mr. Thomassie, you know, I'd
4 like to talk to him, but he didn't show like he was supposed
5 to. That's not right either.

6 MR. BROWN: Okay, I agree with that.

7 MR. PARKS: Now back to Mid-Con, this pipeline
8 was supposed to be run across our property in Union Parish.
9 Then brothers at the meeting in Monroe and they said well,
10 you can forget about it, we're not going across your
11 property now. And what happens, about a month later, we get
12 these certified letters again, we're going across your
13 property.

14 Well, I said what's going on, you know Pat, he
15 said, I don't know, and then we find out well it's not going
16 across the Union Parish property, it's going across
17 Sterlington, Louisiana, you know, property there.

18 But my concern is, of course, we got where it's
19 going now, the proposed, where you put your proposed stakes,
20 there is already six existing pipelines in that area, we
21 don't need a seventh pipeline. Let's share some of these
22 pipeline, let's give some of these other citizens some of
23 these pipelines. Why do we keep getting all the pipelines?

24 Well we're always told because it's the easiest
25 route, it's along an existing route, or what have you.

1 That's not right either. Why should we continue to get
2 these pipelines? Union Parish, the same way. We get all
3 these pipelines, but we were advised that you all changed
4 this route to accommodate several people that live in Washta
5 Parish that the pipeline was going to cross in one of them's
6 yard in Washta Parish next to the Washta River. That's what
7 we were advised.

8 Now what the basis -- I'd like to know what
9 you've changed your original pipeline route, to the one
10 that's going to go right through the middle of Sterlington,
11 Louisiana now. If you all go out and look at anything, you
12 go to the intersection of 165 North and Louisiana 2 Highway,
13 you will see all the stakes up there. Those are all
14 pipelines going through there and they've all been marked
15 recently.

16 I mean, probably 100 stakes, even more than that.
17 That's all these pipelines criss-crossing through there. And
18 like the lady said, I would have thought a better route
19 would have been that direct route in Union Parish instead of
20 curving around and coming through Sterlington, Louisiana
21 where you have all -- you're talking about timberland over
22 in Sterlington, next to the Washta River, where you're
23 talking about the biggest growth area in Washta Parish,
24 Louisiana right now, is in the Sterlington area, and the
25 land that you're going through has got corn fields but the

1 land that you put your stakes on, we've been offered up
2 100,000 acre for that land.

3 So why are you taking valuable land that are more
4 valuable than the other land that would have been timberland
5 a cross the river? That's my concern. I think there should
6 be a better route that them coming right through
7 Sterlington, Louisiana.

8 And also adding additional pipelines. We've got,
9 you know, that new plant up there, we've got the other plant
10 that had the explosion a few years ago, you know, chemical
11 plan, and now all we need, you know, another what, this is
12 going to be the largest pipeline, I guess this is a 46-
13 inches, most of the others are what, 36 inches or below?
14 42? But when it comes to -- I understand it's going to be,
15 you know, what I understood it to be 42 or 46 on the
16 property there.

17 But yeah, in the future, you know, it would be
18 nice to have the meeting just before people just start
19 rushing out and get stakes in there and survey your land.
20 And also, you need something -- their statement in the
21 letter that comes out to you certified, well Boardwalk or
22 whoever it is is going to be responsible for any negligence
23 that result in anyone's injury or death. That's now worth
24 the paper it's written on in Louisiana, you know, it's
25 ridiculous. Anyways that's all I have. I appreciate any

1 consideration. I appreciate if you all would look into it.

2 SPEAKER: We will.

3 SPEAKER: Okay, Mr. Peter Parks.

4 MR. PARKS: They misspelled your name too.

5 SPEAKER: I apologize.

6 MR. PARKS: You from Washington I see, I know
7 you're not from Louisiana.

8 MR. PARKS: My name is Paton Parks, P-A-T-O-N.
9 It just irritates me when you'all's people said we will meet
10 with me and a couple other landowners up there to let me
11 know when. Then next thing I know, on my damn, answering
12 machine, well we met with two of them, but don't worry, we
13 not going to leave you out.

14 SPEAKER: And they already left you out.

15 MR. PARKS: So to me, that's a bunch of bull,
16 even though a guy that works for you all didn't have a
17 chance to go up there with whoever had the meeting with the
18 other two. We are people of our word and we serve this
19 country and now all this country does, pipeline people come
20 and try to take our land away to share it with other people.

