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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

James Monroe High School
Route One
Lindside, West Virginia 24951
Monday, May 4, 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: My name is Paul Friedman and I
3 work at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in
4 Washington, D.C. We abbreviate that F-E-R-C or FERC; we
5 often call ourselves 'The Commission.'

6 I would like to welcome you here tonight, we're
7 at James Monroe High School in Lindside, West Virginia.
8 Tonight, we're going to have a public scoping meeting to
9 take environmental comments on the proposed Mountain Valley
10 Project -- abbreviated MVP -- in West Virginia and
Virginia,
11 which has been filed at FERC Docket No. PF15-3. My job is,
12 I am the Environmental Project Manager for this project.

13 Let the record show that this meeting began at 7
14 p.m. on Monday, May 4.

15 You might have noticed I have a court reporter.
16 He is transcribing every word of this proceeding, and all
of
17 that will eventually get into the FERC public record on
18 eLibrary and later I will talk about our eLibrary System.

If
19 you want a copy of the transcript prior to its being placed
20 in the FERC public record, you must make your own deal with
21 Ace. Ace will sell you copies of the transcript. All
22 right, or if you're very patient, you can wait until the
23 transcripts are placed into the FERC Public Record Library.
24 That usually occurs about 15 days after we receive the

25 transcript from Ace.

1 I see people are lined up against the wall,
2 sitting in a chair, blocking the doors. Obviously that is
a
3 fire hazard so I would like all the people who are standing
4 -- I see so many empty seats. Please find an empty seat
and
5 please remove that chair from in front of the door. You
can
6 put it in the hallway. Thank you.

7 (Slide presentation)

8 So the goal of my environmental team is to write
9 an EIS, an Environmental Impact Statement for this project.
10 That would be, to be consistent with the policies of the
11 National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. We will talk
12 more about that later.

13 I have assembled a team of environmental
14 scientists to help me write that document, and that
includes
15 people who are specialists with engineering, biology,
16 geology, anthropology. And to expand on FERC's staff
17 capabilities, we use a third party contractor, in this case
18 it is a company called Cardno. So the other members of my
19 team that are here tonight are Charles Brown, Lavinia
20 DiSanto, Doug Mooyheni in the back at the table. You
can't
21 see him because he is in the hallway.

22 Again, people standing against the wall, I am
23 going to ask you to please take a seat for safety reasons.

24 Thank you. And young lady, if you could move that chair
25 from the aisle, it would be greatly appreciated. There are

1 lots of empty seats in this auditorium for you to sit on.

2 FERC does not produce an EIS in a vacuum. We
3 have other Federal and State agencies that work with us as
4 cooperating agencies. They will also participate in the
5 writing of the EIS. That includes the Pipeline and
6 Hazardous Material Safety Administration of the US
7 Department of Transportation or DOT, the United States
8 Forest Service, the United States Corps of Engineers, the
9 United States Environmental Protection Agency, the West
10 Virginia Department of Natural Resources and the West
11 Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. All of
12 those agencies have jurisdictions or special expertise and
13 they can adopt our EIS for their own regulatory purposes.

14 For example, the Forest Service will use our EIS
15 to analyze environmental impacts related to the granting of
16 a right of way across federal lands, also if there are
17 potential amendments to a forest plan, we will analyze that
18 in the EIS. So we're scoping not only the FERC action
19 tonight, we are also scoping the Forest Service action; and
20 that was announced in the NOI.

21 The FERC is the lead federal agency for both the
22 authorization of this project under the Natural Gas Act for
23 compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The
24 FERC was originally created as the Federal Power Commission
25 in 1920. We were reorganized and renamed during the Carter

1 Administration. There are five Commissioners who head our
2 agency and they are the decision makers and you can see
them
3 on the screen.

4 I am not a decision maker. I am FERC staff.
5 There are 1500 FERC staff. That's very small when you
6 consider that we regulate all interstate natural gas
7 pipelines in the United States, and that is why we have to
8 use third party contractors because we are a very small
9 organization if you look at, say, the Department of Defense
10 or the Bureau of Land Management in comparison. So the
11 industries that FERC regulates are the interstate
12 transportation of natural gas. We also regulate
electricity
13 rates in interstate commerce, oil rates in interstate
14 commerce, but we don't do siting for either electric power
15 lines or oil pipelines. We also do non-federal hydropower.

16 Here's what we do not regulate: We do not
17 regulate the exportation, production or gathering of
natural
18 gas or the local distribution of natural gas. Now, many
19 people are concerned about the hydraulic fracking of shale
20 during the exploration and production of natural gas.
Those
21 activities, known as fracking, are regulated by the states.
22 So there's no need for you to comment to the FERC about
23 fracking. If you have comments about fracking, please

who 24 comment to the State of West Virginia. They're the ones
25 regulate fracking here in the State of West Virginia.

1 The FERC Commissioners are appointed by the
2 President of the United States and they are confirmed by
3 Congress. Norman Bay, just last month, became the new
4 Chairman. There are always three commissioners in the
party
5 in power so there are three Democrats; that is Mr. Bay and
6 Ms. Honorable and Ms. LaFleur and there are two
Republicans;
7 and that is Mr. Clark and Mr. Moeller. So here's what I
8 would like to accomplish tonight. I would like to briefly
9 summarize the project. I would like to explain the role of
10 the FERC in the review of the project. I would like to
11 outline how the public can participate in our review
process
12 and I would like you, the public, to have an opportunity to
13 voice your concerns about the project at this forum.

14 I would like to clarify that the FERC and the
15 cooperating agencies did not conceive of this project nor
16 are we promoting it. The project was designed by a company
17 called Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC or Mountain Valley,
18 which is a private joint venture between EQT Corporation
and
19 NextEra Energy, Inc. We will call them the Company or the
20 Applicant. All of the companies that FERC regulates are
21 private companies in the interstate transportation of
22 natural gas.

23 So it is the Company that came up with the

to 24 location for their facilities and its design, and it's up
25 the FERC staff to analyze the environmental impacts

1 associated with the construction and operation of those
2 facilities. The FERC is not an advocate for this Project.
3 FERC staff are advocates for our environmental review
4 process.

5 So, let's review some project background. On
6 October 27, 2014, Mountain Valley filed its request to
7 initiate the FERC's pre-filing environmental review
process.

8 We accepted that request on October 31 and assigned a
9 project number and docket number, which was PF15-3. Docket
10 numbers are important. If you are going to file comments
11 about this project, you need to always reference the docket
12 number, otherwise those comments will never get to us. At
13 that time we also selected Cardno as our third party
14 contractor.

15 During pre-filing, the company is supposed to
16 communicate with stakeholders, stakeholders includes the
17 public; to identify issues and concerns, attempt to resolve
18 those issues and perfect its formal application to the
FERC;
19 and Mountain Valley has stated that it would like to file
20 its application with the FERC in October of 2015.

21 At the time of application, Mountain Valley must
22 also file an environmental report that complies with FERC
23 regulations at Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations, CFR
24 380.12 and addresses such resources and topics as Geology

25 and Soils, Water and Wetlands, Vegetation and Wildlife,

1 Cultural Resources, Socioeconomics, Land Use, Air Quality,
2 and Noise and Safety. During pre-filing, Mountain Valley
3 will file drafts of those reports in the public record, and
4 anyone can see those draft reports and comment on them. I
5 will explain later how to submit comments to the FERC.

Mountain

6 In December of 2014, in January of 2015,
7 Valley conducted sixteen open houses along the route of the
8 pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia, with two additional
9 open houses held in April for alternative routes. FERC
10 staff and Cardno staff attended all of those open houses.
11 On December 1st, 2014, Mountain Valley filed its first

Draft

12 Resource Report One, which is a project description and its
13 summary of alternatives or Resource Report Ten.

14 The FERC Staff then issued a data request on
15 those resource reports on March 13, 2015. On March 25, the
16 FERC issued a project update to inform the public where we
17 were in the review process and that Project Update said we
18 were going to hold public scoping meetings. Mountain

Valley

19 filed revised Resource Report One and First Draft Report
20 Seven, which is Soils, and Resource Report Eight, which is
21 Land Use. On March 27, Resource Report Five, which is
22 Socioeconomics, and Resource Report Eleven, Safety, on

April

23 10. Revised Resource Report Ten on April 14 and submitted

24 First Draft Resource Report Three for Vegetation and

25 Wildlife and Resource Report Four on Cultural Resources on

1 April 24.

in 2 I will repeat again. All of those are on line
3 our eLibrary System which I will talk about later, and
4 anyone who wants to can comment about the data in those
5 resource reports. On April 17, 2015, the FERC issued its
6 Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact
7 Statement and announced a group of six public scoping
8 meetings of which this is the first.

9 The NOI was sent to our Environmental mailing
10 list that includes landowners, elected officials,
government
11 agencies, Indian tribes, environmental groups,
12 nongovernmental agencies, local libraries and newspapers
and
13 other interested parties. The NOI was also published in
the
14 Federal Register on April 28.

15 The scoping period will end on June 18; however,
16 that is not the end of when we take comments. Unlike other
17 agencies, we are quite flexible. We will continue to
18 consider comments up until the time we actually write the
19 EIS, even after the close of scoping. The reason we have a
20 close of scoping date is that's the time when I want my
21 contractor to put together a list of issues that have been
22 identified to date so that we can start formulate the
23 context of an environmental impact statement.

24 We will not individually answer any of the
25 questions that appear in the comments that have been filed.

1 Instead, all of the comments are addressed by general
2 resource topic in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

operate

3 Mountain Valley proposes to construct and
4 a 294-mile long, 42-inch diameter pipeline in West Virginia
5 and Virginia. The pipeline would originate at the existing
6 Equitrans system in Wetzel County, West Virginia and
7 terminate at the existing Transcontinental Pipeline Company
8 Zone 5 Compressor Station 165 in Pennsylvania County,
9 Virginia.

cubic

10 Additional facilities would include four new
11 compressor stations in Wetzel, Braxton, Fair Counties, West
12 Virginia and Montgomery County, Virginia. The project is
13 designed by the company to transport about two billion
14 feet per day of natural gas from production sources in the
15 Appalachian Basins to markets in the Mid-Atlantic and
16 Southeastern United States.

17 There is a false rumor being circulated that
18 natural gas in this project would be exported. Mountain
19 Valley does not propose to export any gas. In order to
20 export natural gas, you need two things: You need
21 permission from the Department of Energy, you need
22 permission from the FERC. Mountain Valley has not applied
23 for either.

24 AUDIENCE: Do all the companies that --

will 25

MR. FRIEDMAN: Please do not shout out, or I

1 have to ask you to leave. Earlier I said I would not take
2 comments from the floor until it was time. Please obey the
3 rules. They are also posted outside in the hallway.

4 Pipeline construction activities can be
5 summarized as follows: Clearing and grading, trenching,
6 pipe-stringing and welding, lowering in and back-filling,
7 cleanup and restoration. Many people have commented
8 about the environmental damage that can happen when a
9 pipeline is put in. I can tell you that I've worked with
10 lots of projects, and after restoration, companies in
11 general do a pretty good job of returning the landscape to
12 its former condition and use, with the exception of the
13 permanent operational right-of-way, which is usually kept
in
14 a grassy state.

15 AUDIENCE: That's impossible.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Excuse me? You know what, let's
17 go over the rules one more time. If there is another
shout-
18 out from the audience, we'll just close the meeting and you
19 can send me your comments in writing.

20 Is that understood? Thank you.

21 This slide illustrates the pre-filing final
22 review process and I would like to point out where we
23 currently are in that process. We are in the scoping
24 period. Later, during pre-filing, the FERC will issue data

25 requests to fill in gaps, and Mountain Valley will respond

1 with revised resource reports.

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

10 Other opportunities for the public to comment on
11 the project occur after Mountain Valley files its former
12 application with the FERC. Post-application opportunities
13 for public comments include, in response to our notice of
14 application or in response to the issuance of our DEIS.
15 Parties may request intervenor status in response to the
16 Notice of Application. Being an intervenor is a legal
17 position. Intervenors can request rehearing of a
Commission
18 decision. They also have the burden of serving all parties
19 with their filings. You do not have to be an intervenor to
20 have your environmental comments considered. You cannot
21 intervene during the pre-filing process. You may only
22 intervene after a former application is filled.

23 If you want to file comments into the

24 Commission's official record, please follow the directions
25 given in the public participation portion of our NOI. Do

1 not send emails to FERC staff. The Commission urges the
2 electronic filling of comments through our internet
website,
3 which is www.ferc.gov. Click on documents and filings,
4 click on e-filings, and follow the directions.

5 If you have comments or questions about the FERC
6 web page, filing system or eLibrary, please contact our
7 Information Technology staff. Their phone number is given
8 in the NOI.

9 You may also comment in writing the old-
fashioned
10 way, by sending a letter to the Secretary of the Commission
11 at 888 First Street Northeast, Washington, D.C. 20426. All
12 of the information I just stated is all in the NOI and
13 available for you to read and follow those directions. In
14 all correspondence, whether electronic or in hard copy,
15 reference the docket number which is PF15-3.

16 You will also have the opportunity to comment
17 orally at this meeting. We will be taking comments from
18 attendees right after my presentation.

19 Remember to sign into the speaker's list. This
20 is your opportunity. If you have not previously signed up
21 to speak, but you want to speak, just walk through those
22 doors, Doug is sitting at the table with numbers and you
can
23 still have the opportunity to speak.

24 The FERC process is fairly transparent. The

25 public has electronic access to all filed documents through

1 the internet. The FERC web page, at www.FERC.gov, you can
2 then go to documents and filings and click on eLibrary.
3 Within the eLibrary you can choose general search, select a
4 date range and put in the docket number, which is PF15-3.
5 eLibrary contains copies of all documents filed in these
6 proceedings.

in

7 To be notified via email of all future filings
8 these proceedings, you need to sign up for eSubscription
9 service through the FERC web page. Again, you go to
10 www.ferc.gov, click on documents and filings, click on
11 eSubscription and follow the instructions. All of this
12 information is in the NOI, so it is not a secret, it is not
13 something I am just talking about quickly and passing over;
14 you can read it online, and we have copies of the NOI on
the
15 front desk plus you can get it electronically.

the

16 Based on the application, which hasn't happened
17 yet, and our own research, the FERC staff and cooperating
18 agencies will produce an EIS in accordance of the
19 regulations from the Council of Environmental Quality at
20 Title 40, CFR parts 1500-1508 to satisfy the requirements
of
21 NEPA. That document will offer our independent analysis of
22 the potential environmental impacts of the proposals and
23 alternatives. Generally, the EIS will discuss the current
24 environmental and identify potential Project-related

to 25 impacts, specific resources and present proposed measures

1 avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse effects.

