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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

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Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC Docket No. PF15-3-000

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MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE PROJECT

Eastern Montgomery High School
4695 Crozier Road
Elliston, Virginia 24087
Tuesday, May 5, 2015

The evening scoping meeting, pursuant to notice,
convened at 7 p.m, before a Staff Panel:

PAUL FRIEDMAN, Environmental Project Manager,

FERC

With:

LAVINIA DiSANTO, Cardno

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: So good evening, everyone. My
name
3 is Paul Friedman. I work for the Federal Energy Regulatory
4 Commission. That's F E R C; we call it the 'FERC' or 'The
5 Commission.' I would like to welcome you here tonight to
6 our public scoping meeting to take environmental comments
on
7 the proposed Mountain Valley Project, or MVP I sometimes
8 call it, in West Virginia and Virginia, in FERC Docket
PF15-
9 3.

10 Let the record show that this meeting started at
7
11 p.m. on Tuesday May 5, 2015 at Eastern Montgomery High
12 School, Elliston, Virginia.

13 You may have noticed that a court reporter is
14 transcribing this meeting, and this is so we can have an
15 accurate record of tonight's comments. The FERC has a
16 transcription contract with Ace Court Reporters, Inc. and
if
17 you wish to obtain a copy of the transcript prior to its
18 placement in our public files, you must make arrangements
19 directly with Ace. We will put a copy of the transcript in
20 our eLibrary system and I will talk about eLibrary later in
21 my presentation. Approximately fifteen days after we
22 receive it from Ace.

23
presentation]

[Slide

24 The goal of my Project Team -- the people at the

25 door, I need you to come and find a seat, please.

1 The goal of my Project Team is to write an
2 Environmental Impact Statement or an EIS for this project.
3 The FERC team consists of an interdisciplinary specialist,
4 including engineers, biologists, geologists and
5 archeologists. To expand our staff's capabilities, we have
6 an environmental contractor who's name is Cardno. We have
7 three representatives of Cardno here with me tonight:
8 Lavinia DiSanto, and in the far back, the ones who did the
9 sign-up for me were Doug Mooneyhan and Charles Brown.

10 We have a group of federal agencies that work
with
11 us as cooperating agencies. That includes the Pipeline and
12 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the U.S.
13 Department of Transportation and we hope next week some
14 representatives with the DOT will be with us at some of the
15 meetings in West Virginia that we are doing next week.

16 Other cooperating agencies are the United States
17 Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S.
18 Environmental Protection Agency, the West Virginia
19 Department of Natural Resources and the West Virginia
20 Department of Environmental Protection. Cooperating
21 agencies have jurisdiction or special expertise, and they
22 can adopt our EIS for their own regulatory purposes.

23 For example, the Forest Service will use our EIS
24 to analyze potential amendments to their Forest Plan to
25 allow the project to cross federal land. Their decision

1 would be a right-of-way grant for the pipeline; and that is
2 separate from the FERC decision.

3 The FERC is the lead Federal agency for both the
4 authorization of this project under the Natural Gas Act and
5 for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

or

6 NEPA. To comply with the NEPA, FERC will produce an EIS
7 which I will discuss later.

8 The FERC was originally known by the Federal

Power

9 Commission when it was created by Congress in 1920. We

have

10 been around a while. We were reorganized and renamed

during

11 the Carter Administration. The FERC is an independent
12 regulatory agency. What that means is that a Commission
13 decision cannot be changed by the Executive or Legislative
14 Branches. But a FERC decision can be challenged in court.

15 Once of the industries we regulate is the
16 Interstate Transportation of Natural Gas. We also regulate
17 non-Federal hydropower, electric rates and oil rates, but
18 neither the siting of electric power lines nor the siting

of

19 oil pipelines. So for those of you who asked, no, FERC

does

20 not regulate Keystone. We also don't regulate the
21 exploration, production, or gathering of natural gas or the
22 local distribution of natural gas. Those activities are

23 regulated by the states.

24 So for example, I've heard comments about

25 hydraulic fracturing -- what other people call fracking;

1 that is an exploration and production method. That is not
2 regulated by the FERC. That is regulated by the states.
If
3 you have concerns about fracking, please contact your state
4 representatives.

5 Our agency is directed by five Commissioners who
6 are appointed by the President of the United states and
7 confirmed by Congress. It is always three people in the
8 party in power, so we have three Democrats. The Democrats
9 are: Chairman Norman Bay and Commissioner Honorable, and
10 Commissioner LaFleur and we have two Republicans; they are
11 Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Moeller.

12 Tonight I would like to accomplish the following.
13 I would like to summarize the project very briefly, explain
14 the role of the FERC in the review of the project, outline
15 how the public may participate in the process and allow
you,
16 the public, to voice your concerns about the project at
this
17 forum so we can consider your concerns when we write our
18 EIS.

19 I ask that you reserve all questions --

20 [Most lights in auditorium go out.]

21 All right, bear with me while we figure out how
to
22 fix this. Wouldn't you know there'd be a technical glitch?

23 (Pause)

24 Even though we are all in the dark here, I will
25 continue to speak if I can, just so we can move this along.

1

shout

2

So, what I was saying is I don't want you to

3

out questions to me during my presentation; that you have

4

the opportunity to comment at the end of my presentation.

5

We do have some rules of decorum which absolutely

6

must be followed. We had a public meeting last night. We

7

had some problems with people who shouted out out of turn

8

and disrupted the meeting, and we also had some who would

9

not yield the floor to other speakers. So like I said,

10

there is a three minute minimum to how long you speak.

When

11

I ask you to please relinquish the microphone we would like

12

you to do that so that the other members of your community

13

will have that opportunity to speak. Treat all speakers

14

with respect, regardless of their points of view. Do not

15

boo, applaud, cheer or shout out of turn.

16

The meeting will be ended when we have the end of

17

our contract for the room, which is at 10:30.

18

We might have lights soon -- [lighting returns]

19

yay. And like I said before, if those speakers who hold

20

numbers who don't get called up, they can send their

21

comments in in writing. I reserve the right to end the

22

meeting at any time should there be a disruption or the

23

potential for a public safety issue.

24

I would like to clarify that the FERC and the

25 cooperating agencies did not conceive of this project nor

1 are we promoting it. The project was designed by Mountain
2 Valley Pipeline, LLC, abbreviated as Mountain Valley. They
3 are a joint venture between EQT Corporation and NextEra
4 Energy, Inc. We will call them the Company or the
5 Applicant. Just so you know, all of the companies that
6 regulates are private companies, so this is no different
7 than any other FERC proceeding.

FERC

8 The Company came up with the proposed location
9 their facilities and it's up to the FERC staff to analyze
10 the environmental impacts associated with the construction
11 and operation of those facilities. We will disclose those
12 impacts in our EIS. The FERC is not an advocate for the
13 project; however, FERC Staff are advocates for our
14 environmental review process.

for

15 Let's review some project background. On October
16 27, 2014, Mountain Valley filed its request to initiate the
17 FERC's pre-filing environmental review process. We
18 that request on October 31st and assigned the docket number
19 PF15-3. You will hear me refer to that docket number often.
20 Any written record, anything you send in writing to the
21 must reference that docket number or we won't be able to
22 read it.

accepted

FERC

23 People in the back, please come and find a seat.

24 From my understanding this auditorium seats about five
25 hundred people and I see lots of empty seats. It's

1 obviously a safety hazard to have people standing on the
2 sides or in the back, so please come down and find a seat.
3 Thank you. How come when I say that there are always
people
4 who don't have to do that?

5 I'll say it again: please come and find a seat,
6 stop standing in the back, blocking the doors or on the
7 side. Now, I appreciate you doing that.

8 During pre-filing, the Company is supposed to
9 communicate with stakeholders to identify issues of
concern,
10 attempt to resolve those issues and perfect its formal
11 application to the FERC. Mountain Valley has stated that
12 they would like to file an application with the FERC in
13 October of 2015.

14 At the time of its application, Mountain Valley
15 will also file an environmental report that complies with
16 the FERC regulations at Title 18 Code of Federal
17 Regulations, or CFR 380.12, and addresses such resource
18 topics such as Geology and Soils, Water and Wetlands,
19 Vegetation and Wildlife, Cultural Resources,
Socioeconomics,
20 Land Use, Air Quality and Noise, and Safety. During pre-
21 filing, Mountain Valley will file drafts of those reports
22 into the public record -- it's not a secret -- and anyone
23 can comment on them. I will explain how to submit comments
24 to the FERC later in this presentation.

25

Again, people standing in front of the doors, if

1 you could find a seat, I see hundreds of empty seats here.

2 Thank you.

Valley

3 In December 2014 and January 2015, Mountain

4 conducted sixteen open houses along the route of the

5 pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia with two additional

6 open houses held in April for alternative routes. FERC

have

7 staff attended all of those open houses and many of you

8 spoken to me and the Cardno staff at those open houses. On

9 December 1, 2014, Mountain Valley filed its first Draft

10 Resource Report One, which is a project description and a

11 summary of alternatives. The FERC staff issued a data

12 request on those resource reports on March 13, 2015. On

13 March 25, the FERC issued a project update to inform the

Project

14 public where we were in the review process, and that

15 Update informed the public that we intended to hold these

16 scoping meetings.

17 Mountain Valley filed revised Resource Report One

18 and Draft Report Seven on Soils, and Resource Report Eight

19 on Land Use, March 27. Resource Report Five on

April

20 Socioeconomics and Resource Report Eleven on Safety on

21 10. Revised Resource Report Ten on April 14, Resource

22 Report Three, which is Vegetation and Wildlife, Resource

23 Report Four which is Cultural Resources on April 24.

24 On April 17, 2015, the FERC issued its Notice of
25 Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. That

1 NOI was sent to our Environmental Mailing List that
includes

2 landowners, elected officials, government agencies, Indian
3 tribes, environmental groups, nongovernmental agencies,
4 local libraries and newspapers and other interested
parties.

5 The NOI announced six public scoping meetings of which this
6 is one, and explained how the public could file scoping
7 comments.

8 The NOI was also published in the Federal
Register
9 on April 28, 2015. The scoping period will end on June 18,
10 2015. However, this is a very soft deadline and we will
11 continue to consider all comments we receive up until the
12 time we actually write the EIS.

13 Again, people at the back who are standing, can
14 you please find a seat?

15 We will use comments we receive during scoping to
16 shape the content of the EIS, which will focus on the
issues

17 raised during scoping. We will also consider the many
18 comments we receive after the beginning of the pre-filing
19 process on October 31, 2014. The FERC will not send out
20 answers to individual comment letters, but will instead
21 address all environmental issues raised during scoping

under

22 our general resource topics in the EIS.

23 Mountain Valley proposes to construct and operate

24 a 294-mile long, 42-inch diameter pipeline in West Virginia
25 and Virginia. The pipeline would originate at the existing

1 Equitrans LP system in Wetzel County, West Virginia and
2 terminate at the existing Transcontinental Pipeline Company
3 Zone five compressor station 165 sixty-five in Pennsylvania
4 County, Virginia.

5 Additional facilities would include four new
6 compressor stations in Wetzel, Braxton, Fayette Counties,
7 West Virginia, and Montgomery County, where we are today,
8 Virginia. The project is designed to transport about two
9 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from production
10 sources in the Appalachian Basins to markets in the Mid-
11 Atlantic and Southeastern United States.

12 There is a false Rumor being circulated that
13 natural gas from this project would be used for export. In
14 order to export natural gas, the company must obtain a
15 permit or authorization from the FERC and the from the U.S.
16 Department of Energy. Mountain Valley has not applied for
17 either of those permits; therefore, they could not under
18 any circumstance export natural gas as LNG or otherwise.

19 Pipeline construction activities can be
20 summarized as follows: Clearing and grading, trenching, pipe-
21 stringing, welding, lowering in and back-filling and
22 cleanup and restoration.

23 This slide illustrates our pre-filing
24 environmental review process. I would like to point out

We 25 places where we currently are in the pre-filing process.

1 are in the scoping period. Later during pre-filing, the
2 FERC will issue data requests to fill in gaps after we
3 review Mountain Valley's draft resource reports.

4 During pre-filing, the public has the opportunity
5 to comment to the FERC about the project. The issuance of
6 the FERC's NOI is our way of notifying stakeholders and
7 requesting comments on environmental issues. We urge you
8 to place your comments into the FERC's official public record
9 before the end of the scoping period. Later on, I will
10 talk about how to submit comments.

11 Other opportunities for the public to comment on
12 the project occur after Mountain Valley files its formal
13 application with the FERC. First, you can comment in
14 response to the Notice of Application. Second, you can
15 comment when the FERC issues its draft environmental impact
16 statement. Parties may request intervenor status in
17 response to our Notice of Application. Being an intervenor
18 is a legal position. Intervenors can request rehearing of
19 a Commission decision. They can also have the burden of
20 serving all parties with their filings. You do not have to
21 be an intervenor to have your environmental comment
22 considered. You cannot intervene during the FERC's pre-
23 is filing process. You must wait until a formal application

24 filled.

25 If you want to file comments into the
Commission's

1 official record, please follow the directions given in the
2 NOI under 'public participation.' Do not send emails to
3 FERC staff. The Commission urges the electronic filling of
4 comments through our internet website, which is
5 www.FERC.gov. You can click on documents and filings,
click
6 on e-filings, and follow the directions. If you have
7 comments or questions about how the FERC website works, you
8 can call our information technology staff, and their number
9 is given in the NOI.

10 You may also comment in writing by sending a
11 letter to the Secretary the old-fashioned way, at 888 First
12 Street Northeast, Washington, DC 20426. In all
13 correspondence, whether electronic or in hard copy, please
14 reference the docket number PF15-3. You will also have the
15 opportunity to comment orally tonight at this meeting. We
16 will be taking comments from attendees after my
17 presentation. Remember to sign up on the speakers list.
18 The speakers list is being kept in the back of the lobby
19 there by Dan and Charlie. So this is your last time to get
20 up and go out there and sign up.

21 As I said before, a transcript of this meeting
22 will be placed in the public record for this proceeding.
23 The FERC process is fairly transparent in that you can see
24 everything in the docket through the Internet. Again go to
25 www.FERC.gov, go to documents and filings, click on

1 eLibrary. Within eLibrary you choose a general search,
2 select a date range, and put in the docket number which is
3 PF15-3. eLibrary contains copies of all documents filed in
4 this proceeding.

5 To be notified via email of all future filings in
6 these proceedings, you need to sign up for eSubscription
7 service through the FERC web page. Again, go to
8 www.FERC.gov, click on documents and filings, click on
9 eSubscription, and follow the instructions. Everything I
10 have just said is in writing in the Notice of Intent, and
11 therefore I don't have slides on it.

12 Based on the application and our own research,
the
13 FERC Staff and cooperating agencies will produce an EIS in
14 accordance with the regulations of the Council of
15 Environmental Quality, or CEQ at Title 40, CFR Part 1500
16 through 1508 to satisfy the requirements of the NEPA. That
17 document will offer our independent analysis of the
18 potential environmental impacts of the proposal and
19 alternatives. Generally, the EIS will discuss the current
20 environmental, identify potential project-related impacts
on
21 specific natural resources and present proposed measures to
22 avoid, reduce or mitigate adverse effects.

23 Once the FERC Staff is convinced that the
24 application is complete, so that we can fully understand
the

25 potential impacts the project may have on the environment,

1 we will issue a notice of schedule for our final EIS. In
2 accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, other
federal
3 agencies would have ninety days after the FERC's release of
4 the final EIS to issue their permits or approvals.

5 The FERC staff will first produce a DEIS that
will
6 be circulated for public comment. Copies of the DEIS will
7 be sent to our Environmental mailing list. After mailing
8 out the DEIS, the FERC staff would hold public meetings in
9 the project area to again take verbal comments on the DEIS.
10 The comments on the DEIS will be addressed in the FEIS.

The
11 Commission will only make its decision whether or not to
12 authorize this project after we have issued the FEIS.

13 The EIS is not a final decision document. It
will
14 be prepared to advise the Commissioners and to disclose to
15 the Public the environmental impacts associated with
16 constructing and operating the Project. The Commissioners
17 would consider our environmental analysis together with
18 other staff material pertaining to non-environmental issues
19 before making an informed decision about the project. The
20 Commission has the option of accepting the proposal in
whole
21 or in part, approving the proposal with or without
22 conditions, or denying the application altogether.

23 The final decision by the Commission is issued as

24 an order. It is the order, not the EIS, which would make a
25 finding of public benefit. If the project is authorized,

1 the Commission would issue a Certificate of Public
2 Convenience and Necessity to Mountain Valley. The
3 Commissioners would base their decision on their
certificate
4 policy statement that established the criteria for
5 determining whether there is a need for a project.

6 If the Commission decides to authorize the
7 project, the FERC staff will make certain that the
8 environmental conditions, appendant to the order are
9 satisfied. Those conditions usually include a stipulation
10 that the company obtain all of the necessary Federal
permits
11 and authorizations prior to construction.

12 The Company must implement all of the measures
13 that they have committed to in their application and
14 mitigation programs. FERC Staff and our contractor will
15 monitor the project through construction and restoration
and
16 the completion of mitigation programs. We will perform on-
17 site inspections for compliance with the environmental
18 conditions of the order.

19 Now, it's finally time for you to speak. Let me
20 reemphasize that this is not a hearing on the merits of the
21 proposal. Other Commission staff will consider economic
22 need for this project and rates to be charged for service.
23 As I said earlier, this meeting provides you, the public,
an

24 opportunity to comment on the type of environmental issues
25 that you would like to see us concentrate on in the EIS.

1 The more specific your comment is about potential
2 environmental impacts, the more useful it will be for FERC
3 Staff. Comments either for or against the project are not
4 particularly useful. This is not a question and answer
5 session. I am here to listen to you. We will address the
6 questions raised tonight in our EIS after we have conducted
7 the appropriate research.

8 There are some ground rules about decorum during
9 this meeting. I will go over them once again. Treat all
10 speakers with respect, whether you agree with them or not.
11 No booing, cheering, applauding, or yelling out. If the
12 audience becomes unruly, and there is a public safety issue
13 that I identify, I reserve the right to close the meeting.
14 We will take speakers up until the contracted time for this
15 venue is over, and that is I believe is 10:30 p.m. tonight.
16 Those not called can still place their comments into the
17 record by filing a letter with the Commission.

18 I will call up speakers individually in the order
19 in which they have signed up by number. To move the
meeting
20 along in an expeditious manner, I will call several numbers
21 at once and I would like you to sit in the front row. When
22 you come to the microphone, speak clearly, state your name
23 and spell it for the court reporter. If you represent an
24 organization, tell us what it is without using an acronym.
25 If you are a landowner along the pipeline route, please

1 indicate if possible where your property is located
2 according to milepost or cross streets.

3 To allow adequate time for everybody to speak
4 tonight who wants to, each speaker will be limited to no
5 more than three minutes. As a matter of fairness, I will
6 strictly enforce the three-minute rule. The goal tonight
7 should be for each speaker to briefly summarize the
8 concerns. You may present detailed comments in writing.

9 So with that, can speaker number one come up?

10 MS. GRAY : Thank you for holding this meeting.
11 My name is Nan Gray, N-A-N G-R-A-Y. I am a licensed
12 professional soil scientist and a number of other things.
13 But I would like to point out why I'm here tonight and it
14 has to do with this map of Sinking Creek Valley. I live in
15 Craig County. I would like to point out that the Great
16 Eastern Continental Divide comes along Brush Mountain, then
17 up along Sinking Creek Mountain, comes around to John's
18 Creek Mountain then back here to Salt Pond Mountain and
over
19 to Potts Mountain. That's a long route for the Great
20 Eastern Continental Divide.

21 If the pipeline comes through the alternative
22 route it cuts the Great Eastern Continental Divide, one,
23 two, three, four and probably five times. Sinking Creek
24 Valley is one of two raised valleys in Virginia. Burke's

25 Garden is the other raised valley. We all know that that
is

1 a wetland and it has very diverse plants and unique plants.
2 Sinking Creek Valley is Karst in the middle and it is --
not
3 only does it have its own water storage, all that Karst is
4 full of water. It is a water source.

5 If that pipeline cuts through the Great Eastern
6 Continental Divide in all those ways, it's going to impact
7 the water going to the Atlantic. It's going to impact the
8 water going to the Gulf of Mexico five different times.
9 This is a bad siting simply because they chose a fold in
the
10 mountains where the Great Eastern Continental Divide
follows
11 the ridge back and forth. If they move one way or another
12 they are less likely to cross the Great Eastern Continental
13 Divide Watershed that many times.

