

1 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

2

3 FERC SCOPING MEETING

4

5 DOMINION TRANSMISSION, INC. :

6 :

7 TIOGA AREA EXPANSION AND : CP12-19-000

8 SABINSVILLE TO MORRISVILLE : CP12-20-000

9 PROJECTS :

10

11

12 February 15, 2012

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15 Wellsboro High School Auditorium

16 227 Nichols Street

17 Wellsboro, Pennsylvania

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19 6:30 p.m.

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22 The above-entitled meeting was held,

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24 pursuant to notice, at 6:34 p.m.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

6:34 p.m.

MR. FRIEDMAN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Paul Friedman. I'm an Environmental Project Manager for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. We abbreviate that as FERC. We also call it the Commission.

I come from Washington, D.C., and I am joined here tonight by my colleague, also from the FERC Office in Washington, John Peconom. He's in the back. He's the one you met if you signed in.

On behalf of the FERC, we welcome you to this public scoping meeting, to discuss Dominion Transportation, Inc.'s, which I'll just call "Dominion," their proposed Tioga Area Expansion Project in FERC Docket No. CP12-19-000, and the Sabinsville to Morrisville Project, which is given - - we gave it the docket number of CP12-20-000.

The purpose of this meeting is to take in public comments about these projects, so that the FERC staff can determine the important issues to address during the preparation of our environmental assessment, which I'll abbreviate as EA from now on.

Let the record show that this meeting began promptly at 6:34 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at Wellsboro High School in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. You

1 may have noticed that a court reporter is transcribing this
2 meeting. This is so we can have an accurate record of
3 tonight's comments.

4 The FERC has a transcription contract with Ace
5 Federal Reporters, Inc. or Ace. If you wish to obtain a
6 copy of the transcript prior to its placement in the FERC
7 public files, you may make arrangements directly with Ace.
8 Just so you know what it will cost you, and attorneys do pay
9 these prices, believe it or not, they sell copies at 11.93 a
10 page for same day delivery, 3.91 a page for overnight, 3.79
11 a page for next day, 2.55 a page within five days of this
12 meeting.

13 Later, the transcript will be placed in the
14 FERC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C., after we
15 receive it from Ace, ten days after we receive it from Ace.
16 The FERC will charge 30 cents a page for copies from our
17 reference room. This transcript will also be posted on the
18 FERC's Internet website through our e-Library system, and it
19 will be available electronically for viewing on the Internet
20 seven calendar days after it's received from Ace. I will
21 discuss our e-Library system later in this talk.

22 Dominion is a private corporation. It engages in
23 the interstate transportation of natural gas, among other
24 business activities. FERC is a federal agency that
25 regulates the interstate transportation of natural gas.

1 Next slide, please. FERC was created in 1920 as
2 the Federal Power Commission. The agency was reorganized in
3 1977 and renamed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
4 The Commission is the independent agency that regulates the
5 interstate transportation of electricity, non-federal
6 hydropower and natural gas.

7 Our agency is directed by five commissioners who
8 are appointed by the President of the United States and
9 approved by the U.S. Congress. The FERC staff, like John
10 and myself, are civil servants. We, the FERC staff, do not
11 make decisions. The commissioners do that. But our staff
12 does make recommendations to the commissioners.

13 My job at the FERC is to write environmental
14 documents so that our agency is in compliance with the
15 National Environmental Policy Act, also abbreviated as NEPA.
16 My goals tonight are as follows. One, I want to summarize
17 the projects. Two, I want to explain the role of the FERC
18 in the review of the projects; three, I want to discuss our
19 environmental process. Four, I want to outline how the
20 public may participate in the process, and five, I want to
21 allow you, the public, an opportunity to voice your concerns
22 or questions about the projects at this forum.

23 I ask that you reserve all comments until after
24 my presentation. It takes about 20 minutes to say all of
25 the things I want to say, and there is a table in the back

1 of the room, manned by John, where you can sign up to be a
2 speaker tonight.

3 Next slide, please. The environmental team. Let
4 me introduce the other person here from the team tonight,
5 and that is John Peconom. John is a staff biologist at
6 FERC. He will be part of our environmental project team,
7 who will be writing the EA and analyzing the proposals.

8 The FERC will use a team of interdisciplinary
9 specialists to review data. This includes engineers,
10 biologists, geologists and archaeologists. I am the project
11 manager and my professional degree is in Archaeology and
12 History.

13 Next slide, please. FERC works with other
14 agencies. While the FERC is the lead federal agency for
15 these projects, we are not the only agency which must
16 approve the proposals or issue a license or a permit for
17 their construction and operation. For example, the U.S.
18 Army Corps of Engineers will issue permits under the Clean
19 Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act, for the crossing
20 of wetlands and water bodies.