2 Once the FERC staff is convinced that the
3 application is complete so that we can fully understand the
4 potential impacts of the projects, we will issue a Notice
5 Schedule for our EIS. In accordance with the Energy Policy
6 Act of 2005, other federal agencies will have ninety days
7 after the FERC releases a Final EIS to issue their permits
8 and approvals.

9 The FERC staff will produce a DEIS that will be
10 circulated for public comment. Copies of the DEIS will be
11 sent to our Environmental mailing list. After mailing out
12 the DEIS, the FERC staff would hold public meetings in the
13 project area to take verbal comments on the DEIS. The
14 comments on the DEIS will be addressed on the final EIS.
15 The Commission will only make its decision after an FEIS
16 has been issued.

17 The EIS is not a decision document. It will be
18 prepared to advise the Commissioners and to disclose to the
19 Public the environmental impacts associated with
20 constructing and operating the Project. The commissioners
21 would consider the environmental analysis together with
22 other staff material pertaining to non-environmental issues
23 before making an informed decision about the projects. The
24 Commission has the option of accepting the proposal in

of

has

whole

25 or in part, approving the proposal with or without

1 conditions, or denying the application. The final decision
2 by the Commission is issued as an Order. The Order, not
the
3 EIS, would make a finding of public benefit.

4 If the Project is authorized, the Commission
5 would make a Certificate of Public Convenience and
Necessity
6 to Mountain Valley. The Commissioners would base their
7 decision on their certificate policy statement that
8 establishes the criteria for determining whether or not
9 there is a need for a project; and we have papers on the
10 back table in the hallway next to Doug that explain that
11 policy. If the Commission decides to authorize the
project,
12 the FERC staff will make certain that the environmental
13 conditions appendant to the order are satisfied. Those
14 conditions usually include stipulations that the company
15 obtain all other necessary federal permits and
16 authorizations prior to construction.

17 The Company must implement all of the measures
18 they committed to on their application and mitigation
19 programs. FERC Staff and our contractor will monitor the
20 project through construction and restoration and the
21 completion of mitigation programs. We will perform on-site
22 inspections for compliance with the environmental
conditions
23 of the order.

24 So now is the time for public comments, all

25 right. Speakers will be called. Let me emphasize that
this

1 is not a hearing on the merits of the proposal. Other
2 Commission staff will consider economic need for this
3 Project and the rates to be charged for service.

4 As I said earlier, this meeting provides you the
5 public and opportunity to tell us what type of
environmental

6 issues you would like to see covered in the EIS. The more
7 specific your comments about potential environmental
8 impacts, the more useful it will be for the Staff to focus
9 our intention on those issues.

10 This is not a question and answer session; I am
11 here to listen to your comments. We will address all
12 questions raised during scoping in the EIS after we have
13 conducted the appropriate research. There are some ground
14 rules about decorum during this meeting, some of which have
15 already been broken but I know that won't be broken again.

16 First of all, treat all speakers with respect,
17 whether you agree with them or not. Second of all, no
18 booing, no cheering, no applauding, and no yelling out out
19 of turn. If the audience becomes unruly, does not follow
20 those rules and I find that there may be a public safety
21 issue, I reserve the right to close the meeting. We will
22 take speakers up until our contract for this venue has a
23 closing time, which is 10 p.m. Those not called up can
24 still place their comments into the public record by filing
25 a letter with the Commission.

1 I will call the speakers individually in the
2 order in which they have signed up by number. To move the
3 meeting along in an expeditious manner, I will call several
4 members at a time, and those speakers should line up in the
5 front row. I would like you to come to the microphone
here,
6 clearly state your name and spell it for the court reporter
7 and for any other reporters in the room. If you represent
8 an organization, you can tell us what that is without using
9 an acronym. If you are a landowner along the pipeline
10 route, you may want to disclose where your property is
11 according to mile-marks or cross streets.

12 To allow adequate time for everyone to speak
13 tonight, each speaker will be limited to not more than
three
14 minutes. We have a little stoplight here; at two minutes
15 it's green, at two-thirty it's yellow, and at 3 it's red.
16 At red, we would like you to stop speaking, step away from
17 the microphone and allow someone else to speak. That said,
18 we are going to go ahead and start calling speakers.

19 Number one, you can come up and right here
should
20 be number two. Raise your hand if you are number two.
21 Where is number two? Number two? Okay, could number two
22 come to the front row, please? Number three, raise your
23 hand. Number four, number five, all of the people who I
did

24 not call, please leave the section of the front row so that

25 I can call the next five after this. Thank you.

1 DR. TOBEY: Are we live?

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: We are live.

3 MR. TOBEY: I am Dr. Ronald Tobey. I reside in
4 Dawson at Greenbriar County.

5 I am Ronald Tobey, together with my wife
6 Elisabeth Tobey, we are landowners in the proposed route of
7 the pipeline. I'm associated with the advocacy
8 organization, Preserve Greenbriar County. I am Professor
9 Emeritus at the University of California - Riverside, I am

a

10 historian of ecology. I also taught historic preservation,
11 and I participated in historical research for EIS contracts
12 for the State of California and the federal government. My
13 last name is spelled T-O-B-E-Y. Dr. Ronald Tobey.

14 I comment on the proposed site of the compressor
15 station, number three, alternate one, which is in Fayette
16 County, near the Fayette County and Greenbriar Country

lines

17 off of Dawson Springdale Road in Dawson, Greenbriar County.
18 The Compressor Station would have an adverse effect on
19 wildlife and natural habitats and be a safety hazard to the
20 environment and to nearby human residents.

21 One, the site was in the Buffalo Creek Sink that
22 drains directly into the Meadow River Wildlife Management
23 Area a half-mile away.

24 Two, this site is a flood plain and wetland. It

25 is subject to flooding after rapid snow melt and heavy rain.

1 We have put photographs on our website,
2 PreserveGreenbriarCounty.org.

3 Three, the compressor station will be at a high
4 risk for flooding damage to the pipeline, the station pumps
5 and associated facilities and apparatus.

6 Four, construction of the station would
introduce
7 pollution, mud, petrochemicals and construction materials
8 into the Meadow River Wildlife Management Area, damaging
9 habitats of fish and other aquatic species, native wildlife
10 and migratory birds.

11 Five, construction will bring heavy use of the
12 Dawson Springdale Road, which is inadequate for heavy
13 traffic and which has seen two traffic deaths in the past
14 two years.

15 Six, when the compressor station is completed,
16 paved ground would magnify the flooding by increasing rain
17 and floodwater runoff. Petrochemicals and station debris
18 would be washed into the sink and the wildlife management
19 area, severely damaging them.

20 Seven, when the station is completed,
21 depressurization for any reason would release toxic gases
22 into the atmosphere, harmful to wildlife, plant communities
23 and human residents.

24 Eight, a methane gas explosion at the station
25 could be, considering the enormous size of the pipeline and

1 the amount of gas being piped through it, a natural and
2 human disaster on the scale of a small atomic bomb,
3 obliterating the environment for a half-mile radius. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments. I
am
6 deeply impressed with your credentials since I personally
am
7 a product of the University of California of Santa Barbara.

8 Number two?

9 MR. McLAUGHLIN: My name is Jonathan McLaughlin.
10 M-c-L-a-u-g-h-l-i-n. I am a retired boilermaker, AFL-CIO,
11 out of Winfield, West Virginia, and have over seventy
12 thousand hours in the building and trades. I have scoured
13 the internet to find the engineering scheme or plan to
14 prevent the downward movement upon completion of the 42-
inch
15 gas pipeline as it crosses Peters Mountain on slopes
16 approaching fifty-five degrees through cliffs and rock
17 outcroppings. You must understand that all downward
18 movement puts tremendous pressure on pipe wells, while the
19 flow of any substance inside ultimately erodes the pipe
from
20 within.

21 I have been unable to find any stop for the
22 downward movement of this pipeline on the Internet, none
23 whatsoever. This is for a company who has never
constructed

24 a forty-two inch gas pipeline.

25 Remember MVP can and will move other substances

1 through this pipeline should they so choose. How deep a
2 trench will be cut upon the narrow Peters Mountain ridge-
top
3 to ameliorate the pressure of the downward drift from the
4 pipeline and facilitate the easy, unimpeded flow of gas or
5 whatever they choose? I feel MVP is not trustworthy, if
6 only from a technical and engineering stance. Remember,
7 they have never built a forty-two inch gas pipeline before,
8 and the lack of information is telling to me, a person with
9 vast experience in the construction industry.

10 And what about the soil erosion once the
pipeline
11 has been constructed? What about the rains we have had
this
12 spring? Do you think that would wash the soil into the
13 valley and flood our Karst plane, contaminating our
precious
14 water below? Certainly, and that is what we have in this
15 County Monroe is our pure water, which one day will be
worth
16 more than all of the timber and all the coal and all the
gas
17 and oil put together, because there is not more potable
18 water today than there was yesterday in the world.

19 So what is it for us, the people of Monroe
County
20 along the gas pipeline route? There are no distribution
21 stations. It is just a quick flow to the Southeast.

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: Sir, I would like you to wrap up.

23 MR. McLAUGHLIN: That's all I've got to say.

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your

25 comments. I do want to make a point of correction. If the

1 FERC authorizes this project, notice how I said the word
2 'if'; they would only be authorized to transport natural
3 gas, nothing else.

4 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Respectfully, Mr.
5 Friedman, I implore FERC to deny the permit to MVP to
6 proceed.

7 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
8 Number three.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. ZIPPER: I am Carl Zipper from Blacksburg,
11 Virginia. That is Z-I-P-P-E-R.

12 The EIS should evaluate maintenance of service
by
13 the Transco Pipeline to Station 165 and points intended for
14 service through Station 165 as an alternative to Mountain
15 Valley's construction. Such alternatives within FERC
16 jurisdiction because Transco was certificated to provide
17 such service. The Natural Gas Act, Section 7 requires no
18 natural gas company shall abandon certificated service
19 without the Commission's permission and approval. Current
20 production has increased Transco's capacity to deliver gas
21 to Station 165 in the areas accessible from that point.

22 Traditionally, Transco has received gas in the
23 South and transported it northward. Now Transco is able to
24 receive abundant gas at both ends. Transco proposes to
25 deliver gas from North -- through Station 165 to points

1 further south. Hence, if Transco is not prepared to
deliver
2 adequate gas to points planned for service by Mountain
3 Valley through Station 165, that is service abandonment.
4 FERC's allowance of such abandonment would be a federal
5 action. Given potential effects that include new
pipelines,
6 such action would significantly affect the quality of the
7 human environment and would be subject to EIS evaluation
8 under NEPA.

9 Cumulative effects of the proposed service
10 abandonment and the alternative maintenance of service to
be
11 evaluated. Three proposed pipelines; Mountain Valley,
12 Atlantic Coast and Atlantic Connector, Appalachian
13 Connector, should be considered as potential cumulative
14 effects. Such evaluation should consider the linear nature
15 of resources subject to impact that cannot be avoided by
16 careful routing, a zone of high biological richness and
17 protected species, Appalachian Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway,
18 National Forest and extensive Karst terrain.

19 To summarize, the EIS should evaluate
maintenance
20 of certificated service by Transco as an alternative to
21 construction, evaluate cumulative effects of potential
22 service abandonment and consider that FERC has not approved
23 service abandonment as per statutory requirements.

24 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am
25 providing a text copy of my remarks with documentation for

1 the docket record.

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
3 comments. Speaker number four. And at this time I would
4 like speakers six, seven, eight, nine, ten to come to the
5 first row which means we need the first row to be empty of
6 anyone except for speaker number five through ten.

live

7 MR. KIRK: My name is Brian Kirk, K-I-R-K, I
8 near Penn Springs in Summers County. I have a bachelor's
9 degree in engineering from Notre Dame, a master's degree in
10 engineering from Cal Davis.

it

able

11 During my five years in the Navy, I had the
12 privilege of serving as one of 250 engineers on Admiral
13 Rickover's staff. That group is responsible for the
14 operation of the Navy's nuclear power program, which has
15 operated more than 100 nuclear reactors for over 60 years.
16 During this period there have been no deaths and no
17 accidental releases of radioactivity associated with this
18 program, zero. The reason the Navy has had such a
19 remarkable record is simple. If something was not right,
20 was fixed. This was done because first, the Admiral
21 insisted on it and second the Department of Defense was
22 to pay for it.

23 In contrast, since 1986, oil and gas pipeline
24 accidents have resulted in 532 deaths, more than 2400

25 injuries, more than seven and a half billion dollars in

1 damages. I would submit to you that these numbers clearly
2 indicate there were serious problems with the oil and gas
3 pipeline industry. The standards for construction,
4 operation and maintenance of these pipelines are not good
5 enough.

6 Are the problems insolvable? Not at all.
7 Employing double-walled, pipes for example would permit the
8 sensing of both leaks on the internal pipe and damage to
9 exterior pipe before it could cause a problem.

10 In addition, a stepped-up program of inspection
11 and maintenance would prevent failures due to corrosion.
12 The pipeline industry insists that pipelines are the safest
13 way to move petroleum products. That may be true, but that
14 doesn't mean that they can't do better.

15 So what is needed to accomplish these
16 improvements? First is money. At U.S. prices, currently
17 a three-year low, the pipeline proposed by MVP will
18 transport natural gas for two billion dollars per year. At
19 the prices they will get, when they export it to European
20 Mexican markets, this will probably be closer to four
21 billion dollars per year. The cost of the changes needed
22 do this right are minuscule by comparison.

23 The second thing that is needed is the will to

the

at

or

to

do

24 it right. This must come from you at FERC. The history of
25 this industry is clear. They will not willingly spend one

1 more dime than the minimum mandated. What is needed is a
2 thorough review of existing standards, with improved
3 standards implemented before the permit for this pipeline
is
4 approved.

