

1 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

2

3 TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, LLC.

4 DOCKET NO. CP17-101-000

5 PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

6

7 George Bush Senior Center

8 1 Old Bridge Plaza

9 Old Bridge, NJ 08857

10

11 Wednesday, April 25, 2018

12 5:00 p.m.

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- 1 SPEAKER LIST
- 2 Christine Allen
- 3 Katherine Pijanowski
- 4 Rosita Miranda
- 5 Bill Braun, Chair
- 6 Kevin Lynn
- 7 Kathleen McNamara
- 8 Jamie Zaccaria
- 9 Gary Frederick
- 10 Christopher Bohlke
- 11 Barbara Brucker
- 12 Michael Corcoran
- 13 Fred Potter
- 14 Vince Bonanne
- 15 Ronnie Traktman
- 16 Dominic Christiana
- 17 Sindhu Pasricha
- 18 Bernadette Maher
- 19 Jason Vanscoten
- 20 Kim Jessen
- 21 Joseph Morgan
- 22 Andrew Holland
- 23 Cornelius Springvloed
- 24 Curtiss Wells
- 25 Ciro Scalera

1 SPEAKER LIST (continued)

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3 Felice Morello

4 Dennis Lukach

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

2 MS. ALLEN: The Draft EIS comment session for the  
3 Northeast Supply Enhancement Project proposed by  
4 Transcontinental Pipe Line Company or Transco in Old Bridge,  
5 New Jersey began at 5:02 P.M on April 25, 2018.

6 The purpose of this meeting is to record public  
7 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued  
8 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on March 23,  
9 2018.

10 MS. MIRANDA: I am Rosita Miranda, Western  
11 Section Chief of the Regulatory Branch for the New York  
12 District, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. I'll be the  
13 presiding officer on behalf of the Corp of Engineers at  
14 today's public hearing.

15 The Corp of Engineers is here today to obtain  
16 information and evidence that address Corp concerns to  
17 assist in the regulatory review of a permit application by  
18 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC. for the  
19 installation and construction of a new natural gas  
20 transmission pipeline loop and associated subsidy medical  
21 tie-in and cathodic protection in Old Bridge Township in  
22 the Borough of Sayreville, Middlesex County, New Jersey and  
23 in Raritan Bay, Lower New York Bay and the Atlantic Ocean,  
24 Middlesex County and Monmouth County, New Jersey and  
25 Richmond County in Queens County, New York.

1           FERC as lead federal agency will make a decision  
2 whether to issue approval to facilitate the construction and  
3 operation of this natural gas pipeline. The Corp of  
4 Engineers is neither a proponent for nor an opponent of the  
5 proposed work. Our role is to determine whether the  
6 proposed activity -- in this case, the installation of a  
7 natural gas pipeline and associated facilities in waters of  
8 the United States is or is not contrary to the overall  
9 public interest.

10           This hearing will play an important part in that  
11 determination. Please understand that we do not expect to  
12 answer questions in this hearing related to the proposal as  
13 we are here to obtain information and comments.

14           Questions on the regulatory process in general  
15 can be directed to my state and the audience. The New York  
16 District has issued a public notice for this project with  
17 the comment period closing on May 7th. The public notice is  
18 currently posted on the New York District website.

19           The website address is [www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil) If  
20 you are not currently on our public notice email  
21 distribution list and would like to receive an email  
22 announcement for future public notices from our office,  
23 please provide your email address to one of the staff  
24 members at the registration table today, thank you.

25           MR. LYNN: My name is Kevin Lynn, K-e-v-i-n

1 L-y-n-n. I appreciate being able to speak today. My name  
2 is Kevin Lynn, I live in Pennsylvania. I drove over here  
3 for this today -- my boss likes me to speak in public when  
4 possible on this stuff.

5 I'm a greenie but in the interest of full  
6 disclosure I work for Linde Corporation -- we are a pipeline  
7 and infrastructure utility company. We do lots of little  
8 jobs for companies like Williams and Cabot and other natural  
9 gas and pipeline companies. I've heard lots of arguments  
10 over the years for and against natural gas.

