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BEFORE THE

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - - x

IN THE MATTER OF: : Project No.

PENNEAST PIPELINE PROJECT : PF15-1-000

- - - - - x

Ballroom
Road
08628

West Trenton
40 W Upper Ferry
West Trenton, NJ

2015

Wednesday, February 25,

The above-entitled matter came on for Scoping Meeting, pursuant to notice, at 6:00 p.m., Medha Kochhar, the moderator.

24

25

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

2 (6:00 p.m.)

3 MS. KOCHHAR: Good evening. On behalf of the
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also known as FERC,
or

5 Commission, I would like to welcome all of you here
tonight.

6 This is a scoping meeting for the PennEast Pipeline Project
7 planned by PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC. We will refer
as
8 PennEast.

9 Let the record show that the public scoping
10 meeting in West Trenton, New Jersey began at 6:00 p.m. on
11 February 25, 2015.

12 The primary purpose of this meeting is to
provide
13 you an opportunity to comment on the project or on the
scope
14 of the environmental analysis for the project.

15 Please note that this is not a hearing. There
16 will be no sworn testimony taken, although we do have a
17 court reporter who will transcribe everyone's comments and
18 questions so they can be made as part of the record for
this
19 proceeding and they can be appropriately addressed.

20 My name is Medha Kochhar. And I am the
21 environmental project manager for the project. I am with
22 the Commission's Office of Energy Projects. With me at the

23 table tonight is Alex Dankanich at the far end of the
table.

24 He is from U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and

25 Hazardous Material Safety Administration, referred to as

1 PHMSA.

2 Also here with me tonight from FERC are Alisa
3 Lykens and David Hanovick, they are outside at the sign-in
4 table. In addition to that we have John Scott from Tetra
5 Tech. We also have Nathalie Schils from Tetra Tech. They
6 are our contractors from Tetra Tech and they are helping us
7 in the assistance of environmental review of the project.

8 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an
9 independent agency that regulates interstate transmission
of
10 electricity, natural gas, and oil. It has up to five
11 Commissioners who are appointed by the President of the
12 United States with the advice and consent of the Senate.
13 Commissioners serve five year terms and have an equal vote
14 on regulatory matters.

15 FERC has about 1,200 staff employees. FERC
16 reviews proposals for the construction and operation of
17 interstate natural gas pipelines, storage facilities, and
18 liquefied natural gas terminals, as well as the licensing
19 and inspection of hydroelectric projects.

20 As a federal licensing agency the FERC has the
21 responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act
22 or NEPA to consider the potential environmental impacts
23 associated with the project which is under its
24 consideration.

25
various

The environmental review must comply with

1 federal environmental laws and regulations including, but
2 not limited to, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act,
3 Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
4 Conservation and Management Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act,
5 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and National Historic
6 Preservation Act.

7 The FERC is the lead federal agency for the NEPA
8 review and the preparation of the environmental impact
9 statement or EIS for this project.

10 In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
has
11 expressed interest to participate as a cooperating agency
in
12 the preparation of the EIS and will use the EIS to meet its
13 NEPA requirements.

14 As I said earlier, the primary purpose of this
15 meeting tonight is to give you an opportunity to comment on
16 the project or on the environmental issues that you would
17 like to see covered in the EIS. It will help us most if
18 your comments are as specific as possible, regarding the
19 potential environmental impacts of and the reasonable
20 alternatives for the planned project.

21 Issues generally focus on the potential for
22 environmental impacts, but may also address construction
and
23 restoration issues, mitigation, and the environmental
review

24 process.

25 At the speaker sign-in table we have comment

1 forms you may use to provide written comments tonight. Or
2 you may have already prepared written comments that you
3 would like to present to us. We can take them and have
them
4 filed for you in the docket for this project when we get
5 back to the office.

6 So tonight's agenda is a simple one. First I'm
7 going to describe the environmental review process and the
8 Commission's role. Then Alex will speak about DOT's role
9 and process. Then the project sponsor will provide a brief
10 description of the project. After that we will hear from
11 those of you who have signed up to speak. We will go in
the
12 order you signed up. So if you would like to give comments
13 tonight, please be sure to sign the speakers' list. Make
14 sure you sign your name legibly so we can read it properly
15 for you.

16 Thank you.

17 Now, I will describe our environmental review
18 process. To illustrate how this process works, we have
19 prepared a flow chart which is outside on a poster. It is
20 also provided as part of the pre-filing review document
21 which is available outside at the sign-in table. Also near
22 the sign-in table you can go back and pick up the form if
23 you want, you will have your own copy of the flow chart.

24 At this time we are at the beginning of our

25 environmental review process and are in the public input

1 opportunities part. In November 2014, PennEast held four
2 open houses which gave PennEast a chance to meet with
3 affected land owners and other interested parties to
explain
4 more about the project. It also provided us an opportunity
5 to introduce our agency and explain our role in the
process.

6 The FERC approved PennEast's request to begin
the
7 pre-filing process for the PennEast Pipeline Project on
8 October 10, 2014. This began our review of the project.
9 The purpose of this pre-filing process is to encourage the
10 early enrollment of interested stakeholders and the early
11 identification and resolution of environmental issues.

12 As of today, no formal application has been
filed
13 with the FERC. However, FERC, along with other federal,
14 state, and local agencies and their staff have begun review
15 of the project.

16 On January 13, 2015, FERC issued a notice of
17 intent, we call it an NOI, to prepare an EIS for this
18 project and initiated a scoping period. The scoping
process
19 is a learning process. It is where we educate ourselves
20 about the project and potential environmental issues and
21 many issues about the project have been provided in
comments
22 that have already been filed with the Commission since the

23 pre-filing process began in October 2014.

24 The scoping or comment period announced in the

25 NOI was February 12, 2015. On January 22nd, 2015, we

1 announced that the scoping period will close on February
2 27th, 2015.

3 Once scoping is finished, our next step will be
4 to analyze the company's proposal and the issues that have
5 been identified during the scoping period. This will
6 include an examination of the planned facility locations as
7 well as alternative sites or routes.

8 We will assemble information from a variety of
9 sources including PennEast, the public, other state local,
10 federal agencies and our own independent analysis and field
11 check.

12 We will assess the project's effects on water
13 resources, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, endangered
14 species, cultural resources, soils, geology, land use, air
15 quality, noise and safety, and also the cumulative impacts.

16 When complete our analysis of the potential
17 impacts will be issued as a draft EIS. It will be mailed
to
18 all interested parties, and it will have a 45-day comment
19 period during which time we typically schedule public
20 comment meetings for the draft EIS. Comments on the draft
21 EIS received at the public comment meetings and filed
either
22 electronically or by mail will be addressed in the final
EIS
23 for the project.

24 The mailed version of the EIS is usually on a
CD.

25 That means unless you tell us otherwise, you will get a
copy

copy 1 of the EIS on a CD. If you prefer to have a paper hard
2 mailed to you, you must indicate that choice on the return
3 mailer attached to the NOI.

4 Also it is likely that the appendices for the
5 hard copy will be provided on a CD because pure size and
6 volume.

7 As I mentioned earlier, the issuance of the NOI
8 open the formal comment period that will close on February
9 27th, 2015. However, we will continue to take and address
10 your comments throughout our review process beyond this
11 date.

12 We ask that you file your comments as soon as
13 possible or by February 27th in order to give us time to
14 analyze and research your issues.

15 If you received the NOI in the mail, you are on
16 our mailing list and will remain on our mailing list to
17 receive the EIS and any other documents that are -- that
are 18 issued on this project unless you return the mailer
attached 19 to the back of the NOI and indicate you wish to be removed
20 from the mailing list.

21 If you did not receive the NOI and you should
22 have, I apologize. There are extra copies of the NOI
23 available at the sign-in table. You can be added to our

24 mailing list by signing up at the speakers' sign-in table
or
25 by filing comments on the project and including your
mailing

1 address in your comments.

2 If you have filed comments that included your
3 address within the comment, and it is clearly readable, you
4 have been added to the mailing list.

5 I would like to add that FERC encourages
6 electronic filing of all comments and other documents. The
7 pre-filing handout that's available at the sign-in table
and
8 the NOI explain FERC's e-filing system and provide
9 instructions for mailing comments.

10 Instructions for using the e-filing system are
11 also on our website, www.ferc.gov under the e-filing link.
12 It is very important that any comments you send either
13 electronically or by traditional mail include our internal
14 docket number for the project. That will ensure that the
15 members of the staff evaluating the project will get your
16 comments as soon as possible. The docket number for this
17 PennEast Pipeline Project is PF15-1-000. Again, P as in
18 Peter, F as in Frank 15-1-000.

19 In addition, we offer a free service called
20 e-subscription which automatically notifies you by e-mail
of
21 all issuances and filings and provides you with a link to
22 access the documents. You can register for the this
service
23 at our website under the e-subscription link, the NOI, and
24 the forms at the sign-in table also provide these

25 instructions.

1 Now, I want to explain the roles of the
2 Commission and the FERC environmental staff. The
3 five-member Commission is responsible for making a
4 determination on whether to issue a certificate of public
5 convenience and necessity to an applicant. In this case
the
6 applicant will be PennEast. The EIS prepared by the FERC
7 environmental staff, of which I am a part, will describe
the
8 project facilities and associated environmental impacts,
9 alternatives to the project or parts of the project,
10 mitigation to avoid or to reduce impacts, and the
11 environmental staff's conclusions and recommendations.

12 This EIS is not a decisionmaking document. It
is
13 being prepared to disclose to the public and to the
14 Commission the environmental impact of conducting and
15 operating the proposed project.

16 The Commission will consider the environmental
17 information from the final EIS along with the known
18 environmental issues such as engineering, marketing, rates
19 in making its decision to approve or deny PennEast's
request
20 for a certificate.

21 There is no review of the Commission's decision
22 by the president or Congress maintaining FERC's
independence
23 as a regulatory agency.

24 Now, that I've gone through the FERC process, I
25 would like to hand it over to Alex so that he can give an

1 explanation of DOT's role. Alex.

2 MR. DANKANICH: Thank you Medha.

3 Good evening. Everybody in the back of the
room,

4 can you hear me?

5 Excellent. My name is Alex Dankanich. I'm an
6 engineer with the Eastern Region Office of Pipeline Safety
7 which is a branch of the U.S. DOT Pipeline and Hazardous
8 Material Safety Administration, commonly referred to as
9 PHMSA.

10 I'd like to thank FERC for the opportunity to
11 provide an overview of PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety
12 program. PHMSA does not have the authority to approve
13 pipeline projects, issue permits or prescribe location or
14 routing of pipeline facilities. PHMSA's jurisdiction
begins

15 once a project is approved and then PHMSA and our state
16 partners work to ensure that pipeline facilities are
17 constructed, operated, and maintained in compliance with
18 federal safety regulations.

19 If PennEast Pipeline Company receives permission
20 from FERC for this natural gas pipeline project, PHMSA's
21 Office of Pipeline Safety will provide the regulations for
22 the construction and safe transportation of natural gas
23 through the the transportation -- through the pipeline
24 facilities and will maintain regulatory oversight over the

25 safety of the pipeline facilities through its operation.

1 PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety will perform
2 safety inspections on the natural gas pipeline facilities
as
3 well on PennEast's plans, procedures, and records to ensure
4 that the design and construction are in compliance with
5 Title 49, Code of Federal Regulation Part 192, which are
the
6 minimum federal safety standards for the transportation of
7 natural gas by pipeline.

8 This oversight includes inspections to ensure
9 that suitable materials are used in the construction
10 process, that welding is performed in accordance with
11 federal standards by qualified welders, that the pipeline
is
12 installed to the required depth, that the is protected from
13 corrosion, that it contains pressure limiting devices and
is
14 properly tested before use.

15 Beyond the construction process, PHMSA conducts
16 periodic inspections of operation and maintenance
17 requirements as outlined in Title 49 CFR, Code of Federal
18 Regulation Part 192. The operator must establish
19 comprehensive written procedures describing the type and
20 frequency of monitoring to ensure the continued safe
21 operation of the pipeline. The monitoring that an operator
22 must perform includes monitoring the operation of external
23 corrosion prevention programs, inspecting and testing of

24 control -- of pressure control devices, inspection and
25 operating transmission line valves, and patrolling the

1 pipeline right-of-way.

2 In addition to this monitoring, PHMSA pipeline
3 safety regulations require natural gas transmission
pipeline
4 operators to implement integrity management programs where
5 the pipeline goes through a highly populated area. These
6 integrity management programs require periodic integrity
7 assessments of natural gas transmission pipeline. These
8 assessments provide a comprehensive understanding of the
9 pipeline condition.

10 Inline inspection tools that are frequently
11 referred to as smart pigs provide detailed information
about
12 the pipeline condition. During an inline inspection,
13 sensors and computers are sent through the pipeline. These
14 devices indicate pipe deformations, if any, and if any
15 changes in the wall thickness of the pipeline has occurred.
16 By analyzing the data collected through these inline
17 inspection operations the operator can locate and repair
18 areas of the pipeline that may have become deteriorated.

19 A well-constructed and maintained pipeline also
20 must be properly operated. Operators must ensure that
21 personnel performing operations, maintenance or emergency
22 response functions are qualified to perform these
functions.

23 Operators must implement training and testing programs for
24 these employees and for the contractors who they employ

25 whose performance is crucial to maintaining the safety of

1 the pipeline and the pipeline facilities.

2 Pipeline operators must also implement a public
3 awareness program to improve the awareness of pipeline
4 within communities. Operators communicate pipeline safety
5 information to local public officials, the public living
6 along the pipeline right-of-way, emergency responders, and
7 excavators. Public awareness programs also emphasize the
8 importance of calling 811 prior to anybody performing
9 excavation near a pipeline or any underground facility. A
10 call to 811 provides notification to all participating
11 utility owners in that area that include pipeline operators
12 to mark the locations of their facilities and monitor the
13 excavation to help ensure that their facilities or
14 underground facilities are not damaged.

15 Pipeline operators are also required to have
16 written emergency plans in place prior to the operation of
17 the pipeline facilities. These programs require operators
18 to establish and maintain liaison with fire, police, and
19 other public officials, to acquaint the officials and the
20 operator with their respective responsibilities and
21 resources in planning for and responding to emergencies.
22 These emergency plans must, at a minimum, provide for
23 establishing and maintaining communication, prompt and
24 effective response, and the availability of personnel,
25 equipment, tools, and materials as needed at the scene of a

1 potential emergency.

2 These plans help both the operator and the
3 emergency responders know their roles, responsibilities,
and
4 available resources prior to the need or a response.

5 If PHMSA's safety inspections find inadequate
6 procedures or that an operator is not following their
7 procedures, PHMSA is authorized to require remedial action,
8 PHMSA can assess civil penalties, and PHMSA will instruct
9 the operator to take immediate measures.

10 Safety is PHMSA's primary mission and we
11 understand how important this mission is to your community.
12 Again, while PHMSA does not have the authority to approve
13 pipeline projects, issue permits or prescribe location or
14 routing of pipeline facilities, if this project is
approved,
15 PHMSA will work to ensure that the pipeline facilities are
16 constructed, operated, and maintained in a safe fashion in
17 compliance with a U.S. Federal Code of Pipeline Safety
18 Regulations.

19 Thank you for this opportunity to provide
PHMSA's
20 overview of our safety program.

21 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you, Alex.

22 Before we start taking comments from you, Peter
23 Terronova from PennEast will provide a brief overview of
the

24 planned PennEast Pipeline Project. Peter.

25 MR. TERRONOVA: Good evening. Am I able to be

1 heard?

2 MS. KOCHHAR: Can't hear. We can't hear you.

3 Can you turn the microphone on? Is it on?

4 MR. TERRONOVA: How is that? Is that better?

5 MS. KOCHHAR: Yes.

6 MR. TERRONOVA: Okay. In the interest of time I
7 will be brief in my remarks.

8 Good evening, my name is Peter Terronova. I am
9 representing PennEast Pipeline Company on behalf of the
10 PennEast Pipeline Company Partners. And I extend our
11 appreciation to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
for
12 allowing us this opportunity.

13 Six companies comprise PennEast Pipeline
Company,
14 AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, PSEG Power, South
15 Jersey Industries, Spectra Energy Partners, and UGI Energy
16 Services. Collectively the member companies operate
17 thousands of miles of natural gas pipeline throughout New
18 Jersey and Pennsylvania and reliably and safely provide
19 energy to five million electric and gas consumers. These
20 companies and others have come together to form PennEast to
21 improve the reliability and lower the cost of natural gas
22 and electric service to consumers in this region.

23 The PennEast project is not an export project.

24 The proposed PennEast Pipeline Project is

25 approximately 114 miles in total length comprised primarily

1 of a 36-inch, underground, interstate natural gas pipeline
2 that will deliver approximately one billion cubic feet of
3 natural gas per day.

4 The project will begin in Dallas Township,
5 Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and end at the interconnection
6 with Transco near Pennington, Mercer County, Pennsylvania.

7 During construction PennEast Pipeline will
employ
8 approximately 2,500, mostly union construction jobs. The
9 majority of which will involve highly skilled workers.

10 Drexel University and its partner Econsult
impact
11 utilized common economic modeling tools to assess the
12 of large projects and initiatives. With regard to PennEast
13 they estimate that through the approximately three-year
14 development and construction cycle of the pipeline, the
15 roughly \$1 billion invested in the project will generate
16 over \$1.6 billion in total economic -- positive economic
17 impact. Most of it in the four Pennsylvania and two New
18 Jersey counties along the route. It will help to support
19 12,000 jobs directly and indirectly.

20 I thought I was the only one with a cold.

21 The ongoing energy savings to consumers will
22 produce hundreds of millions of dollars in additional
23 disposable income to the region.

24 Safety is the top priority for PennEast.

25 PennEast will meet or exceed the safety regulations set by

1 the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal--

2 [Chorus of louder.]

3 MR. TERRONOVA: Safety is a top priority for
4 PennEast. PennEast will meet or exceed the safety
5 regulations set by The U.S. Department of Transportation,
6 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and other
7 established industry practices.

8 PennEast will incorporate this core value into
9 the design of the facilities and the hiring of highly
10 trained and highly qualified employees and contractors and
11 ongoing maintenance activities.

12 We would encourage you to visit our website,
13 www.PennEastPipeline.com, use the interactive mapping tool,
14 view resources and updates, and contact the PennEast staff.

15 Again, I thank you for your time and the
16 opportunity to present.

17 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you, Peter.

18 We will now begin with the most important part
of

19 the meeting where we hear your comments and questions. We
20 will first take comments from those who signed up on the
21 speakers' list.

22 As I mentioned earlier, this meeting is being
23 recorded by the transcription service. This is being done
24 so that all of your comments and questions will be
25 transcribed and put into the public record. To help the

1 court reporter produce an accurate record of this meeting,
2 please only speak when you are at the microphone. Please
3 face the FERC staff and the court reporter so that we can
4 accurately record your comments.

5 I ask that when I call your name you come up to
6 the microphone and state your name and spell it for the
7 record. Identify any agency or group you are representing
8 and define any acronyms you may use.

9 I also ask that everybody else in the audience
10 respect the speaker and refrain from any audible show of
11 agreement or disagreement. It is to your advantage if you
12 do that. Otherwise, we lose time in between and we will
13 hear all the noises -- from the speaker. So, please be
14 respectful and be civil.

15 In the interest of allowing as many speakers as
16 possible, I would like you to keep your statement brief.
17 Preferably to three minutes I will set this visual timer to
18 allow two and a half minutes of green light, 30 seconds of
19 the yellow warning light to indicate to the speaker when it
20 is time to conclude and ten seconds to red to indicate the
21 end of the allotted time. I ask you to please abide by

this

22 time to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to
23 speak.

24 If we have time at the end, you can come back
and

25 finish your comments. But let's give the opportunity to

1 everybody who has signed up and who has made an effort to
2 come here to present their comments.

3 Whether you provide your comments verbally
4 tonight or mail them in, they will be considered equally by
5 FERC.

am

6 We are now ready to call our first speakers. I

the

7 going to call speakers in groups of four to come down to
8 front of the room and wait in line for their turn to speak
9 so we are not waiting and wasting time for people to make
10 their way down to the podium here. After the initial group
11 of four, I will call subsequent groups of four just before
12 the third speaker begins.

13 If you have a lot to cover, please consider
14 summarizing your points tonight and submitting additional
15 comments in written form.

16 So instead of me calling names, I will have John
17 Scott to call names so that he pronounces them correctly
18 better than I do. So, John, you can go ahead and start
19 calling the people.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. SPARKS: The first four speakers are Tom and
22 the district representatives. We have George Fisher, Harvey
23 Lester, Kevin Kuchinski, and Elizabeth Muoio. And then
24 we'll start. And just so you know, we have 90 speakers

25 tonight and if you signed in and paid attention to which

1 page you were on when you signed in, I'll try to read which
2 page. When we turn a page, just so you have an idea where
3 you might be on the list, but with 90 speakers it will be
4 important to try to limit your talk to about three minutes
5 to allow everybody a chance.

6 Again, please state your name and spell it for
7 the record.

8 MR. FISHER: Good evening. My name is George
9 Fisher, G-e-o-r-g-e, Fisher, F-i-s-h-e-r. I'm the mayor of
10 West Amwell Township, the southern most municipality in
11 Hunterdon County, through which the pipeline will travel.

12 I have four major points to cover in my three
13 minutes. The first is the existing right-of-way for the
14 PennEast -- the proposed PennEast pipeline. I am urging,
as
15 well as most other municipalities are urging that this
16 pipeline be routed along existing rights-of-way especially
17 existing pipeline rights-of-way. It supposed to connect
18 with the Transco pipeline in Mercer County. I noticed that
19 there's a Transco pipeline running from northeast
20 Pennsylvania connecting with the Transco pipeline in Mercer
21 County. I would respectfully request that the PennEast
22 pipeline be collocated. It doesn't make much sense to
23 reinvent the wheel. The environmental factors have already
24 been considered.

for 25

My second point is the compensation structure

tower 1 landowners. I know that in our municipality if a cell
2 is put up, the cell tower pays a yearly rent somewhere
3 around \$20 to 30,000 and it's renegotiated if a competing
4 cell phone company adds antenna.

5 Whereas the pipeline pays a one-time fee, a
6 minimal fee. We have pipelines in West Amwell that are 40
7 years old and the landowners were compensated once, 40
years 8 ago, if they were the original owners of the property.

9 My third point are all environmental issues. We
10 sent a 16-page environmental considerations to FERC
11 electronically, but I would like to emphasize a few points.
12 The proposed pipeline as it now exists would go through the
13 Sauerland Mountains. The only contiguous forested area in
14 central New Jersey. We have hydrological concerns. We
have 15 problematic rock formations, and the relationship to our
16 water supply, almost all residents are on private well,
17 we're concerned about what the rock formations and blasting
18 will do to private wells.

19 We are also concerned about ground surface
water, 20 the Delaware River, Algonquin Creek and Swan Creek, all
21 these surface water facilities that supply drinking water
to 22 the local population.

the 23 Wetlands, we have 11,046 acres of wetlands in
24 municipality and we would like to emphasize that we would
25 like to see those respectfully cared for. We are also

1 concerned with soil erosion since there will be a massive
2 amount of unearthing and the erosion during that unearthing
3 will be a major concern.

4 Our final point is the New Jersey Natural
5 Heritage Program. The primary route, as it now stands,
6 encroaches on the Goat Hill Natural Heritage Site. It's a
7 site set aside by the state because it's unique
8 environmental properties. It contains three state
9 endangered plant species. I certainly would hope that the
10 PennEast and FERC would act accordingly in those areas.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you, sir.

13 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. SCOTT: We have Harvey Lester.

16 MR. LESTER: I am Harvey. I am Harvey Lester,
17 H-a-r-v like in Victor, e-y, last name Lester, L-e-s-t-e-r.
18 I am the Mayor of Hopewell Township.

19 This pipeline is proposed to terminate in
20 Hopewell Township not in Pennington as Mr. Terronova of
21 PennEast misstated.

22 Hopewell Township is the crown jewel of Mercer
23 County. One-third of all the open space in Mercer County
24 in Hopewell Township and one-third of Hopewell Township is
25 open space. This arrangement is not by accident, but by

is

1 design. We spend tax dollars to buy open space and to
2 preserve farmland. Hopewell Township is Mercer County's
3 number one farming municipality. Hopewell Township is New
4 Jersey's number 16 farming municipality out of 564
5 municipalities in New Jersey.

6 The environmental impact statement must be
7 thorough and thoughtful. It must not be a rush to
judgment.

8 It must not be a foregone conclusion. We understand that
9 the environmental consultant that FERC has retained to
10 conduct the environmental impact statement has holdings in
11 the energy sector and supports the pro-shale gas lobby.

12 This consultant must be replaced by a consultant
13 that the public can have faith in to conduct an even-handed
14 environmental impact statement. We are entitled --

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. LESTER: We are entitled to have a fair
shake

17 through the environment impact impact statement instead of
18 the current perception that the deck is stacked by FERC's
19 selection of the current environmental consultant.

20 Our specific requests pertaining to the
21 environmental impact statement are contained in our 20-page
22 scoping comment letter which I would like to hand to this
23 body to make part of the record and we will be
24 electronically filing it.

which 25

Hopewell Township opposes PennEast Pipeline

1 will have negative effects on our health, our safety, our
2 welfare, our environment, and our property values. We
3 support the no-build option.

4 And I would like to hand this body the unanimous
5 resolution of opposition of our governing body.

6 Thank you for your attention.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you, sir.

9 MR. SCOTT: While we're waiting, there are
10 additional seats in the back. If you want a seat, please
11 make your way to the back. And we'll give you a little
12 for everybody to readjust.

13 MS. KOCHHAR: Excuse me, I would like to request
14 once again, please do not make noises in between. We can
15 miss some of the information and we are wasting time this
16 way. Okay. Thank you.

17 Mr. KUCHINSKI: Good evening. My name is Kevin
18 Kuchinski. I am a member of the Hopewell Township

committee

19 with Mr. Lester. I am speaking tonight as an individual
20 committee member and as a member of the public. I see a
21 number of serious flaws with the proposed PennEast

Pipeline.

22 I am here tonight to join my voice with other concerned
23 residents, business leaders, and community members.

24 First, I believe FERC needs to do a full

25 evaluation of the no action alternative. Taking into

1 account the 15 other proposed pipelines in New Jersey and
2 Pennsylvania as well as the potential of collocating this
3 gas transmission with existing pipeline rights-of-way. I
4 call on FERC to evaluate the no action alternative and
5 cumulative impact using a programmatic environmental impact
6 statement.

7 Second, I would like FERC to do a detailed
8 analysis of the proposed pipeline on our wells, septic
9 systems and geology. The only source of drinking water for
10 almost all Hopewell Township residents is ground water
11 attained from fractured bedrock aquifers beneath the
12 township.

13 These resources are worthy of special protection
14 and the environmental impact statement should evaluate
15 impact on our drinking water, including how it will affect
16 the recharge of each of the aquifers of Hopewell Township.

17 Finally, PennEast must demonstrate full
18 compliance with Section 401(1)(b), guidelines of the Clean
19 Water Act and to the New Jersey Fresh Water Wetlands Act.