21 In our Notice of Intent to produce the EA, we
22 abbreviate that as NOI for Notice of Intent, which announced
23 this meeting. The FERC invited agencies with jurisdiction
24 or special expertise with respect to environmental issues,
25 to formally cooperate with us in the production of the EA.

1 Those agencies may choose to participate once
2 they have had an opportunity to review the proposals,
3 relative to their responsibilities. On February 2nd, 2012,
4 the Corps of Engineers wrote the FERC a letter, requesting
5 to be a cooperating agency, and we're happy to have them as
6 part of our team, and they will help us prepare the
7 environmental assessment for these projects.

8 Next slide, please. What is the applicant's
9 role? I'd like to point out that the FERC is not a project
10 proponent, nor are we an advocate of this project. We are a
11 regulator. Dominion defined the purpose and need for its
12 projects. Likewise, Dominion selected the locations of
13 these proposed facilities. The FERC and other government
14 agencies will independently review these proposals.

15 Next slide, please. I'd like to now summarize
16 Dominion's proposals. On November 21st, 2012, Dominion
17 filed two separate applications with the FERC under Section
18 7 of the Natural Gas Act or NGA.

19 Although the two applications are independent of
20 each other, because each project would serve different
21 customers, the proposed facilities are adjacent to each
22 other, located in the same geographic region, and would
23 affect the similar set of environmental resources.

24 For example, the new TL-610 pipeline for the
25 Sabinsville to Morrisville Project in Docket CP12-20, would

1 begin at the existing Tennessee gas pipeline meter station
2 and head northward, while the new TL-610 Extension 1
3 pipeline, proposed as part of the Tioga Area Expansion
4 Project, in Docket CP12-19, would also begin at the same
5 Tennessee meter station, but then go southward.

6 Both of these new pipelines would parallel
7 Dominion's existing LM-50 pipeline. Therefore, we have
8 decided to combine the two projects into one EA.

9 Next slide, please. They should be maps of the
10 project. The next slide after that, and next slide after
11 that. The purpose of the Tioga Area Expansion Project would
12 be to provide up to 270,000 decotherms per day in firm
13 transportation services to Shell Energy North America and
14 Penn-Virginia Oil and Gas Company.

15 In Docket CP12-19, Dominion proposes to build
16 facilities at the following locations: One is a new TL-610
17 Extension 1 pipeline. It's about 15 miles long, 24 inch
18 diameter pipeline between the existing Tennessee meter
19 station and a new launcher/receiver site that will be built
20 within the Tioga State Forest. It crosses portions of
21 Clymer, Gaines and Elk Townships in Tioga County,
22 Pennsylvania.

23 At Boom Station, Dominion proposes to replace
24 regulator, upgrade monitor controls and convert valves and
25 its existing compressor station in Lawrence Township, Tioga

1 County, Pennsylvania.

2 At the Little Greenlick Station, Dominion wants
3 to install a new short segment of pipeline they call TL-614,
4 and a new station valve and its existing compressor station
5 in Stewardson Township, Potter County, Pennsylvania.

6 At its Crayne Station, Dominion wants to install
7 a new short pipeline which they call TL-615 between the
8 existing Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation's mainline
9 and Dominion's existing compressor station, and put in a new
10 meter station in Franklin Township, Greene County,
11 Pennsylvania.

12 At Finnefrock Station, it's another one of
13 Dominion's existing facilities, they want to extend a header
14 pipeline and do some valve additions, and that's in Leidy
15 Township, Clinton County, Pennsylvania, and at its existing
16 Lindley gate in Steuben County, New York, Dominion would
17 like to replace some regulators, upgrade monitor controls
18 and convert some valves.

19 All right. Next slide, please. The purpose of
20 the Sabinsville to Morrisville Project would be to provide
21 up to 920,000 decotherms per day to Tennessee at a new
22 receipt point. In Docket CP12-20, Dominion proposes to
23 build the following facilities: They want to build 3.6
24 miles of pipeline they call TL-610. It's 24 inch diameter
25 pipe between the existing Tennessee meter station and

1 Dominion's existing Sabinsville gas storage station, in
2 Clymer Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania.

3 At the Tennessee meter station, they're going
4 to install a new above-ground connection between the station
5 and the new pipeline TL-160, 610 I mean, and at Sabinsville
6 Gas Storage Station, they're going to install some tie-ins
7 and some internal station piping.

8 Next slide, please. Pipeline construction
9 activities can be summarized as follows: There is clearing
10 and grading, trenching, pipe stringing and welding, lowering
11 in and backfilling, and clean-up and restoration.

