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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC : Docket No. PF13-7-000
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EAST SIDE EXPANSION PROJECT

Woolwich Township Hall
120 Village Green Drive
Swedesboro, New Jersey 08085
Wednesday, June 19, 2013

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

JOHN PECONOM, Project Manager, FERC
ELLEN SAINT ONGE, Deputy Project Manager, FERC

With:

SYDNE MARSHALL, Tetra Tech, Inc.
SEAN SPARKY, Tetra Tech, Inc.

for Columbia Gas Transmission, Inc.:

BRENDAN NEAL, Manager, Community Relations
D.J. REZA, Engineer, NiSource Transmission &

Storage

MELISSA DETTLING, Environmental Project Manager

	LIST OF COMMENTERS	
1		
2	JEFFREY HARRIS, resident	26
3	KEN MARKIZON, resident	30
4	MYRNA HARRIS, resident	33
5	DOMINATE RACITE, resident	34
6	DAVE LOOMIS, resident	36
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. PECONOM: Good evening, everybody. My name
3 is John Peconom, and I'm an Environmental Project Manager
4 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. On behalf of
5 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the FERC or the
6 Commission, I would like to welcome all of you tonight and
7 thank you for coming.

8 Let the record show that this public scoping
9 meeting in Swedesboro, New Jersey began at 7 o'clock p.m. on
10 June 19th, 2013.

11 The primary purpose of this meeting is to provide
12 you the public an opportunity to comment on Columbia Gas's
13 proposed East Side Expansion Project and on the scope of the
14 environmental analysis that the Commission Staff will
15 prepare for this project.

16 With me tonight are Ellen Saint Onge, Sydne
17 Marshall and Sean Sparks.

18 The FERC is a federal agency that regulates the
19 interstate transmission of natural gas. The FERC is
20 responsible for reviewing proposed natural gas transmission
21 facility projects, and determining whether these facilities
22 are in the public's interest. As a federal agency, the FERC
23 is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental
24 Policy Act, NEPA. NEPA requires that the Commission conduct
25 an environmental review of a proposed project and disclose
26

1 the potential impacts of that project to the public in an
2 Environmental Assessment.

3 We are assisted in our review by other federal,
4 state and local agencies, specifically the United States
5 Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Department of
6 Transportation, and the United States Fish & Wildlife
7 Service as well as others.

8 As I said earlier, the primary purpose of this
9 meeting tonight is to give you the public an opportunity to
10 comment on a project on the environmental issues that you
11 would like to see covered in the Environmental Assessment.
12 It will help us the most if your comments are as specific as
13 possible regarding the potential environmental impacts,
14 including also alternatives and any other issues you may
15 have about the project.

16 So tonight's agenda is pretty simple. Before we
17 begin the formal comment portion of the meeting, I've asked
18 Columbia Gas to provide you with a description of the
19 proposed East Side Expansion Project. Following their
20 presentation, Ellen will describe the Commission's
21 environmental review process. Once Ellen is done, we will
22 take your comments on the project.

23 Before Columbia begins their presentation, does
24 anyone have any questions on the agenda or the format
25 tonight?

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1 community, to elected officials, the media and to others to
2 notify them that we were anticipating and proposed that we
3 were going to enter into FERC's pre-filing process; which is
4 part of why we're here this evening. It also, I think most
5 of you would have received a letter from our land group to
6 come out and do some surveying to the property, so you may
7 have seen them as well.

8 We submitted our request to enter the FERC
9 pre-filing process in February of this year; and part of the
10 reason for doing so, as John mentioned, is that the
11 pre-filing process allows us to I define and resolve
12 stakeholder issues early on in the process so that we can
13 submit a proposal to FERC that shows minimal impact to both
14 the community and the environment.

15 In March, we've submitted drafts of Resource
16 Reports 1 and 10. The significance of those, again my
17 colleague will get into in a minute here; and we submitted
18 the rest of the resource reports in June. Correct?

19 MS. DETTLING: May.

20 MR. NEAL: May. May - June.

21 In September of this year, we'll be filing our
22 application with FERC; that would be our preferred -- sort
23 of our final route that we would like to see; and we'd love
24 for FERC to issue our certificate sometime in June of 2014.
25 If they do, we would begin right away clearing on the
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1 pipeline route sometime in November of 2014, initiating
2 project construction in April 2015 and having our pipeline
3 facilities in service by fall of 2015.

4 Now the project has a number of different pieces
5 to it. Let me just go over a couple of them, and again
6 specifically the reason you're all here this evening. We
7 will be doing modifications and upgrades to I believe four
8 of our compressor stations. That is the New York -
9 Pennsylvania state border where it says Milford and Wagner
10 up there. We have a compressor station; we refer to it as
11 our Milford compressor station. That will help compress the
12 gas to push it down our pipeline system and get it to its
13 end users, which is actually here in the State of New
14 Jersey.

15 The other compressor station, located right
16 around Allentown, Pennsylvania, is what we refer to as our
17 Easton compressor station. If you look up there, the word
18 says 'Pennsylvania' where that yellow triangle is at the
19 top, that is our Eagle compressor station; and right below
20 that is a gray triangle; that is our Downington compressor
21 station.

22 Now there's a pipeline loop similar to the
23 pipeline loop we're proposing here in New Jersey that runs
24 from, about nine miles from the Eagle compressor station to
25 the Downington compressor station.

26

1 Now if you look over to the right it says, where
2 there's a yellow line, that is the New Jersey portion of the
3 project. It's a seven and a half mile loop, pipeline loop
4 that we're proposing to do to here. We have a current line
5 that runs through us, pretty much parallel to Center Square
6 Road. And we're proposing to install another pipe alongside
7 that, a 20-inch diameter pipeline.

8 This is just a larger map. I know it's hard to
9 see that. Don't worry, we're going to get you guys better
10 maps that you guys can have in your hands. I know the
11 Deputy Mayor has asked me for that last week. This is just
12 a view of Gloucester County, and as you see, the red line at
13 Center Square Road, it runs from Route 130 and Logan
14 Township, through Logan, through Woolwich, the southern
15 portion of Swedesboro and back out to Woolwich.

16 This is the Pennsylvania portion of the blue.

17 Now, it's come to our attention, and this is not
18 unusual, that members of the community have concerns around
19 the safety of these pipelines. I'm going to let D.J. talk
20 to you about two things; one is getting to the specifics of
21 the current line that runs parallel to Center Square Road;
22 as well as he's going to give you the -- try to explain to
23 you why we refer to it as a loop.

24 But there are three measures that Columbia takes,
25 really to ensure the integrity of these lines. One is an
26

1 in-line inspection tool; we refer to it as a "smart pig";
2 it's literally a machine that runs through the pipeline that
3 takes an X-ray of the pipeline; it looks for any anomalies,
4 possible issues. If there was a crack, there were issues
5 with wall thickness -- and I can't think of any other type
6 of issues that it can see.

7 AUDIENCE: Rust.

8 MR. NEAL: Rust, corrosion, something along those
9 lines. And what it does is it gives us -- we analyze the
10 results of, once the pig runs through the line. D.J. will
11 talk to you about when that was completed.

12 The second measure is the corrosion control.
13 Number one, it's a coated steel pipeline. We have, there's
14 a cathodic protection system that is installed with the
15 pipeline in order to minimize any corrosion and prevent
16 corrosion from happening; and this is -- or in the pipeline;
17 and also there's, the third thing we do, which is leakage
18 inspections. We actually have people in our operations,
19 people that walk our current right-of-way, that along the
20 right-of-way they test to see if there are any leaks in the
21 pipeline. They also do aerial patrols to see, sometimes
22 just a small aircraft; that helicopter, small fixed wing
23 that flies over the rights-of-way to see if there's been any
24 encroachment of the pipeline. Because sometimes people
25 build decks or they're doing some type of construction
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1 activity that could pose a risk to our pipeline.

2 The other thing you should know is that when
3 installing the new pipeline, all these pipes are
4 hydrostatically tested. So they literally shoot water
5 through these pipelines to make sure that there are no
6 holes, there are no cracks or anything; and there's a number
7 of other regulations that we adhere to through the Pipeline
8 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, under the
9 U.S. Department of Transportation.

10 Now D.J. can come up and talk to you just about
11 the specifics of, on Line 10345. Again, that's the line
12 that currently runs along Center Square Road, and we are
13 proposing to put a loop in it, next to it.