21 We believe in giving our share but why do we have
22 to keep giving and giving, and giving, until our property is
23 worthless and all these other people are getting wealth?
24 Once you run that pipeline across our timberland, we can't
25 grow timber there, nothing there. Farmland yeah, you can

1 farm it, but when housing developments are coming up, it's
2 useless. So why can't you all go some other way? That's
3 all.

4 SPEAKER: Thank you.

5 SPEAKER: Okay, the last speaker we have on the
6 sign in sheet is Ms. Rachel Bacon.

7 MS. BACON: My name is Rachel Bacon, RACHEL
8 BACON. I'm employed with Rainbow Hotel Casino in Vicksburg,
9 Mississippi. I just have a few comments here that I would
10 like to share and make sure that they are considered.

11 Rainbow Casino is strongly opposed to the
12 pipeline. It's passing very near our property. One of the
13 -- I was doing some research that I found, the national
14 disaster study, national pipeline risk index technical
15 report task II is a report that was prepared by FEMA. It
16 takes the entire United States and rates county by county,
17 even within the counties, the risk for pipelines.

18 Our section of Warren county is a very high risk,
19 two of the risk factors are landslides and flooding and the
20 land that the pipeline company is proposing to put the
21 pipeline on, is an area that does flood regularly. In fact,
22 it flooded so bad two years ago that large oil tank there
23 properly a third of the size of this room, that are made of
24 metal, actually floated and moved across the field where
25 they were at, and that caused a power interruption in our

1 area.

2 If the pipeline were moved just 10 to 12 miles
3 south of our location, the pipeline risk, according to that
4 report, drops dramatically, not to mention it would be
5 outside of the city limits in what is strictly a rural area.

6 In 2006, there were over one million visitors to
7 Rainbow Casino, to our one small casino. We also employ
8 about 400 people. I think that that should be considered in
9 the population density factor for the pipeline location
10 since there is going to be a lot of people at risk if
11 something were to happen there, an accident and we had to
12 evacuate. We've actually had two pipeline, natural gas
13 pipeline accidents in Vicksburg in about the last six
14 months, both required some evacuations. That's very
15 expensive for us and we're taxpayers.

16 I know they said that they would be one of the
17 largest tax payers in the county, I really would be
18 surprised if they top the taxes that we pay to Warren county
19 and to the City of Vicksburg.

20 The location of the pipeline near Rainbow Casino
21 is going to be discouraging future growth and development in
22 that area. Three other casino hotel projects are currently
23 under development, all three within a two mile radius of our
24 property. Two more on the same side of the pipeline and one
25 right across the highway from us, one adjoining our

1 property, and one on the other side of the pipeline.

2 If the pipeline goes through, it's going to
3 affect the future development. We view that 61 South
4 Warrenton Road corridor in Vicksburg, you know is a future
5 jobs development, a resort kind of location and it will have
6 a negative impact on that.

7 The three other casinos that are planned are by
8 Mississippi Bus Development River Walk Casino and Lake's
9 Entertainment. Two of those properties have already started
10 work. Mississippi Bus I believe has started work on the
11 golf course portion of their property and river Walk broke
12 ground on the actual casino property development just last
13 week.

14 We would anticipate if just those two additional
15 casinos without the Lake's property, because I don't know
16 what their status is, we could easily have, because we would
17 be the smallest of all of those, between five and seven
18 million visitors a year within that two mile radius and we
19 feel that's pretty significant and should be considered.

20 And I know that the pipeline company talked about
21 having one of the safest records within the gas pipeline
22 industry, that just doesn't really matter when the safety
23 record isn't very good. Someone has already mentioned the
24 44 accidents. They were from January 2003 to August 2005,
25 which is a short period of time and it's very recent.

1 These aren't accidents that happened 10 or 15
2 years ago and they've got their act together now and gee
3 we're doing a lot better. These are very recent incidents
4 and, you know, I don't think that Kinder Morgan saying today
5 that, you know, they have a safe record, I'm not buying
6 that. That's not safe.

7 You know, I really am very concerned about the
8 safety of the people in our area, the development of our
9 area, and two of the other properties are planning comments.
10 They didn't get notification of the meeting and I didn't get
11 a notification of this meeting either, so we didn't have an
12 opportunity to get very prepared for this, but we just
13 wanted to share those comments.

14 SPEAKER: Thank you.

15 MR. BROWN: Were there any other speakers?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. BROWN: Okay if we don't have any mor
18 speakers for the record, I'll close the meeting and we'll
19 open up for question and answers.

20 (WHEREUPON THE MEETING ADJOURNED.)

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