5 It is up to FERC to ensure that the standards
6 called out on the permit will get the job done right. How
7 will you feel when someone is killed or injured knowing
that
8 you could have prevented it by requiring tougher standards?
9 This is your responsibility, do it right. Thank you.

10 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
11 comments. Another University of California graduate. I do
12 want to point out again, as a point of clarification, that
13 it is the United States Department of Transportation which
14 issues regulations for pipeline design and safety. Next
15 week we will have a representative from the DOT attend some
16 of the public scoping meetings. They were not able to
17 attend the meetings today.

18 I believe we are up to speaker number five?

19 MS. MORGAN: My name is Merri Morgan. My first
20 name is M-E-R-R-I. I'm a landowner, although I am not one
21 that pipeline is coming through.

22 AUDIENCE: Can't hear.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Well, you can physically take the
24 microphone off. I will start you again. Take the

25 microphone off. There you go.

1 MS. MORGAN: My name is Merri Morgan. I'm a
2 landowner in Monroe County, although the pipeline is not
3 coming through my land. I am not going to talk about the
4 danger of explosion, though it's ever-present. I'm not
5 going to talk about the experimental nature of this project
6 by a company with a bad record of missteps and accidents.

7 I'm not going to talk about the incredible
8 disruption this is going to cause to the areas where the
9 roads are coming through, with headlights coming through on
10 rural roads, some of which will collapse entirely off the
11 sides of mountains. I can think of three sections of roads
12 on three different roads where there is already a constant
13 problem on keeping the roads from falling off the side of
14 the mountain.

15 I want to talk about water. My spring is the
16 first spring on Laurel Creek and it is a very bold spring.
17 Above me, Laurel Creek dries up because it is all just
18 drainage. My spring is far from the pipeline but my spring
19 receives water all down from the knobs where this pipeline
20 wants to pass. No one can say what's going to happen to
21 the water, to my spring because no one knows, not you, not me,
22 not geologists, nobody can say what will happen.

23 You ran the trench nine feet deep by nine feet
24 wide, a canyon; blast it through rock, up the sides of
25 mountains. This will cut through fissures through which

1 water has been moving into people's springs and wells for
2 thousands of years. Everybody in Monroe County and most of
3 West Virginia gets their water from spring and wells. Even
4 if you have municipal water, it's coming from a major
spring
5 somewhere.

6 That ditch may or may not completely capture the
7 water that it intercepts, but it's definitely going to
8 change the flow of water. Water, like electricity, will
9 take the easiest route that it could take. Much of it's
10 going to flow right down this ditch, right along with the
11 pipeline. And this damage and danger to water is happening
12 in an area in the East Coast that has some of the finest,
13 most abundant and purest water in the world, at a time when
14 water is becoming the scarcest resource on the planet.

15 This is an insane trade-off. Water for fossil
16 fuel? If all the fossil fuel goes tomorrow, life would be
17 tough but I tell you, if the water goes we will all be dead
18 in three days. It's not a 'not in my backyard' argument.
19 This is in nobody's backyard. This is of no public benefit
20 to anybody. It's a private benefit to the companies
21 building pipeline which supports an industry for which
there
22 is no just case whatsoever.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

25

Speaker number six. And I want to make certain

1 that seven, eight, nine and ten are in the front row?

2 Okay, along we go.

S-

3 DR. MILLER: My name is Stephen Miller, that's

Monroe

4 T-E-P-H-E-N M-I-L-L-E-R and I am a physician here in

5 County. I would like to thank FERC officials for the

6 opportunity to present these comments and concerns. The

7 proposed route of this line raises two serious issues that

8 are currently unresolved.

area

9 First is the path to the protected watershed

10 of the Red Sulfur PSD, which serves over four thousand

through

11 people. Last summer, an eight-inch gas line was run

12 this watershed to the Celanese Plant in Narez, Virginia.

13 Since completion of that line, there has been a

14 significant and alarming increase in water turbidity

15 resulting from dirt, sludge, silt, mud, and other debris.

in

16 The PSD has had to increase frequency of changing filters

daily,

17 its filtration plant from once every ten days to once

18 representing a tenfold increase in water turbidity. The

19 proposed route also passes dangerously close to the

20 watershed's most sensitive area, known as the zone of

21 critical concern, posing a greater threat than the Celanese

22 line did.

23 Any excess turbidity at this point has the
24 realistic potential to completely shut down the Red Sulfur
25 PSD filtration plant, creating an environmental disaster.

1 PSD officials have been actively trying to resolve this
2 problem with EQT and FERC. At this time, no viable
solution
3 has been reached. In light of these concerns, we are
4 requesting that the line be kept a minimum safe distance of
5 no closer than five miles from the border of the protected
6 watershed area.

7 The second issue is that the route passes within
8 one mile of James Monroe High School. Exact data about the
9 blast potential of a line this large has been ambiguous and
10 conflicting, even from officials. It is clear that the
11 exact size of such an explosion is very large and not
easily
12 predictable. Such an explosion would likely trigger
13 secondary fires and hurl debris great distances,
potentially
14 compromising already limited evacuation routes from the
15 school.

16 EQT has provided no local safety studies,
studies
17 regarding emergency evacuation plans, evaluation of
18 evacuation routes from the school or local first
responders'
19 ability to deal with such an emergency. Because of these
20 issues, we request that the line be kept a minimum safe
21 distance of five miles away from the school.

22 We cannot allow a gas company to unnecessarily

ask 23 endanger a community's children or its water supply. We
buffer 24 that FERC act on these issues and require a five-mile
25 from our school and our watershed area. These are

1 reasonable and realistic requests and will ultimately be in
2 our mutual best interest.

issues
3 Thank you for allowing me to present these
4 and suggestions.

this
5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments. Two
6 points of clarification: One is that FERC staff, later
7 week is meeting face-to-face with representatives from the
8 Red Sulfur PSD. Also, we will have a section of the EIS
9 labeled Safety and Reliability and we will address those
10 kinds of issues then.

11 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome.

13 Number seven and at the front row should be
14 eight, nine and ten.

15 MR. JOHNSTON: My name is Sidney -.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: You know what, pick up the
17 microphone because that seems to be the most effective way
18 for people to hear you and we have not started the clock
19 yet. Thank you.

20 MR. JOHNSTON: My name is Sidney Johnston. I
21 have a home in Union and I am pleased to be able to present
22 these comments to FERC. My credentials include a
Bachelor's
23 in physics from Virginia Tech, Master's and a PhD in
physics

24 from Carnegie-Mellon, and I spent a year at University of
25 California in Davis studying nuclear medicine physics.

1 So at first I want to make three points. The
2 first point is that a forty-two inch diameter pipeline is
3 dangerous in going over mountains or jagged rock, outcrops,
4 and can result in erosion, rusting the steel, rupture, fire
5 and explosion, as happened in #Sessanville in West Virginia
6 not too long ago.

7 A route through the river valleys such as the
8 Potomac or the Susquehanna from the wells in Pennsylvania,
9 West Virginia and Ohio is a much better choice. These
river
10 valleys are shorter and the terrains flatter and better for
11 a pipeline. Especially a big one in which the Applicant
has
12 no experience.

13 Gas customers in Washington to Boston will be
14 better served by a more direct route to the Atlantic
15 Seaboard gas lines than a route through Monroe County.

16 The well depletion may be rapid. That is, a
17 fracked well may deplete rapidly. In order to pay for
18 drilling and laying pipeline, the gas company may let the
19 gas pour out at full speed and the well will run dry, it
20 will fizzle out. An analogy is that fracking opens up a
21 large bank underground where the rock layers are pried
apart
22 by water pressure.

23 A model can be a ten foot diameter tank, thirty
24 to forty feet tall with gas at pressures around 1000 psi.

25 Drill a small hole in the tank, say an eighth-inch diameter.

1 The gas rushes out and whoosh, it is soon gone. No more
2 gas. How many years a fracked well with produce is an open
3 question. Then what happens to the forty-two inch diameter
4 pipe on the landowner's land?

5 The third point I wish to make, if the plan is
6 ultimately to make liquefied natural gas from the gas in
7 this pipeline and export it through the East Coast ports,
8 then the role of the United States Government needs
9 examination. Particularly the policy. To quote Franklin
10 D. Roosevelt: Let us be clear at the outset that the
11 liberties of individuals to carry on their business should
12 not be abrogated unless the target interests of the many
13 concerned.

are

14 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you Dr. Johnston.

15 DR. JOHNSTON: Okay, thank you. I will submit
16 comments on the website.

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number eight. And could we have
18 number eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen come
19 to the front row. If you are not one of those numbers, we
20 would like you to leave the front row and sit in one of
21 those wonderful empty seats elsewhere in the auditorium.
22 Okay, so eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen,
23 fourteen, fifteen, please come to the front row.

24 MR. CHLEPAS : My name is Constantine C-O-N-S-

T-

25 A-N-T-I-N-E, last name Chlepas, C-H-L-E-P-A-S. This is my

1 wife Patty. I am a beekeeper, a builder and a farmer. My
2 wife Patty is an elementary school teacher and a former
3 geologist. We moved here buying a local farm about ten
4 years ago, falling in love with the pristine, natural
5 environment, fresh air and clean water; and I wanted to
6 say we are located as a landowner on the narrows of Hans
7 Street.

just

8 MS. CHLEPAS: Our first season here, we noticed
9 that our farm hills and woods were full of honeybees. Then
10 later, after learning about the plight of the honeybees
11 dying out in massive quantities around the country due to
12 the proliferation of pesticides, we decided to become
13 stewards of honeybees, starting Birdsong Farm: an apiary,
14 breeding operation and sanctuary for honeybees.

15 MR. CHLEPAS: We are an organic farm, sir. As a
16 beekeeper, our first season we became clear that the only
17 reason, and I mean the only reason that the honeybees are
18 prolific in this area is that it is the absolute perfect,
19 natural habitat. There is plenty of fresh water, fresh air
20 and an abundance of pollen and nectar and, most
21 a perfectly natural, organic environment, lacking
22 pesticides, herbicides, defoliants which are so detrimental
23 to the health of the bees.

so

importantly,

24 Due to this environment, we have been raising

25 honeybees successfully, resistant to mites and other

1 diseases. Our organic apiary and breeding operation has
2 three locations including our farm, two other organic farms
3 and one. Our bees are known for their gentleness, having
4 high winter survivability and a large honey production.

5 MS. CHLEPAS: The route of the proposed Mountain
6 Valley Pipeline would create havoc, becoming a death
7 sentence to bees in our three apiaries and surrounding
areas
8 through the disruption of their healthy environment. Two
of
9 our apiaries are feet from the proposed route through
10 Lindside and the narrows of Hamm's Creek in Monroe County
11 and our third is in Craig on an organic farm.

12 About six months ago, pulling up the computer,
13 the morning headline on MSN read, 'The likelihood of World
14 War III is extremely high in the next 50 years.' Then it
15 said, 'The reason will surprise you.' Clicking on it, my
16 initial thoughts were the reason would be oil, energy or
17 even water, but the number one proposed reason was the lack
18 of food.

19 Here in Monroe County we have some of the best
20 agricultural land in the nation, covered with organic farms
21 of healthy livestock, orchards filled with fruit, you-
picks,
22 and the most healthy spot for honey bees. To destroy
23 honeybees for a pipeline that has been proven unneeded is
24 profoundly illogical. So the real question should be, are

25 we willing to risk that and risk losing our beautiful,

1 healthy, agricultural environment?

2 (Applause)

3 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

4 MS. CHLEPAS: Thank you.

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Nine is coming up. Then ten
6 through fifteen should be in the front row.

7 MR. BOULDIN: My name is Thomas Bouldin.

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thomas, can you lift the
9 microphone up?

10 MR. BOULDIN: B-O-U-L-D-I-N. I live in Penn
11 Springs. On April 1st, I sent a note to the Federal Energy
12 Regulatory Commission, that's FERC, asking for some
13 information that I felt would help everybody in this room,
14 in fact everyone along the pipeline route to respond
15 intelligently to the decision that is being made. Nobody
16 bothered to tell me an answer. I find out tonight,
17 pleasantly, that no you're not going to answer. You don't
18 answer individual questions, but I am going to repeat them
19 anyway. What?

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: What I said was that I would
21 answer them in the EIS.

22 MR. BOULDIN: One, how does FERC define the
23 public interest? What are the factors you are going to
24 consider and how are they going to be measured? How will
25 you predict future costs and benefits of this project? If

1 we don't know that, we can't make meaningful comments about
2 whether or not what we see will affect the public interest.

3 How will FERC calculate the cost to citizens?

4 Yes, we will lose the use of utility on our land, we may
5 lose our water. There are a lot of other things we are
6 concerned about, ancestral association, personal
connections
7 to the land, aesthetic values, the place we live.

8 Are such things going to count? If not, why
have
9 you encouraged people for the last six months to comment
10 about things like that? Couldn't you just say, "Well,
don't
11 worry about it, that is not going to be something we
12 measure."

13 What specific laws and regulations control
FERC's
14 procedures and decision-making. You've gone over some, can
15 we get that in concise, written form? What laws will guide
16 monitoring and regulation of the pipeline if it is allowed?
17 What specific aspects of the rules are going to be left up
18 to state and county government so that we can talk with
them
19 instead of you and waste our time?

20 If Mountain Valley pipeline surveyors report
21 results that are contradicted, say by a private scientific
22 survey -- I know some people who have had them conducted.

going

23 There have been comments to that effect -- how is FERC

24 to decide which one is right? What standards of scientific

25 proof are you going to use in hydrology, water quality

and 1 measurements, geological factors in pipeline engineering

2 so forth? I will submit the full text of this later.

3 Perhaps last of all, if I submit a self-report
4 describing my property and it contradicts a report provided
5 by MVP surveyors, how will FERC resolve that conflict? Is
6 my self-report going to count? We need to know that. We
7 would really love to have an answer to these questions by
8 May 16, that would give us a whole month to make use of the
9 answers; not in the EIS but while we can still use them to
10 make comments.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause)

is 13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your time. There
14 a handout in the hallway that discusses how the Commission
15 makes its decision.

16 Number ten is up, and after number ten we would
17 like eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen in the
18 front row.

19 MS. TOBEY: Good evening, my name is Elisabeth
20 Tobey, E-L-I-S-A-B-E-T-H last name T-O-B-E-Y. I am one of
21 the landowners across whose property the pipeline is
22 proposed to run. Section 40 of the Code of Federal
23 Regulations provides that there shall be an early and open
24 process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed

25 and for identifying the significant issues related to the

1 proposed action.