14 Really, what they ought to do is either have all
15 the pipeline go west of the mountains or east of the
16 mountains. For instance, on John's Creek Mountain, we're
17 talking an elevation of about 3,600 feet. For Sinking
Creek
18 Mountain, we're talking about 3,800 feet. Now the valley
on
19 John's Creek is quite a bit lower. Sinking Creek Valley is
20 2200 feet elevation and Craig's Creek to the east is low
21 also. As I said, Sinking Creek Valley is a raised, perched
22 valley.

23 Newcastle is the recipient of centuries of debris

24 flows from John's Creek and also Craig's Creek and Meadow
25 Creek off the front of Sinking Creek Mountain.

1 And I thank you again, I think my time's up.

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments. So
3 you see that Lavinia and I have this child's toy up here.
4 It actually plays a very important role in tonight's
5 meeting. It's a stoplight, and it goes from green after

two

6 minutes, to yellow and at two and a half or at three it

will

7 go to red. So that's a visual aide to let you know that
8 it's time to end your comments and allow the next speaker.

9 Speaker number two, thank you.

10 MS. GAY: My name is Louisa Gay, L-O-U-I-S-A G-

A-

11 Y. I live in Blacksburg, I believe at mile-marker 219. I

12 live between the Slusher's Chapel and the Old Mill

13 Conservation sites. In our neighborhood, we know the

14 carbonate aquifer must be managed as a sustainable water

15 supply because it is the only water supply available for

our

16 residences and farms. That said, pipeline construction

17 activities such as trenching, blasting, compaction due to

18 large machinery, deforestation and runoff will modify

19 natural drainage patterns, resulting in settling, increased

20 subsidence and sinkholes.

21 In a report to FERC from the Commonwealth of

22 Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation dated

23 April 17, they recommended against routing pipelines

through

24 the sensitive Karst conservation sites in both Giles and
25 Montgomery Counties. Because I live between Slusher's

1 Chapel and Mill Creek, I will focus on those two
2 conservation sites.

3 Slusher's Chapel is a conservation site of third
4 order significance. It contains a state-listed endangered
5 species, Ellet Valley Millipede pseudotrema cavernarum.

The

6 conservation site protects cave and Karst-associated

element

7 occurrences including two state-designated significant

8 caves. The conservation site boundaries include the land

9 overlying the caves and the watershed of the cave streams

as

10 determined by dye-trace studies and topographic analysis.

11 Six additional caves are documented within the

12 conservation sites. The two significant caves are

Slusher's

13 Chapel Cave and the Mill Creek Cave. Three cave-limited

14 terrestrial invertebrate species and two aquatic

15 invertebrate species are known from the site. Three of

16 these species are globally very rare and Slusher's Chapel

17 Cave is the locality for one of these species. Rare bats

18 are also known in Slusher's Chapel Cave.

19 Three kilometers of the MVP proposed line will

20 pass over the sinkhole plane of Slusher's Chapel

21 Conservancy. The Old Mill is a conservation site also of

22 third order significance and the Mill Creek Cave has the

23 same invertebrates as Slusher's Chapel. It also has a

24 globally rare trobalific beetle. The MVP proposed line
25 crosses for one and a half kilometers over this site.

Karst

1 In the proceedings of the second Appalachian
2 Symposium in 2004, they stated dye traces in Montgomery
3 County documented hydrological connections in the Mount
4 Tabor Karst, northeast of Blacksburg, to both the Slusher's
5 Chapel Cave and the Mill Creek Cave. Dyes injected in Dry
6 Run, which is a sinking creek northeast of that area,
7 emerged also at the Mill Creek downstream.

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
9 comments.

10 Number three.

11 MS. GAY: God bless Duncan Adams from the Roanoke
12 Times.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. KAYWOOD: Good evening. My name is Richard
15 Kaywood. I am the Assistant County Administrator for
16 Roanoke County, and the comments I am offering tonight are
17 the official comments of Roanoke County.

18 On April 28, 2015, the Roanoke County Board of
19 Supervisors passed a resolution to petition the FERC to
20 delay the proposed June 16, 2015 scoping comment period by
21 an additional ninety days and to also petition FERC to hold
22 a public scoping public hearing in Roanoke County.

23 These requests were made for the following
24 reasons: While the Project's routing for the Northern
25 portion of the project for West Virginia appears to be

the 1 clearly established with significant detail, that is not
2 case with the Southern corridor in the Roanoke Valley.
3 Impacts to Roanoke can more than double one or more of the
4 recently announced alternative routes are chosen. In fact,
5 only a small portion of the proposed route within Roanoke
6 County has been consistent since the original routing was
7 proposed.

8 There is also essentially no publicly available
9 information on the proposed Swan Compressor station to be
10 located in our region other than a very low-resolution map
11 included with the FERC Notice of Intent and very brief
12 references in FERC filings. The FERC map indicates two
13 possible locations for this station within Roanoke County.

14 On page forty-eight of Draft Resource Report No.
15 10 MVP indicates, and I'm paraphrasing: 'We haven't decided
16 where the compressor station will be located or even where
17 the line will be located in this region, so we'll let FERC
18 know when we have made our formal FERC application in
19 October.'

20 How can Roanoke County or its citizens make an
21 informed evaluation and comment intelligently on what may
be 22 a very significant impact to our citizens and to the
23 environment with this level of information? This level of
24 ambiguity and lack of information is in stark contrast to

25 the detailed information provided about three similar

1 compressor stations in West Virginia.

2 Quite simply, Roanoke County does not believe
that

3 sufficient work has been done and communicated to
interested

4 parties in the Southern portion of the corridor for FERC to
5 close the scoping process on June 16. In addition, there
is

6 more than two hundred thousand people in the Roanoke Valley
7 and almost one hundred thousand in Roanoke County.

8 Tonight's hearing is over an hour driving time for some of
9 the residents directly impacted by the project and even
10 further for other interested residents.

11 Therefore, and particularly based on the crowds
12 tonight, it's clear that there are many more people who
13 would like to speak if they could speak tonight so we would
14 also ask that there be another hearing in Roanoke County.

15 Finally, I would like to share two specific
16 environmental concerns for the county. The first regards
17 our Karst geology that's very complex and sensitive
18 watersheds and sensitive water supply. We believe that
much

19 of the route in our area will require blasting or very
heavy

20 mechanical rock removal and most likely both to achieve a
21 sufficient depth on our steep mountain terrain. We believe
22 that this poses a substantial risk to water resources and
23 this should be very carefully evaluated.

24 Finally, our area is very heavily forested and
25 very beautiful and we rent over 1.1 million hotel nights a

1 year in the Roanoke Valley. We believe the construction of
2 the pipeline would be very visible on a permanent basis
3 since the land will not be able to be reforested.

4 Therefore, we would request a detailed visual analysis of
5 viewsheds from the Blue Ridge Parkway, Appalachian Trail

and

6 other sensitive areas and this would be required to be made
7 available to the public for review and comment. We would
8 like to thank you for this opportunity to present the
9 County's comments.

10 (Applause).

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number four and at this time I
12 would like numbers six, seven, eight, nine, ten to come to
13 the front row. If there is not enough room I would like
14 everyone sitting in the front row who do not have those
15 numbers to move a little further back so that we can move
16 in an expeditious manner.

in

17 MR. PERRY: My name is David Perry, D-A-V-I-D P-
18 E-R-R-Y and I am executive director of the Blue Ridge Land
19 Conservancy. The Mountain Valley Pipeline is proposed to
20 cross four properties protected with conservation easements
21 held by the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. The properties
22 are the Coal Bank Ridge Property in Montgomery County, The
23 Higgenbotham Property in Roanoke County and the Garst and
24 Prettyman Properties on GaHays Mountain in Franklin County.

1 These easements protect important environmental
2 resources that have been identified by local governments,
3 the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Government as
a protection from a kind of commercial and industrial
4 development and ecological disturbance associated with the
5 construction of the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline.
6
7 Lands protected with conservation easements are
incompatible
8 with the 42-inch natural gas transmission pipeline.

9 I want to share with you just a few of the many
10 environmental impacts of this proposed pipeline on these
11 lands. Under your category of Geology and Soils, for
12 example, the Coal Bank Ridge Property in Montgomery County
13 is composed entirely of Karst geology as identified by the
14 Virginia Department of conservation and Recreation.
15 Alternate route 87 crosses this property from end to end.

16 Vegetation and Wildlife: Water from the
17 Higgenbotham Property flows into the Bottom Creek Gorge,
18 which contains three rare fish and one globally rare plant.
19 Silt and settlement from any potential pipeline
construction
20 on the Higgenbotham Property would negatively impact water
21 quality in Bottom Creek to the detriment of these species.
22 A visual example: Motorists and bicyclists who
23 recreate along the Blue Ridge Parkway and U.S. 220 would
24 have their enjoyment lessened by the visual impact of the

25 proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline, running down the length

1 of Gahays Mountain and through the Garst and Prettyman
2 properties. Gahays Mountain is the highest peak in Franklin
3 county and has its own overlook along the Blue Ridge
4 Parkway. The one hundred and twenty-five foot wide,
5 unvegetated pipeline clear-cut down the spine of the forest
6 of the Gahays Mountain would create a major visual impact
in
7 the landscape from both the Blue Ridge Parkway and U.S.
220.

8
9 Finally, air quality. Three of the properties
10 protected by conservation easements that are proposed to be
11 crossed by the Mountain Valley Pipeline are located in the
12 Roanoke Valley. These Properties are either entirely or
13 partially forested. In the Roanoke Valley, traffic within
14 the valley and that passing on I-81 and U.S. highways
15 releases emissions into the area that due to the valley's
16 unique geography tend to remain trapped in the valley.
17 These emissions contribute to high ground-level ozone
layers
18 in the summer and high particulate matter pollution in the
19 colder months.

20 In 2003, the Roanoke Valley Metropolitan
21 Statistical Area was required by the EPA to enter
agreements
22 and establish a plan to reduce ozone pollution in the
23 Roanoke Valley. Permanent elimination of the potential for

24 trees along the pipeline route on these conserved
properties

25 would hinder the efforts of citizens, NGOs and local

1 governments to meet federal mandates for clean air. We are
2 trying to add trees, not remove them.

3 For these reasons and many more, the Mountain
4 Valley Pipeline should not cross any lands protected by
5 conservation easements.

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
7 comments.

8 Speaker number five. And again, I would like
9 speaker six, seven, eight, nine, ten to be in the front
row.

10

11 MS. PHARIS: I'm Linda Pharis, L-I-N-D-A P-H-A-
R-

12 I-S. Welcome back, Mr. Friedman and FERC Staff to our
13 beautiful region, which is not just our back yard, it's the
14 Nation's back yard.

15 We hold, as Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, a
16 conservation easement on Bat Mountain and Roanoke County,
17 which as David has spoken of it, the Higgenbotham Property,
18 which rates very high; four out of five on the Virginia
19 Department of Conservation and Recreation's agricultural
20 model for open space.

21 This model particularly notes prime agricultural
22 soils on this land. This conserved property rated
23 outstanding on the Department of Conservation and
24 Recreation's ecological cores model. The ecological cores

25 model rates the contribution of an area to ecosystems

1 service values of cleaning air and filtering water,
2 harboring plant and animal species, and thereby containing
3 libraries of genetic information from which new foods,
4 materials and medical compounds are derived.

5 Water from the Higgenbotham Property flows into
6 Bottoms Creek Gorge, which is a popular destination for
7 whitewater canoeists and kayakers. A pipeline through this
8 property would ruin the water quality and recreational
9 experience for people from all over this region and beyond.
10 The conservation easements that protect four properties
11 propose to be crossed by the Mountain Valley Pipeline
12 support the comprehensive plans for the counties of
Roanoke,
13 Franklin and Montgomery. In their comprehensive plans,
14 these are designated lands for conservation, forest land
and
15 agriculture.

16 Placing a 42-inch natural gas pipeline would run
17 counter to the comprehensive plans approved for these
18 counties. For these reasons and many more which have been
19 filed by Blue Ridge Land Conservancy on the FERC website,
we
20 ask that the Mountain Valley Pipeline not cross any lands
21 protected by conservation easements.

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
23 comments. Speaker number six.

24 MR. CUTLER: Good evening, I'm Rupert Cutler of

25 Roanoke that's R-U-P-E-R-T C-U-T-L-E-R. I am the
President

1 of the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. The Conservancy
2 achieves its land conservation goals by holding
conservation
3 easements on tracts of undeveloped private farm and forest
4 land and municipal park land. By restricting development,
5 these easements protect prime farm and forest land for food
6 and fiber production, protect important municipal
watersheds
7 to maintain drinking water quality, save scenic views from
8 the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail, important
9 fish and wildlife habitats, and historic sites for future
10 generations.

11 The Conservancy operates in the counties of
12 Bedford, Fauquier, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery and
13 Roanoke and currently protects more than sixteen thousand
14 acres by means of perpetual conservation easements. The
15 Conservancy's bylaws state that it is organized to, among
16 other things, encourage and assist local, state and federal
17 government agencies in the preservation, conservation and
18 wise management of the region's cultural and natural
assets.

19
20 Given this purpose, the organization's Board of
21 Directors voted in November of 2014 to go on record as
being
22 opposed to the Mountain Valley Pipeline crossing the Blue
23 Ridge Parkway, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and

- 24 statutory wilderness areas in the Jefferson National Forest
- 25 such as the Brush Mountain and Brush Mountain East

1 Wildernesses in Montgomery and Craig Counties.

2 National parks are established to preserve their
3 natural and cultural values in an unimpaired state. The
4 Blue Ridge Parkway is the most visited unit of the National
5 Park System in its relatively natural condition with many
6 views of pastoral farm and forest land, serves as an
7 important regional economic driver through its eco-tourism
8 appeal as well as an important reservoir of native plants
9 and animals. Those values should not be impaired by the
10 earth-moving associated with pipeline construction and by
11 the visible presence of a wide, cleared pipeline right-of-
12 way.

13 Units of the National Trail System, including the
14 Appalachian Trail are administered under the National Trail
15 System act to promote the preservation of the open air
16 outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation. The AT
17 also serves as an important regional economic driver and
18 outdoor recreation assets. Its presence here contributes
to
19 residents' sense of place and its appeal to residents and
20 visitors alike. Again, use of this unique footpath should
21 not be degraded by pipeline construction and miles of
highly
22 visible right-of-way clearing through the adjacent forest.

23 Areas classified by the United States Congress as
24 wilderness, under the terms of the Wilderness Act of 1964

25 are to be kept with their wilderness character intact,

1 untrammelled by man. Surely the construction of a 42-inch
2 gas pipeline through or in close proximity to the Brush
3 Mountain, Brush Mountain East or any other statutory
4 wilderness would be in violation of the intent of that act
5 of Congress and subsequent acts creating those wilderness
6 areas.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much.

9 MR. CUTLER: Number seven.

10 Speaker number seven?

11 Not here? Speaker number eight.

12 MS. BONDURANT: Good evening. My name is Roberta
13 Bondurant. I live on Bent Mountain in Roanoke County. Our
14 water is a necessity. The pipeline, one of the proposed
15 alternatives will traverse through the Catawba area of
16 Roanoke County and will continue west through Roanoke
17 County, dangerously close to Spring Hollow Reservoir. It
18 will then blast up the back of the 3,928 foot Poor
Mountain,
19 which in some places has a greater than fifty percent
slope.

20

21 Poor Mountain joins Bent Mountain as part of the
22 Blue Ridge Plateau, home to Bottom Creek, Mill Creek, and
23 thousands of acres of upland streams, springs and wetlands
24 which are the watershed to Franklin County's Blackwater

25 River to the East, Montgomery County's New River to the

1 Southwest and the Roanoke River to the North. The Nature
2 Conservancy's Bottom Creek Gorge and Preserve, only a
3 handful of miles from the proposed path, are among those
4 places at high risk. I have written about the fragile and
5 endangered species that abide in Bottom Creek and on Poor
6 Mountain and you will hear more of that from Roanoke County
7 Administration at Length.

8 As a Tier Three stream designated by the State of
9 Virginia, Bottom Creek's aquatic communities and
10 environmental setting are deemed exceptional. The
11 construction phase of this pipeline would disrupt bedrock
12 aquifers, divert springs, destroying wetlands that serve as
13 natural filters for runoff. Construction would result in
14 erosion, sedimentation and consequent turbidity especially
15 during wet periods.

16 The pipeline crossing the plateau of Bent
Mountain
17 would permanently pull water from nearby springs, wetlands
18 and residential wells. The toxins from the pipe itself,
19 application of chemicals to maintain vegetation and
20 disrupted wetlands would all damage a pristine and
21 nationally protected stream and its surrounding ecosystem.

22 I'm here because I'm a citizen of Bent Mountain.
23 I consider myself a directly effected citizen because I
24 share the water resource and an obligation to protect it
25 with everybody in this room, thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

3 At this time, number nine is the speaker, but
4 before he speaks I would like to make certain that ten,
5 eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen are sitting
6 in the front row. Can you please come up at this time?

7 DR. WISE: Hello.

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: Hi, I just want to remind the
9 audience that when I call your number in advance, please
10 come down to the first row. We need to move this meeting
11 along as quickly as possible so as many speakers as
possible
12 have an opportunity. Thank you.

13 DR. WISE: Thank you for this opportunity to
14 speak. I'm Dr. Virginia Wise. I live on Bottom Creek Road
15 in Bent Mountain. I'm very concerned about several aspects
16 of the proposed pipeline which should come very close to my
17 property on Bottom Creek Road Near Rocky Road in Roanoke
18 County. The first is the risk to health and safety. The
19 risk of groundwater contamination at the headwaters which
is
20 where we live, to the entire area, soil contamination,
21 methane leaks and the possibility of massive explosions in
22 our pristine area are all significant risks.

23 These are not outweighed by the benefits, which
we
24 have not seen in this local area. The pipeline is proposed

25 to go through our area with no natural gas coming to our

1 region. The benefits seem to be only to those
entrepreneurs

2 who are attempting to make large amounts of money at our
3 expense. We do not believe the exaggerated claims of jobs
4 and money to the region as well.

5 This is where you come in. Your charge as I
6 understand it is to protect the public from environmental
7 risks and to weigh those risks and benefits. The scope of
8 this is formidable. There is no place for eminent domain
to

9 be used without benefit to the local community. The
farmers

10 in my area could not use large areas of their land. This
is
11 their livelihood if this is invoked. We pay taxes on this
12 land. These entrepreneurs do not.

13 This is the stuff for which the Revolutionary War
14 was fought.

15 (Applause).

16 We appeal to you to protect our beautiful land
and

17 our interests from those who seek only to destroy large
18 areas of it for money. Thank you for listening.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment. Number
21 ten and again I'm going to repeat, eleven, twelve, thirteen
22 and fourteen and fifteen should be in the front row. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. BIENSTOCK: My name is Steven Bienstock, S-T-
25 E-V-E-N B-I-E-N-S-T-O-C-K. I am an affected landowner. I

1 live in the Coal Bank Ridge Subdivision, lot number 36.

2 First, I would like to comment on the issue of
3 safety. Routing a 42-inch, high-pressure natural gas
4 pipeline between two residential neighborhoods on the North
5 end of the town of Blacksburg as alternate Route 87 does,

is

6 unconscionable and dangerous in the extreme.

7 (Applause).

8 It places many people in their homes in grievous
9 danger. History shoes that high-pressure pipelines do
10 explode. Therefore you must take no action on the Mountain
11 Valley Pipeline.

12 Second, allowing the construction of a pipeline
13 project whose only goal is financial gain for EQT and
14 NextEra executives and stockholders is wrong. There is
15 existing access to natural gas throughout this region.

This

16 pipeline is a high-pressure transmission line not designed
17 to provide natural gas for this region. Therefore you must
18 take no action on the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

19 Lastly, if you care at all about the Earth, you
20 will heed these words that Chief Seattle wrote in 1854 to
21 President Pierce when the Native Americans of the Northwest
22 were being moved from their lands and onto reservations.

23 In part, I quote: Every part of this Earth is
24 sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every

sandy

25 shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and

of
1 every humming insect is holy in the memory and experience
2 my people. The sap which courses through the trees carries
3 the memories of the Red man. This we know. All things are
4 connected. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of
merely
5 the Earth. Man did not weave the web of life. He is
6 a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to
7 himself. Continue to contaminate your bed and you will one
8 night suffocate in your own waste. Unquote.