20 The proposed pipeline routes cross a number of
21 category one stream corridors which are federally protected
22 under the Clean Water Act and the New Jersey
23 Anti-degradation Standards. These C-1 streams are of
24 exceptional ecological significance and must be protected
25 such.

as

the 1 In closing I wanted to reinforce tonight that
2 residents of Hopewell Township and the residents of New
3 Jersey do not need and do not want the PennEast Pipeline.
4 FERC has a duty to fully address each of the scoping
5 comments made by local municipalities, NGOs and
6 concerned residents. And finally if we do not have enough
7 time tonight to hear from all of the members of the public
8 gathered here I call on FERC to extend its scoping period
9 and hold additional scoping meetings over the next 90 days.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

12 Elizabeth Muoio. And we have three additional
13 representatives, if you could come up, please, Shirley,
14 Turner, Andrew Koontz, and Lucy Walter. I apologize if I
15 got the names wrong.

an 16 MS. MUOIO: You got Muoio right. That's quite
17 achievement.

as 18 My name is Elizabeth Mayor Muoio. I now serve
19 the assemblywoman for New Jersey's 15th legislative
affected 20 district. This district includes many of the towns
21 by the proposed pipeline including Lambertville, East and
22 West Amwell, Hopewell Township, Hopewell Borough,
Pennington

23 Borough and the township where this meeting is taking
place,

24 Ewing Township.

25 For many years the people of this great district

1 have voted overwhelmingly to dedicate millions of their
2 hard-earned tax dollars to preserve open space and
farmland.

3 In good economic times and bad that has been a constant in
4 this region and in this state. They have come out in
5 support of these referendums. Referendums which make the
6 stated commitment to utilize these dollars to preserve
these
7 natural resources.

8 Just as a side note, "preserve" is defined in
the
9 Oxford dictionary as, to maintain something in its original
10 or existing stated, and quote, "to keep safe from harm or
11 injury."

12 These investments have had their intended effect
13 in this legislative district. Examples being thousands of
14 preserved acres of parkland, cleaner water, children in our
15 public schools and families across the state now having
16 access to locally grown produce from New Jersey farms. And
17 just three or four miles from here in the area of the
Mercer
18 Equestrian Center and Rosedale Park you will see those
19 locations on the PennEast path, we now have a American bald
20 eagles nesting in our trees. These were the intended
21 effects of our farmland and open space referendums.

22 What was not the intended effect was that our
map
23 of preserved land and properties, a map we have shown so

24 proudly as its green spaces have continued to spread over
25 the years would now be used as a self-serving guide for

1 private gas companies to determine the best route to lay
2 their pipes.

3 So in determining the environmental impacts of
4 allowing this pipeline to be laid along thousands of
5 preserved acres, I would urge you to add to your list an
6 examination of the negative effects this will have on
future
7 environmental efforts and referendums, on the voters, and
on
8 those considering giving up development rights in order to
9 preserve their land for future generations.

10 These people will no longer have faith that the
11 promise of preservation has any meaning and who could blame
12 them.

13 Lastly, as I look at the growing spider web of
14 existing and proposed pipeline routes traversing this
state,
15 the most densely populated state in this country, I would
16 urge the FERC to follow the dictates of Delaware River
17 Keeper Network versus FERC from 2014 and not examine the
18 environmental impact of the PennEast Pipeline as a
19 stand-alone project, but include other proposed,
20 under-construction, or recently completed pipeline projects
21 along these corridors and the river basin region including
22 Transco's Northeast Supply Link and Southeast Expansion
23 Project, and the Dyna East project.

24 The River Keeper court rightly mandated that the

25 scope of an environmental impact statement should consider

1 cumulative actions which when viewed with other proposed
2 actions have cumulative, significant impacts and should
3 therefore be discussed in the same impact statement.

4 To ignore these cumulative effects of these
5 projects would render your examination incomplete and would
6 do a grave disservice to the people of this region.

7 Thank you to all of you here in attendance and
to
8 the FERC for their consideration.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 Shirley Turner?

12 MS. TURNER: Good evening. My name is Shirley
13 Turner and I represent the 15th Legislative District,
14 Senator in this district and we are currently in the 15th
15 Legislative District and welcome to you all.

16 I just wish that we could have had a larger
17 facility with better parking because next time I think that
18 --

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. KOCHHAR: Excuse me, could you repeat your
21 name and spell it for the court reporter? The court
22 reporter wants to spell it correctly.

23 MS. TURNER: I don't mind.

24 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

25 MS. TURNER: I'll write it down. S-h-i-r-l-e-y

1 T-u-r-n-e-r. Senator of the 15th Legislative District.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

4 MS. TURNER: We all know that preserving open
5 space is a very high priority for New Jersey residents.

Our

6 state has invested billions of dollars in planning open

investment

7 space and collecting green assets. However, that

8 will be squandered and the land spoiled by allowing a

9 pipeline to interfere with our preservation goals.

10 Over 65 percent of New Jersey voters last year

11 approved a referendum to direct even more hard-earned

historic

12 taxpayers' dollars toward open space, farmland, and

13 preservation.

14 It is our choice, our residents, that our

15 communities maintain their rural and farmland character in

a

16 state that is so overdeveloped. Our voters did not choose

17 to preserve land to have it confiscated by a consortium of

seeking

18 companies, some even outside the state of New Jersey

19 to profit from our taxpayers' sacrifices.

20 We should never put private profit over good

21 public policy. Even more egregious is the idea that

22 landowners may be forced to turn over their private land to

23 benefit the PennEast pipeline companies. The affected

24 homeowners have chosen to invest in rural property for many
25 reasons, for farming, or even simply because it offers them

more 1 a retreat to nature. Applying imminent domain would be
2 than a loss of land and land values to these residents. It
3 is a loss of their American dream.

4 Our residents are rightfully concerned as well
5 about the health and safety hazards associated with more
6 pipeline sections being proposed and built in our state.
7 The PennEast Pipeline proposes to cut across the Delaware
8 River as well as 76 streams and 44 wetlands in the Delaware
9 River watershed, all of which flow into the Delaware River
10 and supplies drinking water to 19 million people.

Sediment,
11 debris, chemical that will be emitted during construction
12 and once the pipeline is built, threaten our clean water
13 supplies. The sustainability of fish and wildlife, our
14 agriculture economy, and the health of every individual
that
15 relies on this water source.

16 Public taxpayer dollars and private funding have
17 been invested in the Delaware River watershed to help
18 protect land and restore streams to reduce the threat to
our
19 water supplies. The Delaware River watershed represents a
20 lifeline to our region and our investment in protecting our
21 waterways should be respected and protected.

22 I am pleased that the citizens in New Jersey and
23 Pennsylvania have banded together to demonstrate the power

24 of community organization and public forum participation in
25 this effort. While we may never be able to penetrate the

1 profit and all cost mentality, I am hopeful that our
2 citizens' impassioned pleas to reason will sway the Federal
3 Energy Regulatory Commission to protect and respect our
4 environment, local government, citizens, and our taxpayers.
5 No company nor federal government representative should be
6 allowed to coerce citizens into acting against their best
7 interests and in the best interest of our environment or
8 best interest of our communities or the best interests of
9 our state.

the

10 Our public safety and proprietary rights
concerns

11 --

12 MR. SCOTT: Can you wrap it up, please?

13 MS. TURNER: Yes. Must be --

14 MR. SCOTT: Senator Turner, please wrap it up.

15 MS. TURNER: Our public property and public
16 safety concerns must be heard, protected, and respected.

We

17 have to have a right to self determination that would be
18 violated by imposing this pipeline on our communities. I
19 stand with the environmentalists, the conservationists, the
20 landowners, the concerned citizens and the taxpayers in
21 opposition to PennEast Pipeline.

22 (Applause.) (Cheering).

23 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

the 24 Andrew Koontz, and please spell your name for
25 court reporter.

1 MR. KOONTZ: Thank you. I am Andrew Koontz,
2 A-n-d-r-e-w K-o-o-n as in Nancy, t-z. I'm a Mercer County
3 Freeholder and welcome to Mercer County.

4 Last year I served in the capacity as chair of
5 the Freeholder Board and in that capacity I was contacted
by
6 PennEast requesting an opportunity to meet with the
7 Freeholders to discuss their proposed pipeline. As press
8 reports began to talk about where the route of the pipeline
9 would be, and the public reaction began to grow, we were
10 rather suddenly contacted by PennEast saying that they
would
11 like to cancel that meeting and maybe reschedule sometime
in
12 the future.

13 I would just like to say tonight that the
14 Freeholder Board schedule is still open.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. KOONTZ: PennEast can come whenever they
17 like. And we'll be ready for them when they come.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. KOONTZ: In the absence of actually had the
20 opportunity to meet with PennEast the Freeholders did pass
a
21 resolution opposing the routing of the PennEast Pipeline as
22 we have significant concerns about where the pipeline was
23 intending to go. As it passes through Northern Mercer

24 County, it comes awful close or actually indeed enters such
25 valuable public parklands as Mercer Meadows, Rosedale Lake,

1 even routing very near Cowl Living History Farm one of the
2 historic and parkland jewels of Mercer County, Bald Pate
3 Mountain, in the Sauerland Mountain Range, the equestrian
4 center, the wildlife center, the historic Hunt House and
the
5 list goes on and on.

6 Clearly all of these properties were acquired
and
7 preserved as parkland and wildlife preservation land. Over
8 the course of many years Mercer County residents have been
9 supporting these efforts for years now. They acquired
these
10 properties, we acquired these properties on their behalf
for
11 their enjoyment and permanent protection as open space or
12 historic space or as parkland, not as the future site of a
13 pipeline.

14 And in that respect we have asked PennEast to
15 seriously consider collocation, to work with us in routing
16 the pipeline along with the pipelines that already exist.

17 Also I want to just discuss a bit of a letter
18 that Mercer County Executive Ryan Hughes has sent. If
19 indeed what we're seeing here is that the EIS must consider
20 the negative impact on these preserved lands and the
the
21 mitigation must result in a fair compensation based upon
22 public's investment in the land in this preserved state and
23 must result in meaningful additions to the preserved

24 landscape.

25 We expected this land to pay our citizens

a 1 dividends in terms of their enjoyment over the years. And
2 one-time acquisition, an unwanted acquisition of this land
3 won't repay that loss. So that's why we're asking you to
4 consider that when we approach the EIS. And I thank you
5 very much for your time.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

I'm 8 Lucy Walter and then next we have John Hart.

9 sorry, let me read a couple more. John Hart, Jeff Tittel,
10 Brian McClean, and Maya Van Rossun.

11 MS. WALTER: Lucy Walter, L-u-c-y W-a-l-t-e-r.
12 Mercer County Freeholder.

13 My colleagues as elected officials have talked
14 about many of the issues that I came here tonight concerned
15 about. But when I walked in the door and I picked up this
16 booklet, The Interstate Natural Gas Facility on my Land, I
17 became even more concerned than I was. Because now I
18 picture our beautiful Mercer Meadows, or our Bald Pate
19 Mountain, or our Rosedale Park, with a 50-foot-wide
easement 20 that every three years would receive a routine mowing of
21 cutting and vegetation that would not be allowed to have
22 trees with roots that may damage the pipeline or its
23 coating, or other obstructions, that prevent obstruction

24 from aircraft during maintenance since those aren't
allowed.

25 I am concerned about compressor stations that

1 will be sited along the length of the pipeline and that
2 wouldn't exceed a day/night average of 55 decibels. But
3 that's as an average. And at 65 we have serious noise
4 concerns that disturb residents.

5 I go further in the book and I see things about
6 erosion. Well, why would we be concerned about erosion in
7 this book unless sinking of soils where the pipelines run
8 must be a problem somewhere.

9 That's what I picture in our parks after reading
10 through your book. So the concerns I had about fractured
11 shale and how that gets treated and what the results of
that
12 will be as you install the pipeline, the concerns I had
13 about routings that don't follow already-established lines,
14 that don't coexist according to the New Jersey policy on
15 collocation.

16 I have concerns about whether all the NEPA
17 regulations are being followed. I have concerns about what
18 this will do to our residents and their properties when
they
19 have this swath of land that companies come in and mow and
20 they aren't allowed to put trees on their own property
21 because it might compromise the pipeline.

22 So I ask you to please listen to these
residents,
23 listen to the elected officials and analyze where this
24 pipeline is going and what the irreparable harm may be to

25 our land that has been so carefully preserved.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

4 John Hart.

5 MR. HART: Good evening. I'm John Hart. I'm the
6 member of the local township committee. I'm here as a
7 resident and as a farmer in the township. My farm is the
8 first one preserved in Hopewell Township and we've gone to
9 great lengths trying to preserve property and compensate
10 owners to preserve their farms.

11 What I haven't heard yet from anybody asking a
12 question was, how do we protect our children, the residents
13 that go to schools where just yesterday there was a gas
14 explosion in Stafford Township, Ocean County, that blew up
15 right in front of everybody's eyes on YouTube and then less
16 than a mile and a half down the road here we had 15 homes
17 explode, one person died from the gas explosion. What are
18 we going to do to satisfy our residents to know there's
19 safety involved in this?

20 And what I would like to also know is for the
21 farms that we preserve, you're going through Hopewell
22 Township, we spent hundreds--millions of dollars in open
23 space over there and people paid into it. What you did was
24 when you go through the land that aren't preserved, you

just

25 take it by eminent domain and they don't get anything but

1 one cash payment, if that. And the soils never come back.
2 There's studies that says 20, 30 years down the road, your
3 crops still don't come back from the soils that have been
4 turned over. It takes years and years to build that up. A
5 lot of these farmers in Hopewell Township make a living off
6 -- it's not going through my farm. I'm not here for my
7 farm. It's other farmers that you're going through. When
8 you can't put a vineyard on a gas line, you can't put
9 orchards, it's just devastated farmland that you're just
10 growing. So I want you to think about that.

11 First I said, when I heard that you were going
12 through Hopewell Township, I said, well, why don't you go
13 over the power lines, there's no so much devastation. But
14 now I don't need you in Hopewell Township at all, because
15 there's too much destruction through our farmlands.

16 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

17 MR. HART: There's nothing left. So with that
18 said we'd like you to go through a different route, not
19 through Hopewell Township, not through New Jersey right
now,
20 we just need to have a break on this now, that's it. Thank
21 you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

24 MR. TITTEL: Jeff Tittel, Director, New Jersey
25 Sierra Club, T-i-t-t-e-l, J-e-f-f.

million 1 I am here representing the two and a half
2 members in support of the Sierra Club. Enough already.
3 Enough pipelines cutting through open spaces and
4 environmentally sensitive areas. Enough with pushing
5 fracking and more fossil fuels instead of a green future.

were 6 We're here today because 250 years ago this
7 valley was in the forefront of the strike of the battle for
8 liberty for freedom and for this country. Back then we
9 invaded by the British and the Hessians. And now it's the
10 natural gas companies and the pipelines.

11 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

12 MR. TITTEL: They are today's Hessians trying to
13 take our land and our liberty and our freedom and addict us
14 to fossil fuels. We are here today because of 50 years of
15 state and federal policy that says that this area should be
16 protected whether it's the Highlands Act, the State
Planning
17 Act, the New Jersey Clean Water Act, the Federal Clean
Water
18 Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Delaware River Basin
19 Compact, and the list goes on and on. This pipeline turns
20 50 years of public policy and change on its head. It goes
21 against every one of those laws that you mentioned earlier
22 in your talk that you're supposed to measure this up
23 against.

24 If this was a highway, this couldn't be built.

25 But because it's a pipeline and we take away state rights,

1 state exemptions and local exemptions, you're going to try
2 to plow this thing through. And that's why we're important
3 the Delaware River Basin Commission -- excuse me, the
4 Delaware River Keeper Network and suing FERC over the
5 Tennessee Gas Pipeline because we know you target these
6 pipelines on environmentally sensitive areas and public
open
7 space because it's cheaper for the gas company, not what's
8 best for the people or what's best for the environment.

And

9 that's why we're here.

10 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

11 MR. TITTEL: [INAUDIBLE] to our valley that not
12 only threatens our safety, it's a giant blowtorch in the
13 ground but it threatens our economy which is based on
14 tourism, agriculture, and fisheries. It takes away
property
15 values. It hurts those core economic values. And for 98
16 jobs you'll ruin our economy and ruin our valley; 98
17 permanent jobs and there's no reason why this pipeline
isn't
18 going to head down to Cove Point, Maryland and go off coast
19 and be sent to Europe.

20 Despite what the guy from PennEast said, I mean,
21 he has enough--he had enough gas he could fill up a
pipeline
22 when he spoke.

23 (Laughter.)

24 MR. TITTEL: You have to look at secondary and

25 cumulative impacts. I will just try to explain it this
way.

1 When you have a suit or a sweater, you take a razor place
2 and you put it treatment through the middle of it, that's
3 all they want to look at, that little narrow cut, not
4 realizing you just ruined the entire suit or sweater or
5 whatever it is. And that's why you need to look at
6 secondary impacts, cumulative impacts, you have to
7 understand that it's not a narrow hundred-foot right-of-
way,
8 it's much wider than that. And going through existing
9 rights-of-way, you're going to be destroying them and
10 blowing them out anyway.

11 What we say to you, very carefully, is that the
12 only alternative is a no build alternative. That is
13 pipeline is in the wrong place at the wrong time, and for
14 the wrong reason. We do not need this pipeline. We don't
15 need this natural gas. We don't need this fracking. And I
16 can say to you is stay the FERC out of my valley.

17 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

18 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

19 MS. KOCHHAR: If you will stop that, I will
20 appreciate it. It is your time. Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. SCOTT: Let me read the next four speakers.
22 After Brian McClean, Maya van Rossun, Tracy Corluccio,
23 Hannah Suthers, and Sharyn Magee.

24 MR. McCLEAN: Good evening. My name is Brian
25 McCLEAN. I'm the president of Elizabethtown Gas Company.

1 Elizabethtown Gas is a wholly owned subsidiary of AGL
2 Resources, Incorporated.

3 Elizabethtown Gas was founded in 1855 to light
4 300 street lamps within the City of Elizabeth. Today we
5 deliver safe and reliable natural gas to more than 282,0000
6 customers in Union, Middlesex, Hunterdon, Sussex, Warren,
7 Mercer, and parts of Morris County.

8 We serve residential homes, schools, hospitals,
9 municipalities, commercial, and industrial customers in our
10 territory. Our parent company, AGL Resources is a partner
11 in the PennEast Pipeline Project. Elizabethtown Gas is
12 supporting this project along with PSE&G, New Jersey

Natural

13 and South Jersey Gas as shippers. We've entered into an
14 agreement to ship natural gas to the PennEast Pipeline to
15 interconnect with three of the interstate pipelines that
16 directly serve ETG, Elizabethtown Gas customers. These
17 interconnections will provide greater supply reliability

and

18 flexibility to serve the different areas of our
distribution

19 system with an abundant source of domestic natural gas
20 produced in a neighboring state. This project provides
21 tremendous value to Elizabethtown Gas customers. Adding
22 this new source of supply to our current portfolio will
23 result in significant gas cost savings.

24 In addition to the direct benefit of lower gas

25 costs, PennEast will provide a strong platform for economic

the
also
1 development, not only for our service territory, but for
2 state of New Jersey. Over 2,000 construction jobs will be
3 brought to the region to build the pipeline. They will
4 provide significant opportunities to recruit more
5 manufacturing to the region, along with the well-paid jobs
6 that manufacturing offers.

7 I believe this project is vital to the economic
8 well-being of Elizabethtown's customer base as well as the
9 state of New Jersey.

as
10 Many of our larger customers are major employers
11 in our service territory. Lower, stable gas costs benefit
12 not only these employers, but also the thousands of
13 employees who live in close proximity to the communities in
14 which they work. Elizabethtown gas supports this project
15 a means of bringing the abundant, affordable, and American
16 supply of natural gas and its benefits to our customers and
17 the state of New Jersey.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.) (Booing.)

20 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

21 MR. SCOTT: Maya van Rossun?

22 MS. van ROSSUN: Good evening. My name is Maya
23 van Rossun. I am the Delaware River Keeper. And I'm here

River 24 speaking on behalf of the Delaware River, the Delaware
25 Keeper Network and all of the communities who depend upon

1 and care about our beautiful Delaware River and the
2 tributary streams we find within its watershed.

3 My name is spelled M-a-y-a, lower case v-a-n
4 space and a capital R-o-s-s-u-n.

5 PennEast will inflict a significant and enduring
6 level of harm to the ecology, economy, the history, health,
7 safety, and quality of life of our communities. And yet
8 there is no demonstrable or defensible community and for

the

9 PennEast Pipeline or the gas that it will pass.

10 PennEast is being built to service the shale gas
11 industry. An industry which itself causes irreparable harm
12 to the health, safety, lives, and economies of our
13 communities. And it is an industry that is going to be
14 short lived.

very

15 According to objective experts, by 2020 natural
16 gas production in this country will peak. By 2040 it will
17 be seriously dwindling. When we look at fracked shale gas,
18 the kind of gas that would be transported by the PennEast
19 pipeline project there is a mere five years of supply in
20 United States. And that is assuming that all of the gas
21 will remain here in this country and that is not something
22 we presume at all.

the

23 Once constructed the PennEast companies have no
24 legal obligation to keep the gas in this country for use.

25 We know that they can sell the gas for as much as three

into 1 times the amount overseas. We know that PennEast hooks
2 a pipeline system that has a direct path to the Cove Point
3 LNG Export Facility that was recently approved. We know
4 that despite tonight's self-serving and nonbinding comments
5 from Peter Terronova, representing the PennEast Pipeline
6 Company, that PennEast has been very careful not to use any
7 language that would prevent export as a future viable, if
8 not already planned-for option for the PennEast Pipeline
9 gas.

needs 10 So no NEPA analysis -- so any NEPA analysis
11 to presume that the gas could, in the near term, and in the
12 long-term be exported overseas. The NEPA analysis needs to
13 consider that we are talking about building a massive new
14 pipeline with a heavy ecological and community footprint to
15 serve a quickly dwindling fuel source with a very short
16 future life.

shale 17 When consider the costs and the benefits of
18 PennEast FERC must do so in comparison to clean energy
19 technology. Clean energy options are a viable means for
20 fulfilling Pennsylvania and New Jersey's present and future
21 energy needs. The job creation, the environmental
22 protection, the economic benefits, and the health benefits
23 are all greater with clean energy technology than with
24 gas.

25

For every million dollars invested in clean

1 energy options, you generate three to five times the number
2 of jobs that would otherwise be generated by the gas
3 industry. And that means that if this region were to
invest
4 in clean energy technologies, it would create and sustain a
5 significantly higher number of jobs and benefits than if
the
6 pipeline is built.

7 And at the same time we will be protecting the
8 lives and the jobs that are created and sustained by our
9 healthy ecological systems. Our cleaned and healthy
10 Delaware River supports over \$22 billion of annual economic
11 benefit and hundreds of thousands of good paying job every
12 single year. And that is, of course, in addition to the
13 pure, clean, healthy drinking water it supplies to over 17
14 million people, the unrivaled recreation, the irreplaceable
15 beauty, education, and quality of life contributions it
16 already makes as a member of our community.

17 Any NEPA analysis -- do not interrupt me, sir.

18 Any NEPA analysis needs to compare their
19 benefits, the benefits of preserving our river, our
20 watershed and our communities to irreparably harming them.

21 Any --

22 (Simultaneous conversation.)

23 MS. KOCHHAR: Excuse me, ma'am, your time is up.

24 MS. van ROSSUN: Will determine --

25

(Screaming match.)

1 MS. Van ROSSUN: Any valid NEPA analysis will
2 ensure --

3 (Simultaneous conversation.)

4 MS. van ROSSUN: -- pipeline alternative --

5 MS. KOCHHAR: [INAUDIBLE]

6 MS. van ROSSUN: That is the only option we will
7 accept and we are here to tell you today that we will
debate
8 our river and we will debate our watershed, and we will
9 debate our communities. We've got voices, we've got
10 lawyers, and we have bodies.

11 (Applause.) (Crowd outburst.)

12 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

13 Tracy Carluccio.

14 MS. CARLUCCIO: T-r-a-c-y C-a-r-l-u-c-c-i-o.
I'm
15 presenting this testimony as a trustee of Saralin
16 Conservancy. A non-profit regional organization dedicated
to
17 the protection of the Saralin Operation.

18 My husband and I are residents of the Saralins
19 and East Amwell Township for 40 years. We are opposed to
20 the PennEast Pipeline because the adverse impacts it will
21 cause cannot be justified. The natural gas it will deliver
22 is not needed.

23 The upstream fracked shale gas extraction,
24 mid-stream pipeline related infrastructure and downstream

25 processing and end-use damages are environmentally

1 devastating, long-lived and permanent degrading from cradle
2 to grave.

3 We oppose both proposed routes. There is no
4 acceptable route for a project that is not justified.

5 My comment is focused on local stream impacts of
6 the pipeline to Saralin. These streams are all part of a
7 55,000 acre Saralin Mountain region as characterized by
8 rock geology, contiguous forests, high quality habitats,
9 many headwaters, wetlands, and fertile pools, and active
10 farmland. The majority of the land is forested.

11 The portion of the pipeline that would cut
12 West Anwell and Hopewell Townships is located in the
13 mountain region. One of the driving forces for the
14 expensive, inner municipal planning and the protection
15 efforts that have occurred in the Saralin communities is
16 natural scarcity of groundwater due to the poor yielding
17 aquifers of its geologic formations. This makes those that
18 originate on the mountain and headwaters and the streams
19 they form essentially import in terms of stream fill
20 and quantity.

21 Disruption of the hydrologic regime of these
22 streams has a large impact on the mountain streams and on
23 downstream waterways. The flowing quality of the water and

hard

across

Saralin

the

quality

24 protection to maintain healthy and flowing conditions and
25 regulations require that protection.

1 Among our greatest concerns is that streams that
2 would be crossed by both routes proposed PennEast will be
3 negatively impacted due to the disturbance of the aquifer
4 recharge areas that feed the groundwater that provide to
5 these streams because of the high impact operations that
6 will be required and the disruption this will cause in
7 recharging groundwater. I outlined these and our other
8 greatest concerns, the major direct impact to these streams
9 in my written testimony and I also provide information on
10 each of the impacted streams.

11 These impacts are in large part unavoidable and
12 no less damaging if the route is collocated with an
existing
13 cut across a stream such as is proposed by PennEast's
14 alternate route along the utility right-of-way. In fact,
15 redisturbing or expanding on cut through the burdens a
16 stream or watershed that is struggling to overcome previous
17 harms. This is imposing a pipeline on an intact virgin
18 watershed.

19 The proposed PennEast Pipeline will impose
myriad
20 adverse impacts on the streams and habitats of the Saralins
21 and the downstream Delaware River. And it will cause
22 degrading to the water supplies for over five million
23 people who get their water from this part of the Delaware
24 River watershed, including the DNR Canal, Swan Creek

25 Reservoir and the Delaware River itself.

1 The scope of the analysis that PennEast will be
2 required to conduct by FERC must include a comprehensive
3 analysis based on all of these impacts and the
consideration
4 of alternatives such as the no-action option. And the
5 implementation of energy conservation and efficiency
6 measures that would replace the energy calculated to be
7 associated with PennEast shale gas delivery.

8 The energy efficiency and conservation option
9 will provide great environmental benefits supporting
healthy
10 streams and stream communities here rather than inflicting
11 considerable and environmental damages that will accompany
12 any route for the PennEast Pipeline.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you.

16 There are three or four cars that are to be
17 removed. There are people who have left and those spaces
18 are available if they don't mind going to the employee park
19 across --.