2 These scoping meetings have neither been early
3 nor open. I found out about this meeting, even though I am
4 a landowner from our local watershed association. I have
5 received no mailings or emailings from FERC or MVP giving
6 adequate notice and opportunity to respond at this scoping
7 meeting.

me

8 My property is located on Burns Hollow Road in
9 Greenbriar County. The proposed route will effectively
10 split my property into two separate parcels. We are
11 transitioning to organic in our farming. One was spraying
12 by the State of any chemical means; I have to wait another
13 three years to reapply to the program. Now this applies
14 just to my property but to properties up-mountain, where
15 chemicals can be carried by the water or in the air onto my
16 property.

not

17 The pipeline will remove the best topsoil on my
18 property. It's an old potato field with very rich topsoil.
19 There are no plans that I am aware of to preserve it or to
20 replace it as part of the restoration project, simply a

plan

21 to seed the right-of-way with some sort of semi-native
22 grasses, leaving me with hard-tamped clay on which to farm.
23 The backfill material for the trenches is currently unknown
24 and is of concern. Planting the right-of-way with shallow-

25 rooted grasses will not provide the same erosion control

1 that the current covering of timber does. Trees have
2 extensive root systems that grasses do not develop. Tree
3 systems go far deeper.

4 The proposed route will alter the runoff that
5 feeds our brook and our well and feeds our ponds for our
6 livestock. The right-of-way is scheduled to run at right
7 angles to the current water which flows downhill. It will
8 impact water quality yet there is no provision for ongoing
9 monitoring of water qualities for those of us on a well,
10 which is our entire street.

11 The proposed pipeline will also impact
vulnerable
12 species that we have on our property, including Eastern Box
13 Turtles, which are a vulnerable but not threatened species.
14 In addition, there have been spotted turtle sightings on
15 another property that is two or three miles from the
16 pipeline. We also have rock outcroppings and an old quarry
17 on our property. There are seven houses on our road that
18 are in the blast zone or on the edge of it and certainly
19 well within the secondary blast zone; for both the pipeline
20 and the compressor station along Dawson's Spring Hill Road.
21 There are other alternatives available for the route that
22 exist over unoccupied lands nearby that will not cut
23 horizontally across the face of the mountain.

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
25 comments.

1 Ms. Tobey, we are going to do some research and
2 make certain that you receive all future mailings to assist
3 us in that. In the back where Doug is sitting at the table,
4 there is an environmental mailing list. If you could
please
5 put your address on that list you will never be missed
6 again.

7 MS. TOBEY: Sir, I have written FERC three times
8 regarding my address. I have notified the Mountain Valley
9 Pipeline three times regarding my address. In addition, I
10 told them they did not have permission to come on my land,
11 yet they came on and surveyed my property against my
wishes.
12 What more do I need to do?

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: I will fix the address problem.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number eleven.

16 MR. BOWERS: Good evening. Excuse me. My name
17 is Kirk Bowers. I am from Charlottesville, Virginia. I am
18 the State Chapter Chair for the Pipeline Committee for the
19 Sierra Club, and I represent our sixteen thousand members
in
20 Virginia. I think that is all.

21 Let me start out by saying, I have a couple
22 comments. Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act requires the
23 Commission to determine whether the project facilities are

is 24 in the public interest, and whether the proposed pipeline
25 required by the public convenience and necessity.

1 Specifically, the certificate policy requires the
Commission
2 to balance the alleged need for a project against the
3 adverse impacts on the affected landowners and the
4 surrounding communities.

5 Stated simply, the Commission cannot approve a
6 project unless it concludes that the project's benefits
7 outweighs its adverse impacts. It must be demonstrated
that
8 the need for this Project's specific and regional for the
9 natural gas and power that may be generated are required
and
10 needed. The review must also consider the implications for
11 global warming and the impacts of emerging policies to
12 reduce CO2 emissions.

13 Currently, I need to tell you all something.
14 There's is a couple things happening right now which are
15 having a big impact on the shale and the gas industry.
16 First of all, the demand for electricity has flat-lined
17 since 2008, and that's demonstrated in this chart but out
by
18 Barron's in February of 2015. We are currently facing a
19 global decline in demand for oil and natural gas that has
20 led to plummeting prices in both commodities. In terms of
21 natural gas, this is due not only to the lag of the glut in
22 the market which is currently being experienced, but also
23 because of the pricing linkage to oil, because the two are

24 inextricably linked together.

25 As oil prices drop, natural gas has dropped
also.

1 In West Virginia currently, the price of delivering natural
2 gas is \$1.69 and costs over \$4 per thousand cubic feet to
3 produce. It's an economic disaster. In 2016, these charts
4 indicate that shale gas production in the Marcellus will
5 peak and it will start going downhill. In 2018, that's
when
6 the pipelines are going to be built and we're running out
of
7 gas. So then what are you going to do?

8 One last comment, Mr. Friedman, I am a licensed
9 professional engineer with over 35 years in the field. I
10 heard you make a comment that was not correct earlier.
11 These cleared areas in the mountains do not stabilize for a
12 number of reasons. Please refrain from making those
13 comments unless you know what you're saying. Thank you so
14 much.

15 (Applause).

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.
17 Number twelve.

18 MS. COLE: My name is Cookie Cole. I am from
Salt
19 Sulfur Springs, West Virginia and I am here tonight, which
I
20 was going to read a letter I put in Monroe Watchman back in
21 February which is a real good place to get your
information.
22 They tell it how it is.

23 Well, what I want to tell you all here tonight

24 is, you want to know everybody's credentials, well I

25 graduated from Union High School. I have been here on this

1 mountain and in this valley all my life, just about, except
2 the time I spent in Cleveland, Ohio while my Dad was
working
3 in a steel mill. after he got out of World War II where he
4 served his country, and he come back to these mountains and
5 valleys like other veterans and the people in the war.

6 Where did they get them? They got them out of
7 West Virginia. Well. they come back to these mountain
8 valleys and the homeland we have here in Monroe County and
9 surrounding areas, it is all precious. God made it, we are
10 here to defend it and take care of it because we live in a
11 delicate balance with nature. We get along with Mother
12 Nature: she takes care of us, we take care of her. I know
13 you all can't understand that because you live in a city,
14 you get your water out of the sink. By the way, I also
15 testified in front of Congress years ago due to another
16 cultural attachment. environmental issue about Peters
17 Mountain, Monroe County and our beautiful surrounding area.

18 All I can tell you all is I will try to read one
19 little thing I did put in this Watchman because I am so
20 upset. I've got high blood pressure. Everybody here is
21 heartbroke and sick but we will all stand together because
22 it's not just a five mile radius we want stopped. We don't
23 want it anywhere.

24 I grew up in the 50's and 60's where you had to
25 get underneath your desk at school to hope to God they

1 didn't drop an atomic bomb on you. I now live in the zone,
2 which before I knew. they wanted to put through the middle
3 of my farm and rape eighty-five acres of the most precious,
4 sacred, holy ground in Monroe County with ancient oak
trees,

5 Indian burial grounds, a frog pond in the middle of it.

6 I know you are looking at your watch, but Buddy,
7 I spent sixty years defending this country from a small
8 child being born and my family has fought and lived in this
9 county and helped found the foundations while you are
10 sitting here on this table here today, where you're at. I
11 know you all want to do the fair thing and right thing, for
12 the people.

13 It's for the people of the State of West
Virginia

14 to save it. You know, my Dad fought to free the people
15 overseas. In France it's against the law to frack.

They're

16 not bringing gas lines through their property lines. You
17 know why? They're not going to mess up their environment.
18 Their minister, whatever you call him, prime Minister over
19 there, there was a thing.

20 If you ever want to watch another, step over to
21 Free Speech TV, Buddy, they will enlighten you. But all I
22 want to tell y'all is, please do the right thing by us. My
23 father and all of the other veterans which live -- I might
24 add -- in the blast zone, if it ever goes. I haven't slept

25 a wink at night since I heard about it because worrying

1 about "Oh, my God, is that thing going to blow up? It's
2 going to vaporize everything within a mile, not counting
the
3 shock in the air." I know you're going to say "please sit
4 down."

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments, but
I
6 need you to do me one favor.

7 MS. COLE: What's that?

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: I need you to spell your name for
9 the court reporter.

10 MS. COLE: My name is C-O-O-K-I-E Cole.
Patricia

11 Ann if you wanted it another way, but it don't matter.
12 Everybody knows who I am that really cares, but the bottom
13 line is, y'all, please, please for God's sake open your
eyes
14 and hearts and listen. It's our water. There is no
15 replacing water.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: We would like to ask No. 13 to
17 come up to the podium now, please.

18 (Applause) (Audience remarks off mic.)

19 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number thirteen, can you please
20 come up? Thank you.

21 MS. REA: My name is Barb. It's really short
for
22 Barbara Rea, R-e-a. I am a permanent resident on a piece
of

go

23 property that the Mountain Valley Pipeline is planning to

24 through.

25 The Mountain Valley Pipeline alternate route 110

1 will climb the western slope of Spokes Knobs, crossing the
2 land on which I live, entering the land that my 93-year-old
3 neighbor, Sally Ong --. The proposed nine foot wide by
nine
4 foot deep trench will be blasted into rock through which my
5 spring has flowed for one hundred and fifty years. It
6 threatens to make unpredictable changes to the flow of
7 water, potentially impacting both my spring and Sally's
8 well. Herbicides used to maintain the easement and
spillage
9 during construction are also threats to our water.

10 The pipeline will cut across the Gravel County
11 Road between me and Sally, and scale the 55-degree wooden
12 slope of the knob that rises 300-feet above the road. This
13 deep slope is highly susceptible to erosion, even with its
14 dense covering of trees. Clear-cutting about a one hundred
15 and twenty-five foot wide path for the pipeline
construction
16 will cause massive erosion. It will be extremely difficult
17 to remediate. The erosion will seriously impact our road
18 and make keeping the pipeline buried a challenge.

19 Both my house and Sally's are close to the edge
20 of the blast radius for this pipeline. The wooded terrain
21 we love will become an inferno if the steep slope and heavy
22 rains would often get on the western slope of the knobs,
23 causing slippage that resolves in a breach of the pipeline.
24 These are risks we do not want and we do not believe this

25 project is for the public good. Though we are told that

1 this gas is solely to meet our national needs and create
2 energy independence with a clean-burning fuel, there is
3 ample evidence to the contrary.

4 In a December 29, 2014 comment to FERC, Paul
5 Washburn cites data provided from the US Energy Information
6 Agency which shows that through 2040, the MVP alone
7 providing gas at the rate for which they say they have
8 contracts, will primarily serve to create an excess of
9 natural gas in the service area and there are two other
10 forty-two inch, high-pressure pipelines currently seeking
11 Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for
12 essentially the same market.

13 Excess gas will likely be sent to the LNG plants
14 in Maryland and elsewhere so it can be shipped overseas
15 where the gas producers expect to make four times the
16 profits than they would here at home. Furthermore, to
17 provide the gas to fill a Mountain Valley Pipeline,
fracking
18 operations in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania will
19 increase production.

20 Those operations already take massive quantities
21 of water completely out of the water cycle and produce
large
22 quantities of toxic flowback for which no really safe
23 disposal has yet been devised; and scientific evidence
shows
24 that when fracking process itself and methane leakage from

25 fracking wells, pipelines and compression stations are
taken

1 into consideration, gas used from these operations will
2 contribute more greenhouse gas over the next 30 years being
3 the equivalent amount of coal would. These environmental
4 impacts affect us all.

5 The Mountain Valley Pipeline is neither a public
6 convenience nor a necessity. It's a scheme to privatize
7 profits for gas producers and socialize the risks,
operating
8 system pipeline transmission infrastructure for slow, more
9 responsible and limited use of fracked gas as we transition
10 to renewable energy may not expand profits for the oil and
11 gas industry --

12 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

13 MS. REA: -- but will far better serve the
public
14 need and necessity. Thank you very much.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: And remember that if I cut you
17 off, you can still send in detailed comments to the FERC.

18 Number fourteen. Not here? Number fifteen. I
19 would like number sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen
and
20 twenty to come to the front row. Thank you.

21 MR. POWELL: My name is Billy Powell. I am with
22 Keeper of the Mountains Foundation and I'm a lawyer.

23 The diesel compressors necessary to maintain the
24 pressure in the forty-two inch pipelines will, like the

25 pipelines themselves be the biggest compressors in this

1 industry. Diesel compressors emit ultra-fine particles
2 twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five days
a
3 year, year in and year out. It's not a remote thing like a
4 bolt of lightning or an explosion. It happens
continuously.

5 Ultra-fine particles are equal to one nanometer
6 in size. That's roughly equivalent to one hundred
7 thousandth of the thickness of a human hair. That's
smaller
8 than the pores that exist in human cells. In short, ultra-
9 fine particles can penetrate human cells.

10 A decade ago, if you did a word search from
11 Google or any other word index, you would get hundreds of
12 thousands of articles on nanotechnology. That doesn't
13 happen today because people in those industries discovered
14 that there is no material that size which penetrates human
15 cells which is not toxic.

16 The biggest community studies that were linked
to
17 the ultra-fine particles have been done around mountaintop
18 removal sites. Those communities in two dozen different
19 peer-reviewed studies document increased birth defects,
20 decreased birth weights, diminished educational attainment,
21 increased pulmonary and cardiac disease, increased cancer
22 and substantially diminished life expectancy.

23 Unlike the comment you made at the beginning,
the

24 National Environmental Policy Act was passed in 1970 under
25 President Nixon. The Department of Energy Organization Act

Impact

1 was not passed until Carter became President after January
2 1977. NEPA defines your duty under the Environmental
3 Statement, not the Department of Energy Organization Act.
4 Your duty is to examine all of the environmental impacts of
5 the proposed activity. Not those which may or may not be
6 coextensive with your regulatory authority.

7 The bottom line is that the biggest thing this
8 pipeline does is it provides infrastructure for hydraulic
9 fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing also uses diesel
10 compressors twenty-four hours a day, three-hundred-sixty-
11 five days a year. That is what should be analyzed along
12 with the compressors already planned for the pipeline.

