BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:                   : Docket Number
MIDCONTINENT EXPRESS PIPELINE PROJECT: CP08-6-000

Delhi Civic Center
232 Denver Street
Delhi, LA

Thursday, March 27, 2008

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

Shannon Jones - FERC Moderator
PROCEEDINGS

(7:00 p.m.)

MS. JONES: Good evening. My name is Shannon Jones and I'm an Environmental Scientist at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also referred to as the FERC. And this is a public comment meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that we've prepared for the Midcontinent Express Pipeline Project.

Tonight, I'm assisting the FERC's Environmental Project Manager, Charlie Brown, who's running a similar series of meetings in Western Louisiana and Texas this week.

Wayne Kickleiter (ph.) is here with me tonight. He is from Entrex (ph.). It's an environmental consulting firm that's been assisting the FERC in our analysis of this project, and Kara Harris is at the back. She's with FERC Staff, and she has the sign-in list for speakers tonight, and we ask that you sign up with her, if you want to speak. She also has some very helpful pamphlets.

There are also a number of folks here from Midcontinent, and I'm going to have them introduce themselves, so we all know who's here tonight.

MS. RASMUSSEN (ph.): Hi, my name is Julie Rasmussen, and I am in charge of the right-of-way system.

PARTICIPANT: Could they come up to the microphone, so we can hear them?
MS. JONES: Yes. Please go to the microphone.

PARTICIPANT: And you can just introduce everyone, then.

MS. RASMUSSEN: My name is Julie Rasmussen, and I am in charge of the right-of-way efforts for the project.

MR. WAMPLER (ph.): My name is Butch Wampler, and I'm on the construction team, on the part coming through Louisiana.

MR. HAGER (ph.): My name is Dennis Hager, and I'm the Construction Manager for Midcontinent.

MR. ORTEGA: My name is Herman Ortega. I'm the Project Manager for Midcontinent Express.

MR. JOHNSON: I'm Frank Johnson, construction, Midcontinent Express.

MR. SELLERS: I'm Rick Sellers. I'm with the right-of-way group for Louisiana, with Midcontinent Express.

MR. ROBERTSON: I'm Rob Robertson, a right-of-way agent, Madison Parish.

MR. KNOX: I'm Mike Knox. I'm right-of-way agent for the State of Louisiana.

MS. ADAM: Hi, I'm Ginger Adam. I'm with the Governmental Relations Group in Louisiana for Midcontinent Express.

MS. JONES: Okay, thank you. I wanted to start giving a little background on the FERC, if anyone wasn't
familiar with who we are.

The FERC is an independent federal agency. We regulate the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil.

We're located in Washington, D.C., headed by five Presidentially-appointed Commissioners, and about 1200 staff.

Our job is to review proposals and authorize construction of interstate natural gas pipelines, storage facilities, and liquified natural gas terminals.

We also have jurisdiction over the licensing and inspection of hydroelectric projects, and some electric transmission corridors. The FERC's primary purpose is to protect the public and energy customers, ensuring that regulated energy companies are acting within the law.

So, the FERC is the lead federal agency that's ultimately responsible for approving or denying this project.

Midcontinent proposes to build approximately 504 miles of 30-, 36-, and 42-inch diameter pipeline, extending from Oklahoma to Alabama.

The project also includes one booster and four compressor stations, 13 meter and regulating stations, a four-mile pipeline in Louisiana, and other pertinent facilities necessary to safely operate a pipeline.
That includes things like main line valves and pig launchers and receiver stations. But before the FERC decides whether to authorize any pipeline project, the Staff first conducts an extensive environmental review, and that's to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

That's what we've been doing over about the past year; we've been compiling and analyzing data, comments, and concerns from the Applicant, from the public, and other resource agencies on the local, state, and federal level.

We've worked in formal cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Corps of Engineers, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Those agencies have provided input into our analysis and have been reviewing our work.

We're now at a point in our review, where we summarized all of our findings and our analysis and recommendations in this report called a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

And this report was issued on February 8th and mailed to everyone on our mailing list. So if you received a copy of that, you're on our mailing list, and you will automatically get a copy of our revision, which is a Final
Environmental Impact Statement.

If you didn't get a copy of it and you want to be added to our mailing list, Kara has a list at the table there to sign up, so just provide her with your name and address, and we'll get you on that list.

So, when this was issued, it had a formal 45-day comment period, and that comment period is going to end next Monday on March 31st, so there are a couple of ways that we can take your comments on our work and our analysis.

The first way is to provide verbal comments here tonight, so if you've signed up to speak, we'll have you come to the center here between -- near this microphone, and provide your comments.

The mike -- you won't hear any audio from the mike, but it is for the video transcriber. If you don't wish to speak, you can also provide written comments. You can do either, and both hold equal weight.