9 If you were people of conscience who care about
10 the safety of your fellow man and ultimately about the
11 preservation of this planet, you must take no action on the
12 Mountain Valley Pipeline.

13 (Applause).

14 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

15 Number eleven.

N-
16 MR. FLYNN: Good evening. I'm Jim Flynn, F-L-Y-
17 N. I'm a property owner in Coal Bank Ridge Homeowner's
18 Association. I'm a Director of the Association and
19 Treasurer. The Board of Directors of the Coal Bank Ridge
20 Homeowner's Association of Blacksburg, Virginia; represents
21 our neighborhood comprised of thirty homes, twenty-two
22 undeveloped parcels and a land trust conservation easement.
23 Alternate Route 87 passes through approximately 6400 linear
24 feet of our conservation easement.

25

On April 21st, a quorum of homeowners passed a

1 motion by unanimous vote to officially oppose the location
2 of MVP's pipeline in our conservation easement. When it
3 comes to conservation easements, that is at least it's
4 supposed to be, a contract with the State of Virginia to
5 preserve and not develop that area. In fact, the grantor
of
6 the conservation easement has to give up development rights
7 as part of the agreement. The conservation easement was to
8 establish a perpetual greenspace for the remainder of the
9 area and to preserve one of the historic mining areas in
10 Montgomery County.

11 This particular section, the Coal Bank Hollow, is
12 unique due to the fact that the AEP easement is within the
13 conservation easement. The conservation easement for the
14 pipeline would not be able to stay within the already-
15 existing AEP easement and many conditions of that easement
16 from tree-cutting and commercial development would have to
17 be shredded in order to proceed with the route. There are
18 many arguments for and against the pipeline, but the
19 argument that is specific to this route is that it goes
20 through a conservation easement.

21 If the State ends up claiming eminent domain to
22 take utilities, private or public, through a conservation
23 easement that is not totally within the already existing
24 utility easement, then what does that say about the
25 integrity of the State of Virginia and its preexisting

1 commitments?

2 The proposed route directly crosses our entrance
3 and egress for the Coal Bank neighborhood. A pipeline-
4 related accident in this area would isolate 52 parcels and
5 emergency vehicles and prevent access for fire and rescue.
6 Twenty-eight of our homes and twenty-two of our undeveloped
7 parcels are within the blast zone of approximately 1200
8 feet.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

12 Number twelve.

13 MR. BOWERS: Good evening. I'm Kurt Bowers. I

am

14 from Charlottesville, Virginia. I'm the Pipeline Committee
15 Chair with the Sierra Club. I represent all of our state
16 members, 16,000 people. I'm a licensed professional
17 engineer.

18 Last night I talked about the need for gas and
19 pipelines. I think FERC is going to have a very hard time
20 to justifying the necessity and the need for these
pipelines

21 due to a number of concurrent economic conditions that are
22 occurring at this very moment.

23 Tonight, I want to talk briefly about landslides
24 and seismic hazards. Numerous hazards are landslide

25 potentials in the mountainous regions in the State of

Pipeline
type

1 Virginia. The likelihood of these soils to become unstable
2 during or after construction is considerably high.
3 activities such as trenching along slopes and equipment on
4 unstable surfaces increases the risk of landslides, the
5 of soils we have in these mountainous areas is very
6 susceptible to landslides.

7 Thorough slope analysis and stability analysis,
8 just like in any engineering project that I do should be
9 performed on all these steep slopes, over twenty percent in
10 grade. The main objective of slope stability is finding
11 those endangered areas and identifying potential failure
12 mechanisms, determination of the slope sensitivity to
13 different triggering mechanisms primary due to construction
14 activities.

15 Seismic hazards in Virginia are a real source of
16 danger to pipelines. Earthquakes are much more frequent
17 than most people realize in Virginia. The magnitude 5.8
18 event in August of 2011 in Louisa County, Virginia brought
19 public and political attention to the Central Virginia
20 seismic zone. I was there that day. I felt the ground
21 shake. I saw people running from their houses yelling
22 'Earthquake, earthquake.' This happens. In fact, since
23 1977, we've had a hundred and seventy earthquakes in the
24 state; that comes to one per month and two are felt every

25 year.

1 Pipeline failures due to earthquakes and unstable
2 slopes can have catastrophic effects to the public. It's
3 extremely important to maintain the integrity of these
4 pipelines at all cost. They could rupture under these
5 conditions. We would like to say in conclusion, the Sierra
6 Club is opposed to all pipelines. There will be no
7 pipelines in this state as far as we're concerned and we're
8 going to be very careful in our reviews of these Draft
9 Impact Environmental Statements.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

13 Number thirteen.

14 MR. ROBERTS: My name is Ray Roberts, R-O-B-E-R-

T-

15 S. I am from Blacksburg, Virginia. My sister is a citizen
16 of Craig County and lives in the County and has an affected
17 property. We are on 110J routing for the pipeline. She
18 lives in a house that was built in 1827. It's standing

just

19 maybe one hundred yards from the pipeline. It would be in
20 the blast zone. It is actually the starting site of
21 Caldwell, the first student to walk to Virginia Tech.

Addison

22 It's a historical site. On the property is an
23 African American Cemetery that the pipeline goes right
24 through the middle of, and further back on one of the back

25 properties are Civil War sites and CSA stones that I have

1 traced back to Virginia Civil War Soldiers that will be
2 destroyed by this pipeline. I'm not quite sure, we're on
3 110J and crosses at 42. It's an alternate route.

4 I think all the routing I've seen so far does not
5 take into consideration the possibility of using existing
6 rights-of-way that seem like a logical alternative for any
7 sort of a pipeline and doubling up Dominion and maybe even
8 Mountain Valley into one existing right-of-way that does
not
9 affect private properties the way it's going right now. It
10 seems like we're falling back on a straight line
philosophy,
11 and damaging historical properties.

12 I am of the Saponi Tribe. My great grandmother
is
13 full-blood Saponi Indian. My sister is a member of the
14 Lakota Sioux Tribe. We are members of this valley. We're
15 only here for a few seconds in time, and this pipeline is
16 threatening to damage and destroy those properties so we
17 really need to think of that. I read through the Virginia
18 Constitution, and the Virginia Constitution clearly states
19 that you should not grant eminent domain rights to private
20 corporations that can make profits from that eminent domain
21 right and I don't understand how the Federal Government
22 through FERC can come in and grant this right to Mountain
23 Valley Pipeline to come through our properties.

24 (Applause)

25

MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

1 Number fourteen is next. I would like fifteen,
2 sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen and twenty to be
3 sitting in the front row so we can move this meeting along
4 and as many people can speak who want to. The floor is
5 yours.

6 MS. CRENSHAW: Good evening. My name is Sue
7 Crenshaw and I'm speaking on behalf of Preserve Craig,
8 Incorporated. Preserve Craig, Incorporated is a 501(c)(3)
9 nonprofit organization formed in 1991 using volunteers and
10 donations to protect our natural, historical and cultural
11 resources. We have collected to date 1,221 citizen
12 signatures in addition to 871 electronic signatures in
13 opposition to the survey for and construction of the
14 Mountain Valley Pipeline.

15 We already know that the U.S. Forest Service
16 denied a similar request for a powerline to cross the
region
17 in 1995 and the reasons for that decision are as important
18 today as ever. We already know the proposed pipeline
routes
19 will pass through and disrupt the most important habitats
on
20 Earth for the federally endangered James Spiny mussel.

21 We already know the proposed routes will be
22 visible from the Appalachian Trail and would likely scar
the
23 most important views from Dragon's Tooth. We already know

by 24 that the proposed route is going through areas designated
25 the U.S. Forest Service as unsuitable for pipelines

1 including black bear habitat. We already know that the
2 proposed routes will further fragment wilderness areas that
3 the Forest Service has invested in protecting. We already
4 know the proposed routes cross steep, unstable slopes and
5 unstable Karst geology, and will affect the quality of both
6 groundwater and surface water.

7 We already know the proposed routes will remove
8 forest cover that protects critical water resources on both
9 public and private lands. We already know the proposed
10 routes will destroy conservation easements, streamside
11 buffers, wildlife habitat restoration projects and other
12 long-standing conservation efforts created by concerned
13 private citizens in collaboration with State and Federal
14 Agencies, land conservancies and other dedicated
15 conservation entities.

16 We already know the proposed routes will disturb
17 nesting Bald Eagles in the Johns Creek watershed. The only
18 resident nesting eagles in Craig County. We already know
19 the proposed routes will affect the cultural sense of place
20 for Craig County citizens and the visual scar of the
21 pipeline corridor will affect current and future
22 generations. That point is worth repeating. The proposed
23 routes will affect the cultural sense of place for Craig
24 County residents.

25 The pipeline will provide for no local energy

1 access and the reduction of property values will far exceed
2 landowner compensation. The pipeline will provide no
3 benefit to this region and will endanger health, the
natural
4 resources, the water quality, cultural values, tourism,
5 property values and citizen safety.

6 We ask that FERC take all actions necessary to
7 protect our land, our rights and our welfare by opposing
8 this and any other transmission pipeline through Craig
9 County. Thank you.

10 (Applause).

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

12 Number fifteen. I want to make sure that number
13 sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen and twenty are
14 sitting in the front row.

15 MR. DIMINO: My name is Michael Dimino. I
16 represent the 100-member Black Diamond Property Owners
17 Association in Craig County where Alt 110 is proposed to
18 cross Johns Creek.

19 The Appalachian Mountain Range, for thousands of
20 years home to one of the longest contiguous forests on
21 Earth, remains a haven of biodiversity, even today. MVP's
22 alternate 110 Route through Monroe, Craig and Roanoke
23 counties would threaten that biodiversity.

24 In particular, the Alt 110 Route endangers the
25 primary known habitat of the James River Spiny mussel added

1 to the list of endangered species in 1988. The
Spiny mussell
2 has been eliminated from over ninety percent of its
historic
3 range. In recent years, a small population was discovered
4 in the Dan River. Unfortunately, in 2014 thirty-nine
5 thousand tons of coal ash spilled into the Dan,
6 contaminating seventy miles of river habitat. This, in
7 spite of assurances of mitigation measures and best
8 management practices that the company responsible for that
9 coal ash likely asserted.

10 Now EQT corporation, a company with a history of
11 environmental promises unkept, wants us to believe they can
12 cut a wide swath and excavate a deep trench through the
13 heart of the remaining Spiny mussell habitat and not
endanger
14 that species or any other.

15 The Spiny mussell is known to require clean,
16 unsilted water, because like most freshwater mussels, it is
17 a filter feeder. It's known to exist in Potts Creek,
Little
18 Oregon Creek, Johns Creek, Dix Creek and Craig Creek. What
19 all these creeks have in common is that construction of the
20 pipeline along Alt 110 would not only cross each creek but
21 also create siltation in the watershed of each creek
22 including along the one-mile stretch of Little Oregon, Dix
23 and Johns Creek in Craig County, the best known population

24 of the species.

Fish 25 The mussel recovery plan prepared by the U.S.

1 and Wildlife Service specifically noted that siltation from
2 construction is a significant factor, contributing to water
3 quality problems and consequent decline of the
Spiny mussell.

4 These mussels are sedentary and they are unable to move
long
5 distances to avoid heavy silt. EQT and NextEra are also
6 likely sedentary --

7 (Laughter)

8 -- but they can move the pipeline route to avoid the Johns
9 Creek and Craig Creek Watersheds due to their importance,
10 the conservation and recovery of this species.

11 You know, that sounds like such a good idea that
12 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently told MVP's
13 environmental contractor exactly that: Move this pipeline
14 route.

15 Will the FERC follow the recommendation of the
16 Federal government's own experts or will the FERC assure us
17 that mitigation and best management practices will protect
18 Monroe, Craig and Roanoke just like they protected the Dan
19 River?

20 (Applause)

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

22 I have received a complaint from a member of the
23 public that cheering after a speaker slows the process down
24 and reduces the number of speakers we are going to get so

25 I'd like you, I know you are very excited about this
meeting

1 and I am going to quote Larry David and ask you to "curb
2 your enthusiasm" and be respectful so we can have as many
3 speakers as possible.

4 Sixteen.

I- 5 MS. BELINSKY: Tammy Belinsky T-A-M-M-Y B-E-L-
6 N-S-K-Y. My home is within three miles of the proposed
7 crossing over the Blue Ridge Parkway, and I'm also working
8 in my legal capacity with Preserve Craig to stop this
greedy 9 madness.

10 I went to college in 1979 to study environmental
11 science and based on what I learned about energy
12 consumption, I decided, when I was eighteen years old, that
13 I would not have children. There is no future in it.
14 Unfortunately, it's activities like this that make me
right. 15 MVP wants to steal our land, pollute our water, fracture
our 16 communities, degrade our quality of life and our
17 relationships to our land all for corporate profit.

18 These are all significant issues but here's what
19 is really significant: There's no evidence that any of
20 these impacts can be mitigated under the environmental
21 conditions that exist in this geographic region. In my
22 world, MVP is a joint venture of thugs and bandits, and
FERC 23 is aiding and abetting their crime spree. Unless and until

24 it is proved that mitigation works, we're mitigating

25 ourselves to death, and the lack of evidence that impacts

to

1 water, wildlife and our quality of life can be mitigated is
2 a significant issue that needs to be analyzed.

3 In the short time remaining, I'm raising one more
4 issue, and that is that until the MVP pipeline was
proposed,
5 may not have been caught in your cross-hairs. MVP has run
6 into a hornets nest here in Southwest Virginia, and the
7 legal scholar in me believes that before this is all over,
8 the intersection of the Second Amendment of the United
9 States Constitution and the federal power of eminent domain
10 will also be a significant issue.

11 (Applause).

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

13 Number seventeen.

14 MR. RILEY: Brent Riley, B-R-E-N-T R-I-L-E-Y.
and

15 I just have a couple of brief points to make; the reasons
16 that I think that we are putting the cart before the horse.
17

18 We have yet to have a public policy discussion on
19 the wisdom of putting large quantities of gas onto our
20 domestic market or the exportation abroad which seems the
21 logical extension of multiple pipelines coming in the
22 future. Also, because fracking chemicals are proprietary
23 secrets, the public is unable to make an educated
evaluation
24 of the propriety of this whole concept, thank you.

25

(Applause).

1 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

2 Number eighteen, please.

3 MR. EASTERLING: Good evening. My name is Sam
4 Easterling. My wife and I live in Craig County and are
5 affected landowners. We live in the Black Diamond
6 Development along John's Creek in the community of Maggie.
7 I'm speaking tonight on behalf of Preserve Craig and the
8 Black Diamond Property Owner's Association for which I
serve
9 as a member of the Board of Directors.

10 I would like to primarily address alternate
routes
11 and means of delivering natural gas. In the FERC's letter,
12 dated 13 March 2015, to Mr. Paul Deal, Senior Council for
13 Equitrans that provided comments on First Draft Resource
14 Reports 1 and 10, critical requests were made in the
context
15 of alternate route consideration, under the heading, quote
16 "Draft Resource Report Ten Alternatives" end quote.

Items
17 1 through 5 in this section collectively requests
18 information and analyses related to alternate route
19 consideration, collocation within existing utility
easements
20 and potential collocation with other proposed pipelines in
21 the region.

22 I respectfully request in the strongest possible
23 way that the FERC demand a thorough and exhaustive response

24 to these items. If a cursory review and response is
allowed

25 to occur, then I would argue that MVP and its partners

1 should be deemed nonresponsive and appropriately held
2 accountable by the FERC. When one looks at the location
3 where the gas is being extracted in North Central West
4 Virginia, along with the biological diversity footprint of
5 the Appalachian Region along the West Virginia/Virginia
6 border, an obvious route for consideration appears.

7 As unpalatable as it is to suggest that you look
8 elsewhere, that is indeed what you ask to do in the NOI.
9 Taking and almost due-easterly heading, albeit tracking a
10 bit to the Northeast, around along the Pennsylvania/West
11 Virginia/Maryland borders would be both more direct in
12 into existing North/South pipelines and would avoid the
13 fragile and biologically diverse habitat of the Appalachian
14 Range along the West Virginia/Virginia border.

tying

15 Protecting this high-value ecosystem must be of
16 paramount consideration. I also request that FERC require
17 comprehensive evaluation of a no-build alternative that
18 would actually bring significant, positive impact to the
19 region, positive economic impact to the region. That
20 alternative is to consider moving the gas by rail. This
21 approach is somewhat in its infancy in the United States,
22 has both significant positive and negative issues, but
23 should not be summarily dismissed without a thorough
24 independent evaluation.

25 While not commonplace in the United States today,

1 liquefied natural gas will be transported in the very near
2 future in Alaska by rail. This alternative provides the
3 real opportunity as opposed to the practically unreal
4 opportunity suggested by the MVP literature to provide
5 access to natural gas in many parts of West Virginia and
6 Virginia not currently served.

7 The rail infrastructure exists today and has the
8 ability to transport energy while requiring new gas
9 processing infrastructure is much more readily available

and

10 thus would not require extensive additional new pipelines
11 that adversely affect thousands of people.

12 I don't pretend to have all the answers regarding
13 the overall economic analysis for this option. I do know
14 that moving the gas by rail would positively impact
15 thousands of people, their homes and land along the MVP
16 route, as well as --.

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
18 comment.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number nineteen.

21 (Applause).

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: And I would like twenty, twenty-
23 one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five to
24 please come to the front row. The floor is yours.

25 MS. MURPHY: Good evening, my name is Martha

of 1 Murphy. Last name is spelled M-U-R-P-H-Y. I am a member
2 the Craig County Board of Supervisors and I am also an
3 affected land owner in the Sinking Creek area on the
4 Alternate 110 Route. The comments that I am going to make
5 tonight, they are both very brief but they are my personal
6 comments.

FERC 7 First, I would like to ask and request of the
8 to schedule at least one scoping meeting in Craig County
and 9 also to extend the scoping period in order to do so.
Asking

10 residents and stakeholders, many of them who do not have
11 access to internet in their homes to drive an 80-mile round
12 trip to a weeknight evening to participate and have their
13 voices heard is woefully inadequate and unacceptable.

14 (Applause).

the 15 The many hundreds of landowners who live along
16 22-mile alternate Route 110 that bisects Craig County, they
17 deserve more than this if they are going to participate in
18 the process.

19 Secondly, on behalf of the five thousand
residents 20 in Craig County that the FERC spend a significant amount of
21 time at this moment in history: stop the process, slow it
22 down and really complete, among other things a viable

23 economic analysis of the true costs and the benefits of
this

24 and other projects it might be considering.

25 Who is truly paying the cost and who is receiving

1 the benefit? I ask you to work with the landowners, the
2 stakeholders and listen to them to determine the real value
3 of the non-tangible assets in which these local communities
4 have already heavily invested.

5 Since the 110 Routes were listed as an alternate
6 route for the survey, only in February of this year, Craig
7 County has seen -- and it is just one example -- an abrupt
8 halt of residential construction and improvement projects
9 throughout the county. Home and property sales have also
10 declined drastically. Everything is on hold in our county.

11

12 Property taxes make up an overwhelming majority
in
13 our county of our county revenue and for that reason the
way
14 I see it, the true environmental and social costs of this
15 project are borne by the landowners and the smaller
16 communities. This is supposedly for the public good, a
17 project like this; but in reality we are feeling and we
know
18 that it is for corporate profit.

19 If eminent domain is going to facilitate these
20 corporate windfalls, then private citizens who have their
21 rights and property taken need to be truly and justly
22 compensated. At a minimum in Craig County, this pipeline
23 will devalue, jeopardize and jeopardize almost six thousand
24 acres, and that's just the blast zone alone.

25

MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your

1 comments. Number twenty.

2 (Applause).

3 And sitting in the front row should be twenty-
one,

4 twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four and twenty-five. The
5 floor is yours.

6 MS. SCHLAUDECKER: My name is Sandra
Schlaudecker,

7

8 S-c-h-l-a-u-d-e-c-k-e-r. I live on Fortress Drive. My
9 property abuts the 87 Alternate Route. There are fourteen
10 homes on our road. All of us have wells and septic fields.

11 We are concerned due to the extreme steepness of the
terrain

12 by removing trees and disturbing soil and rock that our
13 water sources will be compromised.