20 PARTICIPANT: Hello. There are apparently three
21 or four cars parked that are blocking the exit and there
are
22 some people trying to leave. But there are also spaces
23 available now because there are folks that are able to get

owners 24 out and around them. So we're asking that all of the
25 of the vehicles to please repark your car. The License

1 plate BAHKL7822, Honda Silver, New Jersey MVDV58D, bronze
2 Subaru, SM3ZOM a New Jersey Black Passat, and Pennsylvania
3 GTD5970 blue Suburban out back. Thank you.

4 MR. SCOTT: All right. Sharyn Magee.

5 MS. SUTHERS: I'm next, Hannah Suthers.

6 MR. SCOTT: Okay. Yes, you're right. Sorry.

7 And please spell your name.

8 MS. SUTHERS: H-a-n-n-a-h S-u-t as in Tom,
9 h-e-r-s. I'm a biologist. I'm representing Featherbed

Lane

10 and research station now in its 39th year.

11 I would like to clarify three environmental
12 questions that will be coming up through the evening. They
13 are forest fragmentation, the forest edge effect, and
14 vernal pools.

vernal

15 Vernal pools are the nurseries of frogs and
16 salamanders. Wood lots in the proposed PennEast route are
17 peppered with state registered and state protected vernal
18 pools along the route and in Saralin Mountain and in Bald.
19 A vernal pool is relatively shallow with a nutritious

bottom

20 that -- of decaying leaves and decomposing microorganisms
21 and no fish. The water last long enough into the summer
22 for frogs and salamanders to hatch and morph into emergent
23 juveniles.

for

24 A vernal pool research project that I took part
25 in showed that spotted salamanders arrived from as far away

in 1 as 180 meters, that's a radius nearly two football fields
2 length. The study pool is about the size of a small ranch
3 house. Into this small pool each year there came
4 approximately 2,500 wood frogs and up to 800 spotted
5 salamanders. These creatures are sight faithful. They
6 return to spawn as long as they live.

7 A disrupted vernal pool and critical surrounding
8 habitat including seasonal water runs cannot be restored
9 after the intrusion of an underground pipeline.

10 Another problem is forest fragmentation. Size
11 and shape of forests are important. To support wildlife
12 forests need to be big and wide in relation to length. To
13 include home territories for big hawks and owls a forest
14 needs to a minimum of 1,000 acres. To accommodate tiny
15 songbirds, a forest needs to be 500 or more acres. The
16 number of bird species drops as the size of a wood lot
drops 17 because smaller lots become too small to feed and shelter
18 the birds. The pipeline would fragment the forests.

19 Another concern, the forest edge effect. Nest
20 predators penetrate from 200 to 600 meters into forests
21 interior. A forest cut through by a pipeline could be
22 reduced to be nothing more than an edge. Raccoons and
23 cowbirds and other critters who prefer the forest edge can
24 penetrate. Brighter sunlight can penetrate deeply into

25 woodlots thus allowing invasive plants such as the flora

1 rose, Japanese Honeysuckle, garlic mustard or still grass
2 that beat out native plants.

way

3 So in conclusion a broad pipeline right-of-way
4 cannot mitigate the edge effect that it would create. And
5 the forest is not allowed to regenerate in this right-of-
6 and if it could, it takes 100 years to make a forest.

7 So in conclusion, the only reasonable
8 recommendation for FERC is not action because Bald Pate
9 Mountain is a wildlife preserve, Sarlin Mountain contains
10 wildlife reserves and is a designated important bird area,
11 both contain state and federal threatened and endangered
12 species. Vernal pools along PennEast routes are state
13 registered and those with endangered and threatened species
14 are state protected.

15 Mitigation is not possible for forest
16 fragmentation, the edge effect, and destruction of vernal
17 pools and the loss of wildlife dependent upon them.

very

18 I've already handed in by e-mail my statement
19 with all the supporting documentation. And I thank you
20 much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

23 Sharyn Magee. And then next we have Susan
24 D'Amour, Andrea Bonette, Doug O'Malley and Thomas Niederer.

25

MS. MAGEE: I'm Sharyn Magee, S-h-a-r-y-n

1 M-a-g-e-e. I'm president of Washington Cross Audubon
2 Society.

3 The ultimate route dissects Bald Pate Mountain,
4 because it's largely in the large areas of high quality and
5 resulting in the largest concentration of understory and
6 ground layer, forest and birds in central New Jersey.

7 Thirty species of conservation and Bald Pate Mountain
either
8 in the interior forests or in the adjacent forest edges and
9 all fields.

10 Many more species use Bald Pate as a migratory
11 stop including 61 species of conservation concern.

12 Bald Pate Mountain has the highest concentration
13 of breeding neotropical birds in the state and the greatest
14 number of breeding species. The ecosystem is in tact but
15 stretched. Bald Pate is long and narrow with the existing
16 right-of-way dividing the forest along the long axis of the
17 northern side of the mountain. This configuration greatly
18 increases the potential of disturbance of the ecosystem
from
19 the pipeline construction especially during breeding
season.

20 The breeding birds simply cannot move further
21 into the forest because they -- territories are already
22 essentially saturated. Suitable habitat in the Saralins
23 proper is similarly saturated. Other adjacent areas are
too

24 degraded to support breeding populations of these birds.

25 The loss of Bald Pate Mountain as a breeding

1 habitat for neotropical migrants is not unmitagatable.
2 There is certainly no place else for these birds to go.
3 Neotropical migrants and their habitats are protected from
4 disturbance under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

5 The original and alternate routes would both
6 affect the Saralin Mountain which is of critical importance
7 to migrated and breeding birds including many species of
8 conservation concern. The Saralin Mountain is the meeting
9 place of northern and southern species and contains the
10 largest continuous forests in central New Jersey attracting
11 many interior forest breeding species including 15 species
12 of breeding in the interior forests alone.

13 Thirteen of these species in neotropical
14 migrants, these species are either obliget interior forest
15 breeding species or require large forest tracts for
breeding
16 successful or nest, by the ground heavy cowbird.

17 New Jersey threatened red shouldered hawk and
18 redheaded woodpeckers are year-round residents. New Jersey
19 threatened long-eared owl has. The Saralin Mountain
20 regional ecosystem supports large populations of spring and
21 fall migrants including 61 species of conservation. Fifty
22 species of conservation concern use the interior forest
23 reserves including 46 species of neotropical migrants.

24 Habitat experimentations severely affects
25 breeding bird populations by increasing the edge effect and

1 increasing the corridor and certain species and is not
2 mitigated -- for the pipeline because the forests will not
3 be allowed to regenerate.

4 The original route for the PennEast Pipeline
5 passes through Rosedale Park which is a feeding territory
6 bald eagles who are constructing a nest nearby. There are
7 many reasons not to build this pipeline and the birds are
8 certainly included.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 Susan D'Amour.

12 MS. D'AMOUR: Good evening. My name is Susan
13 D'Amour, S-u-s-a-n, D-'-A-m-o-u-r. I am a resident of
14 Hopewell Township. And I would like to voice my opposition
15 to the installation of the PennEast Pipeline through
16 Hopewell Township.

17 I want you to be aware that on January the 23rd,
18 2015, whilst driving along Blackwell Road where the
19 proposed
20 termination/connection station of the preferred alternate
21 route for the PennEast Pipeline would be situated I had the
22 most incredible experience in that I witnessed a bald eagle
23 perched on a small tree by the side of the road. I stopped
24 the car and by the time I pulled out my iPhone the raptor
had taken off. I drove on the same route the following day

25 and I had exactly the same experience. I happen to have my

1 camera with me and I want to leave you with this image of
2 this wonderful majestic bald eagle.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. D'AMOUR: You will see on the poster that I
5 have marked a location mark on the reverse and an exact
6 location so you can see the derelict, burned-out house on
7 Blackwell Road which the top of the tree matches the one on
8 which the eagle was situated.

9 I've been informed by a resident of the rich
10 neighborhood in Pennington of many sightings, February 18th
11 again a number of times between February the 11th, and 18th
12 on Tara Way, the Rosedale Park side, and on East Acres

where

13 it was noted that it seemed to be in the Rosedale corridor
14 where two were seen, one with big sticks, potentially for
15 nesting purposes.

16 The aforementioned sightings are proof that the
17 restoration efforts by biologists within the New Jersey
18 Division of Fish and Wildlife Endangered and Non-Game
19 Species program instigated in the early '80s when the eagle
20 population was on the edge of extinction is now clearly
21 bearing fruit.

22 With regard to the human costs, we have heard
23 nothing from PennEast as to their plans to compensate our
24 community where residents are responsible for extremely

high

25 property taxes, the devaluation of our homes and properties

1 for which we have worked hard all our lives, and hazardous
2 conditions to which our families would be exposed.

3 I thank you for your time, ladies and gentlemen.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

6 Andrea Bonette.

7 MR. BONETTE: Andrea Bonette, A-n-d-r-e-a

8 B-o-n-e-t-t-e. If I turn around and face the other way,
can

9 you still hear me? Let me try, does this work?

10 As a former elected municipal official I firmly
11 believe that we have a government of the people, for the
12 people and by the people. I further believe that the
13 thousands of citizens who will be negatively impacted by
the

14 the PennEast Pipeline are part of the environment and must
15 be considered as part of any environmental impact
statement.

16 Because of that belief I offer the following parable for
17 your consideration.

18 Perhaps many of you are familiar with the Bible
19 story, Jacob and Esau. Foolish Esau who sold his
20 inheritance to his much cleverer brother for a mess of
21 potage. The authors must have thought it was a pretty
22 important story because they put it in Genesis, the very
23 first book and it still resonates with people today.

24 Current events still evoke this story, and here

25 is an updated version. Once upon a time there was a
wealthy

him 1 and powerful man whose name was Sam. His friends called
2 Uncle Sam. He had an enormous house with 50 rooms in it.
3 One of the best rooms he called New Jersey and it it lived
4 his three beautiful daughters, Delaware River, fertile
5 farmland and Saralin Mountain.

gentlemen 6 Some of his oldest and most influential
7 friends asked his permission to court these three daughters
8 in New Jersey. He thought it would be good for the whole
9 family to have a close connection with these very important
10 men if his daughters each married one of them, but the men
11 had evil intentions. And Sam was too busy with his other
12 matters to realize what was going on.

their 13 The men came into his house year after year and
14 instead of proposing marriage, they raped the daughters
15 almost every day for years. They even invited some of
16 pals to join them and take advantage of the situation. The
17 three sisters struggled desperately and cried out. Sam
18 believed in the superior knowledge of his men friends and
19 wisdom, so he did intervene. The daughters would become
20 pregnant over and over, carry the babies, and when the
21 babies were born, whether the young mothers wanted it or
22 not, they were immediately taken away and given to families
23 in other countries. This went on for years causing
24 tremendous injury to each of the daughters.

Delaware River became filthy and infested with

1 disease, so no one else wanted anything to do with her.

2 Fertile farmlands body was so ravaged that most
3 of its normal functions had ceased to work.

4 And Saralin Mountain's bone had been broken by
5 the endless violence in so many places that she can no
6 longer stand unaided.

7 Finally, after years had passed, Uncle Sam
8 realized what was going on. The room called New Jersey was
9 so associated with this atrocity that it was now considered
10 on of the worst in the house. How Sam wished he had paid
11 attention when all this started and not allow himself to be
12 tricked by such scoundrels. But it was too late, the
13 was done.

damage

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

17 Doug O'Malley.

18 MR. O'MALLEY: Doug O'Malley, the director of
19 Environment New Jersey. We represent over 20,000 citizen
20 members across this great state. Doug, D-o-u-g, O'Malley,
21 O-'- capital M-a-l-l-e-y.

22 And I just want to start off by thanking the
23 hundreds of people that are here to defend New Jersey
24 against this assault by the fossil fuel industry on our
25 great state.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. O'MALLEY: PennEast is going to tear a
3 massive ecological scar right through the heart of Central
4 Jersey's environment. And it's going to double down on
5 dirty fracked gas.

and

6 FERC should not and cannot rubberstamp this
7 pipeline. PennEast is clearly playing down the expected
8 damage. And the only sustainable option for FERC is the
9 no-action alternative. This is a pipeline clearly too far.
10 It risks our climate, it will destroy our open spaces, it
11 will pollute our streams and it will trample our property
12 rights.

the

13 New Jersey is a garden state. It should not be
14 the pipeline state. And for PennEast to Diamond East to
15 Litey Expansion, there's a clear lack of looking at the
16 cumulative impacts of this assault of pipelines on New
17 Jersey.

18 The Delaware River Basin Commission is examining
19 the impacts of PennEast and they should analyze cumulative
20 impacts.

21 FERC, because of the landmark court case brought
22 by the Delaware River Keeper Network and the New Jersey
23 Sierra Club, should be looking at those cumulative impacts.
24 This is not just a nice thing to do, this is what FERC is

25 demanded to do. And it is going to be incredibly hard for

1 PennEast to be able to pass this test. That's why it's
2 critical that you apply this test to this project.

this

3 I also want to be clear that this is more --
4 is obviously more than just the environmental damage of the
5 pipeline. FERC should listen to the Whitehouse and
6 specifically the Whitehouse counsel of environmental

quality

7 which since last December specifically talked about the

need

8 to look at the impacts of climate change and greenhouse gas
9 emissions of decisions by federal departments. And that is
10 clearly a test that PennEast will fail. Because PennEast

is

11 ignoring the climate change impacts. And who really should
12 expect them to? They're a fossil fuel company. That's not
13 their job. Their job is profit. But FERC clearly has a
14 different mandate directly from the Whitehouse. You must
15 examine the climate change impacts. Not only because it's
16 your job, because it also impacts all of us here in New
17 Jersey.

18 I think it's also critical too to look at
19 PennEast and their failure to follow protocol and being
20 specific in their monthly reports. What percentage of
21 surveys have been denied? And specifically what are the
22 biological areas and findings and culture areas and

findings

23 that they've looked at and that are perhaps most damning?

of 24 What is their plan to not create a measurable degradation
25 water quality across category one waterways? That's a

1 300-foot buffer area on both areas. I'd love to see how
2 building a pipeline is not going to create a measurable
3 degradation on water quality. That again is a test that
4 they cannot pass.

5 But ultimately there are enough environmental
6 reasons to deny PennEast. But if it was just transporting
7 maple syrup they're not just transporting maple syrup, and
8 FERC must acknowledge the impacts of importing more fracked
9 gas into New Jersey, the impact of more gas power plants
10 coming on line, and the clear turn away from clean energy
11 solutions.

12 There were 1200 jobs created, not just
13 speculative jobs like the Drexel University study, there
14 were over 1200 jobs created in this state from 2007 to 2011
15 based on energy efficiency. If we are serious about the
16 environment, we should be investing in energy efficiency.
17 If we're serious about our economy, we should be investing
18 in energy efficiency. And for FERC, your job is to look at
19 the cumulative impacts and to decide the no-build
20 alternative.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. KOCHHAR: Thank you for your comment.

24 Thomas Niederer.

25 MR. NIEDERER: I am Thomas Niederer. That's

1 Thomas with an H, N-i-e-d-e-r-e-r. I'm a landowner in
2 Hopewell Township. I would like to express my concerns and
3 they probably apply to many other landowners.

4 I own 196 acres, it's a preserved farm. It's
5 managed as a stewardship woodland. It's got a one-mile
6 boundary that it shares with Bald Pate Park and most of the
7 property is in the Saralin zone. It also has a power line,
8 3,420 feet of power line along which the preferred
alternate
9 route of this pipeline is to run.

10 I have a lot of concerns. The one I will
11 concentrate on is the one concerning blasting. In the
12 middle of that property is a ridge called Mount Canoe.
It's
13 a bedrock and trapped outcropping. It has insufficient
14 overburden for burying pipes. So either a tunnel has to be
15 drilled through it or blasting has to be done to make a
16 ditch deep enough to put that pipe. The blasting is what
17 scares me.

18 On the south side of Mount Canoe there are three
19 prominent springs. One is the only source of federal
ponds.

20 One is rather historic spring that allegedly the
21 stagecoaches from Trenton to Farmington stopped to water
22 horses along a road that was abandoned in 1842. And the
23 third spring serves to create a black muck bog which is
24 quite rare in our area. All three of those springs

the 25 eventually drain into the Fullers Creek which is a trout

1 stream and then to the Delaware River.

2 I am not a geologist, but I know that the trap
3 definitely resounds tremors better than most and I will
tell
4 you true stories to back that up.

5 In 1969 on the south side of Bald Pate Mountain
6 there was an imperceptible small earthquake and a half a
7 mile away a major spring which had served a farm for 250
8 years was closed off. That was confirmed by the state
9 seismologist and I have records of the new well being
10 drilled to serve the farm because of that situation.

11 Some ten or 12 years later, on the top of Mount
12 Canoe, Mike Kuser, who owned all that property at the time
13 before it became the park, had his water from a spring down
14 in the meadow below his house. A big springhouse, a
15 prominent spring. Traplock Industries got permission to
16 open up the Morris Station Quarry and Mike Kuser was
17 obviously concerned. We went down and met with them and
18 they said, "well, if something happens to your spring, Mr.
19 Kuser, we'll drill you a well." A month later he called
me,
20 he said he was sitting on his back porch, he heard the
21 blast, he felt a mild tremor and within 15 minutes the
water
22 coming through his spigot was muddy and the next day his
23 springhouse was dry. They drilled him a well.

24 My point being that that one was a manmade

25 tremor, and one was a natural tremor, but that blast from

1 Traplock was three-quarters of a mile away from this spring
2 that it closed.

3 Now, when blasting goes on, on my ridge, and
4 those three springs on the south side are susceptible to
5 that same thing, how do you ever come back from a spring
6 that's lost? The effect that it will have on dry ponds,
7 ponds have wood duck -- we produce 40 to 50 wood ducks a
8 year from those wood ducks. You can't do that with dry
9 ponds.

10 And it's almost impossible to quantify, but look
11 what it does to the property as far as your ability to
12 it and all the environmental aspects that would come from
13 losing those springs. I ask in response to this, what
14 PennEast do in a situation like that?

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

18 Tina Venini.

19 MS. VENINI: My name is Tina Venini from Bucks
20 County Pennsylvania. I'm here today to state on the record
21 that there is no public necessity for this project. And I
22 support the no-action alternative exclusively.

23 In this respect FERC needs to recognize that

the

enjoy

would

this

24 pipeline is being constructed to drive gas through
25 communities that have voiced a clear concern against this

1 project.

2 Public opposition to this project should
3 exemplify that the need for this project has not been
4 verified. And it is my belief that PennEast is pre-filing
5 with the intention to redirect a substantial amount of this
6 gas for export overseas in order to get the most bang for
7 their buck.

8 Continuing to invest in fossil fuels will only
9 cause us to fall behind in a world that is quickly
realizing
10 poisoning our water supply is not only foolish, but
11 devastating to our planet.

12 The oil and gas industry in America is the only
13 industry that is allowed by the EPA to inject hazardous
14 materials into our underground water aquifers increasing
15 irreparable harm to our drinking water supply.

16 In my own experience the DEP clearly is not
going
17 to protect us. They don't even hold these companies
18 accountable for their present regulatory violations. They
19 no-build alternative must also be considered when weighing
20 the threat of terrorism.

21 The PennEast project could easily become a
target
22 for terrorists looking to inflict damage on our country's
23 energy infrastructure. In fact, just recently our utility
24 infrastructure was hacked here in the northeast.

25

As chairman of the House Intelligence Committee,

1 Representative Mike Rogers recently stated, quote, "This is
2 as big a national security threat as I have ever seen in
3 this history of that is country that we are not prepared
4 for."

sold

5 The welfare to citizens of the U.S. is being
6 out in the interest of the all-mighty dollar. The natural
7 gas market is crashing and I can assure you that foreign
8 interests have ever intention to make sure this happens.

9 If we do not invest in sustainable and renewable
10 energy, we will surely be left behind in the dark age.

11 I am also here today to appeal to all of the
12 landowners along the route of this proposed pipeline.

will

13 As a landowner it is of the absolute importance
14 that you post no trespassing signs on your property. If a
15 majority of stakeholders, which most of them have, refuse
16 PennEast the rights to their land, then PennEast will be
17 forced to take them all to court. The PennEast project
18 be unable to move forward in the face of such substantial
19 financial expense and legal opposition.

20 Do no buy into the fear of eminent domain. Just
21 say no. Force eminent domain proceedings on PennEast.
22 Empower your friends and your neighbors with the truth that
23 the power is in the hands of the people because we the
24 people have the right to protect our backyards against

25 corporate interests.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

3 Jay Cee Venini, and the next four speakers are
4 Kaia Elinich, Jeffrey Schafer, Frank Dutko, and Jonathan
5 Feinberg.

that's

6 MR. Venini: My name is Jay Cee Venini and

7 J-a-y C-e-e space V-e-n-i-n-i. And I live in Durham
8 Township, Bucks County, PA. The past seven months I've had
9 to learn a lot about the natural gas industry.
10 Unfortunately it's not looking good for the people.

11 What I've learned is that the fossil fuel
12 industry is on a rapid path to make profit without
13 accountability, regulation, or consideration for the
14 permanent damage that will occur in the destructive path.

15 We are at a pivotal time in history. We can
16 either rise up and affect the fact that renewable energy is
17 the only option to save life on this planet. Or we can
18 ignore the signs and let corporate interests eradicate any
19 potential for future generations to have clean water and
20 air.

21 We don't have to wait for every last tree to be
22 cut down and every last river to be poisoned before we
23 realize the fact that we can't eat or breathe money.

24 (Laughter.)

25 MR. Venini: I'm pleading for a call of actions

1 to mothers, grandmothers, grandfathers, and fathers and the
2 youth, please get involved about the truth. There is no
3 public necessity for this new gas infrastructure. Don't
let
4 the -- end, don't let them -- don't let them believe their
5 lies. Together we can stand strong and take back our
6 constitutional rights. Please be the change that you want
7 to see in the world.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

10 MS. ELINICH: Hello, my name is Kaia Elinich and
11 I am -- K-a-i-a E-l-i-n-i-c-h. And I am a resident of
Bucks
12 County, Pennsylvania.

13 I just found out I have a pipeline -- a gas
14 pipeline in my back yard. Now that I know I am very
scared.

15 Having a gas pipeline on your property can be very
16 devastating. I have watched a couple of documentaries such
17 as Gas Land and the things that natural gas can do to
18 people's water is very tragic.

19 Apparently I thought I had an oil pipeline, but
20 then all of a sudden I learned it had been converted to
21 natural gas and no one knew about it.

22 If that gas pipeline explodes in my back yard,
my
23 family and I are done for. If PennEast builds their

24 pipeline there will be nothing left but gigantic pipeline
25 scars cutting across our land and streams. Why build new

1 gas pipelines when we could be improving the ones that
2 already exist. Besides, fracking for natural gas poisons
3 way too much clean water.

4 My generation should have the right to clean
5 water and air that hasn't been poisoned just for the sake
6 of a profit.

7 Please just say no to the PennEast pipeline.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 Jeffrey Shafer.

12 MR. SHAFER: Yes, I am Jeffrey Shafer,
13 J-e-f-f-r-e-y S-h-a-f-e-r. I am a property owner in Dover
14 Township on the proposed path of the PennEast Pipeline.
15 With a deep love of the unique area of farms and forests
16 whose character is threatened by this project. I am also
17 an economist with 25 years of experience using economic
18 analysis in policy making, including as Under Secretary of
19 the U.S. Treasury for International Affairs. And so I want
20 to comment on the economic assessment of the project which
21 is prepared for PennEast by Econ Consult in which Mr.
22 Terranova referred to in his presentation.

23 I submitted a paper, which I'm simply going to
24 summarize here. The assessment is deeply flawed in six

25 respects. First it presents job creation numbers that

1 overstate jobs by at least four times. And using a model
2 developed at MIT for other job changes in county clusters,
3 an article that was also cited in the New York Times today,
4 the overstatement would be six times.

5 My best estimate is that job creation during
6 construction would amount to only one-quarter of 1 percent
7 of employment in the six-county area affected. And many of
8 the workers would come with bringing the skills that are
9 needed from far away.

10 The companies obtain some support from labor, I
11 believe by grossly misstating the gains to workers in the
12 area.

13 Second, the study fails totally to address
costs.
14 Any honest economic impact analysis would assess costs as
15 well as benefits. The market costs in lost bond revenue,
16 tourism, recreation, land value, real estate taxes must be
17 counted. And the externality costs to the environment and
18 to the special character of a carefully preserved region
19 must also be valued even if they are not captured by market
20 prices.

21 The breadth of the community opposition that
22 you've heard tonight and will hear again tomorrow night
23 reflects our overwhelming judgment that these costs would
be
24 high and that needs to be given, I think, heavy weight in

25 the analysis.

1 The study makes extreme assumptions, my third
2 point. And these extreme assumptions generate impossibly
3 high benefit estimates. Jobs are just one of these and
4 they're spelled out in my paper.

5 Fourth the analysis is partial. When we know
6 that in a general equilibrium analysis, partial effects are
7 reduced by the operation of markets.

8 And, fifth, the analysis is static without
9 consideration of alternatives. I plead with you, as other
10 have, to undertake a comprehensive study of the many
11 proposals for additional pipelines, storage an alternative
12 energy investment to address the energy demand in the
target
13 market area.

14 And despite what Mr. Terranova said, I believe
15 you do have to consider whether the drive to build the
16 pipeline is an anticipation of LNG export facilities and to
17 take note of the fact that exports would negate any
benefits
18 to the local market and in fact they could be perverse.

19 Sixth, the study provides no context leaving the
20 impression that effects are significant when in fact
they're
21 very small. For example, taking even the exaggerated
22 numbers put forward in this study, the economic
contribution
23 to New Jersey would amount to only 0.079 percent of 2012

24 economic activity in this state in the year the
construction

25 actually took place.

1 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Shafer, can you wrap up?

2 MR. SHAFER: Yes. FERC must assess the cost of
3 benefits of undertaking this project I urge you to bring an
4 objective analyst selected by disinterested parties and not
5 to give weight to the grossly distorted pictures that the
6 company has provided.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

10 Frank Dutko.

11 MR. DUTKO: My name is Frank Dutko, F-r-a-n-k
12 D-u-t-k-o. I'm here as an individual. I am co-owner of my
13 family's property in Hopewell Township, New Jersey and the
14 current route of the PennEast Pipeline goes right through
15 our property and is planned to connect on our property with
16 the Transco Pipeline which goes through Texas to New York
17 City.

18 I would like to make four points. First, I hope
19 FERC carefully considers whether this pipeline is really
20 necessary. The definition of "necessary" is absolutely
21 needed or required. The PennEast Pipeline is not necessary
22 because there are many other pipelines approved or planned
23 to go from the Macellus region to other regions. There's a
24 Constitution Pipeline, the Litey Southeast Expansion
25 Project, the RT Rover, I mean, there's probably 15
pipelines

1 that are planed to go. The total capacity of the five I
2 know about are 7.4 billion cubic feet per day. The
PennEast
3 Pipeline only carries 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas
4 per day. So the PennEast Pipeline is not necessary,
5 absolutely necessary or required.

6 Second point involves PennEast's website which
7 states that they will bring affordable natural gas to
8 Pennsylvania and New Jersey families and businesses. The
9 cost of the PennEast Pipeline, \$1 billion and subsequent
10 profits to PennEast are likely to eventually be paid by
11 Pennsylvania and New Jersey families and businesses.

12 The Energy Information Administration, the EIA,
13 states that the U.S. will become a net exporter of natural
14 gas in the near future. The EIA also stated that natural
15 gas bills paid by consumers may actually increase by 1 to 8
16 percent if the U.S. becomes a net exporter. This is less
17 affordable, not more affordable.