Written comments can be mailed to us. We also have some comment forms at the table, that you can just hand-write in and give those to us, or you can send comments electronically.

There are instructions on the first couple pages of this report, on how to send us in comments, and Kara has a pamphlet that describes that, as well.

So, if you're going to mail us comments, because
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the comment period is ending soon, we ask that you try to
get those in as quickly as possible, as close to March 31st
as possible.

All of the comments that we receive, either
written or verbally, are placed in to the public record and
will addressed in a revised version of this document. There
will be a section in the back of it, where we list all of
the comments we received, and provide specific responses.

It's important to note that the document that the
FERC Staff produces, the EIS, it's not a decision document.
The project won't be approved or denied, based solely on
this. It's prepared to advise our Commissioners and to
disclose to the public, the environmental impact of
constructing and operating the project.

Once we complete our analysis and the Final EIS
is completed, the document is published, it's mailed to
those on our mailing list, and it's forwarded to our
Commissioners.

Our Commissioners will consider the
environmental information that's contained in this
document, along with other non-environmental issues such as
engineering, markets, and rates, in determining whether to
authorize the project.

If the project is approved, Midcontinent will be
issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity,
which is essentially a permit from the FERC, authorizing the project.

That Certificate will require that Midcontinent meet certain conditions to limit environmental impacts, and our recommendations for what those conditions should be, are contained in the back of this document. There's 49 numbered recommendations that Staff believes will limit the environmental impact of the project.

If the project is constructed, FERC environmental inspectors will monitor the project through construction and restoration and perform daily onsite inspections to ensure compliance with the conditions of the Certificate.

So we're now at the point where we'll take anybody who would like to speak. We do have some speakers signed up.

I want to point out that Midcontinent did bring alignment sheets here tonight, so if you have specific questions about the location of the pipeline and you want to look at mapping details, we could do that after the formal portion of the meeting. We will all stay here and be happy to discuss with you and review the maps that Midcontinent brought, that are on the back table here tonight.

Let's see, when I call your name, just come to this microphone here, and if you could state your name and
spell it for the transcriber. We have the transcriber -- or the video Court Reporter here, rather, tonight, so that we can get an accurate record of all of your comments, since we do address each and every comment that we receive, either written or verbally.

So when you provide your comments, if you are a landowner along the pipeline, it would be helpful if you could identify a mile post, if you know that; if you don't know that, just your general location would be fine.

And if you have questions that we can readily answer, we'll try to do that now. If it's specific mapping details that you want to review, we can do that after the meeting, as well.

And I think that's it, so we'll get started here with David Fowler.

MR. FOWLER: Can you hear?

PARTICIPANT: Yeah, you don't have to get too close to it. Just stand about there, that's right.

MR. FOWLER: I'm a chicken farmer from north central Lincoln Parish, Section 1, Township 20, North Range, 3 West, I believe, is where I am.

And the original route of the pipeline did not impact me that much, but the route of the line to get by my chicken houses, is going to impact me tremendously, and I am not happy over that.
On that particular farm, I've got six houses on it, and to replace that farm, is about a million dollars, plus.

The only way -- I'm against, close to my south line. I cannot expand south. The only way I can expand, is north.

The line was originally planned going to the south side. Well, there's about 80 feet between my broiler house and the old United Gas line, which was so-called parallel.

And the first guy that came out there, I said, I am not happy with going on the north side. That eliminates me being able to expand.

And if history is any indication of what's going to happen in the future, one has to get bigger, as time goes on. There was one time when a one-horse farm could make a living. Can't do it anymore.

There was one time -- I've been growing birds for 38 years. There was one time when with three chicken houses, I could make a living with three chicken houses. Can't do it anymore.

I'm running ten now, and if history is any indication of what's going to happen in the future, I'm going to expand again, and the north side is where I have to expand.
I bought a bigger generator when I built that farm, so I would have enough power. We have to have standby power; we have to have standby water.

I've got my water well drilled there, got my generator there, big enough to carry two more houses. They want to go 200 feet down the north side of -- well, three houses are end-to-end. They want to go 200 feet down the north side of two houses on the farm.

That eliminates me ever expanding on that side.

The first guy that came out, I told him; I said, I don't want you coming over here. You stay over there where you intended to stay to begin with, and we'll talk.

But, I said, I'm not in favor of talking about coming over here. Well, he called me back in about three or four days, and he had talked to the powers in the ivory tower, somewhere, wherever they are; I'm not sure.

His quote was, due to the fact that it's so close on the south side, we're going to go on the north side. And that kind of aggravated me tremendously.

I said, don't tell me you have to go on the north side. I know for a fact that you can go anywhere you want to go, if you want to go there. It can be put in there.