14 Many people spoke of the Karst formations that we
15 have, and we are a part of that. We are also concerned
that

16 if there is an explosion or fire that we might die. There
17 is only one way in and one way out of our road. If that
18 road is blocked by that part of the pipeline, there is no
19 way that fire equipment or rescue equipment can get in to
20 us, and there is no way that we will be able to get out. I
21 hope with all the soil and Karst formations, caves,
22 sinkholes that you will reconsider running the pipeline
23 through our area. All of the nice photos that you showed

us

24 earlier were on flat ground, and that is not what is on
25 Brush Mountain.

the
hope

1 What experience does Mountain Valley have with
2 steep terrain and what will be done with the trees? We
3 that they will be taken away and not become fuel for fire.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

6 Number twenty-one.

7 (Applause).

public
of

8 MR. SEAGO: My name is Gene Seago S-E-A-G-O, and
9 Mountain Valley Pipeline covets my property. Route 110J
10 would go right through the middle of it. That's kind of
11 hard for me to deal with, to think that the government can
12 take my property for - it should be based on for the
13 good but I have trouble finding that. I see where few
14 groups will benefit from it such as people who live south
15 here and might get cheap gas; and while you say that the
16 Mountain Valley Pipeline will not be exported, that's
17 because they haven't applied for it yet and I anticipate
18 someday they will.

19 Mountain Valley Pipeline wants my property, not
20 for the same reason why I acquired it; that is for its
21 natural beauty, or rather to run, look like Sherman's March
22 to the Sea running through my property when they do their
23 construction.

24 So I see the benefits going to a few people and
25 the burden falling on the people who live in the local
area,

1 and I'm concerned about safety. You talk about a 75 or 125
2 foot hundred easement, but you've got a 2000 foot impact
3 zone. Who wants to live within the impact zone?

4 So that's going to affect property values and on
5 the public safety business, we hear about a few pipeline
6 explosions, but I was shocked to see that the Federal
7 government published in 2012 that there are eighty pipeline
8 explosions with damage in excess of \$50,000; so it is a
real
9 hazard. That hazard is going to affect the property
values,
10 and you wonder about whether you will be able to get
11 insurance in the future.

12 So what I'm in a final analysis, this is going
13 to be a weighting benefits and burdens. and I think that
14 Mountain Valley Pipeline should definitely be able to prove
15 the excess of benefits over burdens, and it's easy to
16 measure your benefits over burdens of dollars or cubic feet
17 or BTUs or whatever. But these other intangibles that
18 impact on people's lives are not so easily to quantify but
19 they definitely have to be considered in reaching this
20 decision. Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
23 comments.

24 Number twenty-two.

25

(Applause).

1 MR. LALANDE: My name is Fred Lalande, L-A-L-A-N-
2 D-E. I am a landowner on Alternate Route 93 presenting my
3 safety and environmental concerns regarding the proposed
MVP
4 route in the high-density sinkhole area. To document these
5 concerns, I am referring to the report by the Commonwealth
6 of Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy,
titled
7 "Selected Karst Features in the Central Valley and Ridge
8 Province, Virginia." In this report, a complete
9 sinkhole and cave map of Montgomery County was compiled
10 along with the risk associated with sinkholes. Focusing on
11 the Mount Tabor area, the map shows one of the highest
12 sinkhole concentrations in Southwest Virginia. The
sinkhole
13 density reaches its peak at the foot of Brush Mountain
along
14 the MVP route. From this government map, I counted a dozen
15 sinkholes along the original route and no less than twenty-
16 four sinkholes within 200 feet of Alternate 93. This is an
17 active sinkhole area. There is a recent 75-foot sinkhole
18 less than one hundred feet from Alternate 93.
19 On my property alone are two sinkholes, making it
20 impossible for MVP to avoid disturbing them. In this same
21 report, the Commonwealth of Virginia warns of the many
22 hazards associated with Karst terrain. These are direct
23 quotes from the Potential Karst Hazard section of the
report

24 that are directly relevant to the risk of pipeline
25 construction.

1 Quote: "Even the best conceived building project
2 alters the equilibrium of the landscape. Ground surfaces
3 are disturbed and artificial surfaces are introduced.
4 Increases in runoff are generated from artificial surfaces
5 and defoliated areas." End of quote.

6 Quote: "Pollution of groundwater resources is an
7 ever-present problem in Karst area. Sinkholes represent
8 points of input to the groundwater system." End quote.

9 Quote: "Flooding problem in Karst terrains can result from
10 two man-made conditions; the plugging of natural drains,
11 drain construction and increase in runoff due to the
12 artificial surfaces." End quote.

13 Based on this documented safety, health and
14 environmental risk, it is clear that the current proposed
15 route from MVP and Montgomery County are unacceptable and
16 should be promptly rejected. Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

19 Number twenty-three.

20 MR. SANDU: Hello, my name is Adrian Sandu, S-A-

N-

21 D-U. I live at 1430 Breckenridge Drive in Blacksburg.

22 The proposed route of the pipe, closest to my
23 house and the water corridor associated with this, closest
24 to my house. The proposed pipeline crosses the populace,
25 Preston Forest and Brush Mountain neighborhoods. According

1 to the GIS data, the construction zone along the original
2 route directly affects ten homes on the South side of the
3 pipeline and nine on the North side. The construction
along
4 the alternate Route 57 affects between one and ten houses
5 depending on the location.

6 The construction along the alternate 93 directly
7 affects ten to twelve houses. Twice as many homes are
8 located within another hundred feet from the edge of the
9 construction zone. We, who are very close to the proposed
10 route, have safety concerns. The construction is to take
11 out multiple roads in the neighborhood, and if you look on
12 the map you will see that this will cut off access to many
13 homes. How will we deal with fire emergencies? With
14 medical emergencies?

15 We have health concerns. The houses in our
16 neighborhood have wells so we depend on the groundwater.
17 Chemicals from the fill-in material, possible leakages will
18 impact our water quality. In addition, the planned
19 compressor stations would lead to a permanent state of
noise
20 pollution.

21 We have safety concerns related to damages to our
22 homes. Our neighborhoods are built on Karst terrain. The
23 very heavy equipment used in close proximity to our houses
24 will damage the construction integrity of our houses
through

25 vibration of the soil. The same will damage the wells and

1 septic tanks. We are concerned also about effects of
2 deforestation. I think another corridor along the power-
3 line corridor will take away a very wide area, water
erosion
4 becomes a major concern.

5 We also have economic concerns. The real estate
6 property value will drastically drop due to damaged
7 landscape and due to the proximity of a dangerous pipe.

8 Our houses are also vulnerable. Our families, my
9 family, we lose about five years of retirement if the pipe
10 is built. Approving the pipeline will force landowners to
11 shoulder the environmental and property diminished costs of
12 building the pipeline. So we appeal to you, please do not
13 force us to subsidize a private pipeline project that
raises
14 so many concerns for the whole community. Thank you.

15 (Applause).

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

17 Number twenty-four. At this time I would like
18 twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight,
twenty-
19 nine and thirty to please come and fill in seats in the
20 front row. I really appreciate that and the floor is
yours.

21
22 MS. IRWIN: I'm Earle Irwin, E-A-R-L-E I-R-W-I-
N.

23 I'm a landowner on Alternate Route 87, near Milepost 216.

United 24 I'm speaking on behalf of the waters of the
25 States, which the EPA and the United States Army Corps of

1 Engineer have jurisdiction to protect via the Clean Water
2 Act. This act protects our Nation's aquatic resources,
3 wetlands and watersheds that drain to the nearest water,
4 such as the Greenbriar, the New, the Roanoke, The James,
5 just to mention a few of the waters that are affected by
the
6 planned MVP route. This act, the Clean Water Act, protects
7 against any intrusions which significantly affect chemical,
8 physical, or biological integrity.

9 Disruption to this integrity of our water system
10 affects groundwater and subsurface aquifers. The majority
11 of these effects are not observable in the short term.

They

12 won't emerge for anywhere up to and over the next fifty-
13 seven years. Much of MVP's proposed route traverses
14 delicate Karst topography. Any disruption to this system
15 literally will trickle down actually at rather remarkable
16 velocities.

17 We easily can imagine that any compromise to the
18 integrity of a working pipeline can and will seep harmful
19 chemicals directly into the watershed and that these
20 chemicals eventually will drain into major waters of the
21 United States. However, long before the first natural gas
22 flows through any pipeline, the major construction
23 excavation and blasting of rock will disturb this delicate
24 drainage and our water-dependent ecosystem.

Common sense and cited references conclude that

1 major construction such as that planned by Mountain Valley
2 Pipeline through well-documented and widely distributed
3 Karst terrain in Western Virginia and West Virginia, will
4 have both immediate and long-term consequences that impact
5 the waters of the United States. If FERC does not act to
6 protect our waters, then the final authority regarding the
7 Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with the EPA, and they
8 must act in the best interests of the public and our
waters.

9

10 (Applause)

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
12 comments.

13 Number twenty-five. And twenty-six, twenty-
14 seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine and thirty should be in
the
15 front row.

16 MS. HALE: Hello, my name is Lindsey Hale and I'm
17 a landowner in Montgomery County on Coal Bank Hollow Road.
18 I'm concerned about the pipeline and in fact I just learned
19 that my home was on Alternate Route 87 in Montgomery County
20 less than one month ago. Specifically, there is no mile-
21 marker for our property because we are on the alternate
22 route, but I was told out front that we are directly south
23 of mile-marker 216.

24 So during the same week that I learned that I was

25 on this alternate route, CNN posted an article that Pacific

1 Gas and Electric in California just recently settled a
2 dispute for a natural gas pipeline explosion which happened
3 in 2010, the San Bruno explosion. So that natural gas
4 pipeline explosion killed eight people, destroyed thirty-
5 seven homes and fifty people were injured; and it also
6 resulted in a \$1.6 billion settlement.

7 Alternate Route 87 runs between my house and my
8 neighbor's home. In fact, if the pipeline were to go in on
9 that alternate route, the route would literally be fifty
10 feet from my front door, which is very concerning for me.

11 Being a young homeowner with my husband, we have
12 equity in our home, and I'm concerned that a high-pressure,
13 natural gas pipeline 50 feet from my front door would
14 significantly devalue our home. There are many things that
15 FERC needs to consider before approving this initiative.
16 Our road, Coal Bank Hollow, which multiple people have
17 mentioned here tonight, and the surrounding areas have a
18 rich history of coal-mining, thus the name.

19 In fact, fifteen years ago a large sinkhole
opened
20 up in front of my parent's home which also live on
Alternate
21 Route 87 within Preston Forest in Montgomery County. I
22 remember that effort because I was in high school and it
23 took a significant effort to fill that sinkhole. It's very
24 likely that this was a result of possibly an abandoned

25 mineshaft or Karst in the area, also things that other

1 people have spoken about tonight.

2 Further evidence to the mines and Karst in our
3 area are evident on my personal property. Since purchasing
4 our home less than three years ago, we have had significant
5 issues with our driveway washing out. Paving our driveway
6 only helped the issue but certainly didn't fix it; and even
7 without multiple days of no rain we can still hear and see
8 water trickling down our driveway which further concerns

me,

9 and I go back to the point of Karst and abandoned mine-
10 shafts in the area. Personally, I'm unaware of any maps in
11 existence that detail the mines in our area, which
12 solidifies my concerns for --

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
14 comments.

15 I do not want to discount your concerns on the
16 pipeline safety, I think you have some valid points. I do
17 want to point out to the audience that Pacific Gas and
18 Electric is a non-jurisdictional, not regulated by the
19 regulated by the State of California Public Utilities
20 Commission.

FERC,

21 Twenty-six.

22 MR. WHITEHURST: My name is Todd Whitehurst. I
23 live at 827 Woodgrass Trail in Newport. That's Whitehurst
24 W-H-I-T-E-H-U-R-S-T. I live within sight of the Newport

25 Village Park. The Park is designated to have the Mountain

1 Valley Pipeline run directly through it, and as best as we
2 can tell from what EQT has given us, the center of the
3 pipeline will run right down home plate on the kid's
4 ballpark. Now this park is the center for many activities
5 for our community. As you probably already guessed, they
6 play baseball. We have about seventy kids that participate
7 over the course of many weeks during spring, summer and
8 fall.

9 There is a daily walking club, 4H and Boy Scouts
10 use the park. Families use it for a safe place to trick-
or-
11 treat during Halloween. Movies are shown there. It's used
12 during our summer fair. It's used as a research park by
13 Virginia Tech faculty to teach college students about rare
14 limestone and streams such as Sinking Creek, which borders
15 the park on two sides.

16 Our 4th of July Festival is held at the park.
17 There are many meetings that are actually held at the park.
18 I personally go down there to listen to local music. There
19 are many concerts over the course of the year. All of
those
20 concerts are performed by local musicians. Our children
21 play there while the adults listen to the music and catch
up
22 on local happenings, such as pipelines running through the
23 park. And I can walk to this event, it just takes a few
24 moments to walk down there from my house.

25

The park is also used as a helicopter medical

1 evacuation site. It's strategically located between the
2 fire department and the rescue squad. Although it's not
the
3 only place that the helicopters can land, it's the most
4 convenient and when time is of the essence, it's the
fastest
5 place to prepare for a makeshift landing field.

6 This park serves an essential community need for
7 that. This park does fall within the classification of a
8 Class III High Consequence Area per the Department of
9 Transportation Pipeline Safety standards. If you place the
10 pipeline through the park, it will pretty much destroy it.
11 If you drill underneath of it, I wonder, you might save the
12 park but I wonder about my spring. I want to read into the
13 record that there are multiple springs at 143 Caldwell lane
14 and it services three residences, including mine. I'm most
15 worried about the water quality and what will happen to it.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
17 comments. Number twenty-seven.

18 MR. SHINGLES: My name is Rick Shingles. I live
19 on the preferred route in a really beautiful hollow just on
20 the other side of the baseball field. You go over the
21 ridge, which is Keisters Hill. It's an equestrian
property.
22 I have three horses.

23 The name is spelled S-H-I-N-G-L-E-S like the back
24 disease.

25

The proposed Mountain Valley pipeline would come

come
1 over the ridge, directly in front of my house and would
2 down into the hollow, taking out the horse trails there,
3 about one hundred trees and threaten the only spring in my
4 property.

5 If it were to come directly down, it would come
6 right toward the house and the garage; but it doesn't do
7 that, according to the map, when it reaches the top of that
8 ridge, it turns and it starts going towards the northwest,
9 which is towards the red-cover bridge leading to my
property
10 on Route 601.

11 I want to talk about that turn and the route it
12 takes to the red covered bridge because it's now, according
13 to the maps, going in a diagonal across that slope, not
14 coming right down the slope towards my house but at a
15 diagonal across the slope. Everyone in Giles knows that
16 everything you put on a Karst hill like that moves over
17 time. We joke that the only thing we can grow in Giles is
18 either grass or rocks. You can pick the rocks off of your
19 road or off your field and there will be a new crop next
20 spring. They are constantly in movement. One of the major
21 reasons for this movement is that everything goes up and
22 down in Giles, and there is nothing stable on the side of
23 the hill.

24 For example, if you bought a straight fence, it

25 ends up being crooked. The foundations of houses built on

1 the hill shift out from underneath barns and houses. My
2 house a beautiful example of that. It is built on the
3 opposite hill looking directly where the pipe will be
coming
4 from. The living room has a large crack, I keep repairing
5 it and it keeps opening up again. That's because the house
6 is no longer square. The sliding doors in the kitchen open
7 all by themselves. That is because the platform is no
8 longer level, the foundation, and gravity opens those
9 drawers.

10 This puts me in a dilemma. Well, this creates a
11 problem that puts me in a dilemma. The problem is, if that
12 pipe is built at an angle to the slope, then all that loose
13 rock which is constantly in motion is going to push up
14 incessantly against that pipe and eventually the well is
15 going to crack, and when the well cracks it's going to blow
16 up. So I can get to choose between one route where it
might
17 blow up and the other route where it goes through my
18 property. Not a very good choice.

19 There is another problem for my property, it's
20 really a box canyon. There is only one way out and it's
21 very narrow between two hills, and that pipeline will go
22 right across the property and cut off the exit. There will
23 be no way for me to get an alternate construction. The
same
24 thing happens to my neighbors, Pam and Susan as well.

25

MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your

1 comment.

this

2 MR. SHINGLES: There would be no way out of their
3 property. I did want to tell you that whoever designed
4 path is either a damned fool or a sadist.

5 (Laughter) (Applause).

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: An you can of course put your
7 comments in writing.

8 Twenty-eight.

a

9 MS. PITT: My name is Donna Pitt, P-I-T-T. I am
10 landowner in Giles County on Zells Mill Road. I'm here to
11 express my personal disappointment to FERC over their
12 history of deafness to the citizens to whom they should be
13 responsible while they pander to the private profits of the
14 utility companies. I hope and expect you to do better in
15 the future.

Sears

16 Once this pipeline comes off the property
17 previously described, its path cuts off the only possible
18 entrance to a home in a hollow of my neighbor's. It passes
19 directly in front of two historic homes of my adjacent
20 neighbors, one built in 1915 and the other an original
21 & Roebuck kit home. These homes are the only assets of
22 their owners, leaving them no future financial security for
23 their senior years, as they would become unsalable. In one
24 case, there will be no funds for the badly-needed assisted

25 living arrangements for elderly and ill owners.

1 The original proposed path of the Mountain Valley
2 Pipeline will pass directly across my property, bisecting
3 the farm and rendering it unusable for the purpose for
which
4 it was purchased and has functioned for the past 42 years,
5 as a horse and dog-breeding facility. The construction of
6 the right-of-way will destroy a horse farm, a dog kennel,
7 greenhouse and garden, the well and water lines, septic
line
8 and fences, and will come within twenty-five feet of my
9 home.

10 Any blasting and chipping used to build the
trench
11 will surely destroy our well. We will lose the investment
12 we began when we purchased an overgrown and eroded pasture
13 and turned it into a conservation area by planting 2500
14 trees, filling gullies, clearing brush and seeding
15 rotational pastures. The buildings, improvements, fencing
16 and cross-fencing have largely been built by our own hands.
17 There will be no financial value remaining to us and to
18 Giles County if Mountain Valley Pipeline is allowed to
19 destroy this farm.

20 As construction of the pipeline will be through
21 steep shale and limestone sparsely covered by grasses, it
22 will generate considerable erosion with runoff flowing into
23 Clover Hollow Branch on our property which feeds into
24 Sinking Creek and then into the New River, causing

25 sedimentation and pollution as it goes. The path will also

1 destroy a seasonal spring that drains into Sinking Creek.

2 The use of herbicides to keep the pathway clear
3 will keep the flow into the creek system, contaminating a
4 vital source of water for irrigation, livestock water and
5 fishing. We have spent virtually all of our adult lives
6 building a beautiful spot on which to retire. That
7 retirement will not be on this farm and the damage to the
8 land will be permanent and not mitigatable. I sincerely

and

9 respectfully ask FERC to deny a certificate. This company
10 has repeatedly demonstrate its -

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: The next speaker is number twenty-
14 nine.

15 I want to make sure the next speakers, thirty,
16 thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four and
17 thirty-five are all sitting in the front row.

18 The floor is yours.

19 MR. PITT: Thank you. My name is Joe Pitt, P-I-

T-

20 T. I am presenting the words of E. Scott Gellar, my next
21 door neighbor, as he says:

forty-

22 First, in 2006 I gifted an open-space easement of

23 five acres to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

24 According to our agreement, I am allowed to make no

25 changes to the forty-five acres. They check my
property

1 annually to make sure no construction has occurred.

2 Obviously, the construction of a pipeline on this
3 property would be disallowed by the Foundation.

4 Second, the 1.5 mile Smoke Hole cave, registered by the
5 State of Virginia, runs under my property and is used
6 for educational purposes by students from Virginia Tech
7 and many other universities. The pipeline construction
8 would likely severely damage the cave and entrance to
9 the cave would be impossible. Tawney Cave and Smoke
10 Hole Cave are designated by the Virginia Cave Board as
11 quote, 'significant caves.'

12 Third, pipeline construction would block the only
13 possible entrance to reach a historical log lodge,
14 frequently located at the top of the hill, which is used
15 for leadership retreats, weddings and special group
16 gatherings. The Lodge is constructed of white oaks,
17 circa 1860 or earlier which frame an open space
18 measuring 75 feet by 25 feet. This special indoor
space

19 is used for group meetings such as business improvement
20 seminars that are crucial to my vocation and income
21 stream. During the construction of the pipeline, it
22 would be impossible to reach this building, and the
back
23 of the building is my residence and office.