11 And I have one question -- before anyone decides  
12 whether we need this -- these pipeline improvements and  
13 growth, I have one question -- will we need more energy  
14 going forward or less? We're going to need more. I don't  
15 think there's any question about that.

16 Now I'm an analog guy, very old, but the cloud  
17 from what I'm told is kept aloft by electricity. The latest  
18 forecast and I read this today from Forbes is they're  
19 guessing at an annual growth rate in the cloud of 25%.  
20 These things -- it's huge, and by the way that number of 25%  
21 was revised up several times just in the past year.

22 As I said I'm a greenie but lots of other folks  
23 are greenies too, but the problem is that renewables alone  
24 won't get the job done. Right now all renewables from every  
25 reputable organization that I have read, renewables now

1 comprise 14.2% of our energy consumption. That keeps the  
2 lights on only one day a week.

3           We need more energy today -- we're going to need  
4 even more of it tomorrow. And they're natural gas -- now  
5 natural gas has been around for a long time. It's been in  
6 use for over 100 years. Right now my company, Linde  
7 Corporation, is replacing old gas lines in Eastern  
8 Pennsylvania that have been there since 1912. I saw the  
9 charts, I've seen the dates.

10           But right now because of Marcellus in the  
11 Marcellus stripe near us in Northeastern Pennsylvania, we  
12 have lots of gas and the supply is increasing. More than 1  
13 billion cubic day -- feet per day increase this year alone  
14 in natural gas harvesting, okay.

15           Gas is also replacing coal. We think to  
16 ourselves oh, we don't want to burn dirty coal -- we do.  
17 And it was only last year that natural gas supplanted coal  
18 as the number one source of energy production in America.

19           Penn State just celebrated two years going dry.  
20 They used to have 3,250 coal trucks a year -- that's 10 a  
21 day, rumbling onto the campus -- 325 ash trucks a year  
22 hauling coal ash off campus. Coal is at least 10 times more  
23 polluting than gas.

24           Hospitals in Pennsylvania are converting over to  
25 gas for their power -- why? For the same reason as Penn

1 State, natural gas is clean, it's abundant and it's  
2 domestic. Williams is developing this Northeast supply  
3 enhancement or NESE project to expand the energy  
4 infrastructure.

5 The talking points that they will give you is  
6 going to provide clean domestic energy, enough gas to serve  
7 the daily needs of 2.3 million homes in the 2019-2020 winter  
8 heating season, allow the National Grid -- the National  
9 Grid to meet its forecasted demand for a growth for 1.8  
10 million customers in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and  
11 Long Island -- these are all Williams' talking points.

12 Most important for us greenies, it would displace  
13 the equivalent of more than 3 million gallons of heating oil  
14 a year, reducing CO2 emissions by up to 2.4 million tons a  
15 year, plus the expansion will create thousands of new jobs  
16 and hundreds of millions in economic activity.

17 My company, Linde, works with Williams. They're  
18 a great company and they have exceptionally high standards.  
19 We need the energy and we need it clean, we need it abundant  
20 and we need it domestic. I hope that FERC will approve the  
21 NESE plans, thank you very much.

22 MS. MCNAMARA: My name is Kathleen McNamara, it's  
23 K-a-t-h-l-e-e-n McNamara - M-c-N-a-m-a-r-a. Do you need to  
24 know where I'm from -- no? Okay. So I am a taxpayer and  
25 citizen of New Jersey and I'm extremely concerned about the



1 health and safety for my family and my community.

2 I live in Key Port which is along the Raritan  
3 Bay. We've worked for many years to clean up the Raritan  
4 Bay and one of the big issues is slag and there are a lot of  
5 toxins that are in the water that doing a pipeline through  
6 there would disrupt these toxins.

7 So not only is it a health and safety concern for  
8 the people who use the water -- we do kayaking there, some  
9 people who go in fishing, there's also been a return of a  
10 lot of marine life in New Jersey. I mean we have had  
11 whales, you know, I see dolphins all the time. There's a  
12 lot of fishing. We have a lot of crabs and clams as  
13 industry all along the Raritan Bay.