I said, what you're trying to do, is eliminate a little bit of inconvenience on your part, and not give, and to put it politely, one hoot about what it does to me on my
I said, I'm not for it. I said, I believe I can convince a judge to see it my way. And if they continue to insist on coming on the north side, a judge will decide what's right and what's wrong.

My family has been on that farm since the 1870s. We have lived there and we have -- my great granddad made a living, bought the place; my granddad made a living there and my dad made a living there, and I have made a living there all my life.

And this pipeline is trying to eliminate me being able to keep up with the times, because of a little more expense or a little inconvenience on their part.

Now, I know -- like I said, I know for a fact, they can put that line in there, if they want to do it, and, actually, the line would be shorter, if they stayed on the original plan. Like I said, if it comes down to it, a judge is going to have to decide, because until a judge says you've got to let them go over there, they're not going over there. That's the bottom line. Thank you.

MS. JONES: Ray Linder?

MR. LINDER: Let's see, I have already submitted -- my wife and I have submitted comments to Secretary Bose. Is that how she pronounces her name?
MS. JONES: Yes, sir.

MR. LINDER: And I've got a copy of those, but I would like to give you a brief summary of our concerns, concerning a variation route that has occurred from the originally-proposed route. It's the same one that impacts David here. Basically, it's a 40-acre tract that's owned by a Margaret Susan Roach and my wife, Mary Catherine Linder, and it enters the southern one-third of this tract, the newly-proposed route does. And it's at Milepost Louisiana 79.8, where it enters the property and it exits it at Milepost Louisiana 80.1. Now, that's my approximation, based on the large scale maps that are provided in the Appendix. That could be off by a tenth of a mile or so, because they are such large scale maps, okay?

And with the rest of the comments here, I'm going to refer to this land as "the Roach property," to try to explain some of the comments.

Okay, first of all, we're specifically asking that FERC and MEP return to their original right-of-way route, rather than follow the variation route, which, basically, this variation route, is from Milepost Louisiana 79.1 to Milepost Louisiana 80.5, as shown in Appendix J-2 of the EIS. That's the variation route that we're talking
The original route followed a straight line and did not impact the property in question.

The reason given in the EIS for the variation, is to avoid a residence and farm structures, and from what little we've been able to find out about specifics of the residence and farm structure, the farm structure is a chicken house that David was mentioning to you. David is our up-pipeline neighbor here.

And the original route continued along an adjacent existing pipeline, and we don't understand why, if the right-of-way is limited at David's chicken houses, then why you can't use the HDD method there. I mean, if you can go into the Mississippi River with an HDD method, it doesn't seem like dealing with a chicken house would be that big of an ordeal.

There are two mobile homes and a pasture area along the original route, and there is a house adjacent to Louisiana State Highway 152. The house, as well as the mobile homes, were built or placed in very close proximity to an existing pipeline that MEP is following, so they apparently don't have much concern about building close to a pipeline.

We believe that a short-length southern variation in the MEP pipeline, original pipeline route, at
the location around the structures, would keep the pipeline in pastureland, which, according to the EIS, you say that the pastureland will be returned to pasture, that you're basically going to make sure the soil is not compacted, topsoil will be placed back, the line will fertilize it, and off the folks go.

So there's not really an impact in terms of the environment, in pasture. So, by keeping it up there, you would be keeping it within pasture.

Okay, now, one thing we noticed that's a concern to us, is that it talks in the Environmental Impact Statement about high-consequence areas crossed by the pipeline, and it did not identify an HCA from the milepost on the Roach property, from the milepost that I mentioned earlier.

There was no HCA mentioned, okay? Now, according to our interpretation of the EIS, that would be called an identified site, because you have -- their mother lives in a house there within -- it's approximately between 125 and 150 yards from the middle point of the permanent right-of-way.

Okay, it's that close to her, and so we feel like that the HCAs need to be extended through at least -- at least through the Roach property.

There's also one to at least one other severely...
disabled person that's within 150 yards to the south, not on
our property, but to the south of us there, that would be --
that's physically impaired, and that would be a problem to
basically evacuate these people.

I think Susan Roach is going to talk a little bit
more about her concerns about her mom, but I wanted to
mention the HCAs there. They need to be extended.

Okay, we also contend that the original route
will be less environmentally damaging than the subject
variation route, for several reasons: Okay, first of all,
the EIS fails to identify a small wetland area that's
located on the Roach property. It's basically a hydric
inclusion of a -- it's a hydric inclusion of a non-hydric
soil, which is fairly common in the north Louisiana area,
but it's a small wetland area and it's historically wet.

It's been that way. Water Oak is the
predominant species on there, and, based on my training in
wetlands, it is a wetland area.