18 The third point is whether the pipeline planners
19 have minimized adverse economic impacts on landowners.
20 Collocating the PennEast Pipeline within an existing
21 pipeline's right-of-way seems to be the best way to
minimize
22 these impacts. So why not? I agree with George Fisher,
the
23 West Amwell Mayor, who said, "Why not collocate the
PennEast

24 Pipeline within the right-of-way or parallel to the
existing

25 Transco pipeline that already goes from Dallas,
Pennsylvania

1 to Princeton, New Jersey?"

2 Finally, the economic impact of this pipeline is
3 very local to my family. Our land was in the middle of a
4 sale and now that is in jeopardy. My elderly aunt is the
5 co-owner of this property and she was counting on this
6 income. This is a severe loss to our family. These are

the

7 human stories behind putting a pipeline in.

8 Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 Jonathan Feinberg.

12 MR. FEINBERG: My name is Jonathan Feinberg,

13 J-o-n-a-t-h-a-n F-e-i-n-b-e-r-g.

14 I am the owner of R.J. Investment Fund, ELP. We

15 are the contract purchasers of the property located at
block

16 72, lot 9 in Hopewell Township commonly known as 135

17 Blackwell Road.

18 On January 12th, 2014, the new proposed route
for

19 the PennEast Pipeline project was announced showing the
20 pipeline routed directly through our property. While we
21 oppose the pipeline for all of the reasons discussed by
22 others today, we would also like to highlight the severe
23 consequences this pipeline will have and has already had on
24 my small business and consequently my family.

25

We are currently in the middle of obtaining a

1 seven-lot by right subdivision for the property in order to
2 construct high-end luxury homes. We have already invested
3 well over \$100,000 as well as significant time and effort
in
4 our efforts to obtain the subdivision. The pipeline and
its
5 impact on our subdivision will be devastating. If the
6 pipeline is approved, the loss of value to all of the lots
7 on the property will be enormous.

8 High-end luxury homes are a discretionary
9 purchase made by discerning buyers. At best, the homes
will
10 have to be severely discounted to attract homeowners. The
11 losses we would experience from the pipeline will be in the
12 hundreds of thousands of dollars. There's no certainty
that
13 the current process can or will fully compensate us for
14 these losses. The shadow of the pipeline is causing
15 significant hardships to me and my business even now.

16 We are experiencing delays as well as increased
17 costs in engineering and legal fees as we determine how to
18 proceed in light of the proposed pipeline.

19 How do we get compensated for these losses? We
20 will be ready to market and sell homes prior to the FERC
21 rendering its final decision on the pipeline. It will be
22 impossible to sell luxury homes with the cloud of the
23 potential pipeline hanging over the property. We will also

24 be unable to provide any discounts because if the pipeline
25 is not approved, as it shouldn't be, we will not be able to

1 recoup those losses.

2 We are faced with an impossible situation.
3 Terminate the contract now and lose the large amount of
4 money we have invested already or proceed with the
5 subdivision and risk losing even more money.

6 Either decision could end my business altogether
7 with disastrous consequences to me and my family. It is
8 unconscionable to think that you would allow me and my
9 family to face financial ruin so companies that made
10 billions of dollars last year could build a pipeline to
make
11 even more profits.

12 Personally this is taking a huge toll on me and
13 my family. I am literally kept awake at night thinking
14 about the pipeline and what it will do to us. I urge you
to
15 immediately reject this pipeline.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

19 Our next four speakers are Patty Cronheim,
20 Michael Brogan, Maureen Bydalek and Sari DeCesare.

21 MS. CRONHEIM: Thanks, Patty Cronheim. Patty
22 with a Y and Cronheim is spelled C-r-o-n-h-e-i-m. And I'm
a
23 coordinator for Hopewell Township Citizens Against the
24 PennEast Pipeline.

25

When I was a kid we had an old pool table in the

1 basement that wasn't level. You could always win if you
2 knew the table. All the balls ran into the corner pocket.

3 Research studies can be like that, slanted, due
4 to bias and ethical conflicts of interest.

5 To adequately satisfy NEPA requirements FERC
6 needs to obtain the most objective and unbiased scientific
7 research possible. Because of Tetra Tech's conflict of
8 interest in the gas industry, hiring them to perform the

EIS

9 falls far short of that.

10 As for PennEast's recent economic research, it
11 also slants to the corner pocket and lacks the independent
12 peer reviewed hallmarks of respected studies.

13 PennEast has spent large amounts of time and
14 money creating studies that support the rose-colored view
15 they want everyone to believe. Look over here, something
16 shiny. They've put a lot of effort getting that message

out

17 to residents via mailings and radio. But they don't like
18 to talk about possible negative consequences. They haven't
19 made public, for instance, the projected impact radius for
20 the pipeline. In case you don't know, PIR is the blast
21 zone.

22 We've ascertained through our unpaid research
23 that the blast zone of this pipeline is approximately 950
24 feet. You would have about 90 seconds to get outside of

25 that zone to escape the 50 percent risk of fatality. And

1 that's about how long I've been talking right now. Would
2 you make it? I don't think I would.

3 In Hopewell Township alone, we estimate that
4 1,392 people live within that zone. That's information
that
5 PennEast hasn't found necessary or convenient to share. I
6 ask that PennEast be required to provide complete PIR
7 projections and mapping for the entire length of the
8 proposed pipeline, make their findings public, and
9 distribute them to every household and business that would
10 be in the impact zone.

11 As for FERC, even the slightest perception of
12 bias or conflict of interest should not be present.

13 I asked FERC to remove Tetra Tech from the
14 PennEast Project and to replace them with an unbiased,
15 unaffiliated independent research organization to conduct
16 the EIS. I asked FERC to restructure its own internal
17 system to create more separation between money paid to
18 research contractors and the client seeking a permit. The
19 real client should be the American public, not the gas
20 industry. I ask FERC to discount any studies that are paid
21 for by PennEast as biased and not meeting adequate
academic,
22 ethical standards. I ask that the FERC be very aware that
23 survey does not equate consent and the PennEast does not
24 accurately represent to FERC the large number of people

a 25 along the pipeline route who will not willingly enter into

1 contract with PennEast.

2 It is no secret that public confidence and faith
3 in FERC right now as an unbiased agency is pretty low.

4 I've been fortunate enough to speak with many
5 people in this community and I can attest to that lack of
6 faith. But I ask you to look around you tonight, what you
7 are seeing is courage. The courage to hope even when

you're

8 afraid the table is slanted. We are asking FERC tonight to
9 honor that courage, restore our faith and level the table.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

12 Michael Brogan.

13 MR. BROGAN: My name is Michael Brogan, last

name

14 B-r-o-g-a-n. I live in Hopewell Township, New Jersey. I

am

15 a political science professor at Rider University.

16 As part of my comments I also want to share some

17 of my colleagues' views who have also looked at this
problem.

18 John Diablo, professor of molecular biology, and I'm going
19 to read his comment.

20 I write in opposition to the PennEast proposed
21 pipeline. This comment should be included as part of the
22 environment impact statement which coincides with the
23 February 27th scoping meetings. As a tenured professor who

expert 24 works in cellular molecular biology and cancer, in my
human 25 opinion there are links between fracking materials and

1 disease. There is also the concern of methane and chemical
2 leakage into the environment. Not only from the well head,
3 but also from a 108 mile span. This compounds the public
4 health issue around hydraulic fracturing.

5 A full review of the environmental public health
6 issues needs to be undertaken not only by FERC, but also by
7 its sister agencies at the Federal and state levels that
8 deal with environmental and public issues.

9 Thank you for your consideration, Dr. Jonathan
10 Diablo, Professor of Biology, Rider University.

11 I have another comment from Dr. Dan Druckendrd,
12 D-r-u-c-k-e-n-d-r-d. He is a professor of Environmental
13 Science at Rider University.

14 Dear Chairman, as an environmental scientist and
15 director of sustainabilities studies program at Rider
16 University I write this letter out of concern regarding the
17 environmental impact that will accompany the construction
of
18 a new gas pipeline in central New Jersey. Even recently
the
19 extraction of fossil fuel resources in our country has
20 proceeded without full consideration the environmental
21 impacts to that extraction.

22 For example, while the mining of coal in the
23 Appalachian Mountain region of our country is focused on
24 numerous aquatic impacts from this resource extraction only

25 now are we beginning to appreciate the full extent of the

resource
the
1 upland terrestrial and human health impacts of this
2 extraction. Similar concerns are now being raised about
3 impacts of pipeline and wellhead construction associated
4 with the extraction of natural gas from hydraulic fracking
5 across the large Marcellus and Utica Shale regions
6 associated with this pipeline.

of
7 Unlike the relatively rural and forested areas
8 the Appalachian Mountain region, New Jersey has the highest
9 population density of any state in the union. It's
expected
10 to become the first state to reach build out where
11 additional available land to develop will no longer exist.

12 Thus, any impact to remaining habitats or the
13 ecosystems in our state will be even greater because of the
14 pressures of development. My concern is more than just our
15 inability to restore these ecosystems that are impacted by
16 this construction, I also expect that there will be impacts
17 that will not become apparent until after construction.

the
18 In the following paragraphs I outline some of
19 impacts. I will summarize.

20 Essential findings from ecological studies over
21 the past few decades is the number of species within a
22 habitat increases as the area of that habitat increases.
23 This relationship is referred to as species area

24 relationship. It simply states that the larger the
habitat,

25 the greater the biological diversity.

1 The PennEast Pipeline threatens this very
2 delicate ecosystem.

3 Finally, in addition to environmental impacts
4 transmission pipelines such as the proposed PennEast also
5 incurs substantial risk to human health by the construction
6 operation. For all of these reasons I am writing to
express
7 my concern with the line while often thought of as merely a
8 state crisscrossed by highways and utility lines, New
Jersey
9 is fortunate to maintain diverse habitats and large
forests.
10 These treasures of the Garden State require protection to
11 manage their ecosystems for future generations.

12 Finally, this is my comment, Michael Brogan.

13 Dear Secretary, I write in opposition to the
14 proposed pipeline project. Based on the precautionary
15 principle alone, the proposed line lacks overall
scientific,
16 environmental, and economic consensus and will benefit to
17 the project.

18 Due to the uncertain nature of the PennEast
19 Project, the burden of proof must be weighed in favor of
20 public health, safety, and environmental needs rather than
21 what has been submitted by the PennEast consortium and its
22 advocates.

23 To highlight this program --

24 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Brogan, can you wrap it up,
25 please?

1 MR. BROGAN: To highlight this program I would
2 like to point out prior research conducted by Sclovanas and
3 others who found that based on a 36-inch pipeline there
4 would be a blast radius of plus or minus 900 feet and the
5 thermal radiation from that blast approximately 1,800 feet.
6 In their estimates they have found, quote, "Flammable gas,
7 transmission pipeline --

8 MR. SCOTT: Could you wrap it up, please?

9 MR. BROGAN: I will. Thirty seconds, sir.

10 MR. SCOTT: You can provide that in writing.

11 MR. BROGAN: I have already.

12 PARTICIPANT: Please, we want to hear?

13 MR. BROGAN: Sure. To provide -- while I'd like
14 to provide examples from Hopewell, New Jersey where I
15 reside, I've provided a table for your review of how many
16 residents would be directly impacted by the pipeline that
17 live within this danger zone. Approximately there are over
18 500 properties and more than 1,400 people that live within
19 this thousand feet region. My numbers are underestimating
20 the full impact because we could go from a half a mile to
21 three-tenths of a mile.

22 Rightly we're looking at between one out of 12
23 residents --

24 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Brogan, can you please wrap it
25 up, please?

1 MR. BROGAN: I'm finishing. To 20 percent of
2 residents who would be impacted by this line. In any
event,
3 due to the uncertain nature of safety risks related to this
4 construction operational line, and the number of people
that
5 are now exposed to that is risk, I call on FERC to exercise
6 the no action alternative on this project.

7 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

8 MS. LYKENS: Before we entertain the next
speaker
9 let me just make a comment about going the three minutes.
10 The reason that we are recording it at three minutes, we
11 really want to hear from as many people here tonight. And
12 if we allow the one or two or three people to go over and
13 we're disrespectful of our areas, then unfortunately more
14 people will not be able to speak.

15 So we are trying to allow as many to speak as
16 possible.

17 PARTICIPANT: (Yelling from audience.) With all
18 due respect, people have gone to great effort to try and
19 accommodate your three minutes. It's very difficult to get
20 within that timeframe but people have clearly tried. So,
21 you showing them the respect and giving them a little bit
of
22 extra time to wrap up is fair and appropriate.

23 If you have not provided enough time and enough

24 hearings everybody to be heard, then schedule more.

25 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

1 MS. LYKENS: They are going to call a few more
2 speakers and they are going to -- I know you're not going
to
3 like this, but we are going to take a couple minute break
4 because we need to count how many speakers are left and how
5 much time we have left --

6 PARTICIPANT: (Off microphone.) Now?

7 PARTICIPANT: Stay here all night. You're the
8 ones who want to go home, right.

9 PARTICIPANT: You're wasting our time.

10 MS. LYKENS: Excuse me. If we have more of an
11 outbreak, if we're not able to run this meeting, we may cut
12 it shorter than the others.

13 PARTICIPANT: It's not your meeting.

14 MS. LYKENS: It is our meeting.

15 (Simultaneous conversation.)

16 (Audience boos.)

17 MS. LYKENS: Okay. I'm going to stop speaking
18 and I'm going to allow speakers to speak.

19 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. BYDALEK: Good evening, my name is Maureen
22 Bydalek. M-a-u-r-e-e-n B-y-d-a-l-e-k.

23 I am representing farmers and our family that
24 take the no-build option. Our family along with other
25 landowners have taken meticulous care through the years to

1 foster our land and our wildlife habitat. This pipeline is
2 dissecting our farm in half.

3 We are woodland stewards. We are the farmers
4 that stand while cutting hay to cut around nesting turkeys,
5 and resting fawns, just in a passionate perspective here.

6 I can't imagine a company coming in and
7 destroying our farm and that land that at we've taken care
8 to preserve. From a practical point of view this pipeline
9 is actually following a direct route that is our land

runoff

10 making the soil highly erodible. It's a very fine sandy
11 loam soil. It's passing through prime soil. It's
12 encompassing a very steep ledge on -- of over a 45-degree
13 angle that will actually be crossing over a trout stream.
14 The stream is bedrock with adjacent wetland.

15 Within 200 feet of this pipeline we have a well
16 and my concern along with others is the impact this
17 will have on our drinking water supply.

pipeline

18 In addition to the stream that it's crossing,
19 this pipeline will be crossing over another smaller
20 stream/runoff that directly feeds our pond. And, again,
21 affecting established plant and amphibian population.

22 We have nesting osprey local to our property
23 within sight of the pipeline. So I just wanted to again
24 say, no build.

25

Thank you for your time.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

3 MS. DeCESARE: My name is S-a-r-i

4 D-e-C-e-s-a-r-e. I am a resident of Hopewell Township and

I

5 am here speaking as a concerned citizen and out of respect

6 I've edited my remarks to keep this as short as possible.

7 I stand staunchly opposed to the PennEast

8 Pipeline project and I'm urging FERC for a no -- a vote of

9 no action.

10 Abraham Lincoln spoke of government of the

people

11 by the people for the people shall not perish from the

12 earth. This sounds to me, this feels to me like twisted

13 Lincoln. It's government of the connected people by the

14 deck is stacked against the average citizen people for the

15 benefit of the greedy corporate people. Hardworking

16 citizens are facing risks both physically and economically,

17 threatened by eminent domain, threatened by the prospect of

18 a contaminated water supply, and tainted wells, and
fighting

19 to protect tax dollar supported, treasured green space that

20 was intended to be preserved for generations to come.

21 The 14th Amendment to the Constitution
guarantees

22 everyone in the United States due process of law. Which

23 means you have the right to be treated fairly by people who

24 are in positions of authority.

25 FERC Chairwoman Cheryl LeFleur spoke to the

1 National Press Club in January using the words, I am
2 dedicated to ensuring that the process is fair, clear,
3 timely, and transparent. FERC, you hold this authority,
but
4 is fair possible when you're supported by the industry you
5 are supposed to regulate? Does your idea of fair include
6 employing Tetra Tech to provide the definitive
environmental
7 impact study.

8 Tetra Tech is being paid by PennEast. Tetra
Tech
9 is allied with Marcella Shale Coalition and the American
10 Petroleum Institute. They acquired Broody Engineering a
11 pipeline engineering and facilities construction company.
12 And a simple Google search by a lay person like myself
13 brings up questions about Tetra Tech's questionable
14 corporate ethics. They make money remediating
environmental
15 issues, ones created by constructing a pipeline perhaps.

16 I join many others in demanding that Tetra Tech
17 be immediately dismissed due to this conflict of many
18 interests and replaced with an independent, unbiased
company
19 independent of ties to the fossil fuel industry.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

23 The next three speakers which will bring us to

24 the end of page two, Nancy K. Anderson, Sam Thompson, and

25 Denise Furey. And then we'll let people take a short
break.

1 PARTICIPANT: No break.

2 PARTICIPANT: No breaks.

3 PARTICIPANT: No break.

4 MR. SCOTT: We'll make it a fast one.

5 PARTICIPANT: No break.

6 MR. HINESLEY: Hello, my name is Gary Hinesley.

7 Nancy Anderson asked me to read this statement for her. I
8 am speaking as a private citizen.

9 My name is G-a-r-y H-i-n-e-s-l-e-y.

10 The concerns I'm going to express are about the
11 environmental impact statement and what the contents of it
12 will be.

13 One environmental impact we've already noticed
is
14 small planes flying over proposed paths to do surveys and
we
15 wonder the set method that's going to be used for
monitoring
16 the pipeline, will there be small planes flying up and down
17 the right-of-way. Or will there be drone planes, or just
18 exactly what?

19 Now, in Delaware Township where I'm from, we
have
20 three C1 -- three category one stream watersheds. Two of
21 them, the Locktawn and Wicachokee Creek flow directly into
22 the Delaware and Rearton canal.

23 Now, my comments that I submitted on line to
FERC

24 refer to two studies in particular, one by the U.S.
25 Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey water
quality

1 of the Delaware and Rearton Canal. The other report I
2 referred to throughout these comments is the watershed
3 restoration and protection plan for the Lacktawn and
4 Wicachokee Creek watershed by the New Jersey Water Supply
5 Authority.

the
for

6 The New Jersey Water Supply Authority manages
7 water in the DNR Canal. It's a source of drinking water
8 -- I don't know the numbers, maybe a million people -- so
9 that's a significant portion of the population of the state
10 of New York, who get their drinking water from the DNR
11 Canal.

12 Now, I would hope that your environmental impact
13 statement of this pipeline which crosses these two streams
14 about a dozen times just in Delaware Township would include
15 the findings by the Water Supply Authority.

16 They've done these two studies that show that
17 after heavy rain events, the water -- the drinking water
18 becomes more polluted because of the runoff in the canal.
19 They site with the shallow distance to bedrock, the
20 character of the streams, so, sorry. I'm trying to
21 summarize it instead of reading.

22 I'm doing a bad job here.

23 Well, thanks.

24 (Applause.)

25

MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

1 Sam Thompson.

2 MR. THOMPSON: Hi, my name is Sam Thompson, S-a-

m

3 T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n. I think I figured out how the economic
4 impact assessment that was done by Drexel University and
5 their consulting people. I took this -- these are a list

of

6 the comments made to FERC prior to the -- or during the
7 prefiling timeline. I took it to Kinkos and paid them \$105
8 and I think that's part of the amount of money that's going
9 to go into the \$1.6 billion. I'll provide these to you at
10 the end of my comments.

11 I'm glad that the gentleman from the DOT is

here.

12 The comment that I was going to address was on their

website

13 under their mission and goals for 2016, and I quote, "We
14 to reduce the number of hazardous liquid pipeline spills
15 with environmental consequences to between 65 and 81 per
16 year."

aim

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. THOMPSON: Somewhere also on that website,
19 and I can't find it right now -- there we go. "We aim to
20 reduce the number of pipeline incidents involving death or
21 major injury to between 26 and 37 per year."

22 My question to FERC is, if you haven't got it
23 right yet, why are you building another one?

24 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

25 MR. THOMPSON: [INAUDIBLE] is UGI when you

Google

1 it and put the words -- the letters UGI and environmental
2 incident or hazardous spills or whatever words you want to
3 do, it takes a very long time and a lot of paper which I
4 wasn't going to spend to print out all of the incidents
that
5 they've been involved in. Most shockingly to me was in
2011
6 in Allentown. February 2011 in Allentown, there was an
7 explosion involving five fatalities and in the aftermath of
8 that explosion and all of the analysis that was done to
9 determine what led to it, it came out by the Pennsylvania
10 Board of Utilities, and I'm sorry, I don't know the exact
11 name of that, but I'm sure someone -- in my comments that I
12 write, I'll make sure to get that right. There were 178
13 unaddressed violations that led up to that one incident;
178
14 violations by one of your major partners that led up to an
15 incident that caused people to die.

16 I'm asking FERC, until there is a credible
17 economic impact analysis that states that this will
actually
18 benefit our region, which it doesn't, and until the
19 Department of Transportation who oversees your safety can
20 hire enough inspectors to cover all the pipelines that
21 already exist and until your operators can mitigate all of
22 the infrastructural decay that's going on in the existing
23 pipelines, please do not add any more to their burden.

24 Enough is enough.

25 Thank you very much for your time.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

3 Denise Furey.

4 MS. FUREY: My name is Denise Furey, that is
5 D-e-n-i-s-e and the last name is F-u-r-e-y. I spent the
6 last 30 years of my career working in the energy utility
7 environmental sector. I am not here tonight in a
8 professional capacity. I'm here as a concerned citizen.

9 I have watched over the past four or five years
10 the economic -- and I've seen the economic benefits that we
11 have seen, the geopolitical benefits, and the environmental
12 benefits of having moderately priced, abundant natural gas.
13 I believe that we have seen lower electric rates, lower
14 heating costs. We have the opportunity to reduce reliance
15 on some of the more unsavory parts of the world through the
16 development of natural gas vehicles and electric vehicles.

17 I also have seen since 2005, owing to the
18 increased use of natural gas in electric generation, we
have
19 reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 14 percent in the
United
20 States.

21 I bring my comments back to Pennsylvania and New
22 Jersey. During the construction period this project over
23 the three-year period, we expect to see a \$1.6 billion
24 direct economic benefit to Pennsylvania and New Jersey. We

25 expect to see 12,000 jobs with aggregate wages of over \$700

1 million. After construction there will be roughly 100
2 people employed per annum operating these facilities.

3 DOT believes -- on their website they have said
4 that the pipeline is the safest way to transport natural
5 gas.

6 I personally live in an older city. I live in a
7 city where we have dangerous pipelines that are 100 years
8 old and I can honestly say that I would much rather be --
9 more comfortable living next to this pipeline than the
10 pipelines near my house.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

14 Okay. We're going to take a short break. We
15 promise that we'll make it quick.

16 (Brief recess taken.)

17 MR. SCOTT: Our speakers start on page three of
18 the sign-up sheet if you're keeping track of where you are.
19 T. C. Onstott, Alix Bacon, Tim McElroy, and Ken Collins.

20 Could anybody hear the names?

21 PARTICIPANT: No.

22 MR. SCOTT: All right. T. C. Onstott, Alix
23 Bacon, Tim McElroy, and Ken Collins.

24 MR. ONSTOTT: I'm T. C. Onstott. I'm a
professor

25 at Princeton University. That's O-n-s-t-o-t-t.

1 I've been looking at geomicrobiology, low
2 temperature geochemistry, and arsenic transport for the
last
3 20 years now. I didn't come with a written statement. I
4 posted it, but I come with a lot of concern about arsenic.

5 And the reason why is that when I first found
out
6 about the pipeline route itself, I was passing through what
7 has already been well established as an arsenic hotspot in
8 our state. Where a large fraction of the groundwater wells
9 have arsenic concentrations that exceed the 5 PPD level
that
10 is allowed in our state.

11 Wells that are situated as sole source aquifers
12 and where most of the people in these counties rely upon
13 water wells.

14 To give you an idea of why I am so concerned,
15 I've brought a couple of props. A one-liter bottle of Fiji
16 water, and this is the water. It's about a kilogram, a
17 couple of pounds in size. And if we have 100 ppm of
arsenic
18 in this -- which is along the high range value. And you
19 bash it up and you drill it, and you fracture it, and you
20 expose it to the air, and leach it with rain water it gets
21 into the ground water. You transfer all that arsenic into
22 my one liter of Fiji water the concentration would be 250
23 ppm of arsenic.

24 Now, in order to dilute this down to 5 ppb of
25 arsenic, how many liters of Fiji water would I require?

1 (Laughter.)

2 MR. ONSTOTT: Fifty thousand. And so that's
3 okay. That's okay. Fifty thousand is really nothing,
okay.

4 The ground water is not Fiji water. We wish it were. It's
5 got arsenic in it already. But to make the math easy for
6 you, I'll just say, it will take about 100,000 bottles of
7 Hunterdon's ground water. A hundred thousand to dilute the
8 arsenic from this below the legal limits for the state of
9 New Jersey.

10 Now, that's not a lot. That's 25,000 gallons.
11 If I took a 25,000 gallon truck and I poured the water out
12 onto a Hunterdon County farm, the water would spread down
to
13 the depth of about one meter before it gets to bedrock and
14 spread out to about a 30 meter by 30 meter area which is in
15 fact about the size of this room. Okay. And it's actually
16 fairly close to the ROW pipeline. So it seems like that's
17 pretty reasonable right?

18 But then I asked the question, along the ROW and
19 the pipeline running through this road, this room here, how
20 many kilograms of this is excavated, or drilled, or
blasted,
21 brought to the surface where it's exposed?

22 Now, this is an easy calculation to make. It's
23 basically 30 meters and you have to go down at least seven,
24 eight feet, the top upper meters is soil and stuff, right.

25 But the bottom part is all of this that you're blasting

1 through. And so I will get that and the top has no arsenic
2 in it and I will even say, okay, it's only one liter by one
3 liter trench that you're making for a one-meter in diameter
4 pipeline, okay. So the answer is, 75 metric tons or 75,000
5 kilograms of this and a 100-foot long trench. So that's
6 75,000 times 100,000. Now what does that mean visually?

It

7 means that that amount of water is contained within the
8 aquifer on 300 kilometers, both sides of the pipeline.

That

9 sounds like an impossible number. How can that be? And it
10 comes because of the fact of the arsenic concentrations
that
11 are so high.

12 Well, you know, I studied it out by rain. Okay.
13 How long will that take? Groundwater flows, 2000 years,
14 give or take a thousand years.

15 MR. SCOTT: You need to wrap up.

16 MR. ONSTOTT: I know. The devils are in the
17 details. The average composition of arsenic that would
18 leach it down to 30 kilometers in 300 years on each side.
19 While maybe not all of the arsenic is coming out. Maybe
20 only 10 percent will come out during the process.

21 Okay. Three kilometers in 30 years, you see,
but

22 the devil is in the detail. So I commend FERC for
requiring

23 the environmental impact statement. But it has to go

24 further than that. They need to have in New Jersey a

25 geological survey, the EPA and the New Jersey DP involved

in

1 the IS process. If you decide to proceed, which I would
2 recommend against, you need to have these same agencies --

3 (Simultaneous conversation.)