14 MR. REZA: Like he said, my name is D.J. Reza. I
15 am the pipeline project engineer for Columbia. And when you
16 run in-line inspections with 'a pig' is what we call it,
17 it's just a device that goes inside the pipe, and it looks
18 kind of like a squeegee; and there's different types.
19 They'll take a lot of different measurements throughout the
20 pipe, and the latest one that we've done was on this line,
21 this particular line, 10345, was in 2009. No anomalies were
22 found in the pipe in 2009 nor in 1995. And this is required
23 to be done every so many years; normally every seven years,
24 no more than seven years, but we can do it more often if we
25 need to, or if we'd like to.

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1 For this particular line, there's been no
2 important incidents since our 1987 installation. And our
3 next in-line inspection run, pig run, will be in May of
4 2016. And that's not something that you'll see; it all
5 happens underground. It's something that goes in the pipe
6 and the pressure pushes it from point A to point B, and
7 you'll even know it's there, really.

8 Another question that we've had is, what is
9 looping? And looping essentially is a parallel pipe laid
10 adjacent, as much as possible and as much as practical to
11 our existing pipeline in order to increase the throughput or
12 the capacity of the pipeline and also reduce the pressure
13 losses.

14 So it is essentially increasing the size of one
15 pipe without taking out the old pipe and having to put
16 another one in. So we can keep the line in service for the
17 customers so they don't experience outages.

18 One example of reducing pressure losses, if you
19 had a single pipe and you started at let's just say 500 psi,
20 at the end of the pipe, 20 miles downstream, you might see
21 450 psi. So there's a loss associated when it's coming down
22 with all the friction in the pipeline. Whereas if you
23 install a loop, you'll go from 500 and instead of being at
24 450, you might keep it at 475. So there's hydraulic models
25 that are run to kind of determine the size of the looping
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1 pipe.

2 If you have any more questions on that, feel free
3 to ask once we're finished.

4 And now I'd like to introduce Melissa Dettling.

5 MS. DETTLING: I'm Melissa Dettling, I am the
6 environmental project manager with Columbia. I'm going to
7 go over a little bit with you the environmental process that
8 we take for this. FERC put up here the pre-filing process.
9 As you can see, on this side is the applicant's portion of
10 it. Part of that is preparing an environmental report, and
11 so I'm going to go over a little bit.

12 What I put up here is just, sometimes you may
13 hear the term 'resource reports' and the resource reports
14 are like chapters that make up an environmental report.
15 Columbia prepares this and submits it with an application
16 that goes into FERC, that you can see here on this process.

17 FERC will discuss their Notice of Intent to Prepare an
18 Environmental Assessment for the project -- and I don't want
19 to take their part away, but you may wonder what the
20 difference is between an environmental report and an
21 environmental assessment, and they are two independent
22 processes that will happen by the applicant and from FERC.

23 So if you hear the term ER for environmental
24 report, right now there are drafts of some of these reports.
25 Well, almost all of those reports are available to you
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1 through the docket that will be given to you, through the
2 FERC website.

3 What Columbia has done, and in the preliminary
4 schedule that Brendan showed you, it mentioned field reports
5 and analysis. So early on in the process we go out to look
6 at what our proposed route is, and we do environmental
7 surveys. We start with desktop surveys, we do consultations
8 with agencies, we identify permits that are going to be
9 needed. We have a wide survey corridor that some people may
10 have been notified that we were coming out to look at a
11 corridor, maybe on your property, where the project does not
12 actually propose, but we look at a much wider corridor so
13 that we can see what it's adjacent to, so that we can
14 identify any impacts that the project might have.

15 We make up these reports, so as you can see,
16 Resource Report 1 is a project description. If you want to
17 see a little more in depth of the project description, you
18 can go on FERC's website to see that. In that report we
19 also explain what we call a purpose and needs statement,
20 which is basically why are we here? Why are we proposing
21 this project? What is the need for this project.

22 Columbia will not come and build a pipeline or
23 try and expand our system just hoping that a need might
24 come. We wouldn't spend money to build a project saying
25 that 'Maybe some day people will need more gas.' We have to
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1 be able to show and demonstrate that there is a need, a
2 public need, and that there are customers wanting this gas,
3 and that people have come to us asking us to transport this
4 gas for them to customers; and that's where we'll put a
5 description in with these resource reports.

6 As you can see, the other resource reports here
7 are broken up; water quality, we'll talk about any impacts
8 that may occur to wildlife or vegetation. Anywhere that we
9 talk about impacts in these reports we also talk about how
10 we're going to minimize those impacts or void those impacts
11 or mitigate those impacts.

12 There is a report on cultural resources,
13 socioeconomics, geology, soils -- all the different
14 components of impacts that may occur. Land use that's going
15 to be impacted, air and noise. So we do have compressor
16 stations that are going to be modified, as Brendan said.
17 We'll do surveys, baseline surveys and identify to anyone if
18 there's going to be any change in air and noise impacts.
19 This will also address if there's going to -- what we're
20 going to do to mitigate any effects that that construction
21 might have to air quality.

22 Resource Report 10 is an important one; it's
23 alternatives. So I'll just go through a few basic trends.
24 So we go as high level as looking at what would happen if
25 this project wasn't built. Again, no action alternative.

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1 We look at, can Columbia use our system that exists now to
2 support what the customer needs. Can we just use that
3 structure that's in place? We have to prove that we cannot
4 do that if we're proposing to build something else.

5 So then we'll get into high level alternative as,
6 can we use one of the other pipelines we have to meet
7 customer needs? Is there another pipeline that might meet
8 customers' needs? We *also get into variations as we call
9 them, which are a little more lower level, which might mean
10 going around a wetland or saving the back of a landowner's
11 property that doesn't want us on a certain area.

12 And I'll get into a little more specifics about
13 that, but that will all be identified in these resource
14 reports, anything that we've looked at. And you'll see some
15 maps on it, too.

16 And safety and reliability, we should talked a
17 little bit, which is what Brendan and D.J. went over a
18 little bit already.

19 The alternative summary is what I was mentioning
20 for Resource Report 10 and you'll see. Here's just an
21 example for the list of Pennsylvania and New Jersey
22 alternatives that so far have been filed with FERC; and if
23 you go and look at the draft documents that are there in
24 place, we've looked at -- a number of alternatives that you
25 can look and see the data, where those alternatives are;

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1 there's mapping and what the comparison of impacts would be,
2 should we choose to take one of those.

3 These alternatives, as I stated, are not what we
4 are stating is our preferred route at this time. But
5 there's justification and analysis of the comparison.

6 We're also currently in the process because we
7 are still in pre-filing; we have not filed an application
8 with FERC. We're taking meetings like this and open houses
9 that we've had; private meetings that we've had with
10 landowners, the public officials and agencies, taking
11 comments that come in to our 800 line and any other process
12 to look at other alternatives; and we're currently doing
13 that. We've been in the field since the draft resource
14 reports have been filed with our preferred route then; there
15 have been many different alternatives that are being looking
16 at and are going to be filed with FERC.

17 These weren't mean to be reviewed in detail,
18 because I know you can't see these; but what this is showing
19 is what you'll see in resource reports, giving you the
20 detail of preferred routes in comparison to alternative
21 routes. There'll be mapping in the reports where you can
22 identify -- and these are just an example of some of the
23 sheets that you can look up and see.

24 We use mile posts to identify where we are on the
25 proposed project; we start at zero, and as you can follow
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1 and things will be tracked in all of our resource reports by
2 that mile post so that you can find it on drawings.

3 I put a few items in here for residential areas.
4 Obviously I know it's a big concern to most if not all of
5 you. We have an environmental construction standard
6 document that we'll be filing. Basically it's going to
7 summarize all the best management practices that we will
8 take in this project, to ensure that we are protecting
9 stakeholders' needs as well as the environment.

10 And here are just a couple items that you'll find
11 in there: Basically, practices that we are going to be
12 following. They may be safety, they may be environmental,
13 different measures. Right here it's mentioning setbacks
14 that we'll have, safety fence being put in place anywhere
15 where we're working near residences to ensure safety. Of
16 those residences, we have timelines set up to where we can
17 reasonably get things restored when we're close to
18 residences, so we're putting things back in a timely manner;
19 and saving resources that we can that are at the edge of our
20 work space. We'll be able to work with you, and we take
21 comments from you if there are things that, that we can
22 avoid impacting, we will do so.

23 We have distance setbacks, as I was saying.
24 We'll take safety measures whenever there's a trench in
25 place that's near residences; and all of that's outlined in
26

1 our documents for you to review.