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

14 Number sixteen. Number sixteen? Not here? Oh,
15 there she is.

16 MS. DICKINSON: Good evening, my name is Nancy
17 Dickinson, D-I-C-K-I-N-S-O-N. I am not on the route, but I
18 will be severely impacted by it.

19 This may not be the appropriate place for these
20 comments, and I certainly want to thank all the people that
21 have already spoken and I agree with most of the
22 environmental issues that have been brought up. What I
23 would like to talk about, which Barb just talked about as
24 well, was a comment that Mr. Washburn submitted to FERC

back

25 in December of 2004 in which he challenges MVP's necessity

1 for this pipeline and I would like to cite at least three
2 issues where he was off the mark.

3 One being that they do not clearly identify the
4 end users in the three demand areas, leaving the demand
5 areas undefined. MVP also has not been able to define the
6 increased demand in the mid-Atlantic region; they have not
7 demonstrated any transport mechanisms to the end users in
8 that area and third, MVP has presented cost data which is
9 not consistent with the Historical US Energy Information
10 Administration pricing data. And finally, they do not take
11 into consideration other pipelines that are under expansion
12 or under FERC consideration which confirms, as the
gentleman
13 spoke earlier that they are not even going to come close to
14 a need until 2040.

15 I am hoping that FERC will address these issues
16 in the EIS or in some other form because before we even get
17 any of the environmental issues, where's the need?

18 Thank you.

19 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

20 Number seventeen, excuse me.

21 Seventeen is not here? Eighteen.

22 DR. LEWTER: Hello, my name is Marge Lewter, L-

E-

23 W-T-E-R. I'm here to represent Craig County. I am a
24 veterinarian in Craig County and I am a landowner that is

on

25 the pipeline route, the potential pipeline route. I

1 represent Craig County but also 1200 citizens who ask that
2 our government officials take all actions necessary to
3 protect our land, our rights and our welfare by opposing
4 this and any other transmission pipelines through Craig
5 County. It will provide no local energy access and the
6 reduction of property values will far exceed landowner
7 compensation.

8 The pipeline will provide no benefit for this
9 region. It will endanger health, natural resources, water
10 quality, cultural values, tourism, property values and
11 citizen safety. The citizens of Craig County stand united
12 to protect and preserve our natural resources and our way
of
13 life. In addition, I represent over 800 citizens who have
14 established already through the Forest Service, that we
15 already know the pipeline route will pass through and
16 disrupt the most endangered habitats on Earth for the
17 federally endangered James Spiny mussel.

18 We know that the proposed routes would be
visible
19 from the Appalachian Trail and will scar the most important
20 views of Dragon's Tooth. We know the routes will go
through
21 areas designated by the US Forest Services as designated
22 black bear habitat and old growth forest. We know the
23 routes through the National Forest will fragment the
24 wilderness area and that the Forest Service has invested in

25 protecting those areas. We know they are proposed to cross

affect 1 steep and unstable slopes, unstable Karst geology and
2 the quality of groundwater.

3 We already know the proposed routes will remove
4 forest cover that protects our critical water supply. We
5 know that the routes will destroy conservation easements,
6 stream-side buffers and wildlife habitat restoration
7 projects and other conservation efforts created by the
8 citizens in collaboration with state and federal agencies.
9 We know the proposed routes will disturb the nesting bald
10 eagles of Jones Creek. We know that these routes will
11 affect the cultural sense of place for Craig County
citizens
12 and everybody else in this room, and they will scar the
13 current and future generations forever. Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

16 Nineteen. Also I would like twenty, twenty-one,
17 twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five come to
18 the front row. Thank you.

19 MR. WOLF: My name is Bill Wolf, W-O-L-F just
20 like the animal. I am one of about 5,000 residents of
Craig
21 County where I run two businesses. I am a landowner in
both
22 Craig and Monroe Counties. I speak for Preserve Craig, a
23 large organization which has been working there to protect

24 and preserve the resources since 1991. We oppose the
25 alternative 110 route, and I ask that these reasons be

1 studied in the EIS.

2 So here is why: These routes follow the same
3 path as a proposed power line of the 1990's. The
government
4 found the impacts to Craig at Monroe would be too severe to
5 allow construction of a powerline and could not be
6 mitigated. Most important, the citizens were found to be
7 culturally attached to the landscape, which is fifty-four
8 percent National Forest. The Forest Service found that
9 impacts from that powerline and the citizens were not
10 capable of mitigation. We will be providing the records
11 from that line-siting process to FERC.

12 The proposed pipeline would have far more severe
13 impacts on the citizens than the powerline. These impacts
14 are not capable of mitigation. Craig is unique because
more
15 than half the county is owned by the U.S. Government. Many
16 take exceptions to a corporations authority to take private
17 land for corporate profit. Make no mistake, that is what
is
18 happening here. There is to date no evidence of public
need
19 or benefit, there will only be public harm and private
gain.

20 Not only that, the corporation is an LLC that
has
21 not been required to prove its responsible capacity to
22 construct or operate a pipeline of any size, let alone one

23 of the largest proposed to date. I am an organic food
24 production professional, and my clients are required to
meet
25 strict certifications. MVP has not even been reviewed or

1 certified to dig a ditch without causing harm, and yet they
2 are being given the authority of eminent domain. We have
3 scientific documentation that we are culturally attached to
4 the landscape. Livelihoods, livestocks and ways of life
5 depend on the synergy between public lands and private
6 lands.

7 All we have is our land and our well-settled
8 relationships between our lands and national forests. Now
a
9 private company with limited liability and no certification
10 is asking you to give them a license to take our land. Our
11 families and our communities depend on the land, which is
12 all we have. The pipeline easement only takes land out of
13 production ending hundreds of years of use, in some cases
by
14 the same family. This will have a devastating impact on
the
15 citizens of Craig.

16 You can't litigate those changes in the
17 relationship to our land. Only the easement is taken, but
18 the blast zone steals even more from our heritage. The
19 terrain proposed to be crossed drives up the risk of leaks
20 and explosions which must be considered a significant issue
21 on any route.

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Bill and I know you
are
23 going to send in more detailed comments.

24 MR. WOLF: My only comment would be to repeat
25 that please conclude MVP cannot mitigate. These are

1 significant issues that must be included.

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: And I am certain you will explain
3 that in great detail in the letter to FERC.

4 Number twenty please.

5 (Applause).

6 MR. WILLIS: My name is Larry Willis, W-I-L-L-I-
7 S. I'm a stream ecologist, Ph.D. Stream ecologist, got my
8 Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. I'm touched here tonight by the
9 people here. I understand every one of them, what they are
10 saying. This pipeline is going to affect their lives.

Yes,

11 we are concerned about our water supplies, absolutely we

are

12 concerned about our water supplies, but it's going to

affect

13 our lives in ways that you really can't understand because
14 it's going to be affecting the land, we all, all of us in
15 this room live close to the land. What this pipeline does
16 to the land is what we are here about.

17 What I am going to talk about tonight is
18 sedimentation. We know pipelines cause sedimentation in
19 streams. The Transco Pipeline, the one that this pipeline
20 will feed into has open scars on it right now that are
21 eroding streams, causing problems in streams a half-mile

off

22 the corridor. The pipeline that was mentioned earlier in
23 Giles County that was approved and built? Right now it is

24 causing sedimentation problems -- after it's built.

25 There is a pipeline that was built several years

1 ago in Southwest Virginia. They did every BMP they could
2 think of because there were endangered species there. They
3 did hourly monitoring during the construction to make sure
4 there wasn't a problem. You know what? It washed out
5 anyway, and it killed hundreds of endangered mussels down
6 there. This is no time, this pipeline, this route is no
7 place to experiment with methods.

8 This route is going to cross the 110 Route that
9 goes through Craig County, is going to cross the five most
10 important streams in the world for the James River
11 Spiny mussel. The main five streams were it is still doing
12 well. All five of those streams are going to have erosion
13 scars in the pipeline, trenches opened up at the same time
14 or recently opened at the same time; and a heavy rainfall
15 event, not even a catastrophic event normally, but just a
16 normal, heavy rain could cause that species to be wiped off
17 the face of the Earth.

18 We want to know how you are going to mitigate
19 that? How are you going to do, what kind of BMPs are you
20 going to use? We need that spelled out. We need it done
21 well. Actually the pipeline doesn't belong in Craig
County,
22 doesn't belong anywhere here. This is a special place.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

25 Number twenty-one.

1 MS. KEFFER: My name is Mary Keffer and our farm
2 is on Cumberland Gap Road on Route 42 in Craig County. I
3 moved to Craig County from Alexandria in the early 1980's
to
4 teach in the Craig County School System. I fell in love
5 with the mountains and with a dairy farmer and a Craig
6 County native. We got married in 1983 and have two
7 children. Our dairy farm is in the path of the Alternate
8 110J and the Alternate 110 comes very close to our spring.
9 Our spring flows by gravity down into the farmhouse where
my
10 father-in-law died last September at the age of ninety-two,
11 in the house he was born in, in the house his parents
bought
12 in 1912. It's a good, healthy spring, enough for our two
13 households to have plenty of water.

14 Our son will live there one day. He has his
15 degree from Virginia Tech and he and his wife have chosen
to
16 stay here. He will be the fourth generation to farm this
17 land. He has plans to expand the dairy farm production so
18 that it will support he and his wife as well as my husband
19 and I. We are an endangered species, the small family
farm.

20 In 1991, the U.S. Department of Agriculture
21 required our family farm to implement a conservation plan
as
22 part of their Sod Buster program in the Food Security Act
of

23 1985. We were given the choice to either implement their
24 erosion control procedures or to quit milking cows. Large
25 sections of the cropland and pasture were labeled highly

1 erodible land on this farm plan. The plan also included
2 construction of a fifty thousand dollar animal waste
3 facility. All of these measures were done to protect
4 Sinking Creek from erosion due to steep slopes and from
5 runoff from the farm.

6 My husband and his father chose to go into debt
7 to comply with this plan and to protect the creek and to
8 keep on farming. It's more than unfair to have one
9 government agency propose these expensive restrictions on
10 for the sake of conservation and water quality, and then to
11 have another agency allow a private company to come through
12 our land and undo all of these conservation efforts. Not
13 only undo them but create erodible areas and the added risk
14 of pollution and possible explosion.

15 Some of my neighbors along the proposed route
16 they will move away. 'It's just too risky to live near a
17 forty-two inch natural gas pipeline,' but picking up and
18 moving away is not an option for us. This is our heritage.
19 It is our homeplace. So here's what we want to know and
20 what we expect you to work to find out before allowing this
21 pipeline. How will we manage living within a 2000 foot
22 blast zone? How can we expect our son to raise a family
23 that close to a forty-two inch, high-pressure natural gas
24 pipeline? How can you mitigate our attachment to this

us

say

land?

EIS. 1 This is what we want documentation of in the

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for very much for your
3 comments. Twenty-two.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Twenty-two.

6 MR. OLSON: My name is Dana Olspn -

7 AUDIENCE: Can't hear you.

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: Put the microphone close to your
9 mouth. There you go.

10 MR. OLSON: My name is Dana Olson, O-l-s-o-n. I
11 live on Peters Mountain, Monroe County adjacent to the
12 Appalachian Trail. Peters Mountain produces world-class,
13 quality spring water which has been and continues to be
14 bottled. Sweet Springs and Gap Mills has won international
15 awards for water spring quality, including four first-place
16 finishes in the winter Festival in the Water. Newman's
17 Springs, which is located one mile from the proposed
18 pipeline, won first place in the nation and second place in
19 the world behind Walwick Springs from France.

20 Now our family lives directly on one of the
21 proposed routes and our main spring was considered to be
22 part of Blue End. Our spring water comes directly from
23 Peters Mountain and continues to have this amazing quality.
24 Our natural spring source is located 200 yards from the
25 proposed pipeline corridor. We are concerned about

1 maintaining the quality and quantity of Peters Mountain
2 Water for our family, our neighbors and citizens of Monroe
3 County. If this is to be done, the quality and quantity
4 should be assessed before construction, during construction
5 and for the lifetime of the pipeline.

6 There should be contingency planning in place
7 before construction so that a corporate mitigation can be
8 performed if quantity or quality is damaged. Responsive
9 mitigation strategies should be developed and existence of
10 resources should be verified before construction begins.

11 If this is to be done, we suggest that there be
12 an independent, nongovernmental organization separate from
13 MVP and its successors to monitor water quality and
quantity
14 and have intervention responsibility and capabilities so
15 that mitigation funding be in the form of escrow
substantial
16 enough to last the lifetime of the project; which would
17 essentially be in perpetuity.

18 If this must be done, we recommend that a
19 proactive independent mitigation entity be established
prior
20 to the construction and then an escrow fund be created for
21 the three hundred miles of the project. With initial
escrow
22 of one billion; that's one thousand million dollars per
23 hundred miles, or three billion dollars. Thank you.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

1 Number twenty-three.

2 MR. ABRAMSON: Hi. My name is Seth Abramson.
3 That is Seth S-E-T-H, Abramson A-B-R-A-M-S-O-N. I am a
4 fourth generation resident with my wife here in Monroe
5 County. She comes from Connecticut and has moved down to
6 live with me here for five years. We have come out here to
7 voice our opinions and gather support for the community on
8 this issue that is volatile. And, I'm not sure that you
9 guys understand how threatened this community is by your
10 behavior. The lack of communication, simply rerouting us
11 around the school three times, looking at your watch every
12 twenty seconds. These are all things that build into us
not
13 trusting you.

14 There is an idea in this community that I am
15 purely passing on to you that FERC is a stepping stone to
16 the energy industry. So the community has very little
faith
17 in what is coming through and the integrity of the systems
18 in place to protect the local community. So that being
19 said, I am standing in front of you trying to express how
20 angry and defensive everybody here will be. I could rattle
21 all sorts of environmental statistics off, but I think
22 everybody has covered that quite a bit.

23 What I am trying to communicate is that the
24 social impact of this thing, the social environmental
impact

25 of this thing, when you start to ruin farmers' farms, when

1 you start to threaten these people with eminent domain, you
2 will quickly get something like a wildfire that burns out
of
3 control.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

6 Twenty-four is to talk. I would like twenty-
7 five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine
8 and thirty to come to the front row please.