4 MR. ONSTOTT: -- environmental management
process

5 as well. I mean, inspection process that Tetra Tech is
6 taking care of.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

10 Alix Bacon.

11 MS. BACON: I'm Alix Bacon, that's A-l-i-x
12 B-a-c-o-n. I'm a regional manager for the New Jersey
13 Conservation Foundation. We are a 50-year-old state,
14 non-profit whose mission is to preserve and more and more
15 I'm afraid to protect what we've preserved in terms of land
16 and natural resources for the public benefit.

17 The proposed PennEast Pipeline is a Greenfields
18 pipeline. This proposed pipeline targets preserved lands.
19 New Jersey Conservation Foundation is an affected landowner
20 by this proposed pipeline.

21 We have ownership interests in seven properties
22 on the alternate route and six on the original route.
These
23 properties were purchased for the public benefit with
24 funding from the federal government, specifically the

25 Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program which is

1 part of the USDA, funded by the state of New Jersey, the
2 County of Hunterdon, and the local taxpayers in the
3 municipalities where the properties were purchased and by
4 private foundation monies.

5 The preferred alternate route would also impact
6 69 -- I'm sorry, that's a little awkward -- 69 preserved
7 parcels totaling 4,500 acres. This land represents a
8 investment of \$35 million.

public

9 Here I have a map that shows the preserved

lands.

10 I'm going to leave you all copies. But look at these
11 routes. All the colored properties are preserved lands.
12 You can't tell me that this pipeline is not targeting
13 preserved lands.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. BACON: I also would like to comment on the
16 way PennEast makes its calculations about the impacted
17 preserve lands in their resource reports. They based their
18 calculations only on the disturbed area on the size of the
19 right-of-way and the area of disturbance during
20 construction. But each pipeline that is -- oh, my gosh,
21 that happens really quickly.

22 But each parcel that is traversed by the
23 pipeline, in fact, you're impacting it in its entirety. So
24 I demand that the EIS tally preserved lands impacted by the

25 proposed pipeline based upon the entire parcel, not on just

1 the size of the right-of-way. And also the EIS must
2 document the fact that they are taking public lands that
3 were paid for by the taxpayers of our country and our state
4 and that they still have outstanding bonds on that we have
5 to pay off. So every resident, every taxpayer in the state
6 of New Jersey is a stakeholder in this process.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. BACON: And is an affected landowner in this
9 process and we will be setting a terrible, terrible
10 precedent for the future of our land preservation program
11 because who's going to want to preserve their property if
12 it's going to make their property a target for a pipeline
in
13 the future.

14 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

15 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

16 Tim McElroy.

17 MR. McELROY: Hi, I'm Tim McElroy, a resident of
18 Hopewell Township and Hopewell Township Citizens Against
19 PennEast Pipeline.

20 I urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
21 to reject this proposal by PennEast and construct a
pipeline
22 to environmentally sensitive and publicly preserved lands
of
23 New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

24 I find it difficult to even believe that we're
at
25 this point. In every public discussion and town meeting I

1 have attended, there have been many -- and there have been
2 many -- the response from the citizens has been the same,
3 no, this does not benefit us, we do not want this.

4 You have received scientific testimony from
5 experts and page after page of data to support that
6 testimony. You have heard the heartfelt sentiment of
7 concerned citizens like myself along with objection after
8 objection from affected landowners, yet here we are. We
9 stand here tonight before you, the Federal Energy

Regulatory

10 Commission, a government agency that has been formed to
11 assist consumers in obtaining reliable, efficient, and
12 sustainable energy services at a reasonable cost through
13 appropriate regulatory and market means. Your mission
14 statement reads in part, "fulfilling these missions
15 pursuing two primary goals. One, ensure that rates, terms
16 and conditions are just, reasonable, and not unduly
17 discriminatory or preferential. And, two, promote the
18 development of safe, reliable, and efficient infrastructure
19 that serves the public interest."

involves

20 Be certain the PennEast plan in no way fulfills
21 either one of the Commission's stated goals. The
22 so far have been nothing but unduly discriminatory and
23 preferential for PennEast LLC.

conditions

24 At every public forum I have attended one

25 question has gotten the same answer every time. We have no

1 plans to expand gas service at this time. So it's obvious
2 that this infrastructure will not serve the public interest
3 along its path.

4 PennEast established its first route to go
5 largely through public lands and then changed the route to
6 collocate it with current utilities and create the illusion
7 that this route is somehow better.

public

8 PennEast changed the format for soliciting
9 comment. When they weren't hearing what they wanted, they
10 abruptly canceled the remaining scheduled meetings and
11 public forums.

12 The FERC scoping meeting schedule does not serve
13 the public interest either. There is only -- there are two
14 meetings in New Jersey and they're not even centrally
15 located to the pipeline route.

of

16 As for the Commission's secondary goal, safety,
17 pipelines explode as was apparent in yesterday's news.
18 Despite assertions by pipeline companies about the safety
19 pipelines, they can and do explode with catastrophic
20 consequences. PennEast has already increased the size of
21 the pipeline from this project from 30 to 36 inch in order
22 to increase the amount of gas and its profit that will
23 travel through my town.

24 In New Jersey pipeline explosions in Edison, New

25 Jersey in 1994 and again last year in Ewing, New Jersey in

1 2014 have led to the loss of life, home, businesses, and
2 peace of mind.

3 In 2011 UGI utilities built --

4 MR. SCOTT: Can you wrap up, please?

5 MR. McELROY: -- built and operated a pipeline
in
6 Allentown that exploded killing five local residents
7 including an infant and destroyed 47 homes and businesses.

8 Again, I respectfully ask that you listen to
most
9 of the people affected and the people along the pipeline
10 route, and those who took time to comment on this process
11 and deny PennEast's application.

12 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

13 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

14 Ken Collins.

15 MR. COLLINS: All right. Everybody listen up,
16 I've got three minutes. I am Ken Collins, C-o-l-l-i-n-s,
17 from Andover, New Jersey. And I oppose the PennEast
18 Pipeline in its entirety.

19 I support the no-action alternative exclusively.

20 I am here tonight to expose PennEast's
21 vulnerability, their Achilles Heel, but I'll do it facing
22 the community with my back to the federal officials who
23 clearly are not hearing us.

24 On behalf of the community I would like to say
to

25 PennEast, welcome to New Jersey. Now go home.

1 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

2 MR. COLLINS: You see, PennEast wants you
3 landowners to be terrified by two little words, "eminent
4 domain". But I'm here tonight to tell you the truth and
5 truth is that PennEast is absolutely terrified of eminent
6 domain. Here's the deal. If you landowners all stand
7 together and deny PennEast access to your land, PennEast
8 will simply give up and walk away.

9 Landowners, if you all post no trespassing signs
10 around the circumference of your property, and deny all
11 access to PennEast and its contractors, it forces PennEast
12 to take all of you -- all of you -- to court for eminent
13 domain proceedings. The backlash and bad publicity
14 would face, the sheer number of eminent domain cases would
15 just be too much for PennEast to contend with.

16 That is the secret PennEast does not want you to
17 know. They cannot win if all of you landowners force
18 eminent domain. If you all stand firmly together eminent
19 domain becomes the most effective weapon in your arsenal
20 PennEast's worst nightmare.

21 This is a key integral part of the legal
22 to beat this pipeline. With just over half the routes
23 surveyed and nearly half the route cohabitating with other

the

PennEast

and

strategy

24 infrastructure, most private landowners have denied access
25 to their property by PennEast. Do not let them on your

1 property.

2 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

3 MR. COLLINS: FERC is here to help PennEast get
4 this pipeline built as quickly and as cheaply as possible.
5 It's what they do. FERC Commissioner, Philip Moeller, was
6 an energy industry lobbyist before his appointment. FERC
7 Chairman, Cheryl LeFleur, was acting CEO of National Grid,
8 USA, whose subsidiaries included and the State Company and
9 Colonial Gas Company. These people are already personnel
10 from the very industries they are tasked to regulate.

These

11 people advocate burning more fossil fuel when they know it
12 is killing us. And that is just stupid. They aren't going
13 to do anything about it. We have to make them take action.
14 It is time to rebel against this fossil foolishness.

15 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

16 MR. COLLINS: Recently the natural gas pipeline
17 resistance FERC Chairman, Cheryl LeFleur, said that FERC

has

18 a problem. FERC's problem is that they keep forcing these
19 projects down the throats of our communities. Well, FERC,
20 this ain't Nebraska, this is New Jersey. And we're not
21 afraid of eminent domain here. This is the place, now is
22 the time to take this stand. We will stop the PennEast
23 Pipeline but only if you landowners refuse to buy into the
24 fear of eminent domain that PennEast wants so desperately

to

25 instill in all of you. We cannot count on FERC or PHMSA to

1 listen to us and take the bold step of rejecting this
2 project.

say

3 Landowners, the power is in your hands. Just
4 no.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. COLLINS: Force eminent domain proceedings
7 and send PennEast home without a pipeline. Stand your
8 ground. We will all stand with you.

9 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 Our next four speakers are Wendy Goetz, Wilma
12 Frey, Janice Zuzov, and Kim Robinson.

that's

13 MS. GOETZ: Hello, my name is Wendy Goetz,
14 spelled G-o-e-t-z.

15 I spoke to you out at Penns Peak as well. In
16 addition to those comments, I would like to state the
17 no-action alternative is the only alternative. The
18 cumulative effects of this project have cumulative effects
19 world wide.

20 I spoke to the Arctic the last time. These
21 effects are not just New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the
22 Arctic. But also down in Brazil and the Amazon.

23 The Amazon die off is occurring due to the
24 enormous burning of a carbon biomass melting. And

25 increasing temperatures worldwide.

1 The Amazon is the climate zone that is self
2 referential. At 23 percent it will not operate as such.
It
3 will actually become the carbon game changer. We have
4 current percentages ringing at 18 percent. There's no room
5 to lose. Our proof is the ongoing drought in Sao Paolo
6 which began in December of 2013 and runs to today. This
has
7 had one. We're speaking about the Delaware River and not
to
8 the mass -- mass amount of water in Brazil. So we are
9 begging of you for no action on this pipeline.

10 This is what the PennEast pipeline will threaten
11 with its growth, its population, and its devastating
12 deforestation. The practices of the fossil fuel industry
13 and the practices of the gas industry are not only melting
14 the arctic ice, sending methane hydrates into the gulf
15 stream, they are also running the wells dry in the Amazon.

16 Color your world wit reality. Walk trails of
17 transparent truth. Learn, like we have, with accelerated
18 paces. We are standing with our community down the climate
19 change line. We take time for tears, we let them flow
20 because emotion felt is strength gained.

21 The oligarchy strives to keep us barely alive.
22 Methods of destruction bring us here down the climate
change
23 line. We're signing up, we're standing up. For decades

24 front lines have warned that crushing capitalism and

25 pipedream allusions would crash course mother earth and our

gather 1 river. Somewhere down the climate change line people
2 and join in counsel around the world standing against the D
3 minus infrastructure, eminent domain, resources drained.
We 4 are living down the climate change line.

5 Thank you all for coming out here.

6 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

7 MS. GOETZ: And, sir, I'd like to see you lose
8 that pen. Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 Wilma Frey. And then Janice Zuzov and Kim
12 Robinson.

13 MS. FREY: Good evening. My name is Wilma Frey,
14 that's W-i-l-m-a F as in Frank r-e-y.

15 I'm senior policy manager for New Jersey
16 Conservation Foundation.

17 This past December the Whitehouse Council of
18 Environmental Quality, CEQ, issued updated draft guidance
19 for federal departments and agencies on consideration of
20 greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change
21 in NEPA reviews.

22 We hope that FERC is aware of this.

23 Under these guidelines the FERC has the
24 obligation and the responsibility as it satisfies its
duties

25 under NEPA to assess the direct, indirect, reasonably

as
1 foreseeable and cumulative effects of climate change both
2 a result of and upon this particular project when preparing
3 its EIS for the proposed PennEast People.

4 The guidelines indicated that the agency must
5 express the upstream and downstream effects, the cumulative
6 impacts, and all other reasonably foreseeable events that
7 are, quote, "possibly related to the proposed project." In
8 my opinion this would include such things as the cumulative
9 impacts of the gas wells that are the sources of the gas to
10 be transported, the impacts caused by the disposition and
11 use of the gas, whether within the United States or
12 elsewhere as climate change is a worldwide phenomenon whose
13 cumulative impacts threaten the United States of America.

14 The impacts of the PennEast project directly
15 conflict with important national goals that were set forth
16 in the president's climate action plan which came out in June
17 2013.

18 Among those goals were such things as preserving
19 the role of forests in mitigating climate change and
20 conserving land and water resources and maintaining
21 agricultural sustainability.

22 These assets include the very resources that the
23 New Jersey Conservation Foundation strives to protect and
24 they would suffer severe and irreparable negative impacts
25 from approval and construction of the PennEast Pipeline.

1 Finally, the CEQ guidance urges the preparation
2 of what they call programmatic impact statements, broad
3 programmatic impact statements which would not be just this
4 one pipeline, but all of these numerous pipelines that are
5 coming from the Pennsylvania gas fields and want to come
6 through New Jersey.

7 I think it is to me inconceivable the lack of
8 planning to consider these pipelines separately and the
9 impact separately. It just doesn't make any sense. It
10 shows an incredible lack of foresight and thought for the
11 future and you just shouldn't do it.

12 There should be a moratorium on any pipeline
13 approvals until this procedure has been completed.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

17 And then is there a Kim Robinson, Edward Kelly,
18 Ciro Salero and Robert Fatzinger.

19 MS. ZUZOV: Good evening. My name is Janice
20 Zuzov. It's J-a-n-i-c-e Z-u-z-o-v.

21 In 1997 my neighborhood, Gail, purchased a lot
22 for \$60,000 which had designated wetlands on it. At the
23 time of purchase the lot was complete with all the approved
24 permits to develop. In 2000 she initiated the development
25 process finding out that the driveway permit had expired,

then
1 was hence issued a new LOI noting wetlands changes, but
2 forced to reconfiguration of the lot design. Gail
3 subsequently secured all new permits except for the
driveway
4 which would have been held up in Green Acres for
5 approximately a year while the application for easement
6 removal was even considered with no guarantees of approval
7 on site.

also
8 During this elapsed time other permits would
9 expire on the project and Gail was not willing to invest
any
10 more time and energy with the uncertain venture. Because
11 this time Gail had invested over \$25,000 during the process
12 that spanned over a ten-year period and no driveway was in
13 sight.

14 In 2011 Gail withdrew her application, sold the
15 lot, taking an additional \$50,000 loss on the initial land
16 purchase. This is an extremely condensed version of a very
17 long ordeal. Maps and other specific if on this are
18 included in my written 16-page FERC comment that was sent
to
19 you.

20 These wetlands are not unlike any other that
21 PennEast is planning on traversing in this proposed
project.
22 So how can a private company like PennEast place a 36-inch

23 diameter toxic bearing, methane leaking pipeline through so
24 many other higher resource continuous valued wetlands in
all
25 of these communities in a very relatively short timeframe

1 when Gail could not get a driveway through her wetland
2 property in ten years losing over \$80,000 of her
investment.

3 In all due respect, something is very wrong with
4 this regulatory process for this pipeline project and it
5 really does need to change. The cumulative negative
impacts
6 of all these vital and endangered wetlands are devalued,
7 degraded, and destroyed by companies like PennEast and its
8 subsidiaries and the regulatory agencies that dare to
9 protect the functions and value of these wetlands in our
10 communities.

11 PennEast and FERC should have to comply with the
12 wetland restrictions and procedures that all others must
13 follow. It really is an outrage and quite frankly the FERC
14 by not upholding appropriate standards of wetland
protection
15 with these projects are in themselves as guilty as PennEast
16 in creating the negative cumulative impacts on our
17 communities.

18 Minimal standards of environmental protection
are
19 not acceptable and national and state discussions do need
to
20 take place to evaluate and reform the unfair and unjust
21 practice standards that leave local communities bearing the
22 brunt for the damages caused by a proposed project like
23 this. And thus I oppose this project and ask that you take

24 no action on PennEast's application.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

3 MS. ROBINSON: Kim Robinson, K-i-m

4 R-o-b-i-n-s-o-n. I received a certified letter from
5 PennEast in August 2014 stating that my people would
6 directly abut the pipeline route. Being a stay-at-home
mom,
7 my first and primary concern was safety.

8 I attended multiple public meetings to learn
more
9 about the project and was pleased to hear a PennEast rep
say
10 at the September 23rd meeting in Hopewell Township that
11 safety is obviously paramount.

12 I was soon shocked then when the same rep went
on
13 to explain what I can only describe as a cast system
whereby
14 PennEast assigns a value to my daughter's life that is
15 different from the value it assigns to a little girl who
16 lives in a more populated area of the route. He called it
17 "area classification". The only term I can use for it is
18 discrimination. And discrimination of the worst sort.

19 I looked up the federal regs and I did the
20 calculations. Even with PennEast graciously upgrading my
21 daughter from a class one to class two citizen, they have
22 stated in writing that the pipeline will be designed to
23 Title 49, CFR Part 192 regs. That means they would build a

24 pipe that is one and a half times thicker for a glass four

25 little girl than they would for my daughter. I can assure

1 you that my daughter's life is just as valuable as the life
2 of that other little girl and unless PennEast or FERC can
3 convince me otherwise, this entire line must be built to
the
4 highest safety standard assigned to any portion of the
line.

5 Now, PennEast provided residents with a phone
6 number and e-mail address for questions and indicated that
7 questions would be answered in half a day.

8 As I was quite concerned about safety, I sent
9 PennEast an e-mail on November 15th asking for some basic
10 safety information. A map showing the classification areas
11 and the potential impact radius, the list of high
12 consequence areas and identified sites, and a few questions
13 about construction of the line and the computer system that
14 would control the line. I received no answer.

15 On November 21st I e-mailed the same list of
16 questions again to PennEast adding one more question about
17 pipe thickness and the cast system. On November 24th I
18 received a response from Patricia Cornick that said, "We
19 have received your questions and will be addressing them in
20 detail."

21 On December 30th, still having no answers I sent
22 my outstanding questions to Paul Poderselski with Hopewell
23 Township administrator, who e-mail them to Jeff England,
24 PennEast Project Manager. I asked these questions three

25 months ago. I have yet to receive any of the information I

1 requested, nor have I heard from any PennEast reps further
2 about when I might receive the information.

3 I have been completely disenfranchised from this
4 process. The scoping period is over in two days and I
5 haven't even been able to begin to study the safety issues
6 because PennEast has not provided me witness that the basic
7 information I've requested.

8 I would ask that the scoping period begin anew
9 and PennEast be directed to answer questions within 48
hours
10 and provide the information requested by affected
residents.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

14 Edward Kelly.

15 MR. KELLY: Good evening, my name is Edward
16 Kelly, E-d-w-a-r-d K-e-l-l-y. I'm a Hopewell Township
17 resident and homeowner, property owner.

18 First I would like to thank FERC and its
19 representatives for allowing me to speak tonight.

20 I am totally against the pipeline on so many
21 different levels, but foremost my concern is safety. My
22 house will be 250 to 300 feet away from the pipeline.

23 Princeton Professor Robert Goldstein estimates
24 that a firewall from the explosion will travel 450 feet in

25 60 seconds. That gives us about 30 seconds to run into the

1 woods in the back of our home, not much time considering
2 that it also takes the average human brain five to ten
3 seconds just to initially process what's going on.

picnic
4 Across the street from us, the Valley Road
school
5 area holds events for hundreds of people, end-of-year
6 picnics, hundreds of children, church summer picnics,
7 weddings, Boy Scout and Girl Scout campouts. Directly
8 behind that Mercer County correctional facility, 880 beds,
guards
9 always near capacity, that doesn't include the prison
10 and the other employees.

go
11 In a minute or two the inmates could literally
12 from being incarcerated to being incinerated.

go
13 PennEast will tell you the pipelines are very
14 safe. But, gas is a volatile element. Gas under pressure
15 is extremely dangerous. Let's see, how far do we have to
16 back? Oh, yeah, just yesterday, Stafford Township, 15
17 people injured, two still in the hospital in serious,
18 critical condition.

19 Last month two major explosions. January 14th,
20 Brook County, West Virginia; January 26th, Brandon,
21 Mississippi. A few years ago, September 9th, 2010, San
22 Bruno, California, eight people died, 58 were injured. The
23 wall of fire was 1,000 feet high.

a 24 Furthermore, the fact that PennEast is building
line 25 pipeline adjacent to a high power electric transmission

1 is very puzzling to me.

2 June 7th, 2010, Johnson County, Texas, 36-inch
3 pipeline exploded. One dead and the cause was determined
to be the maintenance being done on the electrical lines.

4 Also, February 10th, 2011, Allentown,
5 Pennsylvania. Five people died. A faulty pipeline that
6 previously had been recommended for repair exploded.

7 Let's go back to Texas for a second. In Texas
8 alone, 2012, there were 151 explosions and fires. Closer
to home, Lambertville, New Jersey where the pipeline is
9 proposed to go straight through. February 1971 an
explosion killed seven people.

10 March 23rd, 1994, a vivid personal memory for
11 myself, I was driving north on Route 1 near Princeton, the
12 sky in front of me lit up, orange, yellow, bright red,
night became day. The pipeline had exploded in Edison, New
13 Jersey. One witness said he thought he was a nuclear
14 blast.

15 A veteran fire captain thought the problem was right around
16 the corner from his house, but it was four miles away.

17 Eight fire companies in the Pocono Mountains of
18 Pennsylvania thinking that a local farm was on fire
19 dispatched their units. They were 65 miles away.

20 September 19th, 2014, an explosion in Rearton

24 Township, New Jersey. March 5th, 2014, not even a year
25 ago, less than a mile from here an explosion at the
Heritage

1 Crossing Development, one woman was killed, blasted out of
2 her home and onto the hood of a car in the street.

3 Not to be outdone, eight days later a gas blast
4 leveled two apartment buildings in the Harlem section of
New
5 York City.

6 Data from the U.S. Pipeline and the Hazardous
7 Material Safety Administration shows an average of 18
people
8 died and 70 people were injured in each of the 20 years
9 between 1994 and 2013.

10 A total of 359 people dead and 1,400 injured in
11 20 years from gas explosions and the 2014 data was no
12 better.

13 Mark McDonald president of NAT Gas --

14 MR. SCOTT: Can you wrap it up, please?

15 MR. KELLY: Mark McDonald president of NAT Gas
16 Consulting and New England Gas Workers Association said,

and

17 I quote, "Unfortunately explosions are way too common and
18 occur on a regular basis. It appears to be getting worse."
19 Sorry PennEast, gas is volatile, pipelines are dangerous,
20 accidents do happen, people die.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

24 Ciro Scalera.

25

MR. SCALERA: Good evening. My name is Ciro

1 Scalera, C-i-r-o S-c-a-l-e-r-a. I'm Director of Government
2 Relations for the New Jersey Laborers Employers Cooperation
3 and Education Trust.

4 New Jersey LECET is a labor management fund
5 representing over 25,000 laborers who live and work in New
6 Jersey and their signatory contractors. We work statewide
7 with numerous stakeholders to promote investment in
economic
8 development, transportation, and utility infrastructure.
9 Our union supports an energy policy that relies on a mix of
10 energy resources that meets our societal needs in a cost
11 efficient and safe way. This is based on a pragmatic view
12 of the complexities regarding the energy industry and our
13 economy. From solar panels and wind turbines to pipelines
14 and nuclear facilities we work on all of them and
understand
15 the costs and benefits.

16 Pipeline proposals like any other proposal must
17 be considered carefully. What they cannot be is rejected
18 summarily.

19 We remain concerned about the slow pace of
20 economic recovery in New Jersey. Certainly high existing
21 energy costs have impacted both spending on business
22 expansions and discretionary consumer spending bringing
23 lower cost natural gas into the New Jersey economy would
24 reduce these high energy costs and benefit our state

25 economy.

1 It shows that pipelines are often the safest way
2 to transport fuels. It's a hard reality. Today's
pipelines
3 have sophisticated monitoring equipment to detect risks and
4 shut off the pipeline if needed. Encouraging upgrades in
5 our infrastructure allows us to cycle out obsolete or
6 riskier distribution systems.

7 Finally, I'd like to note that our members build
8 and maintain all of these important modes of infrastructure
9 for energy.

10 Our three state-of-the-art training centers in
11 New Jersey offer up to 164 hours of pipeline.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SALERO: And we invest millions of dollars
14 each year to ensure our members work safely and
productively
15 and in a manner that protects our state's residents. We
ask
16 that you support the proposed PennEast pipeline proposal.

17 (Applause.) (Booing.)

18 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

19 Robert Fatzinger, and then the next four
speakers
20 Alice Orrichio, Laura Hanson, Catherine Best, and Leslie
21 Floyd.

22 MR. FATZINGER: Good evening. My name is Robert
23 Fatzinger, R-o-b-e-r-t F-a-t-z-i-n-g-e-r.

24 And I'm the Senior Vice President of Engineering
25 Services for South Jersey Gas Company.

1 I have responsibility for ensuring an adequate
2 gas supply portfolio to provide economically priced natural
3 gas in a safe manner for our 365,000 customers in the seven
4 southern counties of New Jersey.

5 Our parent company, South Jersey Industries, is
6 an equity partner in the PennEast Pipeline project and
7 Jersey gas will be a shipper on the pipeline using our
8 natural gas capacity from the pipeline to support the
9 growing needs of our customers.

10 In recent years demand for natural gas in our
11 service territory has increased significantly, both from
12 gas-fired electric generation market as well as the
13 market serving residential, commercial, and industrial
14 customers.

15 This project will improve natural gas
16 for not only our company and customers, but for other
17 Pennsylvania and New Jersey residents and businesses as
18 well by safely and economically delivering an additional one
19 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day to nearly five
20 million customers.

21 This added capacity will help to great alleviate
22 situations similar to what occurred during the bitterly
cold

23 winter in early 2014 when natural gas prices in New Jersey
24 traded at over \$100 per dekatherm. At the same time
natural
25 gas in the production area that PennEast will access traded

1 in the range of \$3 to 4 per dekatherm.

2 The PennEast pipeline will help to greatly
reduce
3 this price volatility for our south Jersey gas customers
and
4 all customers it serves.

5 In addition to the benefits of lower-cost
natural
6 gas for consumers, the project will provide other economic
7 benefits including over 2,500 construction jobs as well as
8 added revenue for local businesses along or near the
9 pipeline route.

10 (Audience comments.)

11 MR. FATZINGER: South Jersey gas supports the
12 PennEast Pipeline project and looks forward to the benefits
13 it will provide to our customers. Thank you.

14 (Booing.) (Applause.)

15 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

16 Alice Orrichio.

17 MS. ORRICHIO: Yes, my name is Alice Orrichio,
18 A-l-i-c-e O-r-r-i-c-h-i-o. And I live in Holland Township,
19 Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

20 My focus is on the entrance point of this
21 PennEast Pipeline proposed to come underneath the Delaware
22 River into New Jersey from Pennsylvania. As explained to
me
23 by Bernie Holcum of URS Engineering this past October the

24 anticipated area of horizontal directional drilling

25 emergence is at the railroad tracks in front of the Georgia

1 Pacific plant.

be

2 For this reason the Georgia Pacific plant will
3 the point of reference as respects the information supplied
4 within this article which I handed to both FERC and Tetra
5 Tech during the break.

great

6 My stakeholder statement to FERC. It is of
7 concern that this proposed pipeline path is slotted to
8 tunnel through natural disaster, flood, and earthquake
9 catastrophe zones, a carbonate rock area which is conducive
10 to sink holes, a registered historic district, and provides
11 the direct avenue into a naturally formed arsenic hotbed
12 that Professor Tolson has explained to us here today.

through

13 On a personal note, on August 26th, 2003, there
14 was a magnitude 3.8 earthquake in Holland Township which
15 resulted in some of the pipes bursting in my in-ground
16 swimming pool. My property is just one half mile southeast
17 of the Georgia Pacific plant. On another personal note, I
18 currently do not have arsenic in my well, but my neighbor
19 does. And this pipeline is slotted to bore directly
20 his property.