24 Thus, during the time of the construction of the

25 pipeline through my property, this building would be

1 unusable and this would cause me substantial personal harm.
2 There is environmental damage here. There is personal
harm.

3 It makes no sense. It's been said before, I'll say it
4 again. I makes no sense. Thank you.

5 (Applause).

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

7 Next speaker is number thirty.

8 I want to be sure that thirty-one, thirty-two-
9 thirty-three-thirty-four and thirty-five are sitting in the
10 front row.

11 The floor is yours.

12 MR. HILDRETH: My name is John Hildreth, H-I-L-D-
13 R-E-T-H, here representing Preserve Giles County. The
14 proposed route of the pipeline crosses the Cecil
Porterfield

15 Farm on Cave Hill Road in Newport Giles County, which has
16 been in the Porterfield family for over 200 years. Cattle
17 graze the pasture and drink from the spring-fed stream that
18 the pipeline would cross. The proposed pipeline would run
19 within a few hundred feet of a family cemetery.

20 But most startling of all, the proposed pipeline
21 would come within three hundred feet of the opening of Pig
22 Hole Cave. This cave has been designated by the Virginia
23 Cave Board and this particular cave is protected by the
24 Virginia Cave Act. Until the threat of the pipeline,

25 species in the cave had never been documented. In the fall

1 of 2014, a group in Virginia Department of Conservation and
2 Recreation conducted surveys of the cave, the biological
3 inventory trip yielded the usual cave-adapted millipedes,
4 spiders, beetles and mites as well as two distinct species
5 of subterranean amphiploid living in the cave.

6 Both of these species appeared to be new to
7 science based on this initial examination. Following the
8 discovery, Dr. John Holsinger of Old Dominion University
9 examined the specimens collected and determined that they
10 are indeed new to science. Once this species is formally
11 described, it will be handed to the State List of Rare
12 Species, which will bump the biodiversity rating of Pig
13 Cave Conservation Site from B4 to B2.

Hole

14 Another significant concern regarding the
15 potential pipeline intrusion are Pig Hole Cave's two
16 entrances. The first is a large opening and must be
17 by rappelling. The second, located downhill from the first
18 may be entered by dropping down a short pipe. During the
19 winter months, air flows aggressively into this lower
20 entrance because of the chimney effect created by the
21 entrance.

entered

higher

22 Expert cave and Karst assessment from Virginia
23 Department of Conservation and Recreation has expressed

from 24 concern that because of the chimney effect, gas leaking
25 the pipeline down the slope of the cave could become

1 entrained in airflow entering the cave and become
2 concentrated within the domes inside the cave. The cave
3 receives significant recreational use on a regular basis,
4 and an accumulation of gas will propose a risk to human
5 health and safety.

6 Caves like Pig Hole Cave have evolved over a
7 natural process over the course of millions of years. The
8 likelihood that this cave would be destroyed or at the
9 least made too dangerous for exploration is unquestionable.
10 The fragile underground habitat would be destroyed. Once a
11 natural cave has been destroyed or compromised there is no
12 way to fix it. EQT and NextEra have said that if they
13 it they will fix it, but it is not a promise that can be
14 kept when applied to this cave. When it is gone, it is
15 forever.

16 (Applause).

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

18 Number thirty-one.

19 MR. CHISHOLM: My name is Russel Chisholm. I

20 in Newport in Giles County. That is C-H-I-S-H-O-L-M. I
21 will talk further tonight about one of this region's most
22 precious resources, its caves, especially in the area of

23 small community of Newport.

very

break

gone

live

the

24 We are encouraged that MVP Resource Report No. 3,
25 section 3.3.2 acknowledges the unique characteristics of

1 cave habitats and the specialized ecosystems that support
2 underground life. The report mentions Tawney's Cave, a
3 well-known cave with significant ecological and
recreational
4 value.

5 Our concern is how briefly they considered and
6 summarily dismissed, not just Tawney's Cave, but also Smoke
7 Hole and Pig Hole Caves, all of them directly in the
8 pipeline's path. And this despite written advisement on
9 cave-related matters from the United States Department of
10 Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Virginia
Department
11 of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Cave Board and
12 the Virginia Speleological Survey. We think it is
13 important to emphasize some of the points these agencies
14 attempted to impress upon MVP, who thus far has not given
15 serious consideration in their narrative.

16 First, bats and other wildlife. The Indiana and
17 Northern Long-eared Bats, both federally-listed endangered
18 species are known to occur in Tawney's Cave. This prompted
19 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recommend a minimum
20 five mile buffer from the cave's opening and mapped
21 passages.

22 The current MVP centerline passes directly over
23 this cave. The Virginia DCR currently identifies six
24 globally, very rare, cave-limited invertebrate species in

25 the Newport area conservation sites. A newly discovered

1 species in Pig Hole Cave will likely be added to the State
2 List of Rare Species.

3 Secondly, hazards to human health. The Virginia
4 Cave Board recommends a one kilometer buffer around the Pig
5 Hole Conservation Site boundary to avoid potential injury
6 cave users by pipeline-induced hazards.

7 Significant land disturbances created by the
8 pipeline can trigger sinkhole formation and potentially
9 other catastrophic underground events posing risks to
10 individuals in and around these caves. Environmental
11 concerns include watershed contamination by pipeline
12 construction and maintenance in Karst land forms along the
13 MVP route, destruction of Karst features, disruption of
14 rivers and streams, erosion, sedimentation, chemical spills
15 all pose real and significant threats. Directional
16 in these sensitive areas can discharge fluids which would
17 contaminate surface and groundwater.

18 Many of the cave sites have interconnected waterways
19 documented by dye-trace studies. Contamination in one
20 location even outside of the conservation sites can quickly
21 move into protected areas.

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
23 comments.

24 Number thirty-two.

to

drilling

25

(Applause).

1 MR. BERRY: My name is David B-E-R-R-Y. I live
2 near milepost 205 to 211 depending on which map you use in
3 the Preston Forest area of Montgomery County. I bring
4 comments as a landowner and on behalf of my fellow
5 landowner, a Professor of GeoScience at Virginia Tech,
6 Robert Tracy. The original alternate MVP rights-of-way
7 incur significant local risks for four geological reasons:

8 First, Karst. Much of Giles and Montgomery is
9 underlain by limestone bedrock that is very susceptible to
10 erosion and contains fissures, sinkholes, underground
11 streams and caverns. The dissolution of limestone causes
12 the rapid movement of water from the surface downward and
13 back again, as well as the mingling of waters from
disparate
14 locations. Any contaminant leaking from a pipeline will
15 disperse quickly from the source of the leak and travel
16 quite rapidly, creating an underground chemical plume
17 polluting extensive surface and groundwater sources
18 compromising wells, streams and springs.

19 Sinkholes can and do collapse without warning.
20 Just last month, one collapsed on Interstate 81 and
required
21 closure. Construction activity to lay the pipeline will
22 disturb this fragile bedrock and create the possibility for
23 further catastrophic collapse.

24 Secondly, seismic activity in the Giles County

25 Seismic Zone is well identified by the USGS is an
earthquake

1 hazard, and has had quite significant earthquakes over the
2 last years with extensive local damage.

3 It is interesting that we think of earthquakes in
4 the western part of our nation, but they are actually
5 mitigated in part by seismic fault lines. In the eastern
6 part of the United States we do not have such fault lines
7 and we can recollect the earthquake at Mineral in 2011,
8 which shook gargoyles loose from the National Cathedral in
9 D.C. and almost toppled the Washington Monument.

10 Thirdly, slope failures. There is a potential
for
11 major landslide activity on Karst soils and these steep
12 terrains. Mapped extensively by USGS and Virginia Tech
13 sources including the huge slide-block over Sinking Creek
14 Mountain, which is probably the largest slide-block in the
15 lower 48 states.

16 Topography is the fourth geological risk factor
17 that we have, and that has to do with the steepness of
18 slopes, the likelihood of concomitant surface collapse,
19 landslide and erosion contamination of sensitive water
20 sources. Blasting and digging is bound to create a
21 disruption of these sensitive slopes, creating damage to
22 local streams and river valleys.

23 It's interesting to note that any one of these
24 factors is significant but they are multiplicative. When
25 one begins to fail, successive failures may occur. Thank

1 you.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

4 Number thirty-four.

5 At this time I want to make certain that thirty-
6 five, thirty-six, thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine
7 and forty are sitting in the front row.

8 The floor is yours.

9 MS. BERRY: Yes, hello. My name is Laura Berry,
10 that is B-E-R-R-Y and I live in Montgomery County in
Preston
11 Forest. It's been misidentified as Preston Farms, but I
12 just have a couple remarks to add to the wonderful,
13 enlightening remarks that have been make by my fellow
14 attendees here tonight. Really, I want to identify a
15 question that came up in my mind when I started studying
the
16 plethora of information that has been coming out in
response
17 to the FERC comments on Draft Resource Reports 1 and 10.

18 I spent a good deal of time studying these, going
19 back and forth, and I was intrigued by one thing; and that
20 is in one of their tables, MVP says: Identify by milepost
21 all residences that would be within fifty feet of a
22 construction right-of-way or extra work area. Well, in
23 their Table 8.2.2 the compliance report shows there are no
24 properties either in Giles or Montgomery County that fall

25 within 50 feet of a construction work zone. To me, that is

1 really hard to understand, because 125 feet is supposed to
2 be the construction work zone. Otherwise, why are they
3 wanting to come in and threaten eminent domain for taking
4 our properties?

5 My house is within 125 feet, 125 feet would put
it
6 right through the center of my house. To me, fifty feet
7 additional would be 175 feet from wherever this thing
8 starts. So how are we to know what that point is?

9 Another thing that I found is that when you have
10 the reports from December from MVP and the reports from
11 March there is a seven mile discrepancy in the milepost
12 markings. So how are we to know what we are even talking
13 about when we are talking about environmental impact? I
14 think that MVP needs to actually be accurate. I found many
15 inaccuracies in MVP's compliance reports and I think this
is
16 very serious.

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
18 comments.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number thirty-five.

21 Thirty-four.

22 MR. HOLT: My name is Keith Holt. I live on Ray
23 Ridge Drive, Blacksburg. Last name is spelled H-O-L-T. I
24 live in the Brush Mountain Estates Subdivision. I reside

25 there with my wife and children, age six and one. Our

1 property is one hundred and sixty feet from the proposed
2 pipeline route and alternative route number 93.

3 We oppose this project and its alternative
routes.

4 MVP has never operated a pipeline of this size and
magnitude
5 and distance. Given their way of haphazardly drawing out
6 alternative, we do not believe that they can be entrusted
7 with transporting a hazardous material in this size and
8 volume for which they propose.

9 The Economic Benefit Report from Montgomery
County
10 is frankly, laughable. There is nothing in this for the
11 citizens of Montgomery County. Due to the fact that our
12 property is located just off of the proposed easement, we
13 are not offered a sufficient voice nor have any bargaining
14 rights with regards to this project's impacts to our
15 property and lives. We are essentially left out, in the
16 cold, with the potential danger looming over our heads.

17 Like others, our well water is a concern. In
18 addition to quality, I have great concerns over quantity
19 given the Karst topography. If construction activities
20 should shift underground water channels away from my well,
I
21 will end up with a dry well. The Project will also greatly
22 widen the existing power line easement that runs nearby,
23 requiring the removal of mature trees. Only a small
portion

24 which may be replanted with non-mature trees. This will
25 result in a significant taking of our viewshed. Those

1 existing trees provide a natural vegetative buffer blocking
2 view from the power lines and providing the wooded feel of
3 our property from which we derive a great deal of pleasure
4 and property value.

5 The needless taking of our viewshed would result
6 in the degradation of enjoyment as well as adversely impact
7 our property values. Due to concerns of safety and the
8 resulting risk for those of us who would be forced to live
9 nearby to this pipeline, I request that FERC insist that

the

10 Department of Transportation's Pipeline Hazmat Safety
11 Administration immediately get involved and evaluate the
12 project's safety, and I request that local public hearings
13 on safety issues be administered prior to FERC's approval
14 this project. This project has already caused undue stress
15 for our family and needless loss to our property value.

of

16 It is ultimately those of us who live close to
17 route that stand to love the most with nothing to gain. I
18 strongly suggest this application be denied.

the

19 (Applause).

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: That was number thirty-four.

21 You're number thirty-five?

22 MS. ELLINGSON: Yes.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Great. On the front row should be
24 thirty-six, thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine and

25 forty. The floor is yours.

1 MS. ELLINGSON: Hi. I'm Karen Ellingson. It's
2 spelled E-L-L-I-N-G-S-O-N. I am a homeowner in Preston
3 Forest. I live next to an affected property. I don't know
4 the lot. I don't know the mile-marker. It's Pyramid Road
5 and Ballard Court.

6 My comment is this: All pain, no gain. MVP will
7 bring our region only pain and no gain. Gain: there are
no
8 plans in MVP's current FERC filing to provide access to
9 natural gas to our region. The expense of a regulating
10 station plus a minimum guarantee demand make such access
11 unlikely.

12 Pain: Habitat destruction. The corridor is at
13 least three hundred miles long, one hundred fifty feet wide
14 and ten feet deep, right through the forest of our region.
15 All trees in the way of the pipeline will be permanently
16 removed. In my five acre lot of Preston Forest, I count
17 over thirty species of trees, forty species of birds,
18 numerous wildflowers, animal species, mushrooms and spring.
19 That is typical for this region and a small sample of what
20 will be lost.

21 Pain: Safety. All the routes for this pipeline
22 go right over Sinking Creek Mountain. According to the
23 USGS, this is the site of the largest known prehistoric
24 landslide in Eastern North America in the past 10,000
years.

25 That's the USGS talking. Any pipeline failure could easily

1 cause a major forest fire multiplying the destruction. MVP
2 is planning on conducting a massive clear-cut logging
3 operation, excavation operation and blasting through
forest,
4 farms and residential neighborhoods. Our roads were not
5 designed to handle heavy construction traffic. Landowners
6 who lose property and new road improvements have not been
7 notified and their comments will not be heard,
environmental
8 impacts will not be addressed.

9 We rely on well-water. We are guaranteed to have
10 sediment in our well after this construction. We are lucky
11 if our well survives at all. Recently hiked over part of
12 the Appalachian Trail in Craig Country from Kevlar Oak, the
13 largest white oak in Virginia, it's a historic server cabin
14 and cemetery, up Sinking Creek Mountain, close to one of
the
15 possible alternate routes. It is some of the most
beautiful
16 scenery in the country that we should preserve for all of
17 the public, not destroy for the profits of a private
18 company. All pain, no gain.

19 (Applause).

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

21 Number thirty-six.

22 MR. ZIPPER: I am Carl Zipper from Blacksburg,
23 Virginia. That's Z-I-P-P-E-R. The proposed location for

24 the Swan Compressor Station in Montgomery County is
25 inappropriate for that use. It is located within the North

1 Fork Valley Rural Historic District as defined by the
2 National Register of Historic places. The proposed
3 compressor is adjacent to the Virginia scenic byway Route
4 785, which also serves as the Trans-American Trail for
5 cross-country bicyclists within a special project area
6 designated by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and next to
7 the North Fork of the Roanoke River, which is habitat for
8 the federally-protected Roanoke logperch at that location
or
9 a short distance downstream.

10 A compressor station within an inhabited but
quiet
11 rural valley, with no topographic barriers for several
miles
12 would subject residents to environmental noise and air
13 pollution. There are no industrial facilities in this
14 valley. The proposal is inconsistent with the current land
15 uses, local zoning and the Montgomery County Comprehensive
16 plan.

17 FERC Policies dictate avoidance of historic
18 properties when possible and avoidance of unnecessary
19 environmental and community impacts. A compressor station:
20 A) is essential to pipeline operation; and B) creates a
21 highly significant environmental impact. Knowing these
22 facts and knowing FERC policies, a routing that places -
23 and MVP has created a routing that places the construction
24 of the compressor station in the North Fork Roanoke Valley.

25 Is this the best the applicant can do?

1 I state the above to emphasize the applicant has
2 not demonstrated a competence to perform impact avoidance
3 and minimization routing. For just one example in addition
4 to many other examples that have been presented here
5 tonight, based on what is missing from the December
resource
6 reports, it appears that the Applicant formed the initial
7 routing using maps from the 1990's. That outdated mapping
8 did not show much of the current housing in some sections
of
9 the proposed route, such as Montgomery County. The
10 Applicant's proposal to place a compressor station in the
11 North Fork Roanoke River Valley also demonstrates a lack of
12 ability to perform avoidance and minimization routing as
per
13 FERC Policy.

14 The compressor station should not be placed in
the
15 North Fork Roanoke River Valley. The application should be
16 denied. Also, the Applicant has not demonstrated a need
for
17 the pipeline as documented by several citizens, submittals
18 to the docket, and the application should be denied on that
19 basis as well. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

20 (Applause).

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

22 Number thirty-seven.

live

23 MR. MIXON: My name is James Mixon, MIXON. I

24 in Roanoke County and I live less than a mile from the Blue

25 Ridge Parkway.

1 Let me tell you the story of a real-world
2 experience. My family has lived in Roanoke County for
3 twenty-seven years. The entire time, a gas pipeline has
run
4 through our backyard, up the hill from our home. About
once
5 a year we get a mailing from the pipeline company reminding
6 us what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency.

7 In twenty-seven years that we have lived there,
we
8 have never had any problem with the pipeline. We hike up
in
9 that area from time to time and it's a beautiful nature
10 area. You would not know that a pipeline is there except
11 for the occasional marking. All of us here tonight
12 represent a fraction of the total population in this area,
13 and I hope that everyone that has an opinion on this will
be
14 allowed to talk even if they're not here tonight.

15 I know the importance of having good jobs in the
16 area. My son and daughter left the area after college
17 graduation because there were not good-paying jobs in the
18 area. The pipeline will bring those jobs, along with
19 critical tax dollars needed by our schools and local law
20 enforcement. It will bring in more tax dollars without
21 raising our taxes and this is a good thing.

22 We pay about 2.30/gallon for our gas, rather than
23 a large amount like five or ten dollars per gallon that we

24 would have to pay if we had to truck gas in or bring it in

25 from the refineries by rail, all because people between

here

1 and the Gulf Coast were willing to allow pipelines for
2 gasoline.

3 When I came in the parking lot tonight, I saw a
4 lot of "coexist" stickers in the parking lot. I hope to
5 a scenario where the pipeline can coexist along with our
6 natural environment and I urge this Board to vote yes on
7 allowing the pipeline. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

8

9 (Booing and applause).

10 MR. FRIEDMAN: Right now, I'm about to close this
11 meeting. You are the rudest group of people I have ever
12 heard for booing that man, all right. I think you owe him
13 an apology.

14 (More booing.)

15 MR. FRIEDMAN: Okay, whoever just booed, please
16 leave the room.

17 MAN IN AUDIENCE: I didn't do it. Are you
18 this meeting now?

19 MR. FRIEDMAN: I'm about to if I ever hear
20 reaction to a speaker like that. I asked you all to show
21 respect regardless of what people had to say. You all want
22 to say something, all right. You need to allow your
23 neighbors and other members of this community to speak as
24 well.

see

closing

another

25

AUDIENCE: We expect the same in return.

1 MR. FRIEDMAN: Okay, would you like to leave now?

2

3 AUDIENCE: No.

4 MR. FRIEDMAN: Then please be quiet. Next
speaker
5 is number thirty-eight.

6 MS. LARGEN: It is the job of the Federal Energy
7 Regulatory Commission to think carefully and critically
8 about the energy construction projects that affect us all.
9 Here in the beautiful Commonwealth of Virginia we pride
10 ourselves on small-town values and a natural heritage of
the
11 land. The land of Jefferson National Forest as well as our
12 collective private property has been handed to us from past
13 generations.

14 It is your responsibility to take the time to
take
15 a good hard look, necessary to make sure that these
16 construction products do not significantly deteriorate our
17 environmental heritage or our human health and safety.

18 In the past several months, reading documents
19 released by MVP and following the issue, as a recent
20 graduate of Environmental Policy and Planning from Virginia
21 Tech, there is no reason beyond economic gain to the MVP
22 Company to build this state-long, high-pressure pipeline.
23 The intention of this pipeline is to sell natural gas to
24 Europe.