2 Here I'm just going to go a little bit high level
3 into kind of what we call a landowner resolution, like
4 concern resolution process. I'm going to give you a number
5 at the end of this, an 800 number, I'm sure most of you have
6 already been provided that, but if not you can jot it down.
7 We also have a project website that has that 800 number on
8 it.

9 AUDIENCE: Would you back that up, to the last
10 picture you had?

11 MS. DETTLING: Bring up the last one. Sure.

12 AUDIENCE: All right. Thank you.

13 MS. DETTLING: Basically this is just describing
14 that we have a process in place for any comments that come
15 in on the project. Comments are tracked, it's identified
16 whether there are parcels with given numbers on our line, it
17 shows whether it's a landowner of concern, if it's just a
18 stakeholder or an interested party. We track every comment
19 that's coming in. We have local land agents that are
20 assigned to every area of the project. If you are someone
21 that is in the area of the project and you have concerns, a
22 local land agent will come out to you, respond to your
23 concern, see what your concerns are, bring them back to the
24 team. We have a team with a lot of different disciplines;
25 as you've seen we have engineering, environmental, land -- a
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1 lot of disciplines in our team.

2 We'll discuss what the matter is, whatever that
3 discipline implies, to see if there's a resolution that we
4 can come to to meet the complaint and resolve it. The land
5 agent will then reach back out to the landowner to let them
6 know how it's -- and everybody is addressed, kept in a
7 record, so we know when any contacts were made and any
8 promises were made, until we make sure that that follows
9 through the life of the project.

10 Here, as I discussed, we have a toll free number.
11 No matter what your question is, no matter what the concern
12 is, if it comes in to this 800 number it will be distributed
13 -- you'll be distributed to the person on the team that can
14 address that for you.

15 FERC will go over this; there's a docket number
16 that's assigned to our project. Right now it's a 'PF' which
17 stands for pre-filing. 13 is 2013, is when we filed, to
18 request pre-filing. And then 7. This is the number that
19 you can go on FERC's website to find our project, to find
20 anything that we filed on it, to review anything, to also
21 post your comments or concerns.

22 In a field office here, we have the address and
23 an office number there.

24 That's all I have. Do you have any questions on
25 what we've been over? I know FERC is going to have a

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1 process for how other questions come in.

2 MR. PECONOM: Melissa, thank you. I wanted to
3 move ahead with the meeting, because I know, I'm sure a lot
4 of people have questions; and the Columbia Group will be
5 available after the meeting outside in the entryway there to
6 answer your specific questions.

7 We're going to go ahead and leave this slide up
8 here for the remainder of the meeting in case people want to
9 jot that down. We will be continuing to work with Columbia
10 to flesh out their project; and again, they will be
11 available after the meeting to answer your questions.

12 Now I'd like to ask Ellen to provide you with an
13 overview of the FERC review process of this project.
14 Ellen's going to go through that and take some questions on
15 the FERC process afterwards.

16 I will also point out that a lot of information
17 has been presented, will be presented, and all that
18 information is being recorded by the gentleman to my right,
19 and will be put into our public record. Ellen will talk a
20 little bit about that public record and I will come back
21 around to that later on. So if you're feeling that you
22 missed something, this information will be available. It's
23 also available on our website, www.FERC.gov. So we try to
24 have a very open and transparent process, and all the
25 information available to the public.

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1 Ellen?

2 MS. SAINT ONGE: Thank you. I'm going to talk
3 describe our environmental review process for you. I just
4 want to say, we don't have microphones tonight, and I'm not
5 a loud speaker, so if you find you can't hear me, raise your
6 hand and I'll try and increase it a little bit.

7 AUDIENCE: Come a little closer.

8 MS. SAINT ONGE: I could move a little closer.
9 Do you think I should?

10 AUDIENCE: Can't hardly hear any of you.

11 MS. SAINT ONGE: All right, I'll come a little
12 closer. It's no problem, because I am not a loud speaker.

13 Okay. So to illustrate our pre-filing process,
14 as you see we have this chart here; and if anyone has
15 questions I can go over it in more detail after the meeting;
16 and in addition we have a handout at the front table, and
17 the second page of it also has that flow chart, so if you
18 want to take it home and look at it, that's available.

19 As Melissa said, we are currently at the
20 beginning of our environmental review process. Columbia
21 entered our pre-filing process; we formally approved them on
22 March 8th of 2013, and that began our review of the
23 facilities that we refer to as the East Side Expansion
24 Project. The purpose of prefiling is to encourage
25 involvement by all interested stakeholders in a manner that
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1 allows for the early identification of issues, and allows
2 time for the resolution of those issues.

3 As of today, no formal application has been filed
4 with us at the FERC. But because of the pre-filing process,
5 we as well as the other federal agencies, state agencies and
6 local agencies that will review the process, are able to
7 begin our review.

8 On June 6th of 2013, the FERC issued a Notice of
9 Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment. That
10 initiates our formal scoping or comment period, which will
11 end on July 8. And during our review of the project we will
12 assemble information from a variety of sources. The resource
13 reports that Columbia will provide us or have provided us
14 form much of the information that we will use for our
15 environmental review; but we will also take information from
16 the public, from state, local and federal agencies, and we
17 will do our own independent analysis, and that also may
18 involve field work. We will also take your comments and
19 consider them in our document.

20 Our analysis includes an examination of the
21 proposed facility locations, alternative sites, and we will
22 assess the project's effects on water bodies and wetlands,
23 vegetation and wildlife, endangered species, cultural
24 resources, soils, land use, air quality, noise and safety.
25 Those are the things that we start with; that's our
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1 baseline, what we look at. If we get comments about issues
2 that we don't typically look at, we will consider doing
3 additional review of those issues.

4 Our analysis of the potential impacts will be
5 published in our environmental assessment or EA and
6 presented to the public for a 30-day comment period. The EA
7 will be mailed to all interested parties. Because of the
8 size of our mailing list, the mailed version of the EA is
9 usually on a CD. If you want a paper copy, that can be
10 provided, but you have to let us know; and in the front
11 table there's a mailing list -- even if you're already on
12 the mailing list but you want a hard copy, please indicate
13 that after the meeting.

14 As I mentioned earlier, our issuance of the NOI
15 opened a formal comment period that will close on July 8th.
16 The NOI encourages you to submit your comments as soon as
17 possible, and that will give us time to analyze and research
18 the issues.

19 If you received the NOI in the mail, you are on
20 our mailing list and you will remain on our mailing list to
21 receive the EA and any other notices that we may issue
22 regarding the project unless you return the mailer in the
23 back of the NOI saying "take us off the mailing list" if you
24 want off. And if you didn't get an NOI, there are copies at
25 the front table. And if you didn't receive one and you
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1 should, again please put your name on the mailing list so
2 you'll get future mailings.

3 I'd like to talk a little bit about filing
4 comments. The FERC encourages electronic filing of comments
5 and other documents. We have a small brochure, also at the
6 front table, that explains our FERC eFiling system. And in
7 addition, instructions for filing electronically can be
8 located on our website, at: www.FERC.gov under the eFiling
9 link. But if you would like to submit written comments, we
10 accept written comments; and additionally, all the comments
11 that you make verbally tonight will be on the formal record
12 and will be considered.

13 It is important that if you send us comments
14 electronically or by traditional mail that you include the
15 docket number for the project; that will help the comments
16 get to us. The docket number for the East Side Expansion
17 Project is, as Melissa said earlier, PF13-7. It's on the
18 cover of the NOI and if you decide to send us a comment
19 letter, please put that number on it.

20 Now I would also like to explain the role of the
21 FERC Commission and the difference between that and the FERC
22 environmental staff.

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1 The Commission is a five member body that is
2 responsible for making a determination of whether or not to
3 issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to
4 Columbia for this project. The EA is prepared by the FERC
5 environmental staff; that's us, and that will describe the
6 project facilities and associated environmental impacts; the
7 alternatives to the project; possible mitigation measures
8 that will avoid or reduce environmental impacts; and it will
9 provide the FERC environmental staff conclusions and
10 recommendations about the project.

11 The EA is not a decision document. It's prepared
12 to disclose to the public and to the Commission the
13 environmental impacts of constructing and operating the
14 planned project. When the EA is completed, the Commission
15 will consider the environmental information along with other
16 non-environmental issues such as the need, the market need
17 for the project, and engineering issues and rates issues, in
18 making its decision to approve or deny Columbia's request
19 for a certificate. I would also like to add that the
20 Commission is independent; there's no review of FERC
21 decisions by the president or by Congress. We're an
22 independent regulatory agency, and that is in order that we
23 can make fair and unbiased decisions. We -- they can make
24 fair and unbiased decisions.