Plan

21 See below the book of maps screen shot that I
22 provided to you. The blue circle is a section of the
23 carbonate rock area directly behind the Georgia Pacific

24 and location where Old River Road was destroyed by the
flood

25 in April 2005. See Exhibits C through H, the pictures of

1 the sink hole. They're massive. It's pictures of a gaping
2 void. The area is directly behind Georgia Pacific Plant
3 where PE is asking to drill underneath the Delaware River.

4 Disenfranchisement. Our water is clearly in
5 jeopardy. My Township's way of life will change forever if
6 this pipeline will come to fruition. We will always be
7 wondering if we are consuming a highly toxic mobile form of
8 arsenic. Should I now annually set aside \$2,000 in lieu of
9 \$500 to get my water tested every three months instead of
10 once a year? Should I wait for our wildlife to die as an
11 indicator of this threat? Who will be held responsible?

12 It is obvious that this PennEast Project has not
13 been thought ought in the amount of lucidity especially as
14 respects the environment. This PELLC is repeatedly being
15 exposed as inadequate and irresponsible. They have drawn a
16 line on a map in anticipation of it sticking. The notion
of
17 horizontal directional drilling cannot possibly be the
18 mitigation answer to all issues. We ask FERC to share with
19 us their perspective and implore that they really consider
20 denying this -- project and impose the no-action
21 alternative.

22 And I would like to ask the New Jersey -- South
23 Jersey gas industries and the gentleman who was on behalf
of
24 the laborers, if they were to live in -- there are people

25 who live in this that the arsenic in their wells, if you

1 knew you were going to do that, would you really support
2 this pipeline? Not all pipelines are created equal.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

5 Laura Hanson.

6 MS. HANSON: Hi, I'm Laura Hanson. I am
actually

7 going to cede my spot to Jim Waltman who is the Executive
8 Director of the Stoneybrook Millstone Watershed
Association.

9 Because I'm terribly afraid that you all have not allotted
10 enough time for all of these people who have made an effort
11 to be here tonight to speak. So I am leaving my comments
12 there and turning the mike over to Jim Waltman.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SCOTT: So I'm going to read the next four
15 names. Catherine Best, Leslie Floyd, Gary Salata, and John
16 Scarlata.

17 MR. WALTMAN: Thank you for this opportunity to
18 speak tonight. My name is Jim Waltman. That's
19 W-a-l-t-m-a-n. And I'm the executive director of the
20 Stonybrook Millstone Watershed Association. We are sent
21 from New Jersey's first environmental group. We were
22 founded 65 years ago in 1949 and keeping water clean, safe
23 and healthy is the heart of our mission. A lot has been
24 said here tonight. I want to really focus on a couple

25 things. But before I do, I want to say our organization is

1 not just alarmed, but frankly outraged by the proposed
2 PennEast Pipeline because the irreparable harm the project
3 would have on the regions rivers and streams, water
quality,
4 fish and wildlife and numerous areas that have been
5 preserved with literally tens of millions of dollars of
6 public and private funding.

7 Two quick points. First, because of the
8 proliferation of pipelines in the region, FERC should call
a
9 time out, take a deep breath, and initiate a programmatic
10 environmental impact statement that would look
11 comprehensibly at the natural gas pipelines throughout the
12 region.

13 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

14 MR. WALTMAN: At a conference this fall FERC --
15 I'm sorry, at a conference this fall FERC itself
16 acknowledged a rush of new pipelines across our region. In
17 this PowerPoint presentation they referred to not just
18 pipelines that were already proposed and pending and in the
19 official process, but oodles of additional ones that were
20 quote, "on the horizon."

21 This proliferation of pipelines screams out for
a
22 different approach. This programmatic EIS is what's called
23 for in the Whitehouse Council of Environmental Quality's
24 regulations to address, quote, "the adoption of programs

25 such as a group of concerted actions to implement a
specific

we
to
1 policy or program." This is precisely the situation that
2 now face. The pipelines are coming at us one after another
3 after another, it's time to step back and for this agency
4 take a programmatic comprehensive look.

5 NEPA requires FERC to look at the incremental
6 impact on the environment from actions that have taken
7 place, are currently taking place, and are reasonably
8 foreseeable in the future. Again, there is no other way to
9 assess the cumulative impacts, the specific requirement of
10 the Commission than to do a programmatic environmental
11 impact statement.

12 Okay. Let me just look at one specific
13 environmental area and that's the area of water, obviously
14 the focus of my organization.

15 The proposed PennEast Pipeline would cut through
16 literally dozens of streams and rivers, including eight
that
17 have been designated as category one by the New Jersey
18 Department of Environmental Protection. Designated because
19 of their outstanding, exceptional, ecological significance.

20 Many of these streams would be cut by this
21 pipeline two, three, half a dozen times. So it's not just
22 eight crossings. And the tributaries as well. The
original
23 route proposed by PennEast would affect two other category

24 one streams, Baldwin Creek and the Stony Brook which my
25 organization has been working for so long to protect.

1 Now, what is a C-1 stream? C-1 streams receive
2 exceptional protection by the state of New Jersey
3 specifically precisely because of the value of these
4 streams. This is our home rule. This is our state DEP.

5 Early on PennEast said they were going to
respect
6 the state laws and local interests and specific values.
7 It's time to do that. Our state has provided exceptional
8 protection for --

9 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Waltman, can you wrap up.

10 MR. WALTMAN: Just a second, I will wrap up.

11 PARTICIPANT: Six minutes.

12 MR. WALTMAN: These streams are to receive 300
of
13 foot buffers against disturbance. You've heard testimony
14 someone that couldn't get a driveway through one of these
15 streams, yet we're going to bulldoze this massive 36-inch
16 pipe.

17 In addition the streams so designated receive a
18 really high level of protection. They are antidegradation.
19 This means the water quality is not supposed to be degraded
20 at all perceptively.

21 I submit that the C-1 designations of these
22 streams for anyone to look at a map with those designations
23 and understand what they mean in this state and how they've
24 been protected over the years, it is a hallucination to a

25 wild degree to think it makes any sense to put this
pipeline

1 through this region of our state.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

4 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

5 MS. BEST: Good evening. My name is Catherine
6 Best and I am here on behalf of the Hunterdon/Somerset
7 Association of Realtors, the Mercer County Association of
8 Realtors and the New Jersey Realtors. I am here tonight to
9 voice opposition to the PennEast Pipeline Project.

10 organization

11 The New Jersey Realtors are the only
12 in New Jersey that fights for the rights of property
13 owners.

14 Despite the recent changes to the proposed pipeline route,
15 it still appears that construction of the pipeline will
16 infringe on private property rights. It remains unclear
17 what the consequences will be if a property owner denies
18 the

19 PennEast Pipeline Company access to their property.

20 While the New Jersey Realtors, HSAR, and MCAR
21 appreciate the need to bring affordable natural gas to
22 consumers in our area, we have grave concerns regarding the
23 risk that both pipeline construction and the existence of a
24 pipeline itself bring to the ability of homeowners to sell
25 their properties. This pipeline could have severe impacts,
26 not only on private property rights, but also home and land
27 values. Disclosure issues could also arise as it would be

25 possible for a realtor to be representing a buyer or seller

1 in a transaction involving a property that is affected by
2 this proposed project.

3 This could also leave local realtors as well as
4 sellers possibly open to liability particularly if they are
5 unaware of the project's proposed route.

6 For these reasons we urge FERC and the PennEast
7 Pipeline Company to continue to seek other alternatives
8 including the use of further collocation or to reconsider
9 the route of the pipeline entirely to only operate on the
10 existing right-of-ways.

11 We look forward to working with both FERC and
the
12 PennEast Pipeline Companies to reach an agreement regarding
13 the proposed route.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

17 Leslie Floyd.

18 MS. FLOYD: My name is Leslie Floyd, L-e-s-l-i-e
19 capital F-l-o-y-d. I'm the assistant planning director for
20 Mercer County and I'm speaking today on behalf of County
21 Executive Brian Hughes.

22 The proposed PennEast Pipeline places two public
23 purposes at odds with one another. In Mercer County the
24 public has repeatedly and overwhelmingly approved referenda
25 supporting open space and farmland preservation largely for

1 the purpose of environmental protection. This does not
2 negate the need for economic development but says
3 unequivocally that environmental concerns and
considerations
4 are fundamental questions which much be addressed.

5 When presented with the original PennEast
6 alignment Mercer County provided detailed and verified
7 wetlands information which demonstrated the significant
8 negative environmental impact that alignment would have
had.

9 We do not have similarly detailed information
for
10 the current proposed alignment. However, New Jersey DEP
11 landscape data indicates that a variety of wildlife species
12 and habitats will be disturbed. The Saralin mountains are
13 an important natural resource along the Atlantic flyway for
14 migratory birds.

15 In addition, the study area traverses the
16 Pleasant Valley Historic District and the historic
district,
17 Hella Farm and has potential negative impact upon other
18 historic resources.

19 The same referendum that provides funding for
20 open space and farmland preservation in Mercer County is
21 used for the protection of our historic sites and
22 structures. The EIS must consider the degree to which
23 natural, cultural and historic resources may be impacted
and

24 what alternatives may exist including a no-build
25 alternative.

1 In addition to impacting existing preserved
2 lands, the proposed alignment also jeopardizes future
3 investments and land preservation because the public will
4 likely be resistant to supporting actions and have the
5 appearance of facilitating projects such as the PennEast
6 Pipeline.

7 Mercer County requests that a programmatic
8 environmental impact statement be developed in this
9 instance. A PEIS would provide the opportunity to evaluate
10 potential cumulative impacts of the reasonably foreseeable
11 actions for this pipeline and pipelines which may follow on
12 areas across New Jersey and Mercer County.

13 This is particularly suitable since a PEIS is
14 regional in scope, is often used when crossing political
15 boundaries and numerous eco systems all of which are the
16 case with the PennEast Pipeline. The county has invested
17 millions of dollars in open space and farmland
preservation.

18 If preserved lands are impacted, the compensation must be
19 calculated exponentially based on the land acquisition
costs
20 at the time of preservation, not on a current appraisal
21 since the development opportunity has been removed.

22 The EIS must consider the negative impact of
23 preserved lands and mitigation must result in fair
24 compensation based upon the public's investment in the land

25 in its preserved state and must result in meaningful

1 additions to the preserved landscape.

2 While collocation is preferred over virgin
3 disturbance a real possibility exists that future pipelines
4 would also seek to collocate in this utility corridor.
5 Collocation may provide the physical corridor for a future
6 pipeline. Additional pipelines may only achieve economic
7 goals for others to the detriment of our local environment
8 with little or no accompanying economic benefit.

9 While the proposed pipeline will create jobs, it
10 is unclear how many of these jobs will benefit our local
11 economy.

12 The lead design and engineering work is taking
13 place in Pennsylvania, the construction work will likely be
14 by specialized construction crews from outside the
northeast
15 with material which may or may not be purchased in New
16 Jersey. Only ten permanent jobs will result when the
17 six-month construction period is concluded. On balance,
18 does this outweigh the environmental considerations and
19 concerns?

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

23 Gary Salata, John Scarlata, Katy Dix and Emma
24 Switzler.

25

MR. SALATA: Gary Salata, G-a-r-y S-a-l-a-t-a.

I

1 own a farm in West Amwell Township that has a mile of road
2 frontage. PennEast is going to completely transverse that
3 property, dissect it in half. It has an over 200-year-old
4 fieldstone farmhouse on the property. They're going to be
5 impacting that property because they're going to take part
6 of the house itself.

of
7 It's also going to be within less than 50 feet
8 the well that I have.

9 I also find it ironic that the only people
10 speaking out here that are for you people are the people
11 that are your partners in crime with this.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SALATA: And I think this is pretty damned
14 sick. I think it's a conflict of interest that I think
they
15 should keep their opinions to themselves and put your dam
16 pipeline in their front yard.

17 [CHORUS OF AGREEMENT]

18 MR. SALATA: Now, I have a right-of-way right
now
19 on my property from PSEG which is partnered with you other
20 crooks. You can't believe what they do when they maintain
21 that property. They come out there three years, they
22 absolutely destroy my property every time they come. I
have
23 to have the police out there every single time. They have

24 knocked down a fieldstone wall over 200 years old, they

25 decimated it. They decimate my property completely. They

litter 1 bring illegal Mexicans out there doing the work, they
2 it with pizza boxes and beer cans and cases of beer and
then 3 I got to pick it the hell up.

4 They knocked down my entire hedge row. They
5 knocked down the entire stretch of barbed wire. These
6 maintenances are done by animals because you hire the
7 cheapest pigs that money can buy.

8 [CHEERING.]

9 MR. SALATA: As far as the danger with this
10 damned thing, I know first-hand, and do you want to know
11 why, because I'm one of the guys that was blown up in your
12 damned pipeline in Lambertville. And I'll never forget it.
13 Blew me right out of my damned shoes. And I was six lanes
14 away on the other side of the street standing there when
15 this happened. This is unbelievable that you want to do
16 this.

17 We didn't touch on the environmental problems
18 because everyone else did. And I have to commend all you
19 people that came here today to stand up against the
thieving 20 crooks. I can't believe that there's that many people in
21 this world that are as brave as you people that are
standing 22 up to these animals. I can't believe it. I'm really
proud. 23 I hated to be an American because of how you people treat

24 us. But now after coming here today, listening to these
25 people talk, and listen to what they had to say, I commend

1 each and every one of you except for you people that have
2 your friends out here speaking up for you.

3 That's about all I got to say because I'm so
4 damned mad about this.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. SALATA: I don't know what else to say. I
7 do. PennEast and FERC, go to hell.

8 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

9 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

10 John Scarlata, Katy Gibbs and Emma Switzler.

11 MR. SCARLATA: Good evening, my name is John
12 Scarlata. That's J-o-h-n S-c-a-r-l-a-t-a. I am Vice
13 President of gas supply for PSEG, Energy Resources and
14 Trade.

15 (Audience grumbling.)

16 MR. SCARLATA: Energy Resources and Trade
17 performs the gas supply function for Public Service
Electric
18 and Gas Company, PSE&G.

19 PSE&G serves approximately 1.6 million New
Jersey
20 gas customers from the New York/New Jersey border in the
21 north to just south of Camden in the south. Our service
22 territory roughly parallels the New Jersey Turnpike.

23 PSE&G, ERNT as a proposed shipper on the
PennEast

the 24 Pipeline and will use this capacity to meet the needs of
25 customers served by PSE&G in New Jersey.

1 The pipeline will originate in the Marcellus
2 shale region in Pennsylvania and terminate in New Jersey.
3 Along it's path it will interconnect with two interstate
4 pipelines in New Jersey, Texas Eastern and Trans
5 Continental. The pipeline will provide New Jersey with
6 greater access to abundant and low-cost gas as being
7 produced in North East Pennsylvania.

8 PennEast Pipeline will provide substantial
9 economic benefits to New Jersey consumers and the economy
of
10 the state.

11 Natural gas is a vital source of energy in New
12 Jersey. It is used to heat three out of four homes in the
13 state and produces about 43 percent of the state's
14 electricity.

15 PSE&G has purchased gas from the Marcellus shale
16 region for its customers and has helped to reduce gas
prices
17 to these customers by 45 percent since 2009, a savings to
18 the residential customer.

19 The PennEast Project would significantly
increase
20 access to lower cost supplies allowing many New Jersey
21 customers to benefit. Not only are these supplies less
22 expensive, than gas from the Gulf of Mexico, their location
23 also reduces transportation costs and increases the
24 reliability of supply.

25

The proposed PennEast Pipeline will provide an

1 additional outlet for the growing supplies, the Marcellus
2 shale gas and it will further decrease our dependence and
3 reliance on supplies from the Gulf of Mexico.

4 Therefore, I would ask you to carefully consider
5 the PennEast Pipeline application and to support the
6 development of this project.

7 Thank you.

8 PARTICIPANT: I don't care.

9 (Shouting and booing.) (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 Katy Gibbs.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. GIBBS: My name is Katy Gibbs and I'm here
14 representing the Engineers Laborer Employer Cooperative, a
15 labor management organization that represents the combined
16 interests of over 6500 local 825 operating engineers --

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. GIBBS: -- and the contractors who employ
19 them.

20 Our members operate heavy equipment and have
21 successfully built pipelines through both densely populated
22 and environmentally sensitive areas.

23 That we favor the PennEast Pipeline for the more
24 than 2,000 construction and management jobs it will create
25 merely states the obvious. But there is more to our

1 interest.

the
2 The PennEast Pipeline is a perfect example of
3 type of infrastructure investments that are so important to
4 ELEC. The benefits of such a project are numerous and
5 include the economic stimulus it will provide to our
6 communities and local businesses and the reliable access to
7 affordable energy it will mean.

and
8 Natural gas pipelines play a major role in
9 economic development as energy intensive industries and
10 facilities look to site their operations near affordable
11 reliable energy sources. The increased availability of
12 natural gas can help bring back New Jersey's manufacturing
13 sector.

14 As our members are residents of the same
15 communities where these pipelines are built, we are as
16 concerned for safety and environmental protection as we are
17 for the innumerable corresponding economic benefits the
18 pipeline would offer.

as
19 Concern for the environment should not be seen
20 an excuse to prevent the benefits to many of the same towns
21 and people that opponents claim they are protecting.

22 Our experience shows that the pipeline can be
23 built --

24 [Audience outburst.]

25

MS. GIBBS: Please, I'm talking.

1 MR. SCOTT: Please have respect for the speaker,
2 please.

3 MS. GIBBS: Thank you. With concern for
4 environmental safety on one hand and the innumerable
5 economic benefits it will bring on the other. In fact,
6 pipelines are the safest, most environmentally friendly,
7 efficient mode of transporting natural gas. When safety is
8 measured by volume of gas transported, transportation of
9 natural gas by pipeline is much safer than transporting gas
10 by rail or truck.

and

11 PennEast will provide safe and reliable and
12 affordable energy to our region while stimulating the local
13 economy and creating jobs.

14 On behalf of our 6,500 members and participating
15 contractors, we fully support the PennEast Pipeline and
16 respectfully urge FERC to approve the proposal.

17 Thank you.

18 (Booing.) (Shouting.) (Applause.)

19 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

20 Emma Switzler and then the next four speakers,
21 Chris Smith, Carina Sayles, Fairfax Hutter, Laura Lynch.

22 MS. SWITZLER: Hi, Emma, E-m-m-a Switzler,
23 S-w-i-t-z-l-e-r. I'm from Delaware Township. If the
24 PennEast proposed pipeline were to cross a cemetery it's
25 likely that you would reroute. And currently you haven't

1 crossed a cemetery. You haven't created a graveyard yet.
2 But, you're doing the opposite. You are bulldozing and
3 blasting through lives. Our livelihoods, our life savings,
4 and most importantly endangering our most life-sustaining
5 resource, water.

6 Once the arsenic is mobilized in Delaware
7 Township and our wells are ruined, is PennEast prepared to
8 deliver water to us in perpetuity? Are the PennEast
9 insurance companies prepared to underwrite this disaster?

10 Your very own FERC statement of policy says that
11 you must greatly outweigh the benefits when compared to the
12 adverse impacts. We are counting on you. We are counting
13 on you to keep our water supply safe. We are counting on
14 you to ensure a true impact study with true studies.

15 We do not want to trade our water for natural
16 gas.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

19 Chris Smith?

20 MS. HUTTER: Fairfax Hutter, is there somebody
21 that should be in front of me? Did you call Smith?

22 MR. SCOTT: Chris Smith and Carina Sayles.

23 MR. SMITH: I'm Howard Christopher Smith. I

live

24 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. I am a retired soil scientist

25 and I'm not representing anybody. I got a call from
someone

1 that asked me if I could just talk about pipelines and soil
2 and soil conservation.

3 So I thought I would give it a go. And just
4 wanted to refer to the farmer who was here earlier. He was
5 completely right. When you dig up a soil, it's never the
6 same again. It doesn't matter in a thousand years or ten
7 thousand months, these soils are older than 20,000.

8 So I would think if I was giving advice to
9 anybody here, I would want to sample my soil before so I
10 knew what I had and if it would ever get even close to it,

I

11 think you probably want to arrange for some financial
12 compensation for these people who are going to lose income
13 forever.

14 It's a good idea, you are building a static
15 object in a changing landscape. You can be assured that a
16 landscape is as stable as they can be over time. A
17 conservation plan is an awfully good way to have that
18 happen.

this

19 And I recommend that every farmer whose land
20 passes over --

21 (Simultaneous conversation.)

22 (Audience participants screaming out, get a real
23 job.)

24 MS. KOCHHAR: Please, let the speaker talk.

1 MR. SMITH: My comments are generally -- you
2 know, I don't live in the area directly, but I do share the
3 earth with the rest of us. So I put some specific things
in
4 here about constructing and soil and I'm not going to go
5 through those here, but cumulatively we need to look at
6 where we and how we treat our land. There's lots of land
7 out there that's too steep, it's too rocky, it's too
shallow
8 of bedrock or too drafty. All these things have nothing to
9 do with farming. You can put a pipeline there easily.

10 I don't know, I'd probably put it -- I was
raised
11 on a farm, I'd put a priority on farmland unfortunately
12 probably, but all lands are important. And some are better
13 than others.

14 When we look at the best land for the highest
and
15 best use, it's important to stay out of our important
16 farmlands. They are the ones we rely on for food.

17 As another idea, it's a country, we just have a
18 steady stream of projects. We have a network of railroads.
19 We have roads, we have strip mining oil wells. We take big
20 cranes to build windmills. All this and build solar panels
21 on our farmland. There's lots of other places to build
that
22 stuff.

23 And are we going to have the money at the end to

24 take it all down? Because nothing is forever, but we're
25 going to want food forever.

1 So somewhere in your plan you need to have the
2 money in there.

3 Okay. I got 30 seconds.

4 Maybe just say I do consider that soil and
5 climate have an awful lot in common. We discovered about
6 100 years ago you could erode the soils and they don't come
7 back. It's nonrenewable. Either way you start to realize,
8 hey, it's not working the same as it used to.

9 Well, climate is the same way. And it's eroding
10 our climate, what we're doing here. And somewhere at
11 sometime we're going to notice the deserts are pushing east
12 and the tall grass prairies pushing into our corn land, so
13 we're going to have less food supply, and then from the
14 south up we're going to have sugar cane moving up in the --
15 and moving the corn and the corn is going to move up. But
16 there's one little fallacy.

17 MR. SCOTT: Wrap up, please.

18 MR. SMITH: The land in the north is rocky, it's
19 shallow, and it's not nearly as farmable for corn.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

23 MS. SAYLES: I'm Carina Sayles, C-a-r-i-n-a
24 S-a-y-l-e-s of Delaware Township and the Rosemont Valley.

land 25 live on a family farm in the historic, pristine, virgin

1 of the Rosemont Valley, also known as the Covered Bridge
2 District of Delaware Township. I'm the fourth generation
3 there. My kids are the fifth. But the entire valley is
4 preserved.

5 I am also here as a long-time, 13-year-member of
6 Delaware Township's Open Space Committee, a many-year
member
7 of the Environmental Commission, and an officer and
previous
8 president of the Covered Bridge Trail Equestrian
Association
9 which draws a lot of equestrian tourism to an area that is
10 also heavily supported by equestrian economic activities
11 that will be drastically affected by this.

12 As an open space committee member I have worked
13 for 13 years to preserve in Delaware Township one of the
14 highest concentrations of farmlands in the state. We are
15 right in the middle of the state. We serve as the heart,
16 liver, and lungs for the more polluted and congested areas
17 around us. We need to stay that way. There has to be some
18 part of the body of the state of New Jersey that can stay
19 clean to keep the rest of it healthy. We cannot put
20 pipelines in every single part of it. You have to keep
21 part, and the central area is a great place to do that
22 because we're right in the middle of the congested areas of
23 Trenton and Camden, and then the congested areas to the
24 north. And I wanted to point that out.

25

The pipeline is a lose/lose proposition. There

1 are affected communities. People from Alexandria and
2 Kingwood are not here, but for basically almost all of this
3 route there is disastrous consequences for the communities
4 and absolutely no appreciable benefit. It's preserved
5 farmland that's affected. If they have any access to any
of
6 these people here talking about, you know, all the
benefits.
7 We will have no access to this natural gas. We will only
8 have our land destroyed, we will have not access to it
9 whatsoever. Reserve farmers will get very little money for
10 it. And reserve farmers will not be able to farm their
land
11 like they could before.

12 The equestrians will not be able to conduct
their
13 activities of tourism. It's not as sustainable as
something
14 that can take this kind of a hit for a year and then come
15 back. And yet everyone is going to have to still continue
16 to pay the enormous taxes. The pipeline was supposed to go
17 through my property. It's now going through my neighbor's
18 and the back of my property and my neighbor's. They make
19 their living off farming. If this pipeline goes through
20 there, they're going to still have to pay their enormous
21 taxes and they will not be able to generate enough revenue
22 to support them and then they're not going to be able to
23 sell their land for anything. So I don't know what they're

24 going to do.

25 The pipeline was slated to go through my prime

1 farmland. It could still go through there. Something that
2 is in addition to the taxpayer money spent to preserve
3 farmland is that extensive taxpayer money is spent on the
4 most preserved farms for soil preservation programs
creating
5 certified organic fields. This is through the USDA
6 conservation reserve program.

7 I was in this program. It took 11 years to
8 certify my field as organic. I am pretty sure my neighbors
9 who have not spoken tonight went through the same program,
10 once this is done, those fields are no longer organic and
11 another \$60,000 in taxpayer money is wasted.

12 Another thing that I'd like to point out is that
13 on some of my less prime farmland I stopped to do solar
14 farming. It was allowed when I first preserved the farm.
15 There was then a law passed forbidding the solar farming.
16 This energy would have gone back into our local grid. This
17 energy would have benefitted our local community. The
18 panels would have been removable, they would have, you
know,
19 not affected water runoff, they would have not affected
20 wildlife habitat anywhere close to what a gas -- fracked
gas
21 pipeline under the ground would do and that was denied. I
22 had to accept that as a yes, I signed up to be a preserve
23 farm, so I have to accept this even though I don't agree

24 with it. But now I'm told that instead a much more
damaging

25 gas pipeline can go through the land. This is really wrong

1 and should not be allowed if solar cannot be allowed.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

5 Fairfax Hutter, Laura Lynch.

6 MS. HUTTER: Yes, my name is Fairfax Hutter,
7 F-a-i-r-f-a-x H-u-t-t-e-r. From an environmental point of
8 view this route has serious problems and I will send you
9 letters about some of the others later.