Also, the EIS does not mention a riparian area
that would be on the southwest portion of the Roach
property, along -- it's actually on the Roach property, but
the pipeline does follow a small upland stream there, for
several yards there, and basically will do away with the
riparian area habitat along that route.

Okay, the EIS fails to identify potential impacts
to a spring on the Roach property. Based on your spring inventory, there is a spring on the Roach property that's not included in your inventory.

It says that MEP is willing to mitigate, if necessary. We don't understand how you can mitigate. If you come in and put a pipeline in and you basically either impact the yield or the water quality of that spring, then how in the world are you going to mitigate it? We don't understand how you can mitigate, unless you through money at us, which we're not interested in that; we want the spring to remain intact.

We do like the fact that FERC is requiring MEP to do the water well and spring testing, and we are encouraging that that be extended to anyone, regardless of the present use of the water, so that MEP would be required to look at the yield and water quality before and after their construction there on the land.

We still say that this service will -- the spring testing program will only identify damage, and not repair it.

And, basically, if you move the right-of-way back to its original location, both the -- I mean, the impacts to the wetland, riparian areas, as well as to the spring, would be avoided, because none of that stuff exists up on top of the hill there, where it was originally planned.
Okay, the EIS talks about water body crossings. If you left the original route there and did not follow the variation route, then you could reduce the number of water crossing by at least 50 percent and possibly 75 percent, by taking the old route.

The EIS talks about extensive forested tracts, which are -- well, the Roach property, in its entirety, is located within one of these tracts, and it's basically because of our management that we've done on the property. We've tried to maintain large, mature trees, and not all of the area is large, mature trees, but at least half of that right-of-way would be.

The route will basically destroy the most mature forest that's on the Roach property.

The original route was in pasture, and, therefore, there would be no impacts to extensive forested tracts. Also, by moving it up there, it would avoid impacts to extensive forested tracts on our neighbor to the west, which is Harry Dean Napper.

Okay, there -- I'm going to let Susan talk about the Roach family 1880s home and its uniqueness, and also about the concern about the health of her 91-year old mother that lives there, and is physically impaired.

Okay, there are some additional comments of a general nature. There is some confusion in the EIS about
where topsoil and compaction issues will be addressed.

In some places, it says that they will be used within cropland and pastureland, but we basically contend that anywhere that a landowner wants the topsoil, basically set aside, to go back on the top when they get through, as well as testing for compaction and dealing with the compaction issues, that that be done, and it doesn't matter what land use, whether it's forest, pasture, or cropland.

There's also fertilization and liming, which the EIS mentions, which may be necessary, and if you're going to -- and I would think that MEP would be interested in this, because I'm sure they want their right-of-way of there to re-vegetate within the shortest period of time.

Okay, there's some mention in the EIS about access barriers. We feel that the EIS should clarify that MEP is responsible for constructing, operating, and maintaining all access barriers requested by landowners, and that access would be provided to the landowners.

Our concern here is that you're going to open up property there that anybody on a four-wheeler, four-wheel drive, could drive on and go up and down through there, tearing stuff up, and we just don't care for that, and we feel like that's an impact that will occur to us, that will require access barriers.

Okay, the EIS would make someone believe that MEP
is providing completely, timely, and thorough information to local landowners, and that they are truly committed to minimizing environmental impacts. We have not found this to be true, and I'm going to let either Susan or my wife, Kathy, talk a little bit about our communication or non-communication with MEP.

That would let them talk just a little bit more about this, but what I would like to add in at this point, is that we have a concern that the EIS process is supposed to be used to identify environmental issues, social issues, human issues, and to try to deal with those and minimize them during the environmental impact process. Is that not a major objective of the whole NEPA process?

MS. JONES: That's correct.

MR. LINDER: Okay. At the same time, we see MEP out buying land rights from adjacent landowners, which could lock us in. We know for a fact that the people to the east, they have already obtained rights-of-way from them, okay?

We would hate to think by them going ahead and doing that, that our comments and request for reconsideration, won't even be considered, because they've already made that financial commitment. That seems directly opposed to the EIS process and everything that I know about.

(Pause.)

Okay, because of our experience with MEP -- the
EIS talks about having environmental investigators that are hire by MEP.

With the experience that we've had with MEP, non-communication with them, we don't feel like a MEP-hired environmental investigator, is going to be adequate protection on our land, and feel like that we're probably going to have to hire some additional oversight to make sure that MEP, as they build the pipeline, adheres to everything it says that you're going to do in the EIS.

There's lots of stuff in there, fellahs, that y'all are going to have to do. And we want it all done on our land, if y'all do come through us. We'd prefer you go somewhere else.

So I just don't think a MEP-hired environmental investigator -- and that would be a question for you, that I would like to have addressed, is, what kind of oversight does FERC, itself, to provide to MEP during the construction process?