25 Before we enter the formal comment period, I
26

1 wanted to ask if anyone had questions about the FERC
2 process, how the environmental assessment will be, the
3 process that we'll do to put together the environmental
4 assessment. And if you do, I'd like you to come up to the
5 podium, and you need to give your name and spell it for the
6 court reporter.

7 If anyone has any questions, just please raise
8 your hand and come forward.

9 No. Okay, in that case, I will turn it back over
10 to John.

11 MR. PECONOM: Thank you, Ellen.

12 Is everyone sure they don't have any questions on
13 the FERC review process? We're happy to answer them, and
14 it's part of the reason we're here tonight, is to make sure
15 that folks understand how this kind of project will be
16 reviewed.

17 Yes. Please.

18 MR. HARRIS: One quick question, and my name is
19 Jeffrey Harris (spelling). Thank you for listening to me; I
20 know most of you by sight and some of you by name as well.

21 The review process, this pre-filing review
22 process, so far you have had to review a thousand, maybe
23 more, pages in these ten reports submitted by Columbia
24 pipeline group. And I was wondering what size of staff that
25 you have. Is it -- somebody mentioned five members. Is it

26

1 just five guys that sit in the back and review this entire
2 thing?

3 MR. PECONOM: I'd be happy to answer that
4 question.

5 We have a very large staff at the Commission.
6 The Office of Energy Projects, which I'm a member of, as
7 well as Ellen, has a staff of over 50. We are assisted with
8 our review by contractors, third party contractors, which
9 Sydne and Sean are a part of Tetra Tech, Inc., assistance
10 with this project, and they have a staff in the hundreds.

11 So we are actively reviewing this project. We
12 have a staff that includes project biologists, geologists,
13 engineers, economists, archaeologists -- Ellen is an
14 archaeologist.

15 The Commission is a five member commission; that
16 is the body that will ultimately make the decision but the
17 staff, which as I said Ellen and I are both part of, it is
18 much larger. The entire Commission staff is over a thousand
19 individuals.

20 MR. HARRIS: Okay, thank you. In that case, I
21 have a follow up question regarding the document -- I happen
22 to be on the mailing list for any public documents that
23 Columbia pipeline submits to FERC and FERC's comments on
24 those; and anybody here can get on that mailing list very
25 simply, as Ellen mentioned. It's a very easy process, and
26

1 you will receive any public documents; and they make really
2 interesting reading.

3 In view of the fact that you're -- getting back
4 to my question, John, In view of the fact that you've got a
5 thousand people, and Columbia pipeline has said they want to
6 do a loop, the 10345 loop, which is an add-on, not a new
7 pipeline. And yet in the documents that you released to the
8 public dated June 17, regarding Docket No. PF13-7-000, you
9 say in Item 4, comments on draft Resource Report No. 10:

10 Describe the significant impacts to customers
11 resulting from outages required to replace the lines with
12 larger diameter pipelines, and the statement goes on.

13 Now it's my understanding that they, the Columbia
14 Pipeline Group, is not going to replace anything. They're
15 going to add on, and that's what the loop is. And yet you
16 use the word 'replace.' Is that -- am I getting into
17 semantics that don't really matter?

18 MS. SAINT ONGE: No. You ask a very good
19 question. The reason, I believe -- John may speak to this
20 more -- but I believe in the Resource Reports 1 and 10, 1
21 describes the project, 10 is alternatives. One of the
22 alternatives that is often suggested is replacement.

23 MR. HARRIS; Oh, tearing out the old, putting in
24 the new.

25 MS. SAINT ONGE: To replace -- right. To replace
26

1 it, you would have to take it out of service and that would
2 affect the customers. So when we do our analysis, we need
3 to look at, is it feasible for them to replace it? And so
4 I'm not absolutely sure; maybe John can answer that, but I
5 believe what we're getting at, is it feasible to do a
6 replacement instead of a looping? And no.

7 So it's a good question. It could be confusing.
8 But that is for, to enable us to look at the alternatives.

9 MR. HARRIS: Okay. I understand now. See, I've
10 only done this once.

11 MS. SAINT ONGE: No, no, it's a good question.

12 MR. HARRIS: You guys have done this many more
13 times than I.

14 MR. GIBSON: It's a good question. It is
15 confusing. It is a looping, and we're looking at, 'Could it
16 be something different?'

17 MR. HARRIS: Okay, thank you.

18 MS. SAINT ONGE: So we need to know that.

19 MR. HARRIS: I do have additional questions, but
20 I think that comes in the public part of this thing.

21 MS. SAINT ONGE: Okay.

22 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

23 MR. HARRIS: The public hearing. Thank you very
24 much.

25 MS. SAINT ONGE: Thank you.

26

1 MR. PECONOM: It was a very good question. I'd
2 just like to add on there, the document that you're
3 referring to is comments that have been provided to
4 Columbia. As Melissa pointed out during her presentation,
5 they've given us some preliminary information. We've
6 reviewed that information and given comments to the company
7 about it, so we've asked for clarifications, additional
8 information; and this is part of our review process and we
9 will continue to do, now throughout the pre-filing process
10 and then their formal application. It's our responsibility
11 per NEPA and the Commission's regulations to review this
12 information and ask questions. So that is what we do, and
13 I'm glad you brought that up, and I'm glad you're reviewing
14 those.

15 Yes, sir, do you have a question on the process?

16 MR. MARKIZON: My name is Ken Markizon, M a r k i
17 z o n. And my question is, are you guys at FERC concerned
18 about my personal impact at my house? Or is it just the
19 geology, water resources --?

20 MS. SAINT ONGE: That falls under land use. It's
21 not spelled out here, but land use is -- we're going to look
22 at the impact on businesses, national parks, Indian
23 reservations. But in this project in particular, one of the
24 main emphases is going to be the impact on residential areas
25 and individual landowners, because that is going to be one
26

1 of the bigger impacts of the project. So yes. We didn't
2 break that out, because within land use there's a number of
3 categories. But that will be one of the important areas
4 that we look at.

5 MR. MARKIZON: So specific issues I'm concerned
6 about with the proximity of my house to the turnpike and a
7 living wall that I have protecting noise, pollution and
8 stuff, you guys care about that?

9 MS. SAINT ONGE: Yes, we do. For residences
10 within -- the company is required, for residences within 25
11 feet, to provide us with individual residential plans that
12 show, that demonstrate to us how they are going to try and
13 avoid impacts to individual landowners.

14 MR. PECONOM: Let me add on to that, Ellen.

15 The answer to your question is yes. And Ellen
16 talked about houses that are within 25 feet. We've actually
17 expanded our require-request for information on houses
18 within 50 feet. And we've asked them to provide information
19 about how close the house is, are there residential
20 features, gazebos, fences, sewer lines, other utilities. So
21 we are looking at individual houses throughout the line.

22 MS. SAINT ONGE: And can I say, not just within
23 25 or 50 feet, but additionally we'll look at things like
24 impacts to access roads into residential areas, whether
25 construction equipment -- how they're going to access their
26

1 pipeline and whether it will affect people; timing for
2 schools and churches, whether that's going to affect
3 activities, use of activities in the area.

4 MR. PECONOM: We've already given Columbia a
5 number of comments and concerns that we have regarding
6 residential impacts; and that's available on the Internet.
7 So that's something I'd encourage you to look at. I'd be
8 happy to talk with you after the meeting to identify your
9 house on our maps and some of your specific issues.

10 MR. HARRIS: I'm just assuming that Columbia,
11 they seem like very, very nice people; and I assume that
12 they would sort of say that they would, you know, try not to
13 tear down my trees if they don't have to. But I guess you
14 guys are the protector, I would guess, right, from the Big
15 Bad Gas Company. I wonder -- has your experience been that
16 they are -- you've been through projects with them, I guess.
17 Has your experience been that they are good people?

18 MR. PECONOM: The question -- I -- hmm. That's
19 an interesting question. I guess -- I give them comments,
20 and a lot of times they've already thought about those. But
21 I have to -- my job is to read the information and make
22 sure, and we kind of verify that those things are occurring.

23 So I can't comment on whether they're good to
24 people, but to answer your question we are looking at
25 things. And they have been proactive about residential
26

1 issues. So I would say 95 percent of the comments I gave
2 them were reminders of things they've already known.