10 But my foremost concern is that PennEast's
11 proposed route bisects the extremely ecological, sensitive
12 Bald Pate Mountain in Hopewell along it's long access.
13 Because Stacey PNL is reserving the right to build a second
14 set of twin towers in their rights-of-way I understand from
15 officials that PennEast would have to add an extra 100 feet
16 to 125 feet of construction width to that right-of-way, so
17 you're looking at 400 feet of damage of a right-of-way that
18 is without trees and so forth.

19 In addition to the myriad uncommon migratory
20 worker species breeding at Bald Pate in September of 2014 I
21 found that after documenting the breeding of an extremely
22 rare New Jersey state listed reptile species of concern --
23 and pardon my pronunciation, I'm going to give you the

Latin

24 -- adkiss strodot contortrix. The state confirmed this is
25 very likely. The southernmost breeding site in all of New

1 Jersey. Experts are also confident that this is the only
2 breeding occurrence in this species in Mercer County.
3 Suspect that easily 30 to 40 years since the last verified
4 records of this species. This is very exciting news.

over
5 This species requires very large territories
6 a mile wide. And I have been in touch with New Jersey's
7 endangered species program and they have given me the
but
8 statistics. They say that while this species typically,
9 not necessarily, only dens in rocky southern slopes, both
10 sexes require a one-mile radius around winter dens to
11 identify their home range that would encompass most of that
12 dense population. The males roam 1.5 to two miles in
search
13 of mates. ENSP uses a one-mile buffer around known den
14 sites to identify the home range territory of a den
15 population. And because this is a state listed species it
16 is illegal to harm it.

17 Bald Pate is a very narrow, rocky ridge, only
18 about .625 miles wide most of it's length. Thus most of
the
19 mountain habitat will be within the pipeline's -- within
20 .625 miles of the pipeline and they would need to forage
far
21 wider.

22 Well, where Bald Pate is wider is mostly just
old

23 fields and that's not suitable habitat.

24 There's a real concern about den site fidelity.

25 ENSP says that this species has overwhelming strong den
site

1 fidelity not only to their winter dens, but also gestation
2 and birthing sites. Setting sites and even foraging areas
3 individuals, especially males in search of females will
4 wander all over, often return to the same sites or foraging
5 areas annually. ENSP added that was truly amazing.

6 Thus you cannot relocate these species. I mean,
7 it should be the Bald Pate to be totally out of the
8 question.

9 ENSP also has grave concerns in the blasting.
10 They said blasting is in close proximity to dens in our
11 mountainous regions --

12 MR. SCOTT: Could you wrap it up, please?

13 MS. HUTTER: All right. Serious concerns of
14 blasting and they have said, I have seen those blasts and
15 they do not appear to be very subtle and I have serious
16 concerns about structural shifts. They've seen widespread
17 shifts in the rock movements. We already see the surface
18 bedrock cracking, slipping, and shifting and they say they
19 have cuts to prove it.

20 Another big concern is the gestation and
birthing
21 areas is the vegetation management poses great risks to all
22 reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals. The right-of-ways
23 create hawk goblets in which the hawk species can find
24 reptiles and amphibians wide open and they're easy prey.

25 MR. SCOTT: Ms. Hutter --

1 MS. HUTTER: Yeah, I got you. There will be
2 desiccation from the sun. I'm almost there. And they
3 documented forests and microclimate changes that could have
4 a significant effect.

5 None of these are things you can mitigate. Bald
6 Pate is a rocky island of forests surrounded by fields,
7 farms, and roads. They cannot go anywhere else.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 MS. LYNCH: My name is Laura Lynch. That's
12 L-a-u-r-a L-y-n-c-h. I'm the land use issues coordinator
13 for the New Jersey chapter of the Sierra Club.

14 I'm going to read from my statement that I have
15 already sent to FERC. The New Jersey chapter of the Sierra
16 Club hereby states its opposition to the PennEast Pipeline
17 project in any configuration. The environmental impact
18 statement encompassing proper wide scope and breadth should
19 demonstrate an overwhelming amount of environmental
20 degradation, loss of preserved open space, and destruction
21 of a rural sense of place all without demonstrable need in
22 the name of profiteering from a rush to extract natural gas
23 for the Marcellus shale.

24 A thorough environmental impact statement is
25 imperative. Its scope must be broader than the footprint

of

1 the pipeline.

2 The purpose and need of the PennEast pipeline
3 must be proven beyond the desire for profit. In its
4 resource report submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory
5 Commission PennEast sites the need for inexpensive natural
6 gas as the reason to build a 114-mile pipeline through one
7 of the most rural stretches of the Delaware River
watershed.

8 The report also suggests as if profit were an inalienable
9 right. The no-build would be detrimental to the owners of
10 the pipeline company. There is no proof within the court
or
11 elsewhere that the natural gas shipped through the PennEast
12 pipeline would even serve those whose land the pipe has
13 severed.

14 When considering the extent of the project, the
15 EIS must include a footprint of the pipeline right-of-way
16 but also at minimum the farthest boundaries of all
17 contiguous and adjacent properties and water bodies,
18 historic sites, and economic centers.

19 Environment degradation, fragmentation,
20 siltation, contamination, historic devaluation would occur
21 far beyond the limits of the pipeline right-of-way.

22 Cumulative impacts must also be considered, not
23 only the length of the pipeline, but also within the
context
24 of the Marcellus and Utica Shale fracking boom. Multiple

25 pipelines have been proposed and constructed to transport

1 shale throughout New Jersey. The PennEast project must be
2 considered within the expanding network of gas, natural gas
3 pipelines.

4 The Natural Environmental Policy Act under which
5 EIS must be written dictates that cumulative impacts
include
6 not only past but also present and future impacts.

7 From it's origin in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania
8 to its destination in Mercer County, New Jersey the
pipeline
9 would cross more than 88 waterways, 44 wetlands, 30 parks,
10 and 33 conservation easements. In New Jersey six streams
11 carrying the category one designation for their exceptional
12 ecological -- will be crossed. Some more than once.

13 The EIS must also consider the possibility that
14 the pipeline would violate Section 404 of the Clean Water
15 Act because of the number of high-quality streams, wetlands
16 and rivers it would cross.

17 Socioeconomic impacts must also be considered.
18 Employment opportunities would be, for the most part
19 transient. Property values along the pipeline are likely
to
20 decrease, historic sites and recreational areas would be
21 negatively impacted.

22 New Jersey's taxpayers have contributed millions
23 of dollars to preserve forests, farms, and waterways that
24 the PennEast Pipeline would cross. The effect is that of

25 taking for a private gain.

1 In the end, the only reasonable option is the
2 no-build alternative which must be considered equally with
3 all proposed routes. With due diligence the PennEast EIS
4 should demonstrate that this 114-mile pipeline carries only
5 profit for those who would never bear the negative impacts
6 of the destruction of one of the last remaining stretches
in
7 New Jersey.

8 You also must take into consideration that the
9 price of gas is not an EIS metric. It's telling that four
10 of the seven pro-pipeline speakers tonight, there were only
11 seven, are investors. It's also telling that there were 48
12 speakers so far against the people, 27 are citizens and I
13 thank you all for coming out here and doing something
that's
14 not easy to do.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. LYNCH: It takes a lot of guts --

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. LYNCH: And finally, no number of glossy
19 mailers sent to PSE&G customers and beyond will overcome
the
20 opposition we have to the PennEast Pipeline.

21 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

23 The next four people we have signed up are Susan
24 Meacham, Jessica, Niederer, Maureen Syrnick and Tasha

25 Kersey.

1 MS. MEACHAM: Good evening. I am Susan Dodd
2 Meacham. Susan, S-u-s-a-n, Dodd, D-o-d-d, M-e-a-c-h-a-m.
3 am from Holland Township, New Jersey.

4 Yesterday I received this particular mailing
5 piece from the PennEast filled with the same half truths
6 bordering on outright lies that we have heard from the
7 others here tonight. Things like promises of 12,000 jobs,
8 and it's delightful little saying, "let's go to work, New
9 Jersey, your voice matters." So much for truth in
10 advertising.

11 My voice does matter and I am here to call on
12 FERC to return a no-build, no-action determination on this
13 project.

14 (Shouts of agreement.)

15 MS. MEACHAM: I protest PennEast's siting of a
16 pipeline through farmland and open space that our tax
17 dollars preserved. I protest their siting it through
18 wetlands, environmentally sensitive areas, significant
19 historical and cultural areas, siting it near hospitals,
20 homes, churches and schools, under rivers and even under
21 across dangerous geological fault lines like the Ramapo
22 Fault. I protest citizens being coerced into signing
23 easement agreements and survey permissions and I protest

I

the

and

the

24 misleading marketing campaign PennEast continues to engage
25 in with regard only for their profits. I am thoroughly

1 disgusted and obviously so are hundreds of the rest of us.

2 This gas is not going to our homes and local
3 businesses. The member companies of PennEast have, at
4 various times, separately promised it for, let's see, the
5 northeast and beyond, for Ocean and Monmouth Counties or

for

6 the Mid-Atlantic region. But we all know that the Cove
7 Point LNG facility was approved and there are others lining
8 up.

9 I know my protests will fall on deaf ears

because

10 FERC is funded by and serves the fossil fuel industry. I
11 know Tetra Tech's environmental impact study will be biased
12 in favor of PennEast because of the membership in the
13 Marcellus shale coalition.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. MEACHAM: And I know that corporate money
16 trumps morality and fairness time and and time again. But
17 still I'm going to call on PennEast to withdraw this
18 application and I'm asking each shipper or company that
19 makes up PennEast to go back and put the money you would
20 have spent on this self-serving project into providing the
21 public with real conservation information to reduce this
22 nation's use of fossil fuels as quickly as possible. Put
23 that money into supporting the burgeoning solar market

which

24 is truly clean with no methane contributing to global

25 warming, and which does create real job growth, and real

1 long-term employment for local people.

2 UGI, all of the other companies, please stop
3 telling us what wonderful neighbors you are and put that
4 money into replacing all the aging pipelines already in the
5 ground so people stop dying or getting evacuated on cold
6 winter nights as they watch their homes blow up and burn.

7 You have a moral obligation to keep your existing customers
8 safe. This proposed project would certainly make
tremendous

9 corporate profits and huge shareholder dividends, but that
10 should never be paid for by human lives ruined or lost
11 because of your failure to do what's right. It should not
12 be at the expense of our constitutional rights to
unfettered

13 ownership of our land and to feeling safe in our homes, and
14 it should not be at the expense of our drinking water, our
15 air quality or environment. There is no acceptable level
of
16 loss of life or environment and that is why my voice does
17 matter when I say, FERC must return a non-build decision.

18 (Applause.) (Cheering.)

19 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

20 MS. SYRNICK: My name is Maureen Syrnick, but
I'm
21 going to give my spot to Debbie Kratzer.

22 MS. KRATZER: My name is Debra Kratzer.

23 MR. SCOTT: Is there a Jessica Niederer? Sorry.

24 MS. NIEDERER: Hi, my name is Jessica Niederer.

25 Niederer is spelled N-i-e-d-e-r-e-r. I'm a farmer in
Mercer

1 County. My farm is actually not affected by the PennEast
2 Pipeline at this time, but it's very close by. And I'm
3 speaking for agricultural interests.

4 There are a few different ways that farmers get
5 directly impacted by this type of project. One is by
6 decreasing crop weight yields, limiting what the farmer can
7 grow on the land, limiting farm infrastructure --
8 possibilities and threatening organic certification. I

will

9 touch on each of these briefly, but also propose that there
10 be a mitigation plan in place for all farmland that would
11 be affected.

be

12 So first is yield. Farmers operate on pretty
13 small profit margins. We work our butts off, but we don't
14 make a lot of money. So if yields are affected in any way
15 that directly affects our livelihood. We see vignette

after

16 vignette of farmers growing field crops and seeing the
17 where the pipeline has been put in have plants that are
18 smaller with stunted growth. Whereas the ground that was
19 not impacted by construction has normal, vigorous yields.

swath

20 I don't think it should be the farmers'
21 responsibility to have to monitor those crops decreases.
22 The onus should be on PennEast Pipeline, not on the farmers
23 to document that.

24 And I'm talking about documentation through
time.

25 Yields on crops such as organic items, which any farmer has

to
acre

1 the right to grow, if they want to, can be of value of up
2 \$100,000 an acre. A percentage decrease on \$100,000 an
3 is pretty huge, and over time, over years you're talking
4 about farmers' kids' tuition to college that could be
5 affected.

6 So I do believe that PennEast should be
7 responsible for testing yields and measuring yield
8 differences in the future on these farms.

9 So another point was that what farmers can grow
10 is affected. Trees cannot be planted, so orchards would be
11 out of the question on an impacted corridor. But
perennials

12 would also be severely affected. Farmers have some crops
13 that they have put in that would be expected to yield for
14 years to come, asparagus 40 years; blueberry bushes 20
15 years; grapevines, rhubarb, things like that are long-term
16 investments for our farmers to make. Farmers need to be
17 able to plant according to what the market demands are. So
18 having a corridor that has to be maintained and could be
19 unearthed at any time in order to be planted -- in order to
20 be monitored, just limits the possibilities for ensuring a
21 livelihood off of the piece of ground.

22 So I've submitted a copy of an agriculture
impact

23 mitigation agreement. This was between the Minnesota

24 Department of Agriculture, and the Northern Natural Gas
25 Company. This is part of Northern's application to the

Organic

a

1 FERC. FERC accepted this as a way to mitigate agricultural
2 impacts by the pipeline. And I propose that the New Jersey
3 Department of Agriculture and FERC and the Northeast
4 Farming Association of New Jersey and the Farm Bureau need
5 to work together to come to agriculture mitigation plans to
6 be able to protect New Jersey's farmers regardless of what
7 one-on-one contract negotiation between FERC and the --
8 sorry, between PennEast and the farmer would be.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

11 So we have about -- we think about 40 minutes
12 left -- and we'll keep going -- before we lose this space.

13 MS. KRATZER: My name is Debra Kratzer,
14 K-r-a-t-z-e-r. I'm the chair of the Kingwood Township
15 Environment Commission and I'm a biologist with 26 years of
16 experience.

17 Both the construction and the long-term
18 operations and maintenance of this pipeline alone and in
19 combination with other pipelines would create violations of
20 the Clean Water Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Endangered
21 Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and DRBC
Regulations
22 which mitigation will be unable to avoid.

23 The pipeline impacts would last far longer than

gas 24 the U.S. supply of natural gas. In addition the natural
25 can be transported in existing and already-approved

1 pipelines while public benefit sufficient to outweigh the
2 environmental and economic damage of the PennEast Pipeline
3 hasn't been demonstrated.

4 A large portion of Kingwood Township is
5 classified as wetland which is shown on this map in pink.
6 Within Kingwood the proposed pipeline will cross 19
7 wetlands, at least 15 of them are exceptional value. Even
8 three acres of wetlands and approximately 91 acres of
9 wetland buffer. Seven of the wetland crossings are greater
10 than a quarter mile in length. Two of them are greater
than
11 a half mile in length.

12 The proposed access road off Horseshoe Bend Road
13 would go straight through additional wetlands and riparian
14 buffers.

15 Within Kingwood the route crosses eight C-1
16 streams as well as least four other streams which are shown
17 on this map along with the 300-foot buffers for the C1
18 streams.

19 The pipeline route would create preferred
20 pathways for water, possibly impacting the natural flow
21 regime, increasing flashiness, draining wetlands, or
causing
22 streams to disappear into underground routes.

23 New Jersey's integrated list for the surface
24 water quality standards states that four of the five

25 sub-watersheds of the proposed pipeline would cross within

1 Kingwood, do not currently support designated water uses.

Creeks

2 The TMVLs of the Lachatong and Wickachokee

3 require a phosphorous load reduction of 87 percent and 56

and

4 percent respectively. The TMVLs for Nishasacowit Creeks

5 Copper Creeks require a reduction of a load of 77 percent

6 and 98 percent respectively.

map.

7 In Kingwood Township alone the proposed pipeline

8 would remove 123 acres of forest shown in green on this

greater

9 Removal of forests and riparian buffers, disturbance on

10 steep slopes and compaction of our soils would cause

water

11 volume and velocity of runoff and carry sediments and

12 pollutants into our streams. Loss of shade will raise

13 temperature. These impacts would be impossible to mitigate

14 sufficiently to prevent degradation of existing water

15 quality and it would violate the Clean Water Act.

16 In conclusion, these comments discuss impacts to

17 Kingwood Township's environmental resources, but these same

18 impacts would occur in every municipality crossed by the

19 proposed PennEast Pipeline. Thereby multiplying the

20 environmental impacts of the total project.

21 For these reasons, Kingwood Township asks that

22 FERC choose the no-build option. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

25 The next speakers are Maureen Syrnick and then

1 Tasha Kersey, James Reilly, Alex Hanson, and Joan Kager.

2 MS. KERSEY: My name is Tasha Kersey. T-a-s-h-a
3 K-e-r-s-e-y. I live in Cranston and I am a citizen of this
4 planet. I am also a PSE&G customer. I did not ask for
5 pipeline. I do not need this pipeline.

this

6 The cost benefit analysis is simple. The cost
7 this pipeline is the devastation of our preserved natural
8 resources in the most populated state where pristine open
9 space is scarce and precious. The cost is endangering the
10 health, safety and welfare of the 18 million citizens who
11 live in the affected are of the pipeline. Accidents

of

happen,

12 spills and explosions happen, the fossil fuel industry is
13 well aware of these statistics. Despite the regulations
14 cited that require minimum safety standards and penalties
15 for noncompliance, accidents happen.

16 These accidents are not rare. They are not
17 unlikely, they are not becoming more and more rare. They
18 are becoming more and more an expected part of our lives

and

19 yet these projects keep moving forward allowing for the
20 obligatory public comments and the cost of the project to
21 the environment and public health will result in

irreparable

22 harm. Harm that cannot be undone, harm that cannot be
23 fixed, harm that cannot be paid for, all for the benefit of

24 the pipeline. The benefit of 1.6 billion in profits and
25 revenue from potential off-shore markets, the benefits to

1 shareholders.

2 I urge the committee to study disaster models
3 that accurately predict worst-case scenarios if and when
the
4 PennEast pipeline fails. I urge the committee to include
in
5 their cost benefit analysis the cost of environmental clean
6 up and mitigation, the cost of irreparable harm.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

10 James Reilly.

11 MR. REILLY: Good evening, my name is Jim
12 Reilly, R-e-i-l-l-y. I live in Pennington. I am just an
13 ordinary citizen. I don't have any useful technical
14 information to give you. Just perhaps a little advice. To
15 paraphrase Will Rogers, for those of you who may remember
16 Will Rogers. All I know is what I read in the newspaper.
17 And I have not read in the newspaper that there is a dire
18 shortage of natural gas and that PennEast Corporation is
19 being pressured to build a pipeline to save us from our
20 chilly homes but they're concerned that they might lose
21 money in doing so.

22 So until I hear or see something like that in
the
23 newspaper, or hear it, I'm going to be skeptical of the
need

the 24 for this project. It was interesting to me that none of
gain 25 advocates for the project, those who appear to stand to

1 or hope to gain from it, offered any testimony to affect
2 that there was a great -- that we were in danger of running
3 out of natural gas in this area and something that needed
to
4 be done.

5 So I remain skeptical and I think you should be
6 skeptical too.

7 I think it is incumbent upon you to report back
8 to your superiors in Washington that there is great
9 opposition, fierce opposition and well-founded to this
10 project. People don't seem to have the faith in the
federal
11 government that they had when I was young, which admittedly
12 was a long time ago.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. REILLY: And I think that's sad. I regret
it
15 very much. But I think you have an opportunity to
represent
16 the interests of the people of central New Jersey and
17 inspire -- reinspire, perhaps confidence in government and
I
18 hope you use that opportunity well.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

22 Alex Hanson?

23 MR. WATSON: Good evening. My name is actually

24 John Watson. Mr. Hanson ceded his position to me as my
25 organization holds an interest in his property.

n
New
over

1 So my name is John S. Watson, Jr. That's J-o-h-
2 W-a-t-s-o-n. I am the former deputy commissioner of the
3 Jersey Department of Environment Protection and I'm
4 currently a vice president of DNL Greenway Land Trust, a
5 land conservancy working here in Central New Jersey for
6 25 years.

7 We played a part in preserving nearly 19,000
8 acres throughout the region during that time.

9 Now, we intend to submit more detailed remarks
10 than we have in the past, but I wanted to focus my brief
11 remarks tonight on open-space efforts in New Jersey and the
12 far-reaching implications of the decision you will render
on
13 this PennEast Pipeline proposal.

14 We are fortunate in this state to have had
15 remarkable, overwhelming support to preserve open space in
16 New Jersey.

17 Our voters have approved 14 statewide public
18 ballot questions that provide funding to preserve what we
19 can or what remains in this state. The most recent
20 affirmation was just this past November 4th where the
21 open-space question passed by an overall margin of 64
22 percent and passed in every single county.

23 We have been successful because we have had

24 bipartisan legislative support and informed, aggressive
25 electorates, property owners who decide to permanently

1 protect their property and state and federal administrative
2 programs that set forth rules that give us all the
3 confidence that the public investment will result in
4 permanent protection of the land and the resources that go
5 along with it.

6 The idea that a federal entity can give eminent
7 domain authority to a private company to condemn land to
8 willfully protect it from their natural resource,
9 agricultural, scenic, or historic values is just simply
10 wrong.

11 Our research indicates that the current proposal
12 would touch lands that have been preserved over time with
13 public funding totaling between \$35 and 37 million. It is
14 important to note also that many lands are preserved
through
15 generous donations of all or part of the appraised value of
16 the property. And in those cases, many of those bargain
17 sellers have enjoyed the tax benefit provided through the
18 Internal Revenue Service which requires that those benefits
19 are derived only for the permanent preservation of the
land.

20 If the pipeline impacts any of those properties
21 we expect the IRS will intervene to recover the donors' tax
22 benefit over the calamity of that.

23 Our fear is that if this project happens and if
24 our conservation easements and land preservation deeds are

25 disrupted, they will ruin the very foundation of our

1 long-standing successful land preservation programs and
2 crush the confidence of our supporters who expect that we
3 really are preserving these lands forever as we promised.

4 (Applause.)

the
say

5 MR. REILLY: Now, I know the scoping is about
6 EIS, the environmental impact statement and what I would
7 is that negative impacts to our environment will be certain
8 and drastic if we can no longer preserve our landscape
9 because the voters have lost their confidence in our
10 programs. This is New Jersey, the most densely developed,
11 the most densely populated state in our nation. We must
12 continue our preservation work to ensure a high quality of
13 life for many future generations. In order to do that, it
14 is imperative that we maintain the public trust.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

17 Joan Kager. And then following is Dennis Kager,
18 John Bogdan, Patricia Sziber, and Chris Foglio.

19 PARTICIPANT: What page are you on?

page

20 MR. SCOTT: This is page 5. We're almost to
21 6.

22 MS. KAGER: I'm Joan Kager, J-o-a-n K-a-g-e-r.
23 Thank you for hearing our concerns. There are so very many
24 things wrong with this project that it's hard to find a

25 place to begin. The implications are great. I'll try to
be

1 brief.

2 We, as landowners are bound to respect to all of
3 the buffers and setbacks and not permitted to create any
4 disturbance of any kind in our wetlands according to law.

5 However, the pipeline is permitted to cut down all the
trees

6 they want, drive their construction equipment through the
7 wetlands on our property, and damage the wetlands and
8 buffers beyond repair. How is that acceptable?

9 New Jersey has strict riparian buffers and
10 conservation easements to comply with the federal Clean
11 Water Act, Section 404, Wetlands Clean Water, Watershed,
12 Section 401, Water Quality Certifications and, Section 303,
13 Water Quality Standards. We comply, but they don't have

to?

14 What is wrong with this picture?

15 The present JCPNL right-of-way cuts our land
16 roughly in half and resembles park land because we keep it
17 mowed except for the lower portion during heavy rains when
18 it becomes flooded from the stream. It's a Class One

stream

19 too.

20 JCPNL allows us to let cedar trees remain in the
21 right-of-way to break up the line as long as they don't
22 interfere with the wires. When they do, they only top them
23 off.

1 walk our line because they don't have to hack their way
2 through like they have to do on other properties. This is
3 our back yard and it is private.

4 The edge of the right-of-way also provides us
5 with pens and shelters for our sheep and chickens. There
is
6 a 35 by 80 raised vegetable and perennial flower garden
7 enclosed by a seven-and-a-half-foot fence with wooden posts
8 and slats and a beautiful wooden gated entrance which also
9 serves as a grape arbor built by us. There is a swale
10 around the raised garden to divert the rain water and no
11 chemicals are ever applied to our crops or grass.

12 PennEast and GTU told us that these structures
13 must be relocated elsewhere because they want that space
for
14 their buffer zone. This will not be possible to relocate
15 these. There are no other suitable areas on our property
16 that are not too wet. It is all wetlands. We can't go
17 there, but PennEast can.

18 I don't know, they haven't been truthful about
19 their claims and promises. They continue to deny that any
20 of our properties will lose value. The truth is that our
21 properties have already lost value just because of this
22 proposed project.

23 The fear factor plays a big part. Remember it
24 was just yesterday when the gas line explosion leveled a

25 home in Elgin County injuring seven gas workers, six

1 firefighters, and two EMTs. The gas line that exploded was
2 only two inches in diameter. The diameter of that is one
is
3 36. An accidental explosion in our area would cause
massive
4 destruction. Our fire fighters are dedicated volunteers,
5 but since we all have wells and septic systems, our water
6 supply ranges from satisfactory to very limited and because
7 the pipeline is going through old forests and wetlands it
8 would be difficult, if not impossible, to fight.

9 You have on your shoulders the health and
welfare
10 of millions of people. I sincerely hope and pray that you
11 make the right decision.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

14 Dennis Kager. And then John Bogdan, Patricia
15 Sziber.

16 MR. KAGER: I'm Dennis Kager, like Dennis the
17 Menace, K-a-g-e-r. I belong to that young lady. The other
18 member could not to be here today. I'm from Kingwood
19 Township and I'm going to be in the 200 percentile.

20 I'm not going to be able to talk anything that
21 you said, but it's going to be real short.

22 I've lived in Kingwood Township for the past 24
23 years. I became aware of Kingwood in 1968 as I had a
friend

24 who lived here. At that point I decided that this is where
25 I wanted to live and finally in 1991 I sold my home in

1 Middlesex County and I gathered into my Kingwood home. I
2 love it here and at 72 I am only semiretired but it was
3 worth it -- until now.

4 For the past six months I've been losing sleep
5 over the thought of losing everything I've lived for and
6 enjoy thanks to big business and for profit PennEast. Take
7 a bow, if anybody is left.

8 Aside from the destruction of mature wetlands,
9 which by the way is all the wetlands, and home to the
10 endangered species I and my Hunterdon neighbors run the
risk
11 of losing our most important assets, the basic sustainment
12 of life itself, clean water and clean air. Our water is
13 well and we cannot afford to take the risk of PennEast
14 coming through the Delaware River and the streams that feed
15 the Delaware. An inadvertent mistake could cause
16 irreversible damage. And although many supposed safeguards
17 would allegedly be taken, the project both on paper and it
18 will be executed by humans. Yes, humans. Humans that's
19 there every day.

20 A mistake causing the destruction of clean water
21 is unacceptable and quite rightly could be deadly.

22 Regardless of the odds, we absolutely cannot
take
23 that risk. Remember, to err is human, please help to stop
24 this potential disaster.

25

Thank you.