12 The next slides illustrate this more clearly, I
13 hope. All right. So there's trenching. Next, there's pipe
14 stringing. Next, there's welding. Next, there's lowering
15 in. Next, there's backfilling and clean-up.

16 Next, I would now like to talk about FERC's
17 review process. Next slide, please. Dominion has filed its
18 application with the FERC, and the FERC issued notices of
19 application on December 5th, 2011. On December 15th, 2011,
20 FERC issued a Notice of Onsite Environmental Review. We
21 issued our NOI for these projects on January 24th, 2012.

22 In addition, Dominion has notified landowners and
23 agencies about the project. Dominion held an open house on
24 September 19th, 2011 at its Sabinsville office in Westfield,
25 Pennsylvania, to explain its projects to the public.

1 On October 11th, 2011, Dominion held an inter-
2 agency meeting about the project with various agencies in
3 Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Dominion must obtain easements
4 from landowners for its new facilities. We expect, we
5 meaning FERC, expect Dominion to enter into good faith
6 negotiations with landowners to reach agreements.

7 However, Section 7(h) of the NGA conveys the
8 power of eminent domain to the pipeline company. If an
9 agreement between the pipeline company and landowners is not
10 forthcoming, and the FERC issues a certificate to Dominion
11 for these projects, a local court will determine a final
12 settlement for the easement in a condemnation proceeding.

13 In this graphic, it illustrates FERC's
14 environmental review process. We are at the beginning of
15 the process, in the middle of scoping. This is the time
16 when the public gets an opportunity to comment on the
17 project. The issuance of FERC's NOI is our way of notifying
18 stakeholders and requesting comments on environmental
19 issues.

20 We urge you to place your comments into the
21 public record before the end of the scoping period on
22 February 24th, 2012. Later in this talk, I will explain how
23 to place comments into the FERC record. The FERC staff may
24 focus on environmental review based on scoping comments we
25 receive. We may issue a dated request to Dominion, to

1 address issues raised by the public.

2 Next slide, please. The FERC process is fairly
3 transparent. The public has electronic access to all file
4 documents through the Internet. The FERC's web page is at
5 www.ferc.gov. Then you go to the Documents and Filings
6 link, and you click on e-Library.

7 Within e-Library, you can choose a general
8 search, select a date range and put in the docket numbers,
9 which for the Tioga Area Expansion is CP12-19, and for
10 Sabinsville to Morrisville project, it's CP12-20. The e-
11 Library contains copies of all documents filed in these
12 proceedings.

13 Next slide, please. To be notified via email of
14 all future filings in these proceedings, you need to sign up
15 for our e-Subscription service through the FERC web page.
16 Again, go to www.ferc.gov, click on Documents and Filings,
17 click on e-Subscription and follow the instructions.

18 You the public may comment in writing by sending
19 a letter to the Secretary of the Commission at 888 First
20 Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., 20426. The Commission urges
21 electronic filing of comments through the e-Filing link of
22 our web page. In all correspondence, whether electronic or
23 in hard copy, please reference the first docket numbers for
24 these projects, which again are CP12-19 and CP12-20.

25 You also have the opportunity to comment orally

1 at this public scoping meeting. We will be taking comments
2 from attendees after my presentation. Remember to sign the
3 speaker's list with John at the back. As I have stated
4 before, the transcript of this meeting will be placed into
5 the FERC's public record for these proceedings.

6 If you want to remain on our environmental
7 mailing list, you must let us know in writing. You can do
8 that by sending back to the FERC the form included as
9 Appendix 2 attached to our NOI. All attendees at this
10 meeting will be placed on the environmental mailing list if
11 you sign the attendance sheet, which John is keeping in the
12 back. Please make certain you sign that sheet.

13 Next slide, please. Becoming an intervenor.
14 After reviewing Dominion's application for the FERC's
15 notices, certain individuals or organizations may want to
16 intervene in these proceedings. Being an intervenor is a
17 legal position. Intervenors can request rehearing of a
18 Commission decision. They also have the burden of serving
19 all parties on their filings.

20 The FERC's notices of applications indicated that
21 December 27th, 2011 was the deadline for filing as an
22 intervenor in these proceedings. However, although the time
23 for filing for intervenor status has passed, the Commission
24 may allow late intervention with good cause.

25 Being an affected landowner or raising

1 environmental issues may be deemed by the Commission as good
2 cause for late intervention. You do not have to be an
3 intervenor to have your environmental comments considered by
4 Commission staff.

5 Resource agencies are urged to seek cooperating
6 status, but cooperating agencies may not intervene, because
7 they will share non-public data and work products.

8 Next slide, please. The FERC staff data request
9 may also ask Dominion questions stemming from our review of
10 its application. Each application includes the
11 environmental report.