I know a federal agency that I retired from, we did federal contracts on our construction work. It wasn't private, but we always had a construction inspector onsite, that basically made sure that stuff was put in the way it was supposed to be put in.

And I just don't see that close supervision by FERC in this process, but would you address that for me when
I get through, please?

MS. JONES: Certainly.

MR. LINDER: Okay. Throughout the EIS, resources and impacts are discussed with a final conclusion of no significant impact.

We realize that this no significant impact is related to comparing these impacts to a national scale, a regional scale, and so we don't necessarily disagree with that, when you compare all the extensive forested tracts in the U.S. to what is going to happen to us.

But we feel like the EIS ought to at least recognize the fact that what you do to us is significant to us. Okay, it may not be significant on a national scale, but it is significant locally to the people that own that land.

And we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS, and would hope that FERC and MEP would seriously consider our comments, by moving the subject variation route to its original location.

I have one other question of you, and that is, FERC -- okay, FERC oversees the EIS, basically prepares the EIS for these types of projects, okay?

If I'm not mistaken, NEPA is regulated by EPA. Are they not give oversight in terms of making sure that other agencies adhere to NEPA, and private individuals,
okay?

My question would be, who determines the adequacy of your Environmental Impact Statement? Do you? Or will EPA come in here at some point and say that your Environmental Impact Statement is adequate or inadequate, and if EPA doesn't have that right, then the question would be, is the only that that can be done, would be for there to be a federal lawsuit filed that basically contends that the EIS is inadequate?

MS. JONES: Well, NEPA applies to every federal agency that performs an action or issues a permit that then results in an action that could result in significant effects on the environment.

As far as -- your question pertains to oversight of federal agencies implementing NEPA, and that's more of a legal question. I don't know if Wayne, you might be able to help me with that.

I'm not sure if it's EPA or Council on Environmental Quality or -- I don't know that answer right off.

MR. LINDER: Does EPA basically have to bless this EIS at any point, for y'all to move forward with it, to your knowledge?

MS. JONES: Not that I'm aware of, no.

MR. LINDER: Okay. And so then the only way that
either an individual or a group would have to challenge the EIS, would be for them to file a federal lawsuit, is that correct?

MS. JONES: You know, I couldn't say that for sure. It's a legal question that's not in my expertise.

MR. LINDER: Right, but that is one way. I've seen it happen numerous times.

MS. JONES: You have, okay. Yeah, it's not something I'm familiar with.

MR. LINDER: Okay, and what about your oversight that I asked you about. Could you address that, please?

MS. JONES: Certainly.

MR. LINDER: The oversight actually during construction.

MS. JONES: Midcontinent itself will -- is required to hire its own environmental inspectors, and for this project and others similar to it, that are larger in scale, the FERC requires third-party monitoring.

And under that scenario, there are inspectors that report directly to the FERC. They are instructed by the FERC, and they are independent of the Company. They are financed through the Company, but it is a third-party program where they report strictly to the FERC.

It's a program that we've had in place, and have found to be extremely effective for many years. And those
FERC environmental inspectors will be on-site daily,
providing daily and weekly reports to FERC Staff, and if
there is any noncompliance or serious violations, we will
hear about that immediately, and, if necessary, the FERC can
stop work.

And you did have a number of other concerns, and
I appreciate you for bringing those to our attention, and
we'll be looking at that routing issue, and we'll also be
available to discuss it further after the meeting, if you
are able to stay a little longer.

Kathy Linder?

MS. LINDER: I'm Mary Catherine Roach Linder, and
I'm going to speaking about the same area that my husband,
Ray was just speaking about.

I think that one of our main concerns, to begin
with, is the lack of communication and the lack of any
specific information that we've been given about this
project.

Our first letter was January 26th of 2007, and it
came jointly to my sister, Margaret Susan Roach and I, at my
mother's house in Louisiana.

I live in Arkansas, and so, you know, I
eventually learned of this information. Well, this was very
general. It said, you know, we may be coming near your
properties, something like that.
Well, then about a year later, I think my sister heard something from someone that wanted to survey some land, and she said, well, give me at least 24 to 48 hours notice, because our mother's up there and she is very anxious about strangers on the property and such like.

And there was, you know, no more communication to that. Well, then this Summer -- I mean, just a couple of months ago, my sister and I discovered that MEP has gone through our property and surveyed and they've cut trees, they've flagged all this stuff, and still no one has contacted me, personally.

As far as I know, you know, there's still no intention to cross our property, but it's very obvious, when you look at the land, that it's been flagged, it's been surveyed, and trees have been cut and stuff out of the way.

My sister talked to, I think it was, Amanda Sloan, and explained my frustration over no one contacting me. Well, about two or three days later, I received a letter dated October 2007, and it was still a general letter that we may be wanting to come near your property.