25

From our Karst topography that geologists warn is

1 too unstable to build upon, to the fragile and valued fresh
2 water flowing from the Blue Ridge Mountains, approving this
3 pipeline would have countless environmental and social
4 consequences. The mountains of Virginia should be
protected

5 so students like me can learn and grow into leaders of
6 tomorrow. Approving this pipeline would be a very poor
7 decision.

8 I would also like to mention that there are
9 several nonpartisan representatives from the Pipeline
10 Information Network, created by students at Virginia Tech
11 this semester. Their work all semester has created the
most
12 comprehensive source of information on this issue. You can
13 go to pipelinenetwork.org for more information. They are
14 going to quietly raise their hands at this time. Thank
you.

15

16 [Show of hands] (Applause)

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Excuse me young lady, did you say
18 your name?

19 MS. LARGEN: My name is Erica Largen.

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: All right, could you spell is for
21 the court --?

22 MS. LARGEN: L-A-R-G-E-N.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

24 Number thirty-nine.

25

There is no number thirty-nine? Number forty.

1 Also I would like forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-
2 four, and forty-five to come to the front row.

3 MS. PUCKETT: Thank you, my name is Anita
Puckett,
4 that's P-U-C-K-E-T-T, and I'm going to be as short as
5 possible because I'm literally at the halfway point. I'm a
6 halfway point speaker.

7 My comments pertain to the proper conservation of
8 cultural and historical resources, primarily for Montgomery
9 County. Others are speaking for their own counties and my
10 comments really build on Dr. Zipper's comments from just a
11 couple of minutes ago.

12 Our first and main concern that we have is in the
13 proposed location of the Swan Compressor Station at
14 approximately mile-marker 220.5. This location is smack in
15 the middle of North Fork Valley Historic District, a site
on
16 the National Register of Historic Places and therefore
17 subject to NEPA Regulations, despite or regardless of the
18 fact that we know that one landowner is willing to sell
19 land, to grant an easement to Mountain Valley.

20 This district is also on the Virginia Register of
21 Historic Places. Electronic comments have been made with
22 respect to the historical significance of something like
195
23 structures within this nine mile district and so on.

24 But what I wan to focus on in what little time I

the 25 have is significant prehistorical significance, and that

1 area is rife with Native American artifacts. The Shannon
2 Site, which is the largest archeological site in Montgomery
3 County, abuts to the southern end of this district. It
4 contained over one hundred Native American burials when
5 excavated. Given the prehistoric value of this district to
6 Native American transportation and settlement, for about a
7 mere 8,000 years, it is quite likely that the proposed
8 compressor station, given the amount of land required, will
9 encounter major archeological sites and a possible probable
10 set of Native American burials.

11 The Commonwealth of Virginia recognizes seven
12 Native American tribes within the state. For this
district,
13 the Monicans have jurisdiction and have agreed to submit a
14 comment to FERC before the June 18th deadline. We are
going
15 to try to do our best to hold them to that. Regarding the
16 potential disruption of their ancestors or the sacrilege of
17 their remains in this site.

18 We therefore encourage FERC to vigorously apply
19 NEPA regulations to the site and this proposed compressor
20 location. We also encourage it to move the entire route
out
21 of this vitally important prehistoric and historic
district.

22

23 A second concern we have will be submitting maps

24 with locations of family cemeteries located on or very near
25 the proposed route. One landowner commented on this
earlier

1 this evening. They must be circumvented by law or if
2 absolutely necessary, moved if the current route is
3 approved. There are many in Montgomery County, and you
will
4 be receiving maps of what we have already, but we are also
5 going to be asking landowners to submit their cemeteries as
6 well. We encourage MCP and FERC to do just service to our
7 dead should one of the proposed routes be approved.

8 Finally, a speaker last night at the Lindside
9 scoping and tonight as well mentioned a study of the
10 cultural importance of place to local residents, and that
11 needs to be submitted as well.

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
13 comments.

14 Number forty-one.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Again, I want to emphasize that in
17 the front row I would like forty-two, forty-three, forty-
18 four and forty five to all be ready to speak.

19 MR. BRILL: Hello, my name is John Brill, J-O-H-N
20 B-R-I-L-L from Roanoke. I have heard various several,
21 comments this evening regarding how the construction of
this
22 would disturb soil, would cut down a lot of trees. There
23 would be a lot of runoff going into a lot of creeks, and
how
24 this would also disturb the view and our view of mountains

25 and so on and so forth.

1 I find that very interesting and I would
encourage
2 you to take those comments with a grain of salt and here's
3 why: A couple of years ago we had in Roanoke County quite
a
4 lot of public hearings regarding the placing of a bunch of
5 windmills on our ridge lines. The construction of those
6 would have disturbed a lot of soil, cut down a lot of
trees,
7 had a lot of sediment go into a lot of creeks and it would
8 have been an eyesore that you would have been able to see
9 clear across the valley.

10 I bring that up because a lot of the people that
I
11 see here, some have spoken, some have not, I recognize from
12 those meetings where they were advocating for the placing
of
13 windmills that would have disturbed a lot of soil, cut down
14 a lot of trees, put a lot of sediment in a lot of creeks
and
15 been an eyesore across the valley.

16 For myself, I look forward to the cheaper energy
17 prices that this gas line is going to bring. I'm looking
18 forward to the jobs because I know that for my generation a
19 lot of people have had to leave the valley in order to look
20 for good jobs. I'm encouraged by the prospect of what this
21 pipeline can do for our area. Thank you for your time and
22 you have a good day.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

24 Number forty-two.

25 (Applause).

1 MS. CAVELL: My name is Marilyn Cavell and I'm an
2 affected landowner living in Coal Bank Ridge Subdivision in
3 Blacksburg, and I think it's near mile-marker 216.

4 I strongly oppose the Mountain Valley Pipeline
for
5 many reasons. Health and safety issues are foremost. But
6 tonight I express my concern about the severe impact on the
7 quality of the environment along whatever route the
pipeline
8 takes.

9 I'm all for cleaner energy sources but not at the
10 expense of the environmental wrath that would be inflicted
11 by three hundred miles of 42-inch, high-pressure gas
12 pipeline. Just the land disturbance alone would
permanently
13 alter over two thousand acres while the actual impact would
14 be immeasurably greater.

15 Naturally, I am particularly concerned about land
16 by my home that I know and walk. I share ownership with
17 other homeowners of Coal Bank Ridge of a 90-acre
18 conservation easement, one of the lands entrusted to the
19 Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. As part of Alternate Route
87,
20 the pipeline would extend approximately one mile across
this
21 easement. The proposed pipeline would not just cross a
22 narrow section of the conservation area, its route would
cut

23 through the longest part of the land, thereby producing the
24 maximum disturbance.

25 The conservation easement is lush with mature

1 trees and wildflowers and provides shelter to abundant
2 wildlife. On numerous occasions, I have watched baby fox
3 popping in and out of their den. A beautiful stream which
4 would be crossed twice by the pipeline lies at the base of
a
5 steep slope directly below the entire length of the
pipeline
6 path. Disturbing the mountainous land above the stream is
7 concerning, but there has not yet been time to fully
examine
8 the potential impact on the watershed which is a reason to
9 extend this scoping period.

10 It should be noted, however, that this stream
11 forms the headwaters of Tom's Creek, which flows into the
12 New River, our region's most precious natural resource.
13 While beautiful and a valued amenity to myself and my
14 neighbors, the conservation area would not be hospitable to
15 a gas pipeline. The terrain is steep, rugged and rocky.

16 Possibly, most importantly, abandoned coal mines
17 lie beneath the earth all through the conservation area.
18 Because it is protected, even I as an owner am prohibited
19 from disturbing the land and vegetation. It seems
ludicrous
20 that this protected land is now threatened, not only by a
21 large-scale and permanent felling of trees but by placement
22 of a potentially hazardous and devastating man-made object.
23 Thank you.

24
comment.

MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your

25

1 Number forty-three. Is number forty-three here?

2 Is that a yes, no, maybe?

3 Forty-four? At the front row I would like forty-
4 five, forty-six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine and
5 fifty. The floor is yours.

6 MR. MAXWELL: Hi. My name is Stockton Maxwell.
7 I'm a resident of the Preston Forest neighborhood in
8 Blacksburg and I am a geospatial scientist by profession.

I

9 just want to sum up a lot of what I have heard tonight
10 instead of providing more detailed comments.

stated

11 The proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline is
12 unjustified in its current and projected demand for natural
13 gas in the mid-Atlantic region. While not explicitly
14 by the company, the natural gas pipeline will go to the
15 highest bidder, or the gas in the pipeline will go to the
16 highest bidder and will likely be exported to Europe and
17 Asia.

18 Exportation of gas is not a public benefit, but a
19 private gain for a corporation. The citizens are to assume
20 much of the risk for the natural resources. Emissions from
21 the pipeline, the compressor stations are a threat to local
22 air quality in the state and federal mandates to reduce
23 greenhouse gas emissions. Construction of pipelines
24 threaten water quality, habitat and headwater streams, and

25 pose risks to well water especially in Karst terrain.

1 The construction of pipelines will impact the
2 environment through loss of habitat, forest fragmentation,
3 changes in species movements and sedimentation. The
4 Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has
5 identified a host of cave resources within two miles of the
6 pipeline that will be impacted by the construction and
7 possible methane leakage. The pipeline construction
process
8 involves techniques that will lead to erosion and
9 sedimentation in headwater streams of the New, Roanoke and
10 James Rivers.

11 The construction of the pipeline will deforest
12 over 4,000 acres along the pipeline route. The habitat
loss
13 and fragmentation will lead to biodiversity loss in
14 Appalachia and beyond. In 2014, a report by the IPCC
states
15 unequivocally that global climate change is happening and
16 that it's driven by anthropogenic emissions like greenhouse
17 gases such as carbon dioxide and methane.

18 A recent study published in Science says that
more
19 than 25 to 75 percent of methane leaking from wells is
20 underestimated and this is going to erode climate benefits
21 from burning methane, because methane is twenty-five times
22 more powerful than CO2. The mitigation of these
23 environmental impacts can come at a cost to the citizens.

24 So ask: Should we allow the continued subjugation of

25 Appalachia for the benefit of a private company? Thank

1 you.

2 (Applause).

3 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

4 Number Forty-five.

5 MS. HUBER: Hi. My name is Angelica Huber. It's
6 H-U-B-E-R. I live in Preston Forest on milepost 214.9 and
7 215, right next to the power line. So I'm here as a mother
8 of four children that moved up there two weeks before we

got

9 the first letter and the threat that they will take our new
10 house that we worked so hard for and that we wanted to
11 our children.

raise

12 I'm a biologist myself so I encouraged my kids to
13 invite all their friends over so we can explore and learn
14 nature and by now we have lived there for half a year,

there

15 were more than one hundred kids with parents up there
16 exploring, learning, seeing what we have up there and what
17 it's worth to preserve. If they built the pipeline, we
18 won't get up there anymore because there's one street up,
19 then there's the col-de-sac and that's it.

20 I can't invite anybody anymore, we can't live up
21 there anymore because our well is exactly fifty feet away
22 from the power line so if they follow this route they will
23 just dig through it and we are out of water, and we have no
24 place to live anymore.

25

If they really build it and if for any reason

1 somebody invents new water for us and we can stay up there,
2 I will not invite anybody up there anymore because if it
3 blows up or if there's any leakage, I would kill other
4 friends, I will kill other kids, I will destroy other
5 families, not only ours.

6 Our property has a little creek in the middle so
7 we go down the hill to the creek and back up the slope. So
8 these nice pictures with flat surfaces, that's not it. You
9 go down on your bottom and you crawl up. You can't walk
10 there. These are high hills and deep slopes. You have to
11 blast through it. OK, if you blast, you blast away our
12 house, our neighbor's house on the other side.

13 All these houses will be gone because you can't
14 just blast an 80 feet wide corridor because that is how far
15 we are away from the power line. You can't do that. So,
16 you will destroy not only nature but many, many homes, many
17 lives. A lot of beautiful nature; and I don't know what

the

18 American Dream is, but this is an American Nightmare.

19 (Applause).

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

21 Forty-six.

22 MR. SEALE: My name is Bill Seale, it's spelled

S-

23 E-A-L-E. I live in the Cold Bank Ridge neighborhood in

bulls-

24 Blacksburg, Virginia, roughly about 200 feet from the

25 eye of Alternative 87.

1 Prior to moving home to Virginia, my wife and I
2 lived in San Francisco and we remember vividly the drive
3 home from work on September 9, 2010 and the dark, ugly,
4 smoke-filled sky. According to the Pipeline and Gas
5 Journal, on that day near San Bruno, crews were replacing a
6 UPS when the pipeline control system malfunctioned.

7 Electrical power dropped causing the control
valve
8 to open and pressure to build. At 6:11 p.m. It exploded,
9 unleashing a 1,000-foot high wall of flames and excavating
a
10 crater 167-feet long, 26-feet wide and 40-feet deep.
11 Imagine two hundred firefighters, twenty-five fire engines,
12 four air-tankers and a helicopter battled the blaze for 18
13 hours and days later they were still searching for human
14 remains.

15 In the final accounting, eight people died,
sixty-
16 six were injured, thirty-eight homes were destroyed and
17 seventy more where damaged. After the disaster the former
18 head of the Federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
19 Administration called for the creation of a national
20 commission to examine the problem of high-pressure
pipelines
21 that pass through residential areas. He suggested that we
22 create a no man's land around the pipelines or restrict
23 lines of certain sizes from neighborhoods.

24 And yet, while that San Bruno neighborhood is
25 still trying to rebuild, here we are tonight discussing a

1 pipeline with double the volume and nearly five times the
2 pressure of the San Bruno Line, one that would endanger
3 every single home in our fifty-two lot neighborhood and
many
4 other neighborhoods in its path. My wife and I are not
5 agreeing to risk our lives and none of our neighbors are
6 agreeing to risk their lives. I am urging FERC to reject
7 any alternative that forces people to live in the blast
8 zone.

9 (Applauds).

10 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

11 Number forty-seven.

12 MR. CASS: Good evening. My name is Steve Cass,
13 C-A-S-S. I'm a landowner. At about 218 to 219. My
14 comments tonight are related to safety, and safety
primarily
15 during construction.

16 Because of the current AP easement, the location
17 of the AP easement on my property it appears that the
18 centerline of this pipeline will be less than one hundred
19 feet from my house. The temporary, the movement of heavy
20 equipment will make access to my home extremely difficult
if
21 not impossible.

22 The blasting of huge rock formations along this
23 route will not just cause a noise disturbance. My septic
24 system, home foundation and well are all at high risk for

25 permanent damage. It also will cross my driveway, which is

1 only accessed by vehicle. During construction, access to my
2 home by emergency equipment including fire and EMS will
3 undoubtedly be extremely restricted. The high potential
for
4 spilling of diesel fuel and other petroleum products is of
5 great concern. The proximity of this pipeline will place
my
6 family at high risk, high danger during blasting, ditching
7 and heavy equipment usage within feet of my home.

8 MVP should be required to assess the proximity of
9 homes. It is not just my home that I talk of. A simple
10 Google search of five minutes will locate over a dozen
homes
11 along the pipeline that are less than 100 feet from the
12 center line of the pipeline. This seems to be a ridiculous
13 way to run a company. Thank you.

14 (Applauds).

15 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

16 Number forty-eight. I would like number forty-
17 nine, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three, fifty-four,
18 fifty-five to be sitting in the front row. The floor is
19 yours.

20 MS. REILLY: My name is Carolyn Reilly, R-E-I-L-
L-
21 Y and I reside in Franklin County. I am a landowner that
is
22 affected by this proposed pipeline, approximately milepost
23 260. Our farm actually has two creeks on it. Teel's Creek

24 as well as Little Creek. Teel's Creek flows into Little
25 Creek and Little Creek flows into the Black Water River

my 1 which is the Town of Rocky Mount's water supply. That is
2 first environmental concern.

are 3 Our family farm is one of many properties that
4 affected by the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. Since
5 stirred 5 October of last year, our family has been shaken and
6 by this potential impact to our land. We have spent much
7 time researching the many issues surrounding pipelines and
8 conclude without any hesitation that we do not want it
9 built. Period. Natural gas is not natural. It is not
10 clean energy.

11 The devastation that would occur on our land
12 through creeks and woods is horrifying to us let alone the
13 mass disruption of the myriad of species that inhabit this
14 to 14 area. We moved here just over four years ago to farm and
15 work on healing the land using sustainable restorative
16 practices. My family lives here, works here and plays here
17 on our land that we respect and care for. We make our home
18 on this little piece of earth along with all the others on
19 the path of this proposed monstrosity of a pipeline.

a 20 When will the environment and property rights be
21 priority for living and breathing landowners? Stop the use
22 of eminent domain for corporate gain. You know, sometimes
23 after I've been outside, whether working in our garden,

24 exploring the land or playing in the creeks with my four

25 children, I come home and I find dirt under my nails or in

1 between my toes and I look at this as a sign of a blessed
2 life. Dirt, my dirt.

3 Mountain Valley Pipeline has no interest in my
4 dirt or the animals we raise and the wildness of the woods
5 surrounding our creeks. Their interest is solely in moving
6 fracked gas from point A to B and making as much money as
7 they can doing it. The environment does not need more of
8 this 'gimmee-gimme' extraction mentality. Look where it

has

9 gotten us. Climate change is real and we must stop the
10 'pipelies' and I brought some friends with me. Thank you.

11

12 (Group applauds).

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

14 Number forty-nine.

15 (Group singing.)

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Okay, right now what you are doing
17 is preventing other members of the community from speaking,
18 and that is just plain rude.

19 Number forty-nine.

Perdue,

20 MS. PERDUE: Thank you. My name is Sherry

21

22 S-H-E-R-R-Y P-E-R-D-U-E. My husband and I, along with our
23 two children are residents of Montgomery County. Our home
24 is located on West Benoit Trail in the Preston Forest area

25 of Blacksburg. Alternative Route 93 is slated to run just

1 outside the boundary of our property, placing our home well
2 within the blast zone.

3 I'm also a small business owner. My husband and

I

4 are partners in a consulting company headquartered in
5 Blacksburg. Our company offers consulting services in
6 Industrial and Occupational Safety. For the past twenty
7 years, our company has helped hundreds of organizations
8 around the world understand and manage risk in order to

keep

9 their employees and their surrounding communities safe from
10 industrial accidents. The seven members of our team
11 routinely travel from Blacksburg to areas across the United
12 States and around the world including Europe, Asia, Africa
13 and Australia. Our clients include familiar names such as
14 Exxon Mobile, Toyota, 3M, Pfizer, and Monsanto.

15 I share this information to help put my next
16 comments into context. If the pipeline goes through the
17 proposed route, I would be hesitant to continue to live and
18 raise my family in my home. We all face various levels of
19 risk every day. If anyone understands that, I do. I make

a

20 living helping organizations and their employees understand
21 and manage risk. The key, of course, is to manage the

risks

22 to an acceptable level. A natural gas pipeline has

inherent

23 risk, but in many cases those risks are well-understood and

24 can be acceptably managed.

25 I do not believe, however, that a pipeline of
this

1 size, running through this portion of Montgomery County
2 carries an acceptable level of risk. The many threats to
3 personal safety and to the environment which had been well-
4 articulated here tonight are simply far too great. If the
5 pipeline is approved, my family is prepared to relocate.

We

6 will relocate our residence and we will relocate our small
7 business, taking with us the over two million dollar annual
8 taxable revenue to Montgomery County.

9 I realize of course the insignificance of this
10 amount of revenue but it's just one additional negative
11 impact to the region. The economy of our area will suffer
12 along with the environment and the welfare of the
residents.

13 I implore you to deny the MVP Pipeline access through this
14 region.

15 (Applauds).

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

17 Number fifty. At this time I would like fifty-
18 one, fifty, two, fifty-three, fifty-four, fifty-five to be
19 in the front row.

20 MR. MARTIN: Jim Martin, J-I-M M-A-R-T-I-N.

21 First, I want to thank the folks from the FERC for hosting
22 this meeting in our area tonight and giving us the
23 opportunity to share our views about this project. To be
24 clear, I am a supporter of MVP project. I did not come to

25 this position without a great deal of thought. I don't

project 1 think any honest person can truthfully say that this
2 offers zero benefits or zero risk. It is likely a
3 combination of both, so the best way for FERC to evaluate
4 the merits of this Project should be to identify the
5 benefits and risk and decide which outweighs the other.