1 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

2 MR. BOGDAN: Good evening. My name is John
3 Bogdan. It's J-o-h-n and the last name is B-o-g-d-a-n.

4 I'm here tonight to talk about -- for my
5 mother-in-law, Florence Hemick, who is the other 50 percent
6 owner of the property known as 135 Blackwell Road, the 51
7 acres which Frank Dutko who spoke earlier this evening is
8 the other 50 percent owner.

9 And my mother-in-law is 91 years old, has
10 dementia. She cannot speak for herself.

11 Reminiscing a little bit, back in the late 1920s
12 her father was a dairy farmer, an immigrant to that is
13 country, had a dairy farm here in Hopewell Township. At
14 that time AT&T wanted to build a pole farm. The pole farm
15 is now today called Mercer Meadows. A pole farm was the
16 shortwave radio section that was used for all the
17 long-distance phone calls to Europe and South America, the
18 station. The receiver was in Nutley, New Jersey.

19 Her father lost his farm through eminent domain.

20 So he came down to Blackwall Road to purchase the farm
which
21 was known as the Blackwell Farm. I think it's still listed
22 on the maps like that. But we know it as the Zyla, Z-y-l-
a,
23 Farm. Sometime in the late 1950s or early '60s, we're not
24 really sure exactly when, but the Transco Pipeline came

25 through. It sits right across the street from her front

1 door. It's probably about 100 yards away.

2 Now the preferred route of the PennEast Pipeline
3 is going to go right against her back yard probably 100
4 yards from her back door. They're going to go with this
5 preferred route if you approve it, she's probably going to
6 lose some of this land again for eminent domain, which they
7 previously lost for the Transco Pipeline across the street,
8 some years ago.

9 That would be the third time in their lifetime
10 that she's going to be losing some property.

11 I would ask you to consider, would you want to
12 live in a home where you have the Transco Pipeline about
100
13 yards from your front door, and the PennEast Pipeline about
14 a 100 yards behind your back door? It just doesn't make
15 sense to put them so close together. What if there is an
16 accident on one of the pipelines, it could affect the other
17 one and you would have a major disaster here in Hopewell
18 Township. And I don't think we really need this here in
19 Hopewell Township or in New Jersey.

20 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

23 Patricia Sziber. Sorry if I'm mispronouncing.

24 And then Chris Foglio and Gary Pines.

25 MS. SZIBER: Patricia Sziber, and that's

1 P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a S as in Sam, z as in zebra, i-b as in boy,
2 e-r.

3 And I'm speaking as executive director of
friends
4 of Hopewell Valley Open Space, a local land trust that has
5 been preserving land in the Hopewell Valley since -- and
6 caring for the land since 1987. And I wanted to say that
in
7 these 28 years of preservation the crown jewel of our
8 preservation work has been the Ted Spous Preserve in Bald
9 Pate Mountain. It took nine years of hard work and a lot
of
10 effort, and a lot of assessment of the ecological values,
11 the habitat assessments, geological values on the mountain.
12 And after those nine years of hard work, four partners came
13 together and spent \$11.5 million of New Jersey taxpayer
14 money to buy the 1200 acres from the quarry. It's a jewel
15 and ecological, historical, and recreational resource whose
16 very integrity may very well be compromised to accommodate
a
17 perceived need that remains to be proven.

18 We note that as of this date, as one of the four
19 owners of the preserve, we have not received written
20 notification of the proposed use of the JCPNL right-of-way
21 which crosses our preserved land.

22 I wanted to bring out some points. The birds --
23 the value of the bird habitat has already been very amply

24 covered by others, but I wanted to mention a number of

25 plants listed by the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program as

1 a major or as a species of concern have been documented on
2 Bald Pate Mountain. A data request should be submitted to
3 the program to determine if the proposed route contains
4 populations of any rare plants. And I've provided a URL
5 where you can submit that request, that data request.

6 Bald Pate Mountain is underlain by diobase soils
7 or trap rock formed during the late Triassic period. The
8 soils in many places have a depth to bedrock of no more
than
9 two feet. In some places it is less than a foot. If the
10 proposed pipeline is to be buried at a depth of three feet,
11 blasting will need to be done. This could be especially
12 disruptive to birds and other wildlife.

13 The aquifer in Brunswick and diobased formations
14 on Bald Pate is fragile. The water is contained in
15 fractures and joints in the rock whose location is
difficult
16 to pinpoint due to their random nature. Blasting can cause
17 serious problems for households of the area as has occurred
18 due to blasting at the quarry on the west end of the ridge.
19 And Ms. Niederer also pointed out some damage to water
20 resources that I wasn't even aware of.

21 The proposed route is located just south of the
22 Hopewell Fault and is adjacent to an active quarry, both of
23 which could compromise pipeline safety.

24 There are a number of small tributaries on Bald

25 Pate that flow to either Fiddlers Creek or Morris Creek,

1 both of which are classified as trout protection waters
2 under the NJDEP Surface Water Quality Standards. Both of
the
3 named creeks flow into the Delaware River. Vegetation
which
4 acts as a natural buffer should not be disturbed around
5 these water bodies and the beds of the tributaries however
6 small should not be stirred up.

7 The Delaware River as far north as Lambertville
8 is migratory and breeding habitat for Atlantic and
9 short-nosed sturgeon. Both species are listed as
endangered
10 federally and by the state of New Jersey. Anything that
11 might degrade their habitat such as siltation or toxic
12 spills may be a violation of the Endangered Species Act.
13 The pipeline would be an intrusion on the historic
14 significance of the area. Bald Pate is within the Pleasant
15 Valley historic district and the nearby Hallow Living
16 History Farm would also be affected by the pipeline.

17 We also want to bring to your attention the fact
18 that the proposed alternate route crosses part of another
19 piece of preserved open space, Premise Lake Woods which is
20 part of the Mercer Meadows Preserve. It has been ranked as
21 near the -- it has top ranking for an individual mature
22 woods in the study that was published by Dr. Douglas W.
23 White of Rutgers University. Protection of these
beechwoods

24 was a major factor that led to the preservation of the
25 property.

1 MR. SCOTT: Ms. Sziber, can you wrap it up?

2 MS. SZIBER: I'll wrap it up with the mentioning
3 bald eagles which has already been talked about by the bald
4 eagles in the area as well, that's near the woods.

5 The Commission should weigh the cumulative
6 impacts of existing and proposed natural gas pipelines that
7 compromise environmental quality and the peace of mind of
8 residents and instead propose the use of existing gas
9 infrastructure to get product to its destination.

10 We ask that the Commission conduct a rigorous
11 environmental impact study.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

14 Chris Foglio.

15 MS. FOGLIO: Hi, my name is Chris Foglio,
16 C-h-r-i-s F-o-g-l-i-o. I own 155 Lower Creek Road known as
17 Laurel Ridge Farm, Delaware Township. We are located in
18 Rosemine National Historic District which is a landmark on
19 both the state and national register of historic places.

20 The rural characteristics including the woodland
21 and historic buildings on my property was specifically
22 documented as critical attributes to the national
23 designation.

24 I purchased this property for its unique rural
25 historic beauty. It is a 16-acre, almost completely wooded

the

1 site. The property is identified by the Township in their
2 comments to FERC as a property that should not be disturbed
3 due to its significant role during the 1800s as the Tunis
4 Case Farmstead.

5 Laurel Ridge's property is bordered by the
6 Wichateo Creek, category one stream, the highest protected
7 stream under DEP regulations. It has a 300-foot buffer
8 required for nondisturbance. When a tree on my property
9 falls into this creek, under the law, I can't touch it.
10 However, this proposal will allow the pipeline to disturb
11 and go right through the stream.

12 This is just an example of the tremendous
13 negative impact on the environment and the cultural
resource
14 of this historic rural district.

15 In fact, the justification for the national
16 historic designation was based on the rural character
17 including the tremendous wooded areas.

18 On my property alone, 70 trees would be cut down
19 with an average age of 75 years. This would be added to
the
20 existing JCPNL utility 75-foot wide easement which has
21 already been cleared on my property.

22 The natural and historic environment presented
in
23 this district are unique in the state which is known for
the

24 New Jersey Turnpike more than these wooded treasures.

25 As the previous chairperson of the state's

1 Planning Commission, my goal was to concentrate development
2 in appropriate areas and to prevent development in areas
3 such as this portion of Hunterdon County.

4 Any interstate pipeline project in New Jersey
5 will require federal approval under Section 106 of the
6 National Historic Preservation Act. This will be
7 administered by FERC. This requires the farms and historic
8 sites to be protected, period.

9 Any instate project will be subject to multiple
10 regulatory approvals. My property alone will include its
11 own wetlands permit, waterfront development, stream
12 crossings, and stream encroachment. The state DEP will
also
13 protect historic properties with similar procedures and
14 authority. My property alone will require acres and acres
15 of mitigation.

16 Each of these regulations require active public
17 engagement and consultation with owners and interested
18 parties. I assure you, we will be fighting this project at
19 every hearing for each and every permit.

20 Therefore, the probability of getting the
21 proposed alignment approved is extremely low given the many
22 alternatives. The section 106 process requires that five
23 alternatives be studied with public consultation and there
24 are obviously preferable alternatives to this proposal.

25 I ask that you proactively begin to study

1 alternatives and engage the public in the process. The
2 current presentation from UGI that the pipeline would
3 utilize existing utility easements is false. In fact, they
4 are adding 100 feet to existing utility easements.

5 In the case of my property this additional
6 easement would create a new total of 170-foot wide
easement,
7 the length of my property. Moreover, the proposed
alignment
8 restricts access to my house and will create significant
9 obstacles for emergency and active access during
10 construction.

11 The federal 106 review was created specifically
12 to protect areas like this historic district. It is the
13 responsibility of FERC to enforce the intent and goals of
14 this critical legislation. In light of this
responsibility,
15 FERC must demand consideration of alternative routes.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

19 Is there a Gary Hinesley?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. SCOTT: Okay. So our next four, Laura
22 Sprout, Kim Ward Basco, John Glandak, and Bill Washburn.

23 Have we lost them too?

24 MR. SCOTT: How about Cynthia Goldsmith?

25

MS. GOLDSMITH: I'm here.

1 MR. SCOTT: Okay. Would you please state your
2 name and spell it so we know.

3 MR. WASHBURN: I'm Bill Washburn. It's B-i-l-l
4 W-a-s-h-b-u-r-n. I'm a resident on Pleasant Valley Road in
5 Hopewell Township and I want to use my time to reemphasize
6 to FERC the potential risk from construction of a pipeline
7 through the diabase. Diabase is a very hard granite
8 intrusion that produce the formations we know as the
9 Sauralin and Bell Houton and Bald Pate Mountains.

10 Formation extends as much as 1,000 feet deep and
11 because it's not very fractured it conducts vibrations very
12 efficiently over long distances. And also not having much
13 in the way of fractures it doesn't contain much water.
14 Water depends upon those fractures to provide the water
15 recharge.

16 One proposed PennEast route would run along the
17 Bell Houton and Bald Pate Mountains and it traverses the
18 diabase.

19 Homes along Long Valley Road and Pleasant Valley
20 Road lie within a quarter to a half a mile of that proposed
21 route. All of these homes depend upon low-output wells
that
22 for the most part are several hundred feet deep. We
23 anticipate because of the low soil coverage of the
formation
24 that construction of any trenches in this area would

25 necessitate blasting the diabase.

1 Now, at present, we feel the vibration without
2 any trouble when blast occur at the Track Rock Mine which
is
3 two miles away at the western end of Bald Pate Mountain.
So
4 our concern is that the vibrations from nearby blasts for
5 the pipeline would be much stronger resulting in potential
6 changes in the output of wells as well as the possibility
of
7 damaged house foundations, the tiled surfaces in rooms
8 within those houses, cracking of swimming pools, et cetera.

9 And I'm particularly concerned about the
10 possibility of adversely affecting the wells. If these
11 stronger vibrations cause closure of the cracks providing
12 water to the well, or open new fissures that divert water
13 flow from the well, the wells will fail.

14 Drilling replacement wells in this area is very
15 expensive with no guarantee of success. It's not uncommon
16 for wells to be drilled 500-600 feet deep and still fail to
17 produce any water. So the economic risk to these
homeowners
18 is huge with no upside benefit.

19 I urge you to reject this proposed pipeline.
The
20 pipeline is not going to benefit the communities through
21 which it will pass. And as you know, New Jersey is well
22 supplied with natural gas at present. And it would appear
23 also with many other alternative routes.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

2 MR. GALANDAK: Good evening, my name is John
3 Galandak. I'm president of the Commerce and Industry
4 Association of New Jersey. Commerce and Industry is a
5 statewide business advocacy group with offices in Paramus
6 and Trenton. We represent more than 900 member companies
7 from virtually every business sector.

8 Our mission in New Jersey is to enhance New
9 Jersey's business climate and advocate for our members by
10 assisting them in growing their business and/or economy by
11 encouraging private sector investment and the creation of
12 private sector jobs.

13 I'm here today to support the proposed PennEast
14 Pipeline because we believe it will bring reliable and
15 affordable natural gas from its local source directly to
16 Pennsylvania and to New Jersey families and businesses.

17 With an investment of nearly a billion dollars,
18 this 114-mile pipeline will deliver enough natural gas to
19 service more than four million homes per day. When one
20 considers that nearly 74 percent of residents in New Jersey
21 are heated with natural gas, this project becomes a
22 necessity.

23 The benefits, both economic and environmental
are
24 not restricted to heating alone. Clearly they would drive
25 down the costs of generating electricity and the operation

1 of vehicles which are powered by natural gas and
2 electricity.

3 The economic vitality and quality of life for
4 people in New Jersey are dependent upon a reliable supply
of
5 energy. Natural gas is one of the cleanest sources of
6 energy available in the region and with an ever increasing
7 demand for it, this project will help satisfy that demand.
8 This project will help keep energy costs affordable and
9 stable.

10 New Jersey residents paid less for natural gas
in
11 2013 than they did in 2008. This is due in part to the
12 shale gas revolution which has decreased America's
13 dependence on foreign-owned energy supplies. The
14 affordability and reliability of energy supplies to which
15 natural gas pipelines are an integral element also plays a
16 major role when companies decide where to site new
17 manufacturing facilities. The project will help fuel New
18 Jersey manufacturing renaissance and help improve our
19 economy as well.

20 The short-term economic benefits were cited
21 earlier, certainly the creation of 2,000 construction jobs
22 are important and meaningful, and will be helpful to local
23 economies such as restaurants, hotels, material suppliers,
24 et cetera. In addition 90 permanent jobs will also be

25 created as a result of this project.

mode

1 The Commerce and Industry Association believes
2 transporting natural gas via the pipeline is the safest
3 of delivery available. In fact, according to the United
4 States Department of Transportation, pipelines are the
5 safest, most environmentally friendly and efficient mode of
6 transporting natural gas and the companies that form the
7 PennEast Pipeline together have more than 400 years of
8 industry experience and a respectable safety record.

9 In conclusion the Commerce and Industry
10 Association believes that this project will significantly
11 enhance our energy infrastructure, and prove our
12 competitiveness, benefit New Jersey, and the region as a
13 whole. We urge you to approve the project in an
expeditious
14 manner so that the work may begin without delay and the
15 benefits realized as soon as possible.

16 I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

19 (Shouts from the audience.)

20 PARTICIPANT: Go back where you came from.

21 MR. SCOTT: All right. Cynthia Goldsmith, Jerry
22 Keenan, Donna Venya, and Debra Craftsman.

23 MS. GOLDSMITH: My name is Cynthia Goldsmith.

24 C-y-n-t-h-i-a, Goldsmith, G-o-l-d-s-m-i-t-h.

25

I am an environmental and historic preservation

design 1 specialist. I have a bachelors degree in environment
2 and a master of science degree from Columbia University's
3 Graduate School of Architecture, planning and preservation.
4 I am contributing my comments as a property owner whose
5 historic farm abuts the preferred alternative route for the
6 proposed PennEast Pipeline over Bald Pate Mountain and
7 Hopewell Township, Mercer County.

8 And also as an environmental and historic
9 preservation specialist who serves as a board member of the
10 Saurland Conservancy and has worked for the New Jersey
State 11 Historic Preservation Office and the New Jersey State
12 Department of Transportation as an environmental and
13 historic preservation specialist.

14 In these capacities I reviewed and prepared NEPA
15 documents for federally-funded projects. I am here to
16 oppose both proposed alternatives for the PennEast Pipeline
17 that have been circulated to date.

18 Many acres of the environmentally and
19 historically rich region through which these proposed
20 alternatives pass have been preserved by federal, state,
21 county and Township tax dollars.

22 The proposed pass-through pipeline does not
23 contribute significant value to the residents and other
24 landowners and stewards of Hunterdon or Mercer Counties.

In

25 fact, the construction and operation of the proposed

1 pipeline would adversely affect this environmentally and
2 historically sensitive region which has been fought for and
3 painfully preserved over the past 50 years or so.

4 Voters overwhelmingly approved nine state bond
5 issues between 1961 and 1995 that generated more than \$1.4
6 billion for parks, open space, conservation, and
7 agricultural preservation.

Historic

8 In 1998 voters approved the Garden State
9 Preservation Trust Fund which distributes many dollars to
10 the green acres program of the Department of Environmental
11 Protection, the New Jersey Historic Trust of the Department
12 of State and to the Agricultural Preservation Program of
the
13 Department of Agriculture.

14 The Bald Pate Mountain Park which now contains
15 over 1300 acres was purchased by Mercer County in 1998 for
16 \$11 million plus for preservation, conservation, and
17 recreational purposes. In addition Mercer County owns
18 additional parkland in this area and includes a number of
19 properties that are on or eligible for inclusion on the
20 national register of historic places.

21 These properties include the Upper Belmont Farm,
22 Howell Living History Farm, and a number of additional
23 properties and archeological sites within the Pleasant
24 Valley Historic District. Additional historic properties

25 on or eligible for inclusion on the national register that

1 may be adversely affected by the PennEast Pipeline are
2 located in Holland, Alexandria, Kingwood, Delaware and West
3 Amwell Townships along with the Borough of Stockton and the
4 City of Lambertville all in Hunterdon County and in
Hopewell
5 Township, Mercer County.

6 Some of the more well-known properties include
7 the Delaware and Rearton Canal historic district, the
8 Prellsville historic district, the Stockton and
Lambertville
9 historic districts, the Upper Belmont Farm, the Pleasant
10 Valley historic district and many archeological sites both
11 historic and prehistoric.

12 It has been suggested that because the proposed
13 preferred alternative follows an existing utility
14 right-of-way over Bald Pate Mountain, environmental impacts
15 will be minimized. In fact, it will adversely affect a
16 large number of environmental resources including, but not
17 limited to geology, water quality, including brown water to
18 wells and springs along the surface water and streams
19 flowing to the Delaware and Rearton canal and the Delaware
20 River. Cultural resources include historic properties and
21 archeological sites, natural resources, both plant and
22 animal, forested areas and possible impacts on air quality
23 before, during, and after construction.

24 Without delving too deeply, one can see that the

25 adverse environmental impacts of the proposed preferred

1 alternative route are substantial and extensive. And they
2 also contribute long-range, cumulative adverse effects.

3 MR. SCOTT: Ms. Goldsmith, if you could wrap up,
4 please?

5 MS. GOLDSMITH: Yes, I can. In April of 2013 my
6 farm, which is locate 172 Pleasant Valley Road on Bald Pate
7 Mountain and across from the entrance to the Bald Pate
8 Mountain Park Preserve an open-space, agricultural
retention
9 historic preservation easement. This easement was written
10 and funded jointly between myself, Green Acres, the
Delaware
11 and Rearton Greenway Land Trust and Friends for Hopewell
12 Valley Open Space. This wonderful property is further
13 preserved and protected as a local and significant historic
14 farmstead through the Hopewell Township Historic
Commission.
15 This was achieved through a number of years of coordination
16 and planning by these participants. It's my opinion that
17 Long Spring Farm will be adversely affected should the
18 proposed PennEast Pipeline be routed over Bald Pate
19 Mountain.

20 I am requesting that the Federal Energy
21 Regulatory Commission consider all of these points in their
22 environmental impact statement and that they take the
23 responsibility seriously to identify any and all historic

24 and cultural resources that may be eligible for the
national

25 register of historic places as directed by the National

1 Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended throughout the
2 PennEast Pipeline project area.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

6 Jerry Keenan

7 MR. KEENAN: My name is Jerry Keenan, J-e-r-r-y,
8 Keenan is K-e-e-n-a-n. I'm the executive vice president of
9 the New Jersey Alliance for Action and the alliance is an
10 association of government, municipal governments, county
11 government, higher education colleges and universities,
12 business, labor all focused on environmentally promoting
13 environmentally friendly economic development.

14 And I promise, I won't be long. It's been a
long
15 night and I'm tired.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. KEENAN: I'm tired of relying on foreign
East
18 fuel, tired of being subject to the whims of the Middle

19 when we have the ability to create our own fuel right here
20 in America, right here within a close distance of where we
21 are right here in New Jersey. I'm tired of putting up with
22 not having our own ability to create fuel.

23 I'm tired of hearing about unemployment.

24 Unemployment is a problem in New Jersey. This project will

25 create thousands of construction jobs and untold thousands

1 more of long-term jobs --

2 (Audience remarks.)

3 MR. KEENAN: -- that will be created because of
4 the economic progress and economic abilities that are
5 created by the pipeline.

6 I'm also tired of sitting in the dark and being
7 cold every time we have a tremendous weather incident.

8 (Audience remarks.)

9 MR. KEENAN: I love it, bring it on. But I
lived
10 it.

11 (Simultaneous conversation.)

12 MR. KEENAN: I've sat in the dark, this project
13 would create the redundancy and the hardening of the system
14 that would allow our utility companies to reduce the length
15 of our outages. So I'm tired of sitting in the dark. I
16 want to avoid that.

17 PARTICIPANT: Cut down a tree.

18 MR. KEENAN: And finally, I'm tired of using
19 expensive, polluting fuel sources. We have the ability to
20 bring into our area clean, efficient, safe fuel and for all
21 of those reasons we should move forward and I ask you to
22 please grant approval for the PennEast Pipeline project.

23 Thank you very much for your time.

24 (Audience booing.)

25 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

1 (Applause.)

2 PARTICIPANT: Go home.

3 MR. SCOTT: So I've called two more speakers, I
4 want to see if they're here. Donna Vienna and Debra
5 Pratzner.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. SCOTT: And then we're going to have to
close
8 it after that.

9 MS. KRATZER: My name is Debra Kratzer,
10 K-r-a-t-z-e-r. I'm a chair with Township Environmental
11 Commission.

12 Everyone in Kingwood Township relies on well
13 water. Everyone in Kingwood Township has an individual
14 septic system. Our groundwater supply is limited and the
15 pipeline may create a preferred route for water flow
16 lowering our water table and impacting our wells.

17 In addition, blasting and trenching activities
18 will have the short-term effect of causing sediment in our
19 wells and has the potential to release arsenic and radon
20 into the groundwater and may also open routes for pollution
21 from other sources. An arsenic treatment system costs over
22 \$3,000 for one house.

23 The effects can occur in wells located far from
24 the pipeline itself due to the fractured bedrock geology.
25 In areas where direct drilling is proposed instead of

1 trenching, copious amounts of water would be required for
2 the process. Use of local water would be impossible
because
3 of the low-yielding aquifers that are already over
allocated
4 in Kingwood Township. Where would this water come from?
5 What would its quality be? What are they going to do with
6 this water? Is it going to be contaminated? We have no
7 wastewater treatment facility. What are they going to do
8 with it afterwards?

9 If the blasting activities damage our wells and
10 septic systems, a septic system costs over \$50,000 in
11 Kingwood Township. A well costs many thousands of dollars,
12 just a well pump and well casing, many thousands of
dollars.

13 So I ask you to consider these economic impacts
14 against any possible incremental benefits that PennEast
15 claims.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

19 All right. I think we have time for one more.
20 Ross McLennan.

21 MR. McLENNAN: My name is Ross McLennan. I'm
22 here representing myself. I'm a professional engineer.

23 I am strongly opposed to this pipeline. There
24 are definite and irreparable environmental damages and

25 additional long-term risks on our environment and

1 watersheds. The gas is clearly going overseas even though
2 PennEast and their partners are lying about this intention
3 as they are greatly exaggerating the jobs and investment
4 estimates.

5 Farms can be cut in half, many landowners will
be
6 put at risk, and their lands will see devaluation
overnight.

7 However, the major concern I am voicing today is
8 over the human safety and risk of a catastrophic explosion
9 from a massive pipeline unlike any built to date. While it
10 is true that pipelines are safer than trucks and trains,
11 they do in fact explode resulting in damage and sometimes
12 injury and loss of life.

13 As an engineer who designs mechanical devices
for
14 a living, including pipelines, I am familiar with risks.
15 All types of risks need to be considered in the design of
16 mechanical things. Risks versus rewards, risks versus
17 probabilities, risks versus human life. The amount of gas
18 contained in a 36-inch diameter, 1500 psi is equivalent to
19 over one kiloton of TNT per mile. I did the calculation
and
20 it is true and correct. Nor do pipeline like this running
21 in populated areas.

22 Most gas lines in town are three to five psi.
23 And the largest pipelines are four to six inches in
diameter

24 in towns and the explosions we are talking about.

25 PennEast and their partners are proposing this

per
turned
today,

1 giant, 36-inch trunk line to move one billion cubic feet
2 day of natural gas through our area at 1500 psi to be
3 into liquefied natural gas and shipped overseas. This is
4 more gas than the entire state of New Jersey is using
5 to ship overseas for their gain.

6 In 2010 the San Bruno, California natural gas
7 explosion killed eight people, destroyed 38 homes and
8 damaged many more. It occurred less than a mile from San
9 Francisco airport. Locals thought it was an earthquake.
10 This is California we're talking about.

facts

11 Total damage estimates exceeded \$1 billion. The
12 town and affected people were recently awarded \$1.3 billion
13 and there are criminal charges pending. These are all
14 that I've read and they're going to be in the paperwork.

26

15 That was a 30-inch diameter pipeline and it blew
16 at 375 psi. The blast created a crater 167 feet long and
17 feet wide. The PennEast Pipeline, if built, would contain
18 eight times the explosive power of this San Bruno
explosion.

19 One thousand tons of TNT versus San Bruno's 144 tons per
20 mile. These are vetted calculations. They do exist. You
21 can see them.

22 Industry estimates that an area a mile in

23 diameter, not the numbers I was hearing earlier, would be
24 affected. Houses and businesses within a half mile would
be
25 heavily damaged.

1 After the San Bruno explosion the NTSB conducted
2 an extensive study and has been making recommendations to
3 avoid pipelines crossing into developed areas. I wonder
4 they're doing that? To improve safety considerations
5 including better design and construction and improved
6 inspections.

why

7 PennEast has not provided any indication they
8 will follow these new proposed guidelines. And in fact
9 are proposing minimal pipe wall thickness, minimal depth of
10 ground coverage, and no additional precautions for the
11 Lehigh Valley area that is prone to sinkholes.

they

risky

12 With this pipeline we could be taking a
13 tremendous risk. As a professional engineer, I know risk
14 and I am strongly opposed to this project. Sincerely, Ross
15 McLennan.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. SCOTT: Thank you for your comment.

18 MS. KOCHHAR: I'd like to thank you all for
19 coming here tonight. Let the record show we concluded the
20 meeting at this time, it's about 11 p.m. Thank you for
21 coming once again.

22 (Whereupon, at 10:58 p.m., the meeting was
23 adjourned.)

24

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