That's all I've been told, and so I'm very frustrated over the lack of information.

Then trying to look at the maps on the Internet, which is all I had, initially, because my sister had -- well, we had received, jointly, a copy of the Draft EIS, and
that was frustrating, trying to read it on the Internet.

And so then my husband called and we did get a copy of that in the mail, but trying to look at the maps and figure out where our land is associated with the mile markers, is very difficult to tell. It's a big map here, and there's a line here with no markers, you know, no mileage listed.

So then you try looking at the high-consequence areas or the different areas in the EIS, and can't really tell, you know, if our area is really explained in there or not, so that was another frustration.

The EIS, I think, said that there were some maps you could reach from the E-Library side of the FERC site. We tried to get to those, and it said that that page wasn't available, so, you know, you can't really see the specific things, either, so we have some frustrations on that.

I'd like to add a couple of comments, too, about what Ray said about the spring on our property. That was used for our sole water source for many years when I still lived at home, and my mother used it for several years, until, actually, there was a Hyco (ph.) water system put in, and so that -- she hasn't used it for her personal drinking water, but it's still there available and the lines are still there from the spring to the house, to provide water, in case there's any problem or if she just wants to
supplement the Hyco water system.

The water was wonderful. I mean, you didn't have to have filters. It was like the good stuff that you buy from the springs, you know, but it was natural, so we would really hate to see that destroyed.

Another thing is the timber that's grown there for so many years. I mean, it will be removed for the permanent right-of-way, and, of course, the temporary right-of-way, you say, well, it will be brought back to its original state, well, there's no way you can bring back 60-year old trees to an original state.

And I don't know how the compensation is for timber and things that are permanently removed. You know, how can you compensate for your future growth of your timber that, you know, you may cut something for pulpwood now, that you wouldn't have thought about cutting for the next 20 years or something. I don't know how that could possibly be compensated for, for the future.

But, anyway, let's see. I think my sister is going to bring more comments about our mother and her mental and physical state and the problems that bringing this pipeline that close to her, will bring.

And, let's see. I think that's all I want to mention right now, but I thank you for your time.

MS. JONES: Thank you. Susan Roach?
MS. ROACH: I'm Susan Roach, if you haven't already heard my name too many times.

I, too, would very much like for this thing to be moved off of our property. I have some very, very deep personal issues with this, as well as some professional issues.

I'm an academically trained folklorist, and I am very concerned about how this is going to impact a historic farmstead. If I can give you just a little bit of history about the farmstead, it was bought by my grandfather in 1915, from family called the Driggers.

The Driggers had been there in the -- before the 1880s, I think, 1870s. They had a house there, dated about 1880.

That house is a dogtrot house. It's a very important cultural feature. I know this pipeline is not going through the house or by the house, but it's coming within a hundred yards or 150 yards. I don't know; I can't tell, because I can't measure on these maps. It's very upsetting, not to know the specifics of all this.

But be that as it may, it is going to come very, very close to where we enter the driveway to go to that house, which is set considerably off the road.

It's a very private place; it's got a lot of trees in front of it, there's a lot of highway noise, so
when you cut those trees and they can't grow back in that easement, in that main part, they will never be replaced, the highway noise is going to be deafening.

I think it will become a much less attractive place to live. That concerns me, because it's my rural retreat.

I'm intending it as a retirement home. My mother lives there, the noise bothers her at times. With the trees gone, there's going to be much more pollution.

She is very allergic, as I am. Everybody's got sinusitis and all this trouble, so we don't need the added problem of trees, you know, not being there to help protect the air.

I'm also concerned, because she cannot stay there while construction is going on. First of all, there will be all kinds of strangers running around and that will make her very nervous.

I don't feel like she will be secure with people we don't know, up there on the property. It will just be a small little jump over to her house, and I think that will be a big, major problem for her, as well as for me.

I would be worried sick about it. I live about 20 miles away, and I'm up there all the time, anyway, back and forth between where I live, so I've very concerned about that.
I'm also concerned that in the event of an accident, a fire, perhaps set accidentally, perhaps by one of the workers, since we are so surrounded by woods, or if, god forbid, there were a pipeline incident, terrorism, perhaps -- who knows -- or just a glitch in the system, that there would be no exit for her, because of the way our driveway curves around and goes into the property.

I'm also concerned, along the same lines, with the fact that this route is planned to go behind Ms. Willie Mae Dyson's house, my dear neighbor, and before -- well, actually, her son, who lives next door to her, and her son is now physically impaired. He's had another stroke, and he cannot leave the house without his motorized scooter.

And he cannot walk, he keeps falling down, so when he's there alone, he can't -- he has no way to get out, without help. This will be right up in back of his house, this will come on down in back of Ms. Willie Mae Dyson's house, and she is in her 80s, and she has several health issues, and she can only walk with a cane, as mother can only walk with a cane.