6 For me, the benefits are both socioeconomic and
7 environmental. In terms of socioeconomics, pipeline
8 construction will generate lots of jobs and opportunities
9 for local workers and businesses in the area. Operation of
10 the pipeline will generate tax revenue for Southwest
11 Virginia counties. Because I live in Salem, I am most
12 interested in Roanoke County, which will receive anywhere
13 from 1.6 to 2.7 million dollars in tax revenue for every
14 year the pipeline is in operation. That's an enormous
15 benefit for our community. That's money we can invest in
16 our children's education, transportation needs and funding
17 for public safety.

18 This pipeline also gives our region the chance to
19 attract economic development to the area, manufacturing is
20 the future of U.S. Economy. It disappeared overseas for
21 decades but is finally coming back to this country because
22 of affordable natural gas. It's improving the lives of
23 middle class families all across the country. I think the
24 folks in the Roanoke region ought to be a part of that and

25 think our neighbors in Franklin County should, too.

the 1 This pipeline gives us that chance in terms of
2 environment. By any standard, natural gas is an
3 environmentally beneficial form of energy. It is helping
4 our nation reduce our carbon footprint and is dramatically
5 improving the air and water quality in our communities.

6 For all the talk we hear about wind and solar,
7 natural gas has actually been the largest contributor to
8 decrease in U.S. carbon emissions in the last ten years,
9 renewables. I know folks are concerned about environmental
10 impacts locally but I haven't seen a single environmental
11 impact that cannot be solved through technology and best
12 industry practices. Natural gas pipelines are the safest
13 form of energy transportation, and they coexist peacefully
14 with the environment all across this country.

15 Sure, there is Karst topography in the area and
16 sure, that is an engineering challenge, but there are
17 thousands of miles of natural gas pipeline in this country
18 that operates safely through Karst areas including in the
19 Roanoke region. The East Tennessee Pipeline has safely
20 operated through Karst areas in our region for decades. I
21 know folks are concerned about the Spring Hollow Reservoir
22 but again the industry knows how to build and operate
23 pipelines so they do not harm the water supply.

24 Some folks may not be aware of this, but the East

25 Tennessee Pipeline actually goes directly underneath the

1 Spring Hollow Reservoir; and there it has operated safely
2 for decades without any adverse impacts to our water
3 quality. It can be done and it is being done, in our
region
4 and across the country.

5 In closing, I think this project offers our
region
6 some significant environmental and socioeconomic benefits,
7 and they far outweigh the risks. I hope FERC will consider
8 this benefit. Thank you.

9 (VOICES: Time.)

10 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

11 MR. MARTIN: Thank you very much, sir.

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

13 I want to say, again, that there are some very
14 rude people in this audience, all right? Because, people,
15 you don't agree with their views does not mean that you
have
16 the right to intimidate them, all right? So I would like
17 you to show either common courtesy or please leave the
room.

18

19 Number fifty-one.

20 MR. TICKLE: Ooh on that. I'm Noah Tickle,
21 Catawba Magisterial District Rep. Why are we the people
22 participating in this rally for a pipeline? That's what
23 this is. We are being carrotted, baited in. This picture

24 is the wrong framework, folks. This is a deception to
25 counter landowner rights of property, landowner rights,

1 grace of God-given unalienable rights. Bill of Rights, 4th
2 Amendment.

3 Why do we not understand this? Why do we allow
4 being deceived into the weeds? Spine up now, assert your
5 grace of God-given natural rights. A pipeline should buy
6 land if they need it. Not use other's.

7 When this fracked, compressed gas runs out the
8 pipes will be deserted. Their bags full of money, they
will
9 run. Landowners giving way will let this -- left with
empty
10 bags. If they owned the land, they will have to deal with
11 that. If this happens, and after the frack runs out they
12 should be required to remove the pipe and put the land back
13 as it was. They do not want that. Governments coming
after
14 them, they do not want. Using your land, they have no
15 problem. You do. It's on you. This is the first of a
16 monster pipefield with high-pressure gas, 42-inch diameter,
17 2,000 to 3,000 pounds pressure, moving through the pipe at
18 approximately thirty miles an hour.

19 This is an accident looking for a place to
happen,
20 folks. Put this natural resource in railroad tank cars,
21 trains on rails as if a pipeline moving along the rails and
22 much safer as they have been doing for over 155 years
23 transporting oil.

24 Railroads are here already. Manufacturing double
25 and triple-hulled cars for safety now. Well over one half

1 inch steel plate double triple, having no effects on our
2 landowner property rights. No effect when transported by
3 rail.

4 The rail will move on having no effects after
it's
5 over. Assert your landowner rights now and before it is
too
6 late, for they will have governments violate our God-given
7 landowner rights. We will be left holding the bag, empty
8 pipe, devalued land, etc. God save us.

9 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
10 comments.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number fifty-two.

13 So sitting in the front row should be fifty-
three,
14 fifty-four, fifty-five.

15 MR. ROSE: Thank you and good evening. My name
is
16 Gene Rose. That's G-E-N-E R-O-S-E and I'm from Roanoke
17 County. I'm a member of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
18 and often hike the AT as well as the Carbon's Cove area.
In
19 2011, I bicycled from the South Terminus of the Blue Ridge
20 parkway at Cherokee, North Carolina to the North Terminus
of
21 the Skyline Drive at Front Royal Virginia, almost 600
miles.

22

23 Both the AT and the Blue Ridge Parkway are going
24 to be crossed by the Mountain Valley Pipeline if it's
25 approved. Many say these pristine views on the AT and on

1 the Blue Ridge Parkway will suffer dramatically. I
2 disagree. On my hikes I see hundred foot high electrical
3 transmission towers, clear-cut fire trails, roads and
4 railroads. Our area is beautiful in spite of these signs
of
5 civilization. The pipeline won't change that. How
6 many pipelines cross the Blue Ridge Parkway during my ride?
7 I don't know. They were buried, and I had a beautiful ride
8 in spite of those pipelines. More importantly to me is the
9 positive economic impact of the Mountain Valley Pipeline in
10 our area, our State and our Country.

11 Just last decade, we were sending billions of
12 dollars a year to the Middle East for petroleum when we
were
13 sitting on so much oil and gas in the U.S. that we could
14 have been energy independent. Some said we were fighting
15 wars for oil yet many of these same people are also
fighting
16 to prevent the U.S. from becoming not just energy
17 independent but a net exporter of oil and gas. This
18 pipeline will help us become energy independent and create
19 good-paying jobs, now and in the future.

20 Increasing production of these resources will
21 lower the price of heating our homes, driving to work and
22 running our factories. The air quality in our valley will
23 also improve when over-the-road trucks and school buses are
24 fueled by natural gas. The pipeline will also result in

25 fewer fiery train crashes. The pipeline is the safest way

1 to transport natural gas. I would like to see the swift
2 approval and construction of this pipeline. Thank you very
3 much.

4 (Applauds).

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

6 Number fifty-three.

7 Number fifty-four. I would like number fifty-
8 five, fifty-six, fifty-seven and fifty-eight to be in the
9 front row.

10 MS. CRUTCHFIELD: My name is Carol Crutchfield.

11 C-a-r-o-l C-r-u-t-c-h-f-i-e-l-d, I live in Franklin
12 County. I'm a member of Preserve Franklin; however, I'm
13 here tonight to talk about my personal experience.

14 I live on the Blackwater River. I'm not sure
15 where the mile-marker is, but I live just downstream from
16 the junction of Blackwater River and Magadee Creek. The
17 pipeline will cross my neighbor's property near that
18 junction of the creek and the river.

19 I'm appreciative of the opportunity to come and
20 express my concerns tonight, thank you for that. My
primary
21 concern is regarding the danger this project presents to
the
22 groundwater. My home is well within the eleven hundred
feet
23 of this pipeline. That means I'm within the blast zone.

24 Reportedly, the pipeline trench will be back

25 filled with coal fly ash, which is known to contain

1 multiple, deadly toxic substances including arsenic and
2 lead. Once the fly ash is in the ground, those toxins will
3 continuously leak into the groundwater systems, and they
4 cannot be removed. Therefore, contamination of any
5 associated wells will be irreversible.

6 Water is essential to all life on this planet.
7 Clean, potable water is more precious and more valuable
than
8 oil or gas. We can develop alternative sources of energy
to
9 meet our needs but there are no alternatives to pure water.
10 Since any groundwater contaminated by the pipeline project
11 may extend beyond the parameters of the project easement,
12 many more people are at risk than just those on whose
13 property it will be built. A large population living along
14 the pipeline corridor depends on wells for their household
15 water, especially in Franklin County. Not only is there
16 great risk to the health of those families whose wells are
17 contaminated with arsenic and lead, but their properties
18 will be rendered uninhabitable and therefore devoid of
19 value.

20 This pipeline has the potential to create a three
21 hundred mild long Love Canal scenario, in which hundreds of
22 families must be relocated. Clearly the cost of the
23 physical and financial well-being of the citizens far
24 outweighs any economic benefits the pipeline may bring. As

25 currently proposed, the only assured beneficiaries of this

1 project are those individuals who have invested in the
2 pipeline companies.

3 For the above-stated reasons I respectfully
4 request that the application for construction of the
5 Mountain Valley Pipeline be denied. Thank you.

6 (Applauds).

7 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

8 I do want to correct another false rumor that's
9 out there, that this pipeline would be somehow back-filled
10 with fly ash. Absolutely not. Read Resource Report One,
11 you will find out it will be in fact back-filled with dirt
12 and rock.

13 Number fifty-five.

14 MR. ADAMO: My name is Joe Adamo, A-D-A-M-O. I'm
15 a Roanoke County resident. I came here tonight to go on
16 record in favor of the pipeline. The reason is that we
17 definitely need energy independence for the country. Since
18 9/11, we have lost thousands of lives defending overseas to
19 protect our energy interests, and those lives to me were
20 wasted unnecessarily when we have all the resources we need
21 here in the country. We just have to develop the
22 infrastructure and use those resources that we have and
23 losing the lives of some of our young men overseas. It's
24 ridiculous.

stop

25 We have a VA Hospital in Salem that's full of the

1 debris that's left over from those wars trying to protect
2 our energy and we've got tons of energy right here in the
3 United States. I support the construction of this pipeline
4 and any other mining or drilling or transportation that it
5 takes in order for us to become energy independent. I feel
6 very strongly about that, and all of these other people
that
7 are talking tonight are just selfish 'not in my backyard';
8 they are not thinking of the thousands of lives that are
9 lost overseas.

10 (Applause).

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

12 And again, I caution you not to boo. Who just
13 booed just now, would you stand up?

14 Who just booed just now, would you stand up? You
15 are cowards.

16 Fifty-six.

17 MR. BRADY: My name is David Brady, D-A-V-I-D B-
18 R-A-D-Y. I'm from Giles County at Clover Hollow in the
19 greater Newport Rural Historic District and I've come to
20 talk about three specific scoping-related issues.

21 The first is the cumulative effect on historic
22 resources in Southwest Virginia. The area of potential
23 effect will be set by FERC in consultation with the State
24 Historic Preservation Officers, and that area of potential
25 effect needs to be expanded to address the impact on

total
1 historic resources in Southwest Virginia. There are a
2 of seven rural historic districts in Southwest Virginia;
3 this pipeline will cross three of them for a total of 8.5
4 affected miles. What is potentially many, many additional
5 historic properties within the rural historic districts
all
6 themselves that are listed as contributing properties in
7 three historic districts.

8 To give an example, the Link Covered also affects
9 two of the eight covered bridges in Southwest Virginia, are
10 within six hundred feet of the proposed pipeline corridor.
11 The Link covered Bridge and the Sinking Creek Covered
Bridge
12 being two of the eight in Southwest Virginia. It dovetails
13 into the question of credibility.

14 This is an actual issue I think needs to be a
15 scoping issue, is the credibility of the contractor's
16 environmental assessment. When I encountered them first,
it
17 was their First Resource Report they issued last December
18 and they identified the roads in Giles County and got forty
19 percent of them wrong, including a state road were missing
20 because they used such out- of-date maps. That, by the
way,
21 has not been corrected or amended.

22 The second instance I encountered was Cultural
23 Resource Report Four, where they misidentified the entrance

24 into the Rural Historic District by half a mile. You're

25 half a mile into the Rural Historic District before they

1 started identifying, and that's actually Resource Report
2 One, maybe.

3 The third case that I encountered was they did
4 correctly identify the Virginia Scenic Byway, Route 42, the
5 Bluegrass Trail, and they indicated that it would have
6 moderate visual impacts if someone was driving in excess of
7 45 miles an hour. The problem is, the speed limit there is
8 45 miles an hour.

9 The Third subject that I want to talk about is
10 areas of high cumulative effects. There are areas, such as
11 Greater Newport Rural Historic District. There are others
12 where there are cultural effects, recreational effects and
13 historic preservation and environmental effects. The three
14 significant caves that have been previously discussed, the
15 rare biota in those caves, all of these impacts need to be
16 considered.

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
comments

18 and I know you are probably going to send me a letter with
19 more detail about your concern for culture resources.

20 MR. BRADY: Yes, we will.

21 Number fifty-seven.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. SCHILTZ: My name is Gary Schiltz, S-C-H-I-L-
24 T-Z. I am a resident of Roanoke County, and do appreciate
25 the opportunity to speak before the group here. I am for

1 the proposal and basically the reason I'm for that is I'm a
2 retired senior citizen, if you will, like many other folks
3 here in this room and the economics of a pipeline with all
4 the construction activity, transportation, buying gas,
5 diesel, it just seems like it's iceberg economics really.
6 You just have the tip here with a few permanent jobs, but
7 you've got thousands of temporary jobs and all the other
8 things that come into that to play.

9 You know, people go out to buy clothes. They go
10 out and eat at restaurants. Overall, socioeconomic benefit
11 of the project is greater and I'm for it for that reason,
12 from the standpoint of energy independence and our use of
13 natural gas versus coal and other environmentally
disruptive
14 sources of fuel. I'm for the pipeline as it is proposed.
15 Listening to all the folks here tonight, there were some
16 alternative routes that certainly -- I think may have some
17 precedents, but I look forward to the environmental impact
18 statement for further comments. Thank you again for the
19 opportunity to talk.

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

21 (Applause)

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number fifty-eight, and in the
23 front row I would like fifty-nine, sixty, sixty-one, sixty-
24 two, sixty-three, sixty-four and sixty-five.

25 The floor is yours.

Susan 1 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you. Good evening. I'm
2 Edwards, S-U-S-A-N E-D-W-A-R-D-S. I live in Western
3 Roanoke County. I do not adjoin one of the alternate
4 routes, but I do want to thank you for coming to the area
to
5 hold this FERC meeting.

6 I moved to the Roanoke Valley more than twenty
7 years ago and as an environmental engineer, I love our
8 beautiful mountains, clean air and water. I want to
9 encourage the placement, the selection of the route of the
10 proposed pipeline as much as possible within the public
11 lands, with the least possible impact on private property
12 owners. Perhaps, the Mountain Valley Pipeline folks would
13 consider purchasing more property as we do with our highway
14 system? But that's not my primary focus.

15 I do want to bring out to the group here that
16 recently in the mid-2000s, another large diameter natural
17 gas pipeline has been built and is now in operation. The
77 18 Patriot Extension gas line. That parallels portions of I-
19 and crosses the New River itself. The reason I bring this
20 up is that Mountain Valley Pipeline includes construction
21 within the Karst topography. This pipeline, the Patriot
22 Extension, it crosses similar topography, and I would like
23 to encourage, to learn lessons from that project in
measures

24 that are done with construction now.

25 I want to encourage the careful siting of the

1 Compressor Station No. 4 to avoid residences, but I think
2 this project can be sited in a very positive manor because
3 it will bring us more stability to our gas network across
4 this region. Thank you so much.

5 (Applause)

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

7 Number fifty-nine. So sixty, sixty-one, sixty-
8 two, sixty-three, sixty-four and sixty-five should be
9 sitting in the front row.

10 The floor is yours.

11 MS. BARTER: My name is Pam Barter. B-a-r-t-e-r.
12 I'm a lifetime resident of Roanoke Valley. I live on the
13 span of the Blue Ridge Mountains. I'm a business owner.
14 I've had a career in construction equipment, and my late
15 husband built power lines from the ocean, Atlantic Ocean to
16 Ohio. That provided many jobs for many people. A lot of
17 industry came here because of that and I'm so glad I have
18 electricity on my mountain because it's very dark up there
19 without electricity.

20 The main thing I'm excited about is what the
21 industry could bring to our locality. I have two children
22 and one lives in Alaska where they have pipelines. The
23 other is in Alabama because they could not find jobs in the
24 Roanoke Valley after their college degrees, and I think we
25 need to encourage more industry and we need to be energy

trying 1 independent so we can survive people attacking us and

2 to cripple us through energy. Thank you.

3 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

4 Number sixty.

5 MS. WILLMOTT: Hello, my name's Valerie Willmott,
6 V-A-L-E-R-I-E W-I-L-L-M-O-T-T.

7 As I have been thinking about this a lot lately,
8 especially with a lot of jobs, products, oil, et cetera.
9 benefiting other countries and not our own when we have all
10 these people and natural resources in our own country. I
11 have a lot of family, including two children in an area in
12 Calgary, Northwest Canada. They have a pipeline running
13 through their area and so I have some insight into how
14 things with a pipeline will work.

15 I can't remember a time when that pipeline wasn't
16 there. I called my brother-in-law, who not only has a farm
17 in the area, who grows wheat and raises cattle and has a
18 septic and a number of wells, but has also worked in
19 different capacities in the government. One thing I think
20 that relates most to this are is he was a county
21 administrator for a couple of years. This is his comments
22 to me when I called him this week:

23 "Hauling natural gas by truck or train is
24 dangerous. We hear of truck and rail spills all the time.
25 There are very few pipeline breaks, even though the media

1 sure talks about it a lot. Pipelines create lots of
2 construction jobs and jobs afterwards. It is definitely
the
3 safest way to move fuel. The jobs are always high-paying
4 and we will need fuel for many years to come."

5 Some of his sons have worked in the oil fields
for
6 about two to four years. and now thanks to the blessing of
7 that work are in their thirties with all their vehicles,
8 homes, school loans, and have started their own businesses
9 in Calgary, all fully paid for by the time and hard work
10 they put into working for the gas company up there. Even
11 during the massive flooding in the past there was no
12 problems and my daughter was right by them.

13 My feelings on the matter are obvious. This
14 pipeline is good. Good for us, good for Virginia. Thank
15 you.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

18 Number sixty-one.

19 MR. MCGRAW: My name is Bennette McGraw, B-e-n-n-
20 e-t-t-e M-c-G-r-a-w, and I'm from Roanoke County and I
21 support the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Many of the same
22 arguments that we've heard tonight were used when we were
23 trying to build railways across this country, were also
used

24 when we tried to build the highway systems across this

25 country.

1 My research has found studies supported by
2 independent review that delineate all the benefits that
this
3 pipeline will bring to our area: economic, environmental,
4 social and safety benefits. I also found nay-sayers that
5 dispute these claims much like tonight, based not on
6 exhausting studies but on their own personal opinion, just
7 as the export issues have been brought up tonight. One
8 opponent stated the possibility of explosions, which was
9 also brought up tonight,

10 I would quote the Department of Transportation as
11 stating that the 2.4 million miles of pipeline that already
12 exist in the U.S. is the safest way to transport energy.

13 The MVP 300 miles is 0.0125 percent of that, or
14 one hundred and twenty-five millionths, and mathematically
15 that makes it pretty safe. I, for one, am sick and tired
of
16 the fringe minority of one issue or another, including the
17 environmental fanatics, based on opinions, supposition,
18 specious science and out-and-out fabrication telling the
19 majority what is good for us. The U.S. is making a grave
20 mistake by delaying and perhaps not approving the Keystone
21 pipeline. I would hate to see that same mistake happen
22 locally.