3 To make sure, when we give them comments that you
4 also know that we're working on the project as well and that
5 we're concerned about these things.

6 Any other questions about how we review these
7 projects or the FERC environmental review process or FERC
8 approval process?

9 Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. HARRIS: I'm not sure I'm going to address
11 what you said. My name is Myrna Harris (spelling).

12 My home, our home borders Center Square Road, and
13 I'd be interested in more information about your evaluation
14 of alternatives and statistical information about the impact
15 of populations on these various alternatives that you have
16 looked at.

17 MR. PECONOM: And actually, that's a very good
18 comment in terms of that, but that's what you want us to
19 look at. You want us to look at alternatives and you want
20 us to do a comparison, and you want to have numbers. You
21 wanted to get a quantitative comparison, if I heard you
22 correctly.

23 MS. HARRIS: Right.

24 Do the other alternatives, is the population as
25 great as it is on Center Square Road; and why -- if not, why
26

1 -- Center Square Road. I know there's the existing
2 pipeline, but why not some areas where there is not as much
3 disruption of home life?

4 MR. PECONOM: This is a good segue into the
5 comment, because I think your comment was both a question
6 and a comment. So the answer to your question is we will
7 look at alternatives, we will do a quantitative assessment;
8 we'll count houses to see how many houses are on one
9 alternative versus the proposal. That's the kind of thing
10 that we'll do, and what I'm hearing is that you're concerned
11 about the -- Center Square Road is already a very congested
12 road and a very built-up road, and there may be alternatives
13 that are less so. And I'm hearing that you'd like us to
14 look at those and do a comparison that you can see in a
15 table. So that is something we will do.

16 And that information will be disclosed in the
17 Environmental Assessment, and you can also start to see some
18 of that in a request for information that we're asking of
19 Columbia. The gentleman pointed out earlier about the
20 alternatives questions; that's one thing we're asking now.

21 So let's go ahead and move on to comments; if
22 people want to give us comments about the project and your
23 concerns, that's what we want to hear. Do you have a
24 question or comment, or both?

25 MR. RACITE: My name is Dominate Racite, R a c i
26

1 t e.

2 This pipeline is not a transmission line; it's
3 storage, correct? That's what we keep hearing is storage.

4 MR. PECONOM: It is a transmission line.

5 MR. RACITE: And storage. I was told that by
6 Columbia Gas Company representatives, it is for storage.

7 MR. PECONOM: The information that I received so
8 far tells me that it's a transmission line and not a storage
9 line. That's what they filed with us.

10 MR. RACITE: There's already one on Center Square
11 Road that was there before all them homes were there. Why
12 can't we go alongside of that instead of impacting the
13 houses and the people on the other side of the street? Or
14 down the center of Center Square Road.

15 And you say it's to benefit the public. Who's
16 getting paid to pump this gas? Not me.

17 MR. PECONOM: So I'm hearing that you'd like to
18 see--

19 MR. RACITE: I'm the public, am I? I'm getting
20 to suffer from it. And I really don't think it's fair to
21 put that within 25 feet of somebody's home. Do you? Would
22 you want that 25 feet from your house?

23 MR. PECONOM: I'm hearing your comments, and your
24 concerns about residential impacts and want us to look at
25 alternatives. And that's something that we are going to
26

1 look at.

2 MR. RACITE: All right, because that's too close
3 to somebody's residence.

4 MR. PECONOM: I understand that you're concerned
5 with safety.

6 MR. RACITE: I mean, if they put it on the other
7 side of the road, there's already that danger there. Why
8 spread it?

9 MR. PECONOM: We'll look at putting it on the
10 other side of the road.

11 MR. RACITE: Or come down one of them roads where
12 there's not so many homes.

13 MR. PECONOM: We've already asked alternatives
14 questions, and we'll continue to ask more; and that's why
15 we're here, because we want to hear what people's ideas are
16 for alternatives.

17 MR. RACITE: Okay.

18 MR. PECONOM: So I appreciate that. Thank you.
19 Yes, sir.

20 MR. LOOMIS: My name is Dave Loomis (spelling).

21 My house backs up to Center Square Road, and I
22 think the pipe's going to be a couple feet from my back
23 yard. And Center Square Road has all those nice pine trees;
24 and I was told that all of them will be taken out for the
25 safety of putting that pipeline in, and it can't be put
26

1 back.

2 So the impact on my house would be privacy,
3 security, noise reduction. How will those concerns be
4 addressed?

5 MR. PECONOM: Our job is to evaluate the impacts
6 and to minimize them to the extent possible. So we've heard
7 repeatedly that people would like trees not to be cleared,
8 and to save trees. So that's something we're going to look
9 at. We're going to look at -- a new detailed analysis of
10 the proposed route to see what we can do, if there's ways to
11 avoid -- first of all avoid these impacts; and if there has
12 to be impacts, to minimize them. So that's something that
13 we're going to do.

14 I'll be happy to get with you afterwards; if you
15 can show me where your house is, we can look at that.

16 MR. LOOMIS: Sure.

17 MR. PECONOM: You brought up noise; that's an
18 issue that we're going to look at as well, certainly during
19 construction. One thing that we'll look at is I'm sure
20 you're concerned about is, is maybe a vibration -- from
21 construction equipment.

22 MR. LOOMIS: Well, yes; security, too. Because
23 right now my house is totally blocked by those trees, so
24 people walking by, that's a deterrent for them to, you know,
25 vandalize my house, hop in my back yard, stuff like that.

26

1 So certain things that they can't replace, if the trees are
2 gone, that situation is still there.

3 MR. PECONOM: Those are great comments, and
4 that's exactly what we want to hear. I've worked on quite a
5 few projects that have gone through suburban residential
6 areas like this, and those are the things that we look at:
7 safety. A lot of people have children and they want to make
8 sure that their children aren't going to be impacted by this
9 construction, or can they play safely. So those exact
10 things we're going to look at.

11 And we've already asked questions to give us
12 specific details, so things as, we'll minimize trees, or
13 we'll make sure things are safe. Well, how are you going to
14 do that? How are you going to make sure things are safe and
15 how are you going to ensure --- we're asking for the
16 specifics. That's what we'll do.

17 So I appreciate your comments, and we'll get them
18 recorded here.

19 MR. LOOMIS: Can I ask you one more question
20 about the trees?

21 MR. PECONOM: Yes.

22 Thank you. Were you done?

23 MR. LOOMIS: I'll talk after.

24 MR. PECONOM: Great. Thank you.

25 MR. HARRIS: They claimed they were going to bore
26

1 under my property; it's not going to be disturbed. What
2 effect if that pipeline is under the tree?

3 MS. SAINT ONGE: When you speak, could you please
4 come up to the podium; because even though there's no
5 microphone, there's a microphone to the court reporter, and
6 he can't -- if you're in the back. We can hear you, but
7 please go to the microphone.

8 MR. HARRIS: What effect will the pipeline do,
9 the gas traveling through the pipeline to the trees that's
10 above it?

11 MR. PECONOM: Generally with a horizontal
12 directional drill, the pipe is much deeper in the ground.

13 MR. HARRIS: How much deeper?

14 MR. PECONOM: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 feet; it just
15 depends. I don't know specifically how deep this one will
16 be; it depends on the engineering and the proposal.

17 MR. HARRIS: Well, I farm a lot of land along
18 that route, and I can see where the pipeline melts -- the
19 existing pipeline melts the snow and things like that. So
20 what's it going to do on the roots of a 60-year old trees?

21 MR. PECONOM: Well, that's what we're here to
22 find out. And that's what we'll examine.

23 MR. HARRIS: I'd like to know that. Know what I
24 mean?

25 MR. PECONOM: Absolutely.
26

1 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

2 Yes, ma'am?

3 MS. O'DONNELL: Sue O'Donnell (spelling).

4 We've been talking tonight about, you know,
5 comments from folks and concerns. Could you actually cite
6 for us or provide us examples of, actual examples of where
7 you've actually turned people down or turned gas lines down
8 for specific reasons as to why you would not allow them to
9 put a pipeline in.

10 We've heard about soil and environment; but just
11 to help me understand specifically why you would actually
12 turn someone down -- not necessarily this one, but just in
13 general. What's your past history of turning people down,
14 and for what reason?