So, I think that there are three very much impaired individuals living in this area, and, you know, there are people that check on them and do things for them and are with them some of the time, but not all the time.

And this makes me very, very nervous for them.
It also makes me very miserable to think that I have to give up my retirement home, my rural retreat, because it's not going to be -- it's going to be so noisy, it's going to have this wretched bare expanse going through what was a beautiful little woodland area, by a little -- a natural pond.

There are so few natural ponds left around, nobody knows about them. But we have a little natural pond as you come into the property. It's a pond that's been there, I guess, for a long, long time.

It's by the spring that they mentioned, and it's a pond where our father was baptized, where the churches used to hold baptisms, so, culturally, it's a very significant area.

And this pipeline comes in right by that. It's going to come in across our property on the other side.

We have two or three acres across the road, big old trees. It's still a little -- that's where the headwaters of this little creek come in, and the creek flows through, and they're going to go down the creek, cross the creek, as it curves around, and it's just going to ruin that property, as far as any aesthetic appeal, or as far as the actual historical appeal of the property.

That was land that my grandfather had used. He had a little pasture down there around the pond, not much,
and then it went on into the woods, and some of the cows would go in the woods, you know, and hang out, and then just go back into the barn and be fed.

The outbuildings that were on the farm, are pretty much -- the big ones are still there. We're trying to maintain them, because, as I said, I'm a folklorist and I'm very interested in maintaining our folk architectural heritage of north Louisiana.

I've been working on that in various capacities, for a long time, preserving the oldest dogtrot house in Lincoln Parish, which is four miles down the road. Our house and our place, our farm, is the only place that I know of left on that road, besides the Autrey house, that has original house that was there, you know, from the 1800s.

But, in addition, our house has some of the outbuildings left. We have a barn, a blacksmith shop that was actually moved in from downtown Hyco. We have, let's see, a smokehouse, and a well shed, and a couple of other buildings that are not going to make it, because I can't maintain everything quite, but, at any rate, we are maintaining as much of the farmstead as we can, and we really hate to see that threatened.

I feel like this is very much of a threatening situation for it, because we have the original 40 acres that my grandfather first purchased to make that farm. He added
on another 80 in the back, and that was -- when we divided
up the land, after my sister and I and my father and mother
had moved up there, the other heirs got the back 40 and we
got the front 40 that was the original farm.

And we've tried to maintain it. Our mother has
insisted on staying there, in spite of, you know,
everything. She was widowed in '69, and she stayed on
there.

I went off to college and my sister went off to
college and got married, and, so, you know, we left the
place there with mother to stay there, and now she wants to
stay. She doesn't want to move, and I feel like if we have
to move her, initially for this construction, I don't know
if I'm going to feel comfortable with her living there with
this pipeline running through it all the time, with the
other potential things that can go wrong there.

I would like to add that this is a significant
historical property, because it's one of the Duback (ph.)
area dogtrots. It's one of the few left on that road.
Duback, for you that don't know, is the dogtrot capital of
the world, as declared by the Louisiana Legislature in 1990,
and it's a house type that is very important to the upland
south tradition.

It's very much an 1800s house type, and is found
pretty much among yeoman farmers, so, in that way, our farm
is very typical of a yeoman, starting in the 1800s and going on through the turn of the century.

And I feel like that that's another very important reason for not interfering with the integrity and the context of that piece of land. I feel very strongly that we really need to maintain that.

I have also spoken a little bit about last -- on Tuesday in Minden, about the problems that we had with Midcontinent Express Pipeline and the communication. I might need to reiterate a little bit about that.

I was contacted by a Amanda Sloan in February 08, February 5th, and that was the first time we knew that they wanted to go on, that they wanted to put the pipeline on our land. I had been contacted earlier, I think, in February of 07 -- I'm not quite sure about that -- by Clint Walker, who wanted to maybe come on and do some surveying.

I said, we're not interested in any pipeline, we don't want any pipeline on this land; it doesn't matter, we're just not interested. He said, well, we just want to survey some adjacent things, you know.

It wasn't -- it was just like they were going to site something on somebody else's property. And so I said, well, we don't really want anybody coming up there when we don't know it. I want to know when you're coming. I'll probably need to be up there with my mother, because she
gets alarmed when there are people on the property, and we didn't know.

So, we were very alarmed when we found out they were -- where they said they were going to put it, and then, low and behold, when we went up there, they had already been all over it.

As Kathy said, they had cut trees, they had also done an archeological dig, so I found out, or some digging. I don't know, but I think they did some shoveling around various places, because I was concerned, too, that there was a Native American presence on that land, because I know a lot of points had been found when people were farming up on the higher ground, not necessarily in the place where they're running this.