12 Next slide, please. The requirements for the
13 environmental reports are outlined in FERC's regulations at
14 Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations 380. The environmental
15 report includes resource reports that present data on
16 geology and soils, water resources and wetlands, vegetation
17 and wildlife, cultural resources, land use, air and noise
18 quality, safety and reliability and alternatives. All of
19 these resource reports are part of Dominion's application,
20 which is already online at the FERC through e-Library.

21 So that anyone can read those reports and comment
22 on Dominion's statements on environmental impacts.

23 Next slide, please. Once the FERC staff is
24 convinced that data are complete, so that we fully
25 understand the potential impacts the project may have on the

1 environment, we will issue a Notice of Schedule for our
2 environmental document.

3 In accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005,
4 known as EPACT '05, other federal agencies would have 90
5 days after the FERC releases the EA, to issue their permits
6 or approvals.

7 Next slide, please. Environmental review. Based
8 on Dominion's applications, and our own research, the FERC
9 staff's environmental team will produce an EA with our
10 cooperating agencies. In accordance with the regulations of
11 the Council of Environmental Quality, at Title 440, Code of
12 Federal Regulations Parts 1500 through 1508, that satisfy
13 the requirements of the NEPA.

14 That document will offer our independent analysis
15 of the potential environmental impacts of Dominion's
16 proposals and alternatives. Generally, the EA will discuss
17 the current environment, identify potential project-related
18 impacts on specific resources, and present proposed measures
19 to avoid, reduce or mitigate adverse effects.

20 Next slide, please. If we receive little public
21 comment about the projects during scoping, and the FERC
22 staff believes that the potential environmental impacts
23 would be minor, the FERC may decide to produce an in-house
24 EA. This document would be made part of the public record
25 available on the FERC's Internet web page through our e-

1 Library system, but would not be published or mailed.

2 If substantial comments are received during
3 scoping, or our staff identifies major environmental issues,
4 we would issue a public EA that is published and mailed.
5 The EA would be sent out to all interested parties on our
6 environmental mailing list.

7 There would be a 30-day comment period on the
8 public EA. We would address all comments on the EA in the
9 staff's recommendations to the commissioners.

10 Next slide, please. The EA will not be a final
11 decision document. It would be prepared to advise the
12 commissioners, and to disclose to the public the
13 environmental impacts associated with constructing and
14 operating the projects.

15 The commissioners would consider our
16 environmental analysis, together with other staff materials
17 pertaining to non-environmental issues, such as markets and
18 rates, before making an informed decision about the
19 projects.

20 That commissioners decision would be issued as an
21 order. The Commission has the option of accepting the
22 proposals in whole or in part, approving the proposals with
23 or without conditions, or denying the applications all
24 together.

25 Next slide, please. After an order. If the

1 Commission decides to approve the proposals, and the
2 applicants accept their certificates and build the project,
3 the FERC's environmental staff or our contractors will
4 monitor the projects through construction and restoration.

5 In addition, other federal and state agencies may
6 also monitor construction. We will perform on-site
7 inspections for compliance with the environmental conditions
8 of the order. Now we're at the end of my presentation and
9 almost the beginning of public comments.

10 But before we take comments, I would like to take
11 a brief five-minute break. This will give you the
12 opportunity to sign to the speaker's list if you have not
13 already done so. I urge you to sign the speaker's list if
14 you have any comments or concerns that you want to raise
15 about the environmental impacts of this project.

16 So at this time, we'll take a short break, and
17 John will be in the back to sign everyone up who wants to be
18 a speaker, and I'll be back up at this podium in five
19 minutes to start the public comment portion of tonight's
20 forum. Thank you.

21 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

22 MR. FRIEDMAN: We're going to reconvene now. Now
23 would be the time for public comment. John said that no one
24 has signed the speaker's list to speak, but I'll give you an
25 opportunity to be extemporaneous. If anyone would like to

1 give comments, all you have to do is step up to the
2 microphone.

3 Is there anyone who'd like to, that has comments
4 or questions about the project?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: I don't see any hands up, and I
7 don't see anyone on the list. So if there is no one who
8 wants to enter their comments into the public record at this
9 time, then we're going to conclude this meeting. On behalf
10 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I want to thank
11 you all for coming out here tonight. I know some of you do
12 live quite far. I guess you wanted to hear what I had to
13 say, and I hope I provided some useful information.

14 I wanted you, you know, to know that you still
15 have an opportunity in writing to present us your comments,
16 so that we can focus the environmental review process on
17 those issues of concern to the public. Let the record show
18 that this meeting concluded at 7:06 p.m., and again, thank
19 you very much.

20 (Whereupon, at 7:06 p.m., the meeting was
21 adjourned.)

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