15 MR. PECONOM: We have recommended different
16 routes and different portions of routes for a variety of
17 reasons; environmental, endangered species. Also
18 congestion. Congested neighbors and not enough room to put
19 a right-of-way in. So that's one example I can give you in
20 Chester County, Pennsylvania.

21 I have a number here I can give you for projects
22 where the Commission determined that the area was too
23 congested, and that the company should use a different
24 route.

25 So there are a variety of factors, residential
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1 concerns being one of them, endangered species, wetlands.
2 There are a lot of proposals that get changed because of
3 concerns.

4 MS. O'DONNELL: So is it that often, or just --
5 it's pretty much.

6 MS. SAINT ONGE: It happens very often that a
7 project changes from the beginning to the end. It also
8 happens occasionally where an applicant withdraws its
9 project or stops working on it because it becomes apparent
10 that for environmental or other reasons, it's not really
11 feasible. And we don't reject it, but the company stops
12 working on it; and that's happened frequently, you know,
13 while we've been there.

14 For the Commission to vote no on a project is
15 infrequent, because it very seldom gets to the Commission in
16 such a state that they couldn't agree. You know, a project
17 doesn't even usually make it to that stage in a form that is
18 not really acceptable.

19 MS. O'DONNELL: Because you're flushing all this
20 out ahead of time.

21 MS. SAINT ONGE: It has happened. It has
22 happened that the Commission has voted no for a project, but
23 it's infrequent because usually applicants withdraw or the
24 project is changed in such a way to make it reasonable and
25 feasible, and minimizes the impacts.

26

1 MS. O'DONNELL: So what you're saying, was you go
2 through this process, all the input that you get is really
3 what you --

4 MS. SAINT ONGE: Yes.

5 MS. O'DONNELL: So by the time it gets to you or
6 not, it's pretty much been flushed out.

7 MS. SAINT ONGE: Well, for instance, the things
8 that are brought up in this meeting, we will analyze and we
9 may go to the company and say, 'Okay, someone suggested this
10 alternative and we need more information about the
11 alternative. They'll provide it to us, we may look at that
12 and say 'This is really a better route than your originally-
13 proposed route.' And when we make our recommendations to --
14 in the environmental assessment, we may make
15 recommendations and the Commission may then adopt those
16 recommendations that were not what the company had
17 originally proposed; and then if they have the -- the
18 company then has the opportunity to not accept the
19 certificate if they don't feel like they can build it the
20 way the Commission has approved it; they may not accept the
21 certificate; they usually will accept it and make those
22 changes to their project.

23 So it is a flexible process; there's a lot of
24 places where the public can have an input and where the FERC
25 environmental staff can have an input on the project.

26

1 MS. O'DONNELL: And I heard it's these next 30
2 days are critical for when people need to really voice or --

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4 MS. SAINT ONGE: Well, we have a 30-day comment
5 period that we encourage you to get your comments in in that
6 30 day period, because that will give us enough time to
7 analyze that.

8 If comments come in later, we will still consider
9 them. If they come in before the environmental assessment,
10 it is published. Once the EA is out, there's another 30-day
11 comment period. And the comments that come in during that
12 period may be reflected in the that the Commission -- in
13 other words, there have been occasions where information
14 comes to light after the environmental assessment. You
15 know, there are more environmental studies done after the
16 fact. There may be an endangered species that wasn't
17 identified early on that would cause a route change, and
18 then that would be incorporated into the order.

19 So we will continue to take comments and consider
20 them; but the earlier we get them is the sooner they can be
21 incorporated into an environmental assessment. It doesn't
22 mean we won't ever -- you know, that we won't look.

23 MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.

24 MR. PECONOM: Thank you.

25 I wanted to move into the speakers, and I

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1 apologize; I know people signed up at the front end, so I'd
2 like to call, start with that list now and go through those
3 individuals, and then afterwards I'll ask for any other
4 speaker.

5 So the first person that signed up on the list
6 was Mr. Eric Perez.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. PEREZ: So a couple of things that I've seen
9 on some of the drawings that were sent to us previously and
10 discussed in the last meeting. One, per my property, in my
11 back yard, I knew when I bought it that we live close to a
12 substation; the pipeline runs behind my fence line, but my
13 fence line is not my property line.

14 So the concern I have is that they're going to
15 take my back yard, as small as it is, rather than go into
16 what is a wooded area. So it's sort of inconvenience for
17 me. Additionally, part of that proposed drawing I had
18 before is using my flattest part of my back yard for tool
19 storage, which is actually my leaching field, which I think
20 will be a major concern for me as a homeowner.

21 Also, the time I presented seemed to be I think
22 overly optimistic. Just curious, based on projects that I
23 worked on, you know, timelines; and I'll be curious to know
24 what the proposed -- previous projects proposed timelines on
25 how accurate they were or if they were usually delayed. So

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1 I thought that was pretty fast. And if it is that fast, I'm
2 happy, to see if that is really realistic or not.

3 And the proposed pipeline or the pipeline now
4 will pass, if it comes on our side, the pipeline versus the
5 other side which, behind my property is the Turnpike so I
6 know there's a concern, but it's pretty large distance. It
7 will pass my well as well as my septic leaching field. So
8 there's two concerns I have environmentally, anyway. So
9 that's it. Thank you.

10 MR. PECONOM: Thank you very much for your
11 comments. Just a quick on the schedule, I think we've all -
12 - we all know how schedules go; they are subject to change,
13 acts of Nature, Commission staff times may take longer. I
14 really couldn't give you a good answer in terms of how
15 realistic or how accurate schedules, predicted schedules
16 are. Some are spot on, some take longer, some take less.
17 That's the best I can tell you. Subject to staff workload;
18 the company moving forward in their own discretion; and as I
19 said before, acts of Nature and other unforeseen activities.

20 Next on the list is Mr. Ken -- and I apologize if
21 I mispronounce names -- Markizon.

22 MR. MARKIZON: That's perfect, John. Peconom.

23 MR. PECONOM: Peconom.

24 MR. MARKIZON: You did it better than me.

25 I just want to put on the record that when you
26

1 guys talk about endangered species, I'm not sure but we
2 think there's a bald eagle in that woods behind our house.
3 I live right near Erik over by the substation. Is that the
4 very beginning of the loop or the end of the loop?

5 MR. PECONOM: The end.

6 MR. MARKIZON: Or one side or the other, that
7 substation there. So there's, our yard ends and there's
8 just lots and lots of trees, a wooded area before you get to
9 the Turnpike. And we think we see a bald eagle flying in
10 and out of there on occasion. So make sure you guys check
11 for that.

12 And I just wanted to also, in the comment period,
13 I was just going to ask the Columbia Gas guys, you talked
14 about replacing trees if you had to take any down. Do you
15 guys try to get them to be the same? You said like replace
16 mature trees. You're replacing mature trees with saplings
17 or -- if I got a 25-foot tree taken and it's a wall of 25-
18 foot trees, I'm really wary, because it makes a big deal
19 blocking the Turnpike.

20 So I wanted to know on the record, like do you
21 guys work to --

22 MR. PECONOM: I can tell you typically 25 --
23 mature trees are not replaced with mature trees. Which is
24 obviously a concern to you and a concern to a lot of other
25 people. So that's something we'll look at and that's why we

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1 try to avoid those impacts, is we do recognize that there's
2 a difference between a sapling and a mature tree.

3 MR. MARKIZON: Yes.

4 MR. PECONOM: I'm glad you pointed out that
5 you've seen a bald eagle in your area that you'd like us to
6 look into.

7 MR. MARKIZON: I'm not a zoologist.

8 MR. PECONOM: I understand. And this is very
9 helpful to us because we are based in Washington, D.C., and
10 we depend on our comments to help us guide our assessment.
11 I don't live there; I couldn't tell you there was a bald
12 eagle there, but I'm glad that you're here to tell those
13 things; and we share your concerns.

14 MR. MARKIZON: Well -- I'm not sure.

15 MR. PECONOM: I've been to your part of the line
16 -- I should point out that we walked the line and visited
17 almost all of it. So I do know; I'm familiar with that
18 wooded area of the Turnpike -- the Turnpike right there, and
19 the topography that's in there as well, and your back yards
20 and how close you are to that area.

21 MR. MARKIZON: Yes, but I was encouraged that --
22 and I again want to make sure -- you guys actually will
23 assign somebody to a, if we have a concern like we can have
24 a rep that will come out and kind of just pay attention to
25 us?