9 MS. SOUTH: My name is Amy Cole South S-O-U-T-H,
10 and I live on the base of Peters Mountain. We own a farm
11 there where six kids were raised by a very loving father
who
12 taught us everything to enjoy about the mountain and the
13 precious water, and our mother too. But both of them are
14 passed on now and they would want us here fighting for what
15 they believed in and they came back home for. That's what
16 we are fighting for.

17 I'm a farmer and a rental cabin owner. We have
a
18 gentle side of life that God meant for us to live. I would
19 like to load each one of you up and take you to the top of
20 Peters Mountain, so you could see the New River, valley to
21 the west and the mountains. So you could see the New River
22 Valley to the west and the mountains of Virginia to the
23 east. I would like to have you taste the pure mountain
24 spring water. There is none better, just as there is no

25 better view from Peters Mountain.

1 The legendary famed Peters Mountain water has
2 continued and grown as local residents, public water
3 districts and award-winning, commercial spring water
4 companies use the slopes of Peters Mountain for a water
5 supply. On both the Northwest and Southeastern slopes of
6 Peters Mountain, many local residents depend upon untreated
7 groundwater, springs or even surface water for drinking
8 water supplies.

9 It is not uncommon for spring water to be piped
10 thousands of feet from mid-slopes of the mountain to homes
11 in the valley. Public water supplies also depend on Peters
12 Mountain Water including from the South to North along the
13 Northwestern slopes. Red Sulfur public district. The
14 water system, and the Gap Mills public water system. All
15 through all of the Peters Mountain area water is primary
16 resource, produced by the mountain as it feeds the water
17 tributaries of Rich Creek and any creek in the New River
18 Valley into the James River Watershed.

Union

and

19 Both the actual quality and the reputation of
20 Peters Mountain Water are therefore of critical importance
21 to Monroe County and to the region. The quality and the
22 reputation of the waters of Peters Mountain, the gushing
23 springs and the living waters at the foot of Peters

Mountain

24 that we have, MVP or gas line would destroy it. I would be

25 two miles down from this and pure devastation.

1 We are also, I want to talk to you a little bit
2 about the cultural attachment. We were one of the families
3 that were studied cultural attachment when we fought this
4 powerline. There is no difference. This is a much bigger
5 problem. And one thing about it is just like riding to the
6 top of Peters Mountain to catch the best sunset. Could you
7 imagine what that would look like on the top of Peters
8 Mountain? The rocks, there's no way.

9 It's like drinking cold, pure water from the
10 faucet or straight from the creek. Have you ever done
that?

11 Well, I was raised doing that. It's like knowing the
12 square, firm, covered rocks where your father actually went
13 to school. There's a very big cultural attachment and you
14 please need to take that into consideration.

15 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you very much for your
16 comments.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. FRIEDMAN: Number twenty-five.

19 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Maury M-A-U-R-Y
Johnson.

20 I live at the foot of Elliston's Ridge, in the Ham's Creek
21 near Greenville here in Monroe County. My family are among
22 the earliest settlers. I'm a lifelong resident, by the
way.

23 My family is among the earliest settlers in this valley,
24 coming here in the 1700's, some of them. The Johnsons of

of 25 Crawford's Crossroads, the Millers and the Manns, several

1 Springfield, the Cooks and Schenckmans that came from Indy
2 Creek, Hamm's Creek, Elliston's Ridge and Greenville.

this

3 My family has a long, long history of being
4 stewards of the earth and protectors of this county and
5 country. I have many relatives who served their country
6 proudly in the US Military. My brother was killed and
7 buried on my eighth birthday in 1968 in Vietnam. My
8 daughter, who currently serves in the U.S. Navy, is getting
9 ready to do her second deployment to the Persian Gulf.

wants

10 While they stand up for our freedoms, we are
11 under attack by corporations such as the EQT and NextEra,
12 MVP. LLC who want to destroy everything that we hold dear
13 and take property for their private gain. My daughter
14 to come back and build a place overlooking what would be a
15 pipeline route.

16 In my area, they want to endanger many springs,
17 wells, homes, various plants and wildlife. Just a few
18 examples of this area is on my farm is an area where I have
19 managed for over thirty years, woodcocks and whippoorwills
20 in this area, certified by the Forestry Department of
21 Natural Resources. The whippoorwills, I have more there
22 than any place, possibly in any state, West Virginia or
23 Virginia. Last night I counted thirteen separate
24 whippoorwill calls.

25
grounds

We have one of the only certified nesting

1 of American Woodcocks in this state, that has been
2 documented by the WDHHR. They forgot to mention that,
3 however, in their report to you all.

4 If this pipeline is built across my farm, it
5 would go right straight in the middle and almost totally
6 destroy this area, that many people come to enjoy
7 whippoorwill calls. It would also cross bear habitat on
8 Elliston's Ridge, critical eagle habitat. I suspect there
9 is a nest, we just have not found it yet, in the Hamm's
10 creek and Elliston's Ridge and Indy Creek Valleys. Many,
11 I've seen as many as nine, I have pictures of nine eagles
12 last fall.

13 It would cross at the feet of an historic
14 artesian spring on top of Elliston's Ridge. It would also
15 pass closer through many significant springs, wells,
16 wetlands, Karst that feed them and supply the water of the
17 entire area.

18 Real quickly, we have a farmer in our valley.
19 He's not in the pipeline route, but he runs -- the pipeline
20 route runs right down by Hamm's Creek Valley. He's
organic.

21 This puts this man out of business. His milk goes national
22 to a national distributor.

23 I see the thing, getting ready to flash. I
won't
24 have enough time to tell you everything. What I will do, I

25 will send you a letter. Thank you very much.

1 (Applause)

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments. We
3 look forward to your letter.

4 Number twenty-six. Is twenty-six here?

5 Twenty-seven.

6 MR. WALKER: My name is James Walker, J-A-M-E-S
7 W-A-L-K-E-R. I have been here in Monroe County. I live
8 directly on Peters Mountain, and my water source is the
9 spring. This is the only water source I have. When I

asked

10 MVP what they plan to do to protect this water supply at

the

11 last open house that they had, the gentleman I spoke to

when

12 I pressed him for an answer turned his back on me and

walked

13 away. That pretty much, to me, tells me what this company

14 wants to do or what they care about in Monroe County and

the

15 residents of it. This pipeline isn't going to go to Monroe

16 County, it is going to simply go through it. We are going

17 to get no benefit.

18 Besides the water supply, there is a potential

19 loss of water, there are Federal endangered species that

20 reside in Monroe County. One of them is the Virginia big-

21 eared bat. These bats live in caves. There are

22 approximately eighteen sinkholes per square kilometer in

23 Monroe County. Sinkholes lead to caves and caves house

24 bats. These particular bats hibernate in the winter in
25 caves. The risks of these species include disturbance from

things 1 noise, bright lights and human presence. These three
2 will disturb them during their hibernation, causing them to
3 use up their stored food supply and starve to death before
4 spring.

2016. 5 MVP plans on starting this pipeline late in

6 That means winter and that means that these bats are in
7 hibernation. There is an article that appeared in the
8 Roanoke Times on April 20, 2015. It was written by a
9 professor of Physics at Virginia Tech. In it states the
10 best analysis of Marcellus Shale gas extraction and
11 projected future extraction that was published in a book by
12 a petroleum scientist, J. David Hughes. Hughes did a well-
13 by-well analysis and he showed that the extraction peaks at
14 about 2018, the time projected for this completion of the
15 Mountain Valley Pipeline.

get 16 After 2018, the amount of fracked gas available
17 for transport to this pipeline will be starting on a steady
18 decline. The gas companies know this but they want to sell
19 their gas overseas at a much higher price than what they
to 20 here in the United States. These are just a few of the
21 reasons this pipeline's a bad idea. The permanent damage
22 our water supply, the ecosystem and our way of life is just
23 too great a price to pay for corporate greed.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

1 Number 28.

2 MR. ETTTELSON: My name is Richard Ettelson, E-T-
3 T-L-E-S-O-N in Wadeville.

4 The Commission should expand their consideration
5 of alternatives by developing corridors that take the
6 shortest route from the active West Virginia gas fields
7 straight to the state boundary line, so those on the East
8 Coast that will benefit from the Project will have to bear
9 more of the environmental consequences associated with
10 building this line.

11 West Virginia is already burdened by the
negative
12 environmental impacts of gas drilling. Adding to that
13 burden by siting the longest possible gas line through the
14 state isn't fair to the residents who will get none of the
15 gas and will suffer most of the environmental consequences.

16 There is a long history in this country of
17 federal agencies abusing low-income communities by dumping
18 the negative impacts associated with their projects on
areas
19 least able to defend themselves. Executive Order 12898,
20 dated February 11, 1994, was partially written to protect
21 low income populations from disproportionately bearing
22 adverse environmental impacts resulting from federal
23 agencies' activities. Monroe and other of the affected
West
24 Virginia counties are some of the poorest in the state, and

25 West Virginia is the 49th poorest state in the whole

1 country.

2 In addition to the no-action alternative, the
3 environmental impact statement should develop alternative
4 corridors that limit burdens being placed on West
Virginia's
5 low-income communities as a result of this gas line
6 proposal. Environmental justice is an issue.

7 Cultural attachment is another issue that the
8 Commission failed to capture from stakeholder comments.
9 People here have a reverential regard for Peters Mountain;
10 it's a sacred place. The US Forest Service identified
their
11 concern for this cultural attachment issue in their 1996
12 DEIS for a proposed utility corridor crossing Peters
13 Mountain here in Monroe County. They used it as one of
14 their reasons for turning down that project. Cultural
15 attachment is a significant issue. Developing alternatives
16 that avoid slicing across Peters Mountain should be
17 considered in the EIS. Thank you.

18 (Applause).

19 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

20 Number twenty-nine. I would like numbers
thirty,
21 thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four and
22 thirty-five to please come to the front row.

23 MS. YOUNG: Good evening. My name is Jill
Young.

24 I live at the base of Peters Mountain in Zenith, West

25 Virginia. I farm on an organic farm. What I bring to you

1 tonight and what I wish to put in the docket and the record
2 is the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan. It is a plan that
3 was developed in the community, took over three years and
4 multiple planning meetings throughout the county. I think
5 there was twenty-two meetings in the county. Based on the
6 population's participation in the process to define what it
7 was about Monroe County that we wish to preserve.

from

8 I will read from the founding, the direction
9 the County Commissioner to the Planning Commission:

10 The members of the County Commission find there
11 is an innate value in Monroe County, comprised
12 and defined in part by natural environment,
13 abundant water supplies, agricultural influence,
14 locally owned businesses, neighborly small town
15 communities and a wealth of historic character.
16 We contend that these characteristics will only
17 become more valuable in the future, and assert
18 that it is in the cultural, aesthetic and
19 economic interest of both current residents and
20 future generations to recognize assets, create
21 goals and establish a proactive role in the
22 future development of this jurisdiction.

23 The guidelines that the Planning Commission
24 committed to, to follow these guidelines start with: 'To
25 identify and prevent potential threats to our water

1 quality.' You hear everyone talk about our water quality.
2 To prevent increased air pollution and viewshed
protections,
3 to identify and preserve historic and archeologic science,
4 we ask that you also follow these principles. Thank you
for
5 your time.

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

7 Number thirty.

8 MR. PITZER: My name's Jerry Pitzer. I am board
9 member of the Red Sulfur Public Service District in
10 Peterstown, West Virginia. That's J-E-R-R-Y P-I-T-Z-E-R.

11 I want to address a term referred to as cause
12 and effect. That's what we use in the quality assurance
13 program for problem solving. Before I do, I want to do a
14 little background.

15 AUDIENCE: Can't hear you, Jerry.

16 MR. PITZER: Okay. I said I want to address a
17 term referred to as cause and effect, which we use in our
18 quality assurance program for problem solving. Before I
do,
19 I want to introduce a report that was prepared in October
of
20 2005 by West Virginia Rural Water Association concerning
the
21 Peters Mountain Springs in Monroe County and the
Groundwater
22 Protection plan.

primary 23 It says, in summary: Peters Mountain is a
24 source of water supply for Red Sulfur PSD, Town of Union,
25 Gap Mills PSD, The Trout Lodge and Sweet Springs Valley

persons,
water

1 Water Bottling Company and serves over six thousand
2 ordinarily half the county's population. These public
3 systems obtain approximately ninety percent of their
4 drinking water from springs on Peters Mountain.

bedrock

5 They went on to describe the terrain as an
6 underlying geology of strong folds and faults in the
7 in a section of the Appalachian Plateau is dominated by
8 Karst topography, where caverns and sinkholes have been
9 dissolved in the limestone layers of the bedrock.

10 There are generally two types of springs on
11 Peters mountain. The larger of these springs are near the
12 base of the mountain. Much of their recharge occurs at
13 sinkholes and swells, and the size of recharge areas is
14 hundreds of thousands of acres and may be estimated at
15 approximately 1 acre for every gallon per minute of springs
16 flood. They recommend to protect the source water there
17 should be a focus on strategies for managing land use on
18 Peters Mountain which may include timbering, agriculture
and
19 housing development.

Protection

20 Now the RSPSD has in place a Watershed
21 Plan. But unfortunately it does not extend west into the
22 State of Virginia. Within two thousand feet of our
23 protected watershed in Virginia there has been a clear-

24 cutting of timber in ground preparation for new grass.
Last

25 year, there was a massive construction project to install
an

1 eight inch gas line across Peters Mountain and sinkholes
2 were back-filled. Each of these projects no doubt caused a
3 major disturbance to this sensitive geology.

4 Ironically, the RSPSD observed very extreme
5 shifts in the turbidity levels. So far this year, we are
6 testing at one hundred and twenty percent higher than the
7 worst prior year, which incidentally was 2012 when the
8 clear-cutting began. Some might say the heavy spring snow
9 melt along with increased seasonal rainfall contributed to
10 this condition, and I might feel compelled to agree if it
11 were not that two spring runoffs intersect near the
12 treatment plant. Samples were taken from each. The one
13 from the West where the construction area is tested above
14 fifty-two NTUs, which is very cloudy and the one from the
15 East tested at about eight NTUs, much more normal.

16 So this situation leaves me with more questions
17 than answers. Could the cause be related to one or both
18 ground disturbances?