23 I, for one, am tired of seeing our energy with a
24 made by OPEC statement. I want to see all of our energy

25 with a sticker that says Made in America and the MVP will

1 help that goal. Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

4 Number Sixty-two.

5 MS. FENRICH: Hi. My name is Hillary, and I am a
6 recent graduate from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania

where

7 I was part of students that fought horizontal hydraulic
8 fracturing and I am proud to say that we won, and it did

not

9 happen at the college. But I'm not really here to like
10 start a fight or anything that's happening right now. I'm
11 here to tell a story about a guy named Rex. You might have
12 heard of him.

is

13 So Rex has four kids and he lives in Texas. He
14 an Eagle Scout. He is a white male. He is a lot like the
15 people in this audience. His wife probably shops at the
16 Gap. I don't know and Rex probably plays outside with his
17 kids. But there is one thing that's different about Rex
18 that's that he is the Exxon Mobile CEO.

and

19 So I just want to tell you a little story. So,
20 Exxon Mobile is the biggest natural gas producer in the
21 United States based on revenue and in 2014, February 2014
22 Rex decides "Oh man, there is a pipeline like going near

me.

23 What is this?". Keep in mind, he's the CEO of Exxon.

24 And they build a water tower, they try to build a
25 water tower next to his property and Rex is like "Whoah,

a 1 what is happening? I don't think so." And has a lawsuit,
2 lawsuit against a water tower that is going in for the sole
3 purpose to supply water to a fracking site. So the issue
4 that he had is that he said "My property value will go
5 down." 'Oh, no, please listen to us, our property values
6 will go down.' He said "Oh no, it's going to be too much
7 noise, too much traffic."

8 Okay, so my issue, we've heard a lot about
9 property values. It's not about the property values, okay.
10 It's about the perception behind the property values. It's
11 about the noise. It's about the traffic. It's about the
12 crime rates which none of us have mentioned. It's about
the 13 drug arrests. It's about the prostitution arrests that go
14 up when this happens in your area. You can check online
15 about that. I mean, it's not just like this crazy stuff
16 that I'm just making up, it's an actual fact.

17 Okay, so it's about the perception in the
18 community of the pipeline. We are the community. It's
19 about our perception and it's about the perception of the
20 community that has the pipeline. So Princeton Reviews,
21 since I'm a college student, says that over sixty percent
22 incoming college freshmen includes sustainability as a
23 factor in their decision-making when they decide where to
go 24 to college. We have Radford, we have Hollins, we have

25 Roanoke, we have Virginia Tech, we have NRCC, we have a lot

1 of college kids in the area and they will take that into
2 consideration. But also I want to just talk about the
3 perception of the community.

4 I want to talk about the perception of the United
5 States in the international community. I lived in Costa
6 Rica and worked there and I had a friend come up to me and
7 he's like "Hey, I just watched this documentary where you
8 guys are lighting your water on fire. What is this?." And
9 I had to laugh because I was like "I'm in Costa Rica and

how

10 can he talk about that to me?" (Applause)

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
12 comments. Sixty-three.

13 MS. FENRICH: I am not for this pipeline. This
14 has bothered me since I started researching all of this and
15 I have to speak for other people. I cannot believe some of
16 the comments coming from people who are for it when you are
17 asking us to be positive and nice about things. I think
18 some of their comments were very hurtful.

19 I come from Love Canal. I come from areas where
20 there is cancer. We purposely moved here twenty years ago
21 to get away from those chemical dumps. I wanted a place
22 where there weren't any dumps, any problems. That was
23 number one in our priority for raising our family. And
24 after twenty years of investing our time and our life in

now,

the

25 house that we live in, we are in an adjacent property. And

1 oh, I'm sorry with your rules that, all your rules of
2 recompensation and everything else is not going to apply to
3 adjacent property owners. Well, I'm sorry. You
contaminate
4 the wells, you contaminate everybody's well. Groundwater
5 travels underneath all the water. It's not just going to
be
6 in that nice little corridor that they want to build.

7 But this is what I want to say tonight: I've
been
8 asking questions. I've been attending these meetings.
9 Mountain Valley Pipeline has never, ever addressed safety
10 contingency plans, life-cycle plan of this project, they
11 have not made any efforts to address pipeline leaks, well
12 contamination, soil erosion, impact from blasting to the
13 well water, Karst, none of that. They just say "Oh yes,
14 we're aware of those things."

15 Where is the plan for the safety? It's not
there.
16 It's not in any of those reports, and I think it's very
17 interesting tonight that all of a sudden they found all
18 these reports just a couple days before. We don't even
have
19 access to that. I don't think that's fair and I don't
think
20 that's right. How can we trust somebody like that? And
you
21 want us to give everything up for those people.

22 Finally, we also, because I'm an adjacent

23 property, I have a lot of senior citizens on that one road

24 for that alternative route. They are not here tonight.

The

25 one guy has had so many heart attacks. I mean, we can't

1 even -- if you block that road, you can't even get anybody
2 there, the rescue people. But I'm mentioning him because
3 they have undocumented caves on their property and that's
4 not even on there.

5 The last thing I just want to say, we've already
6 seen decline in the property values on our road. Nobody is
7 selling, nobody is buying. It's already affecting us and
8 the pipeline hasn't even gotten here yet. Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. FRIEDMAN: Excuse me, young lady. Excuse me
11 young lady. You need to return to the podium and tell us
12 who you are.

13 MS. FENRICH: Yes. Jennifer
14 Fenrich, F-E-N-R-I-C-H, and I'm on Mount Tabor and Shady
15 Grove.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

17 Sixty-four. Also, sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-
18 seven, sixty-eight, sixty-nine and seventy in the front
19 row.

20 MR. FENRICH: Thank you. That was my wife. I'm
21 Richard Fenrich, F-E-N-R-I-C-H.

22 As my wife said, we're adjacent on a property
23 that's right on the pipeline, an alternate route down Mount
24 Tabor Road. We're within the half-mile pathway that was
25 defined in the questions and answers that came out recently
in the questions from FERC to MVP, which our property will

1 now be restrained in value because of this; and it's being
2 restrained in value right now, and while we stand to suffer
3 through environmental damage on our property because we're
4 in a Karst area -- and I will talk about that in a little
5 bit. Because of that, while we're in the potential blast
6 zone, we really haven't been incorporated by MVP as a
7 stakeholder.

8 See, the only people that were really notified of
9 a lot of this thing is the people that are right on the
10 pipeline. People that are adjacent, that within that half
a
11 mile band have not been notified about a lot of things, and
12 what I want to say is, that's kind of ridiculous because a
13 42-inch pipe that's going to carry so much gas, puts us in
a
14 huge blast zone. Okay, I suggest we need to change policy
15 at the high level, at the government level, to change
16 policy.

17 Everybody who is a stakeholder needs to be
engaged
18 in this. How many properties are involved on the entire
19 pathway here? A thousand? Two thousand properties? Not
20 just the people that are on the pipeline. How much has
each
21 one of those lost in average value so far on their
property?
22 Five thousand dollars? That's a ten million dollar impact
23 today if you talk about two thousand properties. Loss in

24 land value. Maybe it's bigger than that.

25 What do I mean about environmental damage? Our

1 area is Karst, there is well-known caves in that area, and
2 the cave is a network. There's areas where you can go
3 spelunking in the caves. There's a lot of fissures and
4 fractures in there. If that 42-inch pipeline goes through
5 the Karst area and it springs a leak, what happens? Yeah,
6 those caves fill up with volatile liquid natural gas, or
7 natural gas and it's not liquid anymore, right? And the
8 whole cave network fills up with that. What happens if
that
9 gets lit? That's over a couple miles, square mile area or
10 more. Okay, you only need to be wrong once.

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number sixty-five.

14 MS. WALKER: My name is Patsy Walker, that's P-A-
15 T-S-Y W-A-L-K-E-R. I'm a resident of Lynchburg, Virginia.
16 I'm here as a concerned Virginian.

17 Two times in the past year, train derailment
18 accidents carrying fuel within approximately one hundred
19 miles of where we sit tonight have caused damage to
property
20 and oil spills in the Kanawha River and in the James River.
21 Carrying fuel by train is extremely dangerous, far more
22 dangerous, and has caused far more accidents than a
23 pipeline.

24 My second point is that we currently, in the
State

25 of Virginia, have two and a half times more underground

1 pipelines than we actually have interstate highways in the
2 State of Virginia. These pipelines are unknown, they are
3 unseen, but they are bringing natural gas to businesses and
4 to homes, and that is transporting them safely, much more
5 safely than it would be by rail.

6 Natural gas burns cleaner than oil. It burns
7 cleaner than coal, and energy resources are required in a
8 civilization. We have to have energy. I would think it's
9 safe to say that every person who is here tonight came by
10 car. I don't think anybody walked or rode a bicycle. We
11 use gasoline in our cars but electrical cars and natural
12 is used to make electricity and some cars are even fueled
13 natural gas. It is a necessary fuel.

gas

by

14 The crisis and the cries of fear about machinery
15 and construction of the pipeline are no different in my
16 opinion than construction of highways that we use every

day.

17 Yes, the land is temporarily disturbed. Significantly
18 disturbed. Just as land was disturbed when the home or the
19 hotel that you go back to tonight was once disturbed. But
20 this can be done and it can be done responsibly and I would
21 be in favor of Mountain Valley Pipeline doing so.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

24 Sixty-six.

25

MR. ADKINS: Thank you, my name is Ron Adkins and

K- 1 I'm a property owner in Roanoke County. Last name is A-D-
2 I-N-S, and I'm here to speak for support of the Mountain
3 Valley Pipeline.

4 Unfortunately, I've been sitting in the back of
5 the room, and my personal feelings is Mountain Valley
6 Pipeline does need to have more concern with the people
that
7 are having the problems here, but in the long run -- and
I'm
8 talking about maybe fifty years from now -- we have to have
9 energy for our people here in the United States.

10 We don't need to become another third-world
11 country, even though some of our leadership in Washington
12 seems to want to direct us in that way, but I've been in
13 other countries and we live and we were born and got here
to
14 this country, and it's the greatest country on the face of
15 the Earth. Now if people don't believe that, you ought to
16 leave and go, look about what's going on around the world.
17 We need energy, and our children and our grandchildren that
18 will be living in Central Virginia or wherever else will
19 need energy in the future.

20 I have been around construction of pipelines. A
21 42-inch pipeline is fairly large, but it's not the biggest.
22 I have even seen 52-inch pipelines laid and I am very
23 familiar with the electric welding that takes place to join

24 one pipe to another and those weldings, ladies and
25 gentleman, have to be x-rayed too. They are very strong,

1 thick pipes that carry natural gas and they carry the gas
2 that I drove down here, my son and I this evening, to
speak.

3
4 So, therefore I'm sorry to see that so many
people
5 have the attitude of, "Well I want the energy, or I want
the
6 electricity, or I want this or that" but they don't want it
7 in their own back yard. Let's quit being selfish and think
8 about what we have to lose if we don't have energy like
9 natural gas.

10 Right now, wind power and solar power are in
their
11 infancy. Maybe in later years we will find it, we can see
12 that it will be less expensive but right now coal is almost
13 dead and we need a clean energy, which natural gas is.
14 Therefore I certainly hope that Mountain Valley Pipeline
15 will look very hard and maybe redo some of their routes but
16 we need this pipeline and we will need this pipeline in the
17 future.

18 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
Thank
19 you for replacing the microphone. I appreciate that.

20 Sixty-seven is next.

21 SPEAKER: That would be me.

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: And before you speak, I want to
23 point out something to everyone. According to my watch, we

24 have about ten minutes left here. That's about four more
25 speakers. At that time we will close the meeting because

1 that's our contracted time with this facility. For those
2 speakers who had numbers but didn't get the opportunity to
3 speak, I do urge you to send your comments in written form
4 to the FERC. We treat written comments the same way we
5 treat verbal comments; we don't weigh one more than the
6 other.

7 MR. ADKINS: I'm Alexander Adkins, A-D-K-I-N-S.
8 There is a lot that's been said here about one side or the
9 other. True, while the pipeline has some serious issues,
it
10 may not have been fully planned out, and the use of eminent
11 domain is truly a bad idea, but this could be worked out.
12 There could be new routes laid down. Some things doesn't
13 have to be that way, but yes, indeed, this pipeline has to
14 come through.

15 If not used for our use, someone else will come
16 and take it for their use. You think we can live this
17 wonderful life we have in this advanced civilization we
have
18 today without the energy. Someone is going to have to --
19 that price is going to have to be paid one way or another.
20 Use it for us now because we live in a nation of eighteen
21 trillion dollar debt, and those debt-holders are going to
22 come through with their collectors and knock on our door
and
23 want that money one way or another, be it from the
property,

24 the mineral rights or any other way they can get it. If we
25 can use this to make our economy better, we will be able to

1 help pay for that without having to be repossessed on one
2 way or another.

3 If you are worried about the environmental
things,
4 yes, there is some issues for that and that can be
corrected
5 but this area has suffered far worse. If you look in
6 historically, when in the coal boom era, when the coal
mines
7 were running full tilt with almost no environmental
8 regulations, these hills were stripped bare. There were no
9 trees, the water was polluted, but the nature came back and
10 we did nothing to help it but it did on its own. It took
11 time. Everybody's worried about what happens now, well, it
12 survives. It may not be the same, but it will continue on
13 because nature was here before mankind and it will be here
14 long after we are gone.

15 So yes, it's our responsibility to watch over it
16 and shepherd it because that is our mission but it is not
17 fragile. You can take care of some issues here and there,
18 that's fine; but we still need to use the power and
19 resources here today. Trust me, there is a lot out there
20 that needs to be taken care of and this energy is
necessary.
21 Whether you like it or not it is coming and we'd better use
22 it now or we will have no choice later. Thank you.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

24 Number sixty-eight.

25 MR. AVERILL: My name is Dan Averill, that's A-V-

1 E-R-I-L-L and I live in Roanoke County. Like it or not,
the
2 economy of the world runs on burning fossil fuels. That's
3 the way we stand right here in 2015. Alternative,
renewable
4 energy sources, wind, solar, geothermic, hydroelectric,
etc.
5 are not sufficient for the needs of this country as the
6 technology stands today.

7 Demonization of coal requires a replacement
energy
8 source. The best, cleanest replacement source is natural
9 gas. Obviously it must be transported from where it's
10 produced to the end users. There are three hundred
thousand
11 miles of interstate pipeline right now. The East Tennessee
12 Natural gas pipeline passes right through this area and has
13 for decades. On a local level, we've lost jobs in the
14 Roanoke Valley by the hundreds in the past few years.
15 People leave the valley because they can't find work. We
16 must improve the local infrastructure.

17 Mountain Valley Pipeline is a big part of that
18 infrastructure. It will create jobs and a thriving
economy.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

21 Number sixty-nine.

22 MS. KELLY-DEERING: Did you notice how beautiful

name 23 the land and the mountains are while driving today? My
24 is Bridgett Kelly-Deering, I'm from Southwest Virginia and
25 have lived here during my entire life. I love the

1 mountains.

2 I own property in Montgomery County; my brother's
3 house are within a few miles of one of the proposed paths
4 for the Mountain Valley Pipeline in the Pitt Mountain area
5 of Roanoke County.

lived

6 My family heralds from Oronoco, they actually
7 on a mountain until the children got old enough to go to
8 school, and they moved down to a farm located directly
9 behind the Oronoco rest area on I-81. Yes, the Interstate
10 went right through the middle of their farm.

11 Little did they know that the pipeline would
12 compete for land close to corridor as well as a railroad
13 facility. A beautiful little bit of heaven, from some
14 newfangled industry that deters, we must have it.

15 Our land and our livelihood must stop being taken
16 away by eminent domain for a private company's personal
17 profit. More important, stop promoting fracked gas as
18 clean, natural gas. It is anything but that definition.
19 That's important today because the pipeline is carrying
20 fracked gas, so they are intertwined; you can't separate
21 them.

22 I'm here today asking you to disapprove the
23 Mountain Valley Pipeline as well as all natural gas
24 pipelines proposed for Virginia. I sincerely hope that you
25 will listen to the people that live here, consider

1 alternatives to fossil fuel for energy. We must stop using
2 the dirty fossil fuel for energy and move to the abundant,
3 renewable energy resources open to us.

4 I propose that it is immoral to perpetuate the
5 injustice of using fracked gas obtained at the expense of
6 destroying communities where drilling occurs. It is
immoral
7 to destroy our neighbor's land for profit, or transport
that
8 clean, natural gas, acquired by fracking. The process to
9 obtain this clean gas destroys the land and air in
10 communities in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio where
11 fracking for gas is being done, and where the Mountain
12 Valley Pipeline will be coming from. It is immoral
13 to use or to transport this gas for personal comfort
14 employment at the expense of destroying habitat for
animals,
15 our national forests, lands, the Blue Gras Parkway, the
16 Appalachian Trail and most importantly, our water.

17 I am sure that you know in heart and mine that no
18 manner of energy resources are worth the risk of destroying
19 the water we must have to drink, and the air we must have
to
20 breathe. We have so much potential in solar and wind
energy
21 that it makes me wonder why we are thinking of the fossil
22 fuel industry, their shareholders, lobbyists and
politicians

23 --

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your

25 comments. (Applause)

1 MR. FRIEDMAN: After this person, we'll be
closing 2 down the meeting. Again, we're closing down because that's
3 our contract with time, to exit the building.

4 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Roberta Johnson. I live
5 in Southern Roanoke County near Bottom Creek Gorge. I
and 6 practice conservation and have solar panels on my house,
7 I am not in the corridor of the pipeline.

8 I'm going to do something awful and address the
9 environmental impact study. The current Notice of Intent
to 10 prepare an EIS does not list the following three particular
11 issues among the currently identified environmental issues,
12 and I would like these addressed.

13 First, the watershed of a federally protected
Tier 14 III bottom creek on Poor Mountain and Bent Mountain area of
15 Roanoke County will be impacted during construction by
16 multiple crossings of the stream as well as by placement of
17 numerous sections parallel to it, and its tributaries.

18 Native trout, as well as up to 30 other species
of 19 fish, including the threatened F. madtom need to be
20 considered and routes altered, accordingly, to avoid
lasting 21 alteration of aquifers, infilling, sedimentation and
22 spraying in this watershed.

23 Second, the Southern Appalachian Mountains,
24 including the Blue Ridge Mountains, is home to more
25 salamander species than anywhere else in the world. It's a

1 truly exceptional habitat for salamander biodiversity. And
2 they are our canaries.

3 Estimating salamander numbers is a difficult
task.

4 I'm concerned that out-of-state surveyors hired by the
5 pipeline company will not be looking for them; but even the
6 most careful data collection over a long time period may
not
7 be reliable as an index of their presence and abundance,
8 because detection varies with weather conditions and
9 seasons.

10 In mountain hollows, disruption of spring
branches
11 by excavation and blasting, spraying herbicides, all of
12 these actions will threaten salamander numbers and even
13 species. At the very least, experts in the salamanders of
14 the Appalachian should conduct these surveys, and routes
15 should be altered to avoid sensitive habits.

16 Third, the southern portion of Virginia has been
17 occupied by humans for at least 11,500 years; and there are
18 rich cultural resources along the Roanoke River and its
19 tributaries. In the Roanoke Valley alone, there are three
20 known Lake Woodland settlements that date to 1700 of which
21 two are associated with early European trade goods.
22 Paleolithic and socially-complex resources are also found
in
23 the region.

24 State archaeologists say that there is a high
25 probability -- high probability of encountering further

the 1 prehistoric settlements anywhere that a pipeline crosses
2 Roanoke River or its forks. Out-of-state surveyors,
3 unfamiliar with the artifact assemblages of our region, may
4 not be qualified to conduct a careful survey of the Roanoke
5 River flood plain.

of 6 It should be noted that there are no Department
7 Historic Resources Surveys south of Salem on the Roanoke
8 River or its main forks; therefore, they are not part of
the 9 state database. Also, DHR will not make site visits; they
10 only review the contracted survey's findings.

in 11 Bottom line, given the archaeological resources
12 the Roanoke Valley, the pipeline company should be
expecting 13 Phase 3, full Phase 3 excavation and its inherent delays;
14 not a quick survey or a few test pits. One swipe of a
15 bulldozer can destroy information-rich archaeological
16 features like burials, trash pits, surrounding hills. We
17 need to protect these cultural resources as well as the
18 other natural resources I've mentioned.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Yes.

22 On behalf of the FERC, we're glad you came here

on 23 tonight to help us focus the environmental review process

24 those issues of concern to you.

at 25 Let the record show that this meeting concluded

1 10:30. Those of you who did not get the opportunity to
2 speak can file written comments with the FERC.

3 (Whereupon, at 10:30 p.m., the Elliston, Virginia
4 public scoping meeting concluded.)

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