26

1 MR. PECONOM: Yes. They have land agents who
2 should be, if they haven't already contacted you, they will
3 be contacting you; and again, they'll be available in the
4 back. And I encourage you to talk to them first, and we're
5 here as well, to talk to us. So that's your first contact
6 would be a land person who will be --

7 MR. MARKIZON: Their land person.

8 MR. PECONOM: Their land person, yes.

9 And I'll be happy to give you my business card
10 here at the end as well so you can contact me.

11 MR. MARKIZON: Great. Yes, I'd like to get
12 business cards. Also for the record, I'd like to say
13 Melissa reminds me of Amy Poehler.

14 MR. PECONOM: Thank you very much for your
15 comments.

16 Mr. David Loomis.

17 MR. LOOMIS: I already spoke.

18 MR. PECONOM: Okay, great. Thank you.

19 Mr. Donminate --

20 MR. RACITE: I said what I had to say.

21 MR. PECONOM: All right. Mr. Harris?

22 MR. HARRIS: Well, I'm back again. Jeffrey
23 Harris, and I'm addressing you kind of at your request
24 since, and I may be going on a little longer than you folks
25 would like; but if you're interested in being specific,
26

1 getting specific details on the record, I am prepared to be
2 as specific as you like.

3 I would like to preface my remarks by saying I
4 believe that everybody's got the best of intentions -- I'll
5 back up a little. Although I am speaking as a private
6 person, I lived in an approved adult community with a
7 homeowners association by the name of Four Seasons at
8 Weatherby, where we have 400 and some odd homes, of which a
9 dozen or two dozen front on what is supposed to be the edge
10 of that construction zone.

11 Now I'll go back to the intentions. We had a
12 meeting, Columbia Pipeline Group was at our clubhouse last
13 week, and gave us lots of maps showing -- from Google Earth,
14 I assume -- showing the pipeline route and the pipeline
15 construct right-of-way and red lines and black lines and
16 dotted lines and et cetera. And I did my own measurements,
17 and you even say in your report: "Justify in detail the need
18 for a nominal 100 foot wide construction right-of-way, and
19 describe the feasibility of using a nominal 75-foot
20 construction right-of-way."

21 Now, the Columbia Pipeline Group told us that
22 they would not be tearing down our fences along that Center
23 Square Road. Now I did some measuring with the tools from
24 Google Earth; and if there's a 75-foot wide construction
25 zone, not only are the fences coming down but all the trees
26

1 are coming down, too, on our home -- community extends for a
2 mile. Approximately half of that is less than 75 feet from
3 Center Square Road.

4 So the maps and what we were told don't add up.
5 I would like to have that put in the record to see whether
6 or not a -- we were told something about a 25-foot or a 40
7 or 50 foot wide construction zone that will stop before it
8 gets to our fence.

9 Now there are places where that thing is 100
10 feet, between the road and our fence. But there are places
11 where it is 50 feet or less. But in Columbia Pipeline
12 Group's report on residences, none of our residences are
13 marked as being less than 50 feet from that pipeline right-
14 of-way. And yet when I do the measurements, there are more
15 than 14 houses that are less than 50 feet from the right-of-
16 way, especially if it's a 75-foot right-of-way.

17 Second thing I have is this outreach. Not only
18 do the people that are right on the edge of that right-of-
19 way, the ones I've spoken to have not received anything in
20 writing. This land owners outreach program, but our
21 homeowners association would be totally ignorant of this
22 project, the entire project because nobody in the homeowners
23 association of Four Seasons at Weatherby or the Board of
24 Trustees received any official communications from Columbia
25 Pipeline Group prior to my being asked, when I happened to
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1 bring it up to the Board of Trustees of -- again, I'm
2 speaking as a private person. But when I brought it up,
3 nobody had heard of this pipeline.

4 So there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip,
5 or however that phrase goes, but everybody has good
6 intentions; but we, with 400 homes and a homeowners
7 association fell through the cracks. There was an April 9th
8 open house. I and three other people were the only ones who
9 heard about that thing officially; and I heard about it from
10 a newspaper article, not from Columbia Pipeline.

11 My house is theoretically 54 feet away from the
12 right-of-way. So I don't have a personal stake in this, but
13 I do feel being part of the most congested community along
14 that right-of-way, which I'll get into in a second, that I
15 have to say something about it because I've got a bunch of
16 neighbors who haven't been contacted yet who are all of a
17 sudden going to find guys with transits and then the
18 bulldozers will come, and you wake up one morning and say
19 'What in the devil is going on?'

20 The alternatives. I brought this up at the
21 meeting last week, and the answers that I got to the
22 alternative route down Oldman's Creek Road. I got in
23 general answers that would satisfy the casual question:
24 'Why don't you put it down there?'

25 The essence of the answer was, 'Well, we already
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1 have a right-of-way along the Center Square Road, so we
2 might as well put it down there because we already have
3 another pipeline down there.' Of course, the pipeline was
4 built when there weren't any houses here. And Oldman's
5 Creek Road happens to be in a state that I believe Center
6 Square Road was in when that pipeline was installed.

7 In other words, just take the 15 or 16,000 foot
8 stretch between Route 295 and Auburn Road. Now, I looked
9 at every inch of that roadway, from 295 to Auburn Road.
10 There are two forested areas more than 100 feet wide. One
11 is right below 295, to the southwest of 295, which is 600
12 and some odd feet long. And the second one, about half a
13 mile from the other end, from Auburn Road, is about 900 feet
14 wide and deep.

15 So there would be a bunch of trees cut down. But
16 the rest of it is farmland. And there are farms of hundreds
17 of acres. And to cut out 100 feet to build a pipeline and
18 then fill it back up with dirt -- so somebody misses one
19 growing season? I counted the houses. There's a housing
20 development at the beginning and a housing development a
21 quarter of a mile from the end. And a couple of little
22 places where the construction would have to be carefully
23 done, like over that waterway which I assume is Oldman's
24 Creek; otherwise, why would they name the road after that?
25 Which is about 200 feet of waterway. And those are the only
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1 real impediments that I see; that bunch of trees at the
2 beginning of the roadway, 295, and the one half a mile from
3 Auburn Road.

4 Now, otherwise, as I said, it's farmland. You
5 take the same four mile stretch of Center Square Road, there
6 must be within that corridor, that Columbia Pipeline Group
7 has 350 feet wide. Don't know how many thousands of people
8 live in that. But just to take the right-of-way, for
9 example, they are businesses, there is -- there are schools,
10 there are churches, there is our community. There must be
11 electrical and telephone and cable television lines by the
12 hundreds under that road, and I will bet you that Oldman's
13 Creek Road doesn't have 20 electrical lines running under
14 that road.

15 Talk about, that was in the alternative routes
16 section of Columbia Pipeline Group's report to you. It was
17 very cavalierly dismissed, saying it was forested and lots
18 of streams, small streams I believe is the quote from
19 Columbia Pipeline's assessment. They said it was kind of a
20 visual assessment; it wasn't in detail. So somebody flew
21 over it and looked down and said "Yeah, it doesn't look too
22 crowded, but there's a bunch of trees and stuff like that.

23 Now I believe that Center Square Road was chosen
24 because they have a right-of-way down that line. That road,
25 and it's probably a lot less expensive for Columbia Pipeline
26

1 to build down a road that they already have easements on.
2 But in the public good, and Columbia Pipeline has a profit
3 motive, they have to in order to increase this pipeline to
4 provide more gas to more customers, meaning more money for
5 the stockholders or stakeholders, or whatever.

6 Let them acquire easements in these farmlands and
7 let them build under that creek. It's a little more time-
8 consuming, maybe. I doubt it. But the hundreds of
9 residents that will be inconvenienced versus 50 or 60
10 people, and farm land that can be replenished, believe me, a
11 lot better and a lot easier than putting up fences and
12 redoing electric lines and power lines and cable television
13 lines and et cetera; that's to me, as a member of the public
14 when people say 'for the public good' does it extend to an
15 individual person or does that mean it lets Baltimore get
16 more gas by running it through Woolwich?

17 I don't think that when you match one against the
18 other there is much of a contest, unless there is something
19 on Oldman's Creek Road, some secret facility that can't be
20 dug through, that that's got to be a better alternative
21 route.

22 You in your own comments, John, to Columbia
23 Pipeline mention, in your comments on Draft Report No. 10
24 from Item 10 to Item 14, you're asking them to describe the
25 alternative routes. And you mention several alternative
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1 routes that they have a whole report on, which apparently
2 was not good enough for you and was not good enough for us,
3 either, in terms of specifics.