19 MR. FRIEDMAN: Jerry, thank you for your
20 comments. Are you going to be at the meeting with FERC
21 staff this week?

22 MR. PITZER: I sure will be.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Then we will discuss it at
length,
24 then.

25 MR. PITZER: Thank you, I appreciate it.

1 (Applause)

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: You're welcome.

3 Thirty-one.

4 MR. LIVELY: Hello, my name is Michael Lively,
5 that is L-I-V-E-L-Y. I'm the Mayor of Peterstown, West
6 Virginia, which is a little town you passed through when
you
7 came in from the Virginia side of 219. As often with small
8 towns, when any type of project comes to our attention one
9 of the first things that we have to look at is the
potential
10 for economic development --

11 AUDIENCE: We can't hear you.

12 MR. LIVELY: -- and how economic development can
13 help the citizens of our town.

14 When this came through, it didn't take us very
15 long to realize that the economic development potential was
16 pretty much nonexistent, but the potential for devastation
17 is very, very large.

18 I also have another job. I'm not just the
mayor,
19 but I am a CEO of a company that employs twenty-four people
20 so I know how to play the corporate profit game, and I know
21 how important it is. But what I see happening here is you
22 have big corporations that want to pave the golden pipeline
23 to riches on the backs of the fine people that are behind
me

24 tonight and at a dangerously close position to the water
25 supply of the people of my town.

1 We draw our water from the spring waters of
2 Peters Mountain, it serves four thousand people; and on
3 behalf of the town of Peterstown I want to go on record as
4 letting you know that in December 2014 we unanimously
passed
5 a resolution in opposition to this.

6 (Applause)

7 I also want to tell you that while corporate
8 profits are important, sometimes it comes down to a very
9 simple thing. Either you do the right thing or you do the
10 wrong thing, and you are in a position now to help the
11 people of this county and the people of my town by doing
the
12 right thing and stopping this before it is too late. Thank
13 you.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

16 Number thirty-two.

17 MR. HENRITZ: Hi. My name is Howdy Henritz.
18 That's H-O-W-D-Y H-E-N-R-I-T-Z. First of all, Paul, you
19 have been hearing about all his good spring water. There
is
20 a bottle of Sweet Springs Valley Water Company that's been
21 awarded first place for best-tasting water nationwide.

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Howdy.

23 MR. HENRITZ: You're welcome, sir. I have a
24 couple concerns. One of them is, some of us hiked part of

25 the proposed pipeline in Greenville last week and I was

1 astounded by the narrowness of some of the ridges that MVP
2 has staked out as a center line for the proposed route.
One
3 of these ridges is probably less than ten-foot wide,
4 probably has a 50 to 60 degree slope either way; and I was
5 talking to one of the construction engineers this evening
6 and I was asking him how much he needed to get the pipeline
7 across, if you only have a fifteen foot ridge, and he said
8 he would probably have to cut it down to 5- or 60 feet in
9 order to be able to get his equipment and the pipeline in.

10 So essentially, we are looking at mountaintop
11 removal and valley fill in this situation. So, I asked him
12 how he was going to take care of that and he said "Well, in
13 the end we will rebuild that ridgeline to its original
14 contour and shape."

15 (Laughter)

16 Right. So I would like to invite some of the
17 FERC representatives to come walk some of this stuff,
18 because he said he would put the dirt back. There is no
19 dirt. I mean, if you look at the soil surveys in Monroe
20 County, you would be lucky to find twelve, fifteen inches
of
21 dirt anywhere on these ridges. So he is talking about
22 trying to replace rubble on top of rubble, and it's not
23 going to stay.

24 My second concern is I would like to ask FERC to

25 extend the scoping period for the people on the Alternate

route 1 110 in Monroe and Craig Counties, because the original
2 people got like one hundred and thirteen days from the last
3 Mountain Valley Pipeline meeting to scoping was announced.

days. 4 The people on Alternate 110 had twenty-nine

5 To be fair to them, I think you should extend their chance
6 to respond and do research. I know you guys are capable of
7 extending timelines because I did a Freedom of Information
8 Act, and it was supposed to be back to me May 1st and I got
9 a letter yesterday saying you would grant yourself an
10 extension of at least fifteen days.

11 So, it seems that you are capable of being able
12 to extend the pipeline so I would like you to, I mean to
13 extend the comment periods and stuff, so I think the people
14 on 110 deserve extra time than just the twenty-nine days
15 that they had since the last open house.

16 Thank you for your time and appreciate the good
17 water that everybody is talking about; and I hope you say
18 no.

19 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Twenty-four, I'm sorry, number
22 thirty-four.

23 MR. CHASNOFF: I'm Joe Chasnoff C-H-A-S-N-O-F-F.
24 I'm a longtime resident of Monroe County and I live on

is 25 Peters Mountain with the big, bold, beautiful spring that

1 threatened by the MVP construction if it should occur.

2 There are hundreds of private citizens
3 volunteering, dedicating countless hours to the struggle to
4 stop MVP from being built. A lot of that effort is focused
5 in a very constructive way. Citizens are bringing to the
6 FERC's attention detailed information about the geological
7 and hydrological features that make MVP such an ill-
8 conceived, poorly planned, potentially disastrous project.

9 The amount of time and energy going into this
10 effort is unprecedented and the wealth of significant
11 information about the harm to the public that will result
12 from the construction of the MVP, if it is allowed to be
13 built, warrants an unprecedented response from the FERC,
14 with respect to staff hours, days, weeks and months that
15 will be necessary to digest and evaluate the flood of
16 pertinent information that the FERC will receive during the
17 scoping period.

18 I call upon FERC to prepare to be amazed.
Amazed

19 at the richness of the landscapes that MVP proposes to
20 traverse, amazed at the density of these beautiful features
21 in the rugged, mountainous landscape and the rich, fertile
22 valleys and hills that make up this vulnerable, Karst
region

23 of Virginia and West Virginia.

24 The FERC must do what it takes to verify, to
map,

25 to study and to evaluate the information that the public

1 will be submitting. The size of the scope of the job ahead
2 will be gigantic, but it's the responsibility of our
3 government to understand and to respond to the enormity of
4 the potential calamity that MVP represents for this region.
5 The people here are experts about their land, their water,
6 and their lives. Listen to these people.

pre-

7 Topic number two. MVP is described in EQT's
8 filing documents as a fracked gas pipeline, designed to
9 transfer fracked gas from Pennsylvania and West Virginia to
10 distant markets. One cannot study the environmental
effects
11 of this proposal without considering the environmental
12 effects of the gas itself, which is the content and the
13 purpose of this proposed project.

14 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments, Joe.
15 I know you'll submit detailed written comments to the FERC
16 record.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thirty-five.

to

19 At this time I would like numbers thirty-six,
20 thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine and forty to come
21 the front row, please.

22 DR. WAHL: Good evening, and I appreciate to be
23 able to speak with you all. My name is Jeanne Wahl, J-E-A-
24 N-N-E W-A-H-L. I am humbled and as I am sure you are now

25 by the expertise of the people that come here to speak; and

1 I think the most important piece of the evening is that
2 these are people that live with this land. And look how
3 they are coming forward with knowledge and understanding to
4 protect this environment.

5 I'm a family practice physician in Lewisburg,
6 West Virginia, a clinical instructor at the West Virginia
7 School of Osteopathic Medicine. My three oldest children
8 are Air Force pilots and have all served and are veterans.
9 My father was a World War II veteran. My husband is a
10 Vietnam veteran.

11 This to me is an exercise in elemental democracy
12 that we are here together to do. It's just a little
13 disturbing to me that it's almost like we're on our knees
14 here, petitioning FERC, who is the only protection for us,
15 against this invasion by the Mountain Valley Pipeline.
16 Please, please have the courage, I can't imagine what
forces
17 you all come up against to promote this, and I'm sure that
18 you're not really aware but sometimes the answers that
19 you're giving are evidence to us that you are speaking long
20 and hard with the people that are trying to put this into
21 place.

22 The videos you showed show the pipeline nicely
23 through some flat plains. That's not what is going on
here.
24 There is a rush to do this without enough understanding of

25 the real consequences. Please be our advocate and thank
you

1 for your time.

2 I have one quote that I would like to share. I
3 am reading a book about Grace O'Malley, she's an Irish sea
4 captain, talking about different problems in Ireland, and
5 she turned to her son and said, "These foreigners appeal to
6 our greed and they offer us tufts of wind, while they are
7 stealing our true gold."

8 So please, be our protectors in this situation.
9 We are not as well-funded as MVP or any of these
10 corporations, but this is the heart of the people speaking
11 to you.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments and I
14 would like to say I agree, that in my opinion, just like in
15 yours, this is an eminently democratic way to allow the
16 public to express their views.

17 Number thirty-six.

18 MS. LEAH-BRYSON: Hi, my name is Autumn Leah-
19 Bryson, L-E-A-H B-R-Y-S-O-N. I'm an environmental
20 scientist. I got my master's degree from West Virginia
21 University and I'm also a board member of the Greenbriar
22 River Watershed Association and a resident of Greenbriar
23 County.

24 There are numerous pipelines and associated
25 facilities proposed for this region. One crossing the

1 headwaters of the Greenbriar and one crossing the lower
2 Greenbriar. In reviewing this project, consider the
3 cumulative impacts of the pipeline on the region's natural
4 resources. For the life-span of the pipeline, including
5 what happens when the pipeline is decommissioned. Please
6 evaluate a no-action alternative and consider using
existing
7 pipelines and rights-of-way. Evaluate the effects of
8 construction on erosion and sedimentation and the
9 probability of landslides on steeper slopes.

10 Topsoil is rich in nutrients and vital for
carbon
11 storage and plant growth. Evaluate how the construction
12 will contribute to the loss of topsoil and how to mitigate
13 this impact. Local surface water will be needed for the
14 hydrostatic testing. Evaluate where they plan to get the
15 water for the pressure test and whether they will conduct a
16 basin transport or return the water to the original
17 watershed from which it was taken.

18 Evaluate the methods used to cross streams and
19 rivers and how to mitigate or minimize the impacts from
20 pipeline crossings. The proposed pipeline route would
cross
21 native trout streams. How would the construction of the
22 pipeline avoid or minimize impacts for these fisheries that
23 are important to the local ecology and economy?

will 24 Estimate the acreage of interior forest that
25 be fragmented and how will the resulting spread of invasive

1 species be controlled. This region is rich in Native
2 American artifacts including projectile points, burial
3 sites, rock shelters. How will the pipeline impact these
4 resources and what efforts will be taken to avoid
disturbing
5 these culturally significant areas?

6 Organic agriculture is an important aspect of
7 this region's economy. How will the pipeline affect the
8 organic certification of nearby farms? There will also be
9 impacts to the aesthetic value of this area. Evaluate how
10 those impacts will affect areas depending on the aesthetic
11 value for recreation and tourism.

12 Please perform a cost/benefit analysis to
13 evaluate both the economic benefits and cost from the
14 proposed pipeline. Include the amount of tax revenue
15 generated from the pipeline compared to the pipeline
16 construction's burden on the local infrastructure and the
17 decreased revenue from the job and property values in close
18 proximity to the pipeline.

19 This property will contribute a significant
20 amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Please conduct a
21 complete emissions inventory and how the emissions will
22 impact the health of nearby residents. Evaluate the
23 cumulative impacts on forest fragmentation and impacts to
24 the region's resiliency to climate change.

25 To what degree will the pipeline construction

1 result in increased natural gas development in the area and
2 evaluate the spacing of emergency shutoff valves.

3 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you so much for your
4 comments, and if you have additional things that you would
5 like to tell the FERC, please write us a detailed letter.
6 We would like to read them.

7 MS. LEAH-BRYSON: I will, don't worry.

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thirty-seven.

9 (Applause).

10 MR. LIEBMAN: My name is Bob Liebman. That's L-
11 I-E-B as in Bob, M-A-N. I live in Monroe County and I'm
12 very concerned about what's happening here. I have a bunch
13 of things here that I'm just going to mention, without
going
14 into too much detail.

15 First of all, there is an endangered species,
the
16 Spnymussell.

17 AUDIENCE: We can't hear you, Bob.

18 MR. LIEBMAN: Okay, I'm going to mention this
19 Spnymussell that's a little bit in West Virginia and
20 there's some of it in Craig County, Virginia. It used to
be
21 all the way to the Atlantic Ocean and now there is just
this
22 little bit left over.

23 The proposed pipeline is near the fire tower on

to 24 Peters Mountain. The fire tower is the second best place
25 do birdwatching. People come from all over the Eastern

the 1 U.S., and at the fire tower they take pictures and count
2 birds as they go north and south. They see some Bald
3 Eagles, there's Golden Eagles. The Golden Eagle is
4 protected by the Endangered Species and the Bald Eagle is
5 protected by the government, having just come off the
6 endangered list.

7 The West Virginia DNR, when they study things
8 they study the entire watershed area that these animals are
9 in and hopefully that will be done. A forty-two inch pipe
10 is what they want to put in. That's much too big, much too
11 large. There are two endangered species of bats as well as
12 a lot of other species, endangered bats go into the caves
to 13 hibernate and we will see in the warmer months, and they
14 will be in caves or in trees. These bats okay.

15 The proposed line goes right over a cave called
16 Steel's Cave, that's about a mile or so from Union, which
is 17 a county seat; and it also is the head waters for Indian
18 Creek. That should not be disturbed at all. On the other
19 hand, earthquakes are something to think about, where not
to 20 long ago--

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Bob, we know you want to wrap up,
22 and whatever detailed comments you want to submit we would
23 be glad to see at the FERC.

24 MR. LIEBMAN: Was the light working?

25 MR. FRIEDMAN: Yes, it was. So number thirty-

1 nine.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. FRIEDMAN: I would like to ask number forty,
4 forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, forty-five

to

5 come to the front row.

6 MS. MARENACK: Good evening, my name is Carli
7 Marenack, C-A-R-L-I M-A-R-E-N-E-C-K. My husband and I
8 moved to Sweet Springs in 1974. Built our house looking at
9 Peters Mountain and raised two children here in Monroe
10 County. My husband died five years ago and our farm will
11 pass on to my son. The springs that surge from Peters
12 Mountain are bold, clear, pristine waters. Undoubtedly
13 there is continuous watershed that exists beneath this
14 mountain.