So, I guess they did the archeology survey without telling us that, either.

But we feel like that because, especially, we asked to be notified ahead of time, if they were going to do anything, survey-wise, that we should have been contacted and we were not.

I am very concerned about these issues and the fact that this is evidently going to happen, whether or not we were contacted or not.

So, I'm concerned, too, that a lot of our neighbors feel like that they don't really have any
recourse, that if they don't want this on their land, they
really don't have, you know, any say-so, that what they say,
will not matter, and that's a really important thing to me,
because I think we all need to have a voice in our
experiences in this country.

And, anyway, I really hope that FERC and the
Midcontinent Express will see their way fit to find some way
to avoid our property, if possible, and maybe go back to the
original route.

I would like some clarification of the chart --
and I've got it written down. I'm not sure if I can find
that piece of paper -- a table, I beg your pardon.
(Pause.)

Well, maybe I don't have it on that page.

Anyway, the table where it says that there was a residence
and a farm structures, that were the reason that the route
was changed. When you look in the EIS and see the changed
route back in the Appendix in J, whatever, then it says --
I wonder what -- and then when I talked with some of the
MEP, Mr. Sellers, on Tuesday night, he told me it was just a
chicken house, and that was all it was.

So I wonder if there is some error in there, of
if I've misread it, or the mile thing is wrong, or
something. Thank you.

MS. JONES: Thank you.
(Apparent short gap in tape.)

MS. JONES: -- and state your name.

MS. KLINE-CLARK: Hi, my name is Janet Kline-Clark, and I'm from the Madison Parish area. It's obvious that the persons here have been going at this for a long time. It's obvious that this process has been going on since last year.

So I think my family is kind of new to everything that's going on. We're here tonight, because our family property that's in Madison Parish, that's on Highway 602 -- we got a communication in reference to that, and we're interested as to how it's going to affect us, so I think, after the meeting tonight, we need to see the maps, we need to actually see, because we're talking about 55 acres of farmland that's being farmed, and our relatives, it's their property now, all of the original children have all died, and we're trying to kind of get a grip on what's actually supposed to happen.

We have farmland, we have woodland, and then across the bayou, the land that's -- across the highway, it's bayou property and it belongs to us, too, and all of the persons that live down that 602 area.

We really need to know, actually how that's going to affect us, because our land is being farmed, too, and we really need to know whether or not it's going to affect the
farm property.

And like these individuals were saying, our parents, our grandparents purchased that property. The original house is still there, and with us going through or getting ready to go through the succession process, we really, really need to know, see maps, diagrams.

The person that contacted my cousin, because my cousin's name is the original name of my grandfather, they have been in contact, but then my cousin and my aunt that live on the property, because they're not at home all the time, we don't know of they've been in contact or they're out surveying or what they are doing out there.

And we really, really are concerned, and especially if it's going to affect us like it's affecting the people here.

It's going -- you know, I think it's going to be hard on my family, because, knowing that my aunt, who just recently died, and my grandmother and my father and uncles, all wanted the property to stay intact, and knowing that the government, regardless to what we say, if it's something that's going to benefit the public, then you at some point, as I was reading in your document, you're going to do eminent domain, once the documents are signed, if you don't reach an agreement with the family, and then it would be decided on by the courts, as to what the financial
settlement will be.

So, I just wanted to know how long has this been going on in Madison Parish? Are you all just coming, just starting in Madison Parish, since it's been going on in the Lincoln area, at least for over a year?

PARTICIPANT: Well, we are just starting our acquisition strategies --

PARTICIPANT: You have to go to the microphone.

PARTICIPANT: Okay. We're just starting our acquisition program in Madison Parish, so we haven't been contacting a lot of people yet.

MS. KLINE-CLARK: Okay, okay, all right, thank you. We'll wait until after the end, so we can see maps and everything.

MS. JONES: Okay.

MS. KLINE-CLARK: We do appreciate your time, okay?

MS. JONES: Absolutely. Okay, thank you. Is there anybody else who would like to provide comments for the record?

(No response.)

MS. JONES: No? Okay.

PARTICIPANT: I would like to say one more thing.

MS. JONES: Okay, yes, sir.

MR. FOWLER: Some of you will probably say, well,
he's anti-pipeline. Well, that's not true.

A pipeline has been across the place since 1928, and as a matter of fact, we have already settled with this company up in Clayton Parish, my wife and I, Carol S. Fowler. You can look on the record.

We've already settled with them. That didn't impact our ability to make a living.

Down in Lincoln Parish, it's going to impact our ability to make a living, and that is the problem. Thank you.

MS. JONES: Okay, thank you very much. I think that at this point, we'll conclude the formal portion of the meeting, and we'll all remain for further discussions, as you would like. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the scoping meeting was concluded.)