4 Now if I were serious about why I chose Center
5 Square Road instead of Oldman's Creek Road, I would have
6 mentioned, X number of feet is forest, X number of feet is
7 farm land. We talked to this farmer and he says we can't go
8 in there because. Fill in the blanks. And et cetera.
9 That's why we rejected it.

10 There wasn't anything in the alternative routes
11 report from Columbia Pipeline about that. We also know that
12 High Hill Road can't be chopped up, either, because it's
13 nearly as congested as Center Square Road. So it's got to
14 be, they have an easement, so that's where they're going;
15 down Center Square Road, or if you guys have the power, move
16 it to Oldman's Creek Road.

17 Now there's a bunch of people, I hope not from --
18 who live on Oldman's Creek Road who are going to say --

19 (Laughter)

20 "Well, you've got to move it back to Center Square Road
21 because' and then you'll say 'We have an atomic missile
22 launching site on our property.' And this is really not a
23 NIMBY, a not in my back yard statement, because as I say, my
24 house is outside this construction zone. If the truth is
25 that it's going to be as wide, and no wider than Columbia
26

1 Pipeline Group says.

2 So that's my statement on alternative routes.

3 Sorry, I didn't know there was going to be a
4 public speaking section of this meeting, so I had to do this
5 on the fly. Apparently was not good enough, so please bear
6 with me.

7 The final thing I had -- applause for the fact
8 that it's the final thing? -- is Item No. 23 and your
9 comments on draft Resource Report No. 1 in which you say:
10 Even though they have described in detail in that Report No.
11 1, general project scope or something like that, describe in
12 detail Columbia's residential construction procedures,
13 addressing at minimum -- and you go through construction
14 methods, clearing, access, dust, noise, work hours, safety,
15 security -- vibration, changes to ground water flow. I
16 believe these folks were fairly thorough with that, but
17 didn't satisfy you because you want more detail.

18 Now I think that's a darned good thing, because
19 if these reports are just pre-filing, God only knows what
20 Columbia Pipeline is going to have to do after pre-filing is
21 approved. I have no idea what the filing is going to be
22 like; but it probably will be a stack of papers this high,
23 like the IRS tax code.

24 In any event, you wanted specifics, you got
25 specifics. I am finished, at least for the evening. You do
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1 have my letters which are also eFiled, or eComments to you.
2 There will be more. Thank you. Good evening, and I didn't
3 mean to bash you guys, but -- because you've been very nice
4 to Four Seasons. But I had to speak my peace, so. Thank
5 you, everyone.

6 MR. PECONOM: Thank you for your comments, Mr.
7 Harris. I'm glad that you're reviewing the docket, the
8 information that's out there; and I'd like to point out that
9 the information, the questions we prepared and some that he
10 noted there are based on the info we got, some of the info
11 we got at the open house prompted some of the questions
12 there and some of the concerns that we heard.

13 People often make comments and think they don't
14 go anywhere, because we don't write letters back to people.
15 But your comments are heard and processed and considered,
16 and you'll see them reflected in the questions that we asked
17 Columbia. In the information that Columbia provides us,
18 they also look at your comments and process them that way.
19 They also address our environmental assessment. So I'm glad
20 that you're doing that and I encourage others to look at the
21 information that's available to the public and provide us
22 comments and help us do our job.

23 That is the last speaker on the list. Was there
24 anybody else who wanted to speak tonight?

25 Yes, sir. And if you could please state your
26

1 name for the record.

2 MR. HARRIS: My name is Doug Harris. I am no
3 relation to the other Mr. Harris except that we do live in
4 the same development. My home, however, is within that 25
5 to 50 foot distance from what is your proposed work area.

6 My question is, and I probably should have asked
7 this of Ms. Saint Onge; how many people would you have to
8 hear from before you would go back to Columbia and say 'You
9 must give us details on the alternative on Oldman's Creek
10 Road.' This is something I personally want to see happen.
11 I am willing to go out to all of my neighbors and ask them
12 to contact you. How many would you have to hear from before
13 you would have no choice except to say to them, 'We need a
14 thorough analysis of this alternative, and you need to tell
15 us why it's not a good alternative'?

16 MR. PECONOM: The answer to your question is
17 zero. We look at the routes -- that's our job. That's what
18 we are supposed to do. We look at that alternative, we look
19 at that route and we ask 'what are the alternatives?' And
20 we've done that, we're doing that.

21 I think it's always helpful when people express
22 their opinions and their concerns, as you've done here
23 tonight, Mr. Harris, and your wife has done as well. So
24 that's what we do, that's what our responsibility and part
25 of our process. We've asked that question, we've asked

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1 several questions about that, and we will continue to look
2 at that; because once we get answers, that may beget more
3 questions. So we are looking at that alternative and Mr.
4 Harris mentioned High Hill Road as well as another
5 alternative we're looking at. We also look at variations,
6 you know, which is -- when I say alternative, that is
7 generally the whole route; variations are tweaks to the
8 route, so to speak, or smaller alternatives. So that's our
9 job, and that's what we're doing. And I'm glad that you are
10 concerned about alternatives. I appreciate your comments;
11 those are helpful for us.

12 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. PECONOM: Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. DiBELLA: My name is Jane J a n e, last name
15 is D i B e l l a. And I'm the Administrator and Clerk for
16 Woolwich Township.

17 First of all, I'd like to thank the folks from
18 Columbia Gas because they've been so up front and in
19 communication with us, and all the courtesies that have been
20 extended to our residents, specifically the residents at
21 Four Seasons, in holding special meetings on their behalf
22 and getting their answers, their questions answered and
23 their concerns addressed.

24 And as the Administrator and Clerk in Woolwich,
25 it's part of my job to look out for our residents, and by
26

1 the same token, I'm also -- my sign of the Zodiac is libra,
2 so I always see both sides of the story.

3 So I understand their concerns on Center Square
4 Road, and I fully back them in that, specifically right
5 along there with Four Seasons, but I also have my concerns
6 about your alternative route because of it being rural.
7 Number one, there are still houses on Oldman's Creek Road;
8 granted not nearly as many as Center Square Road has, and
9 there are a lot of farms; and Mr. Harris, I'm really sorry -
10 - and I mean no disrespect, but you did say 'so what, it's
11 one growing season.' My husband's a farmer, and one growing
12 season is our livelihood for that year.

13 MR. HARRIS: Okay. And aren't we talking about
14 compensation? If somebody gets an easement, they have to
15 pay for it.

16 MR. PECONOM: Mr. Harris, I want to let her give
17 her comments, and then you can --

18 MS. DiBELLA: So the idea that it's farm land is
19 a whole other story as opposed to residential, and there is
20 still residential on Oldman's Creek Road, and I'm sure that
21 if the route is changed, we're going to hear from those
22 people as well, because you're never going to make everybody
23 happy. I try to make everybody happy every day, and there
24 hasn't been one day yet when I've made everybody happy. So,
25 oh well.

26

1 And lastly, I'd ask you to look, if you do decide
2 on the alternative route of Oldman's Creek Road, I would ask
3 you to look and let us know how you're going to address any
4 farm land that may be permanently preserved in the Farm Land
5 Preservation Program.

6 And I did want to also mention that there is a
7 real and true eagle's nest and foraging area on Oldman's
8 Creek Road. And it's more towards the Logan line. And if
9 you do choose the Center Square Road route, I would just ask
10 that you be as extremely cautious and courteous with all of
11 the entrances; specifically the one at Four Seasons. And
12 that's all I have to say. But thank you.

13 MR. PECONOM: Well, thank you very much, and I
14 appreciate your comments about balancing, because it is a
15 challenge, as you well know, being Administrator here, that
16 we have to try to strike as well. Part of our job here is
17 to evaluate alternatives. And there are reasons why one
18 alternative is not preferable, and that's what we're in the
19 process of doing. People want to know what those reasons
20 are and they want details, and that's what we're going to
21 provide.

22 So I appreciate your comments and thank you very
23 much.

24 Would anybody else like to speak? Provide
25 comments?

26

1 Well, with that, I'd like to thank everyone for
2 coming tonight. I'll officially conclude the meeting now,
3 and as I said before, Columbia representatives will be
4 available outside the entryway, and I'll be here inside to
5 answer questions and talk to you; and please take advantage
6 of the fact that we're here. I'm here until I have to get
7 out of the building.

8 The meeting concluded at 8:30.

9 (Whereupon, at 8:30 p.m., the scoping meeting
10 concluded.)

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