15 What will our children inherit if this
industrial

16 pipeline is allowed to disrupt our watersheds? Cancer,
17 explosions? When I asked MVP representatives about the
18 Sissonville explosion, they remarked "Oh, well, that was an
19 old pipeline." The proposed pipeline will also become old.
20 Where would the company be then? They would file for
21 bankruptcy and be nowhere in our area.

22 When I asked about the potential contamination
of
23 water both through the excavation or the gas leaks that
24 could happen, the MVP representatives said that the

25 landowners would be taken care of immediately. When
pressed

1 for details on what this exactly meant, it meant bottled
2 water and a motel room. I'm wondering when people in power
3 might realize that if we continue to pollute our waters,
4 there won't be any clean water to ship in from adjoining
5 states.

6 FERC is very careful to distance itself from the
7 policies on fracking, but the pipelines carry fracked gas,
8 and fracking causes irrevocable damage to water. Mountain
9 Valley Pipeline should not be considered for eminent domain
10 because their project is not in the public interest of
11 anyone in the construction zone. As citizens, many of us
12 feel the decisions are being rushed based on money and
13 behind closed doors.

14 FERC says it cares about the comments of
15 citizens. In that case, there should be a minimum of two
16 scoping meetings for each county that is affected. This
17 pipeline belongs nowhere in West Virginia. FERC has the
18 power to protect our water. It is your duty to do so.
19 Please act on our behalf.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

22 Number forty.

23 Number forty is not here. Number forty-one

24 MS. OKAMERA-JOHNSON: My name is Sabrina

Okamera-

25 Johnson. S-A-B-R-I-N-A O-K-A-M-E-R-A hyphen or a dash J-
O-

1 H-N-S-O-N.

2 Basically, my husband and I live at the bottom
of
3 Peters Mountain and we receive our home water supply from
4 the most delicious waters we have heard from Peters
5 Mountain. So we are of course very concerned about these
6 comments that have been raised about water quality.

7 In reviewing the notice of intent to prepare the
8 EIS, I concur with many of the statements that have been
9 provided tonight. With regard to the environmental issues,
10 I think that environmental justice is an important aspect
11 that should be included in the EIS that you are preparing.

12 I am also extremely concerned just with the
13 transportation and circulation impacts associated with full
14 implementation of the Project during construction as well
as
15 operation. I would assume that there would be a traffic
16 impact study, essentially to identify areas in our
17 community, not just Monroe County but the whole alignment,
18 where there is potential for road widening, new lanes for
19 passing, and improvements of shoulders to make it safe for
20 all of our population in the area. With regard to the
21 cumulative impacts, I think that should be expanded on.

The
22 idea of the alternatives in recognizing the multiple
23 alignments that should be included in your analysis.

24 One alternative, and again, this is concerning

25 the land usages that have been brought up, but specifically

1 the agricultural importance of land use in our area and the
2 fledgling organic businesses that are developing, one of
the
3 alternatives I would like to have you consider is possibly
4 to have an alternative alignment that would not use
5 pesticide as part of their management due to the
6 contamination of our waters.

7 Also, the other thing is I would really like to
8 see a no-Peters Mountain alignment alternative and the idea
9 of collocation alignment to identify those multiple
10 easements and proposals that are out there, and do a bigger
11 view of utility easements that they might be able to
12 collocate with. Anyway, thank you very much.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

15 Number forty-two.

16 MS. ABRAMSON: My name is Jessica Mola-Abramson,
17 M-O-L-A-A-B-R-A-M-S-O-N. I'm the secretary of Preserve
18 Monroe and I have been a resident of Monroe County for the
19 last six years. I came here from Connecticut and have
lived
20 in many other places in my life. There is no place in the
21 world like Monroe County.

22 (Applause)

23 The cultural attachment of residents of this
area
24 to the land is as unique as the land itself. Look around

25 you. We love this place as it is. We love our pristine

1 landscape, our clean air and water. We do not need or want
2 a forty-two inch natural gas pipeline cutting through our
3 properties leaving a scar across our beloved Peters
4 Mountain.

5 I may not be a landowner directly along either
of
6 the proposed routes; however, I consider myself a steward
of
7 this county and if any property in Monroe County or Craig
or
8 Summers or Montgomery or any county along the route is
9 affected by this pipeline, then I am affected. We are all
10 affected.

11 I urge the FERC to deny the permit for the
12 Mountain Valley Pipeline. I would also request that the
13 FERC add additional scoping meetings to your schedule; that
14 only six meeting have been scheduled for seventeen affected
15 counties is appalling. You, yourself admit for example
that
16 the DOT should be here but is not. Please at least make it
17 appear that you would like to listen to us and to all of
the
18 counties affected by the proposed MVP.

19 I am so proud to stand here with my friends and
20 neighbors in solidarity against the Mountain Valley
21 Pipeline. We do not want it. Not here, not there, not
22 anywhere.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

25 Number forty-three. Number forty-three?

1 Number forty-four.

2 MR. EADES: Thank you for the opportunity to
3 speak tonight. I am Rick Eades, E-A-D-E-S. I am a
4 geologist; went to West Virginia University, graduated with
5 honors. Got a Master's degree from U-Mass. I have worked
6 twenty-six years in the field, doing a lot of what you're
7 doing, environment impact studies were one of the things we
8 did at Science Applications International Corporation,
9 Midwest Research Institute, and others.

10 I teach high school right here. I teach physics
11 right here at James Monroe High School now, last seven
12 years. I got here largely because of the springs of Monroe
13 County. As a hydrogeologist at U-Mass, that is what we
14 really studied was groundwater the entire time. My
15 focused on Boston's water supply. This water supply is
16 more pristine.

Master's

much

17 Let's put some numbers to what people have been
18 talking about tonight. We have three springs here,
19 documented back from the 1930's by the West Virginia
20 Geological and Economic Survey, that are pumping out over a
21 thousand gallons a minute. These are the very ones that
22 pepper the entire side of the mountain. About a fifty mile
23 expanse. The recharge area is poorly understood. I would
24 challenge the EIS to document clearly where all of that

rain

25 is recharging these springs because that is about 5 billion

1 gallons of water a year.

2 The three springs feed Turkey Creek, Rich Creek
3 and Dropping Lick Creek. Just three trout streams, two of
4 them reproducing, one of them home of aquaculture. We like
5 to look at the economic impacts from an environmental
6 problem. It could knock out a trout hatchery that has
7 raised three million trout a year. We have other springs
8 that are raising tens of thousands of trout. We have a
9 bottled water industry. You've heard from Howdy Henritz
10 tonight, that's about a million dollars a year in sales.

11 I would like to know exactly how will the EIS
12 define the recharge area? This mountain has been folded
and
13 faulted. It's not like the other counties where the
14 pipeline will come through in West Virginia. Those are in
15 the Allegheny Plateau. These folds and faults have
16 fractured the mountain. The steepness is extraordinary.
17 Without dye testing, I am not sure how you are going to do
18 an environmental impact study or tell me how the recharge
is
19 not going to be affected from the disturbed land, from
20 construction and operation and maintenance.

21 Should the pipeline leak, as many have testified
22 tonight have asked you with the EIS, look at the age. The
23 specifications on the pipelines we see leaking all over the
24 country. About one million, seven hundred thousand miles

25 under some data bases in the country today on gas pipelines.

acid 1 What we're seeing is one common factor. Exacerbated by
2 rain, which we have here. Exacerbated by shallow soils,
3 which we have here. Steep landscapes, which we have here.
4 A lot of corrosion, a lot of problems.

5 Define the recharge area accurately, completely,
6 protect not just those springs, but WVU found two hundred
in 7 a six mile section a few years back. So I think your hands
8 will be full just doing hydrogeology. We will look forward
9 to seeing it. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

12 Did you say you once worked for Science
13 Applications?

14 MR. EADES: I worked for them for seven years,
15 yes.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: I worked for them a long time
ago.

17 Number forty-five. I would like number forty-
18 six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine and fifty to come
19 to the front row.

20 MS. ROSSER: Good evening. I'm Angie Rosser, R-
21 O-S-S-E-R, and I'm representing the West Virginia Rivers
22 Coalition. We are a statewide water quality advocacy
23 organization based out of Charleston, West Virginia with a
24 special interest in preserving the state's valuable springs

25 and headwaters, as here in Monroe County. The proposed MVP

1 route will potentially impact source waters for drinking
2 water supplies, fishing and recreation and farm communities
3 downstream. These Monroe County waters, sourced from a
4 corridor along Peters Mountain are some of the highest
5 quality and largest quantity water that exist in this state
6 and region.

7 As the FERC begins the EIS process, we urge
8 thorough research and analysis on the following: Identify
9 and quantify all aquifers, springs, streams, rivers and
10 wetland crossings along the proposed routes with special
11 emphasis on the geologically complex valley-enriched Karst
12 terrains of Monroe County and the surrounding region.

13 For these identified waters that may be crossed,
14 research the base flow for each, the most current data
15 assessing biological conditions, details on Clean Water Act
16 permitted sites near these crossings, locations of
17 downstream drinking water intakes, flow and chemistry at
18 these intakes and numbers of customers served; and the
19 extent of the disturbance to surface waters and spring
20 recharge zones which in Monroe County may exceed fifty
21 square miles or over thirty-two thousand acres of pristine
22 recharge areas for these complex Karst settings.

23 We also want to see an accounting for the
24 potential impacts on fisheries, their ecology and economic
25 benefits with specific research on impacts to rare

1 reproducing trout streams on both sides of Peters Mountain.

2 And finally, from a cumulative impact
standpoint,

3 it's essential to evaluate impacts of disturbing springs,
4 recharge areas, Karst terrains and streams and all aspects
5 of hydrology and groundwater, especially those jeopardizing
6 public drinking water, bottled water businesses,
aquaculture
7 and downstream communities and farmers.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

11 Number forty-six. Number forty-six? Number
12 forty-seven. Forty-eight, forty-nine and fifty should be
in
13 the front row.

14 MS. COVINGTON: Hi folks. I'm glad you made it.
15 I'm glad to see you here. I'm trying to seek a little
16 common ground with you and so let me tell you.

17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Did you tell us your name?

18 MS. COVINGTON: I'm sorry. My name is Beth B-E-
19 T-H Covington C-O-V-I-N-G-T-O-N. I live in Monroe County.
20 I am not on the proposed pipeline, but I am a quarter mile
21 away from it. I am a dairy goat farmer. I am in the
22 process of becoming a grade A dairy and I am going to seek
23 organic certification.

24 I try to make my decisions based on something my

25 Dad told me. My Dad was a Marine, he was a very practical

1 person, and he said "Get the facts and make a list of pros
2 and cons," which I have done.

to

3 Now I know that that little red light is going
4 start flashing, so I am not going to read all the pros and
5 cons, but to summarize, I did my list, my multi-page list
6 here. I even considered what pros might there be for this
7 pipeline; jobs for locals, maybe we'll get some gas you

know

8 or maybe there is some big tax money and these things are
9 just dust. They are really, they're not going to give jobs
10 to people here; it's just an illusion.

11 So I went onto the con side of things and as you
12 can see I have come up with a few here. I really, just to
13 give you a little bit, climate change. I will talk really
14 fast: climate change, greenhouse gases, irreversible
15 impacts, environmental damage, deadly explosions. By the
16 way, enjoy your time in the potential impact radius here at
17 James Monroe High School. Leaks into the air, water,
18 ruining existing wells and springs, noise pollution,
19 erosion, lower property values, invasion of privacy from
20 surveys, overriding property rights through eminent domain,
21 wrecking the community, harming wildlife, breaking up
22 habitats, destroying natural beauty.

23 If you're noticing I might be repeating what
24 other speakers have said, take note of that. Because if

25 you're hearing it over and over again that should be an

1 exclamation point. I will go on until the yellow light's
2 done there. It interferes with the freedom of religion,
3 because this land is a church to many. This wrecks roads,
4 there's dangerous traffic from the construction --

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: And I know you'll send the rest
of
6 your list to the FERC.

7 MS. COVINGTON: I will send the rest to the
FERC.

8 (Applause).

9 MR. FRIEDMAN: I appreciate that.

10 Forty-eight.

11 Is forty-eight here?

12 Forty-nine.

13 Fifty, forty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three. Did
14 someone even acknowledge that they are a number here?

15 Can fifty-four and fifty-five come to the front
16 row, please?

17 MS. DUNBAR: Hello. My name is Autumn Dunbar
and

18 I am a teacher here at James Monroe and a lifelong resident
19 of Monroe County. My family and I live on Peters Mountain
20 and the pipeline is proposed to come through our property.

21 My concern is not only for the precious water
and
22 pristine landscape that have been mentioned over and over
23 and over there but it is for my children. I have two small

24 girls and a husband who often works late into the evening

25 which leaves us alone on a very rural farm, in a rural area

1 where there will be hundreds of strange men from all parts
2 of the world. How easy would it be for a terrorist to find
3 employment working for this pipeline and get access to all
4 of the plans, materials and the inner workings of it? This
5 access makes it very easy for a terror group to make an
6 unprecedented attack on American soil that could make 9/11
7 look like child's play.

8 Another concern I have about the pipeline and
the
9 hundreds of men from out of town who will be moving in and
10 crowding into our small community: If you look at the man
11 camps that have been set up from fracking in other states,
12 the statistics on the increase in crime rate are
13 astronomical.

14 Unless an extensive background check is done on
15 each of these men from out of town, then the frack
companies
16 or MVP can personally guarantee that there will be an
17 extensive background check, you cannot guarantee the safety
18 of me, my children or the countless other numbers of women
19 and children in the pack with this monster.

20 It will be you that is responsible for any
21 injury, molestation, rape or death of any of us. If you
are
22 willing to assume this responsibility and your conscience
23 has no reservations about the men being brought in, then
24 that needs to be made explicitly clear to every mother,

25 father, grandparent and other family member, because no

the 1 amount of money you can pay in restitution can take away
2 damage already done by these strangers.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

5 54. Okay, there is no fifty-four. We have gone
6 through our speaker's list.

7 So on behalf of the Federal Regulatory Energy
8 Commission, I want to thank you all for coming here tonight
9 to help us focus the environmental review process on those
10 issues of concern to you.

11 Let the record show this meeting concluded at
12 9:38. Thanks again.

13 (Whereupon, at 9:30 p.m., the evening scoping
14 meeting concluded.)

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