14 So all of these toxins getting stirred up are,  
15 you know, a major concern for me. I'm very concerned about  
16 things like the situation that happened in Edison in 1994  
17 where my understanding it was a backhoe that disrupted and  
18 caused an explosion.

19 So that's not even something that the pipeline  
20 can say -- it's not our pipeline that was the issue and this  
21 was other work going on that left, you know, 14 apartment  
22 buildings damaged and my understanding is that this pipeline  
23 at some point will go within 20 feet of people's front doors  
24 so that makes me really nervous.

25 100 people ended up homeless, one ended up dead.

1 I also have major concerns that this pipeline is proposed to  
2 go through or very near multiple landfills, contaminated  
3 sites and superfund sites and those are areas that should  
4 not be disturbed.

5           And you know, as I said I do have a real concern  
6 about marine and wildlife. My family personally has been  
7 involved through the past years with oyster restoration,  
8 things like that. These are all things that have really  
9 been, you know, multi-year projects that toxins are going to  
10 set back big time.

11           So I guess that's really it for me, you know, my  
12 concerns are air, health, safety for people, marine and  
13 wildlife, thank you.

14           MS. ZACCARIA: Jamie, J-a-m-i-e Zaccaria,  
15 Z-a-c-c-a-r-i-a. I'm with the New Jersey Sierra Club and  
16 I'm also a resident of New Jersey. And before I get into  
17 the reasons why we oppose this project I just want to put on  
18 the record that we are completely also opposed to this  
19 process and that we believe this should be a public process  
20 where everyone can hear their fellow citizens talk and line  
21 up in front of everyone the way they used to, basically.

22           We think this is a not-great process. But to get  
23 into this particular project -- why we oppose it, for one  
24 thing the project itself is dangerous -- it's dangerous to  
25 the communities around the compressor station, through the

1 pipeline, to the Raritan Bay. And the fact that we wouldn't  
2 even get any gas from it.

3           Transco gets money, New York gets gas, but the  
4 people in New Jersey have a right to get something out of  
5 this and we don't -- all we get is the dangers and the  
6 consequences and FERC needs to take into account the fact  
7 that, you know, all of the danger is placed on us and we  
8 don't even get any reliability or any gas or anything from  
9 it so why should we have to deal with the consequences of  
10 the project?

11           Obviously natural gas is dangerous -- explosions,  
12 leaks, the compressor station with air pollution is very  
13 close to homes and schools and those kids are going to be  
14 breathing in these pollutants and I don't believe the DEIS  
15 has even correctly measured the pollutants because I could  
16 be wrong but I think they only measured the one instead of  
17 both. I don't think it's complete in measuring the effects  
18 of the -- the environmental effects, the safety effects and  
19 the cumulative effects when connected to Transco's other  
20 infrastructure or the increased effects as we suffer  
21 increased effects of climate change.

22           None of this is properly addressed in the DEIS  
23 which we feel that it should be marked incomplete and  
24 returned so that it could be completed to answer all of  
25 these and many other questions that we have.

1           So yes, we think that the DEIS isn't complete for  
2 many reasons. It doesn't cover the facts, it misses things  
3 and that until it provides real true answers and projections  
4 that there's no way FERC could legally or should legally  
5 accept it so, thank you.

6           MR. FREDERICK: Gary Frederick,  
7 F-r-e-d-e-r-i-c-k. I'm with Sierra Club and also a resident  
8 of Middlesex County. Okay so I was going to read this whole  
9 thing because I didn't realize we were going to be in a  
10 little room like this so I'm just going to kind of talk from  
11 it but I'm extremely concerned over the pipeline both going  
12 through from the compressor station in Franklin, which will  
13 be a new compressor station and then under Raritan Bay.

14           And I had read through the DEIS along with many  
15 people and my impressions were that it was very deficient,  
16 that it was giving Williams a pass on a lot of the things  
17 that they want to do by saying you can give us the studies  
18 later before construction, but that would be after the  
19 comment period.

20           So, specifically, things that I have pulled out  
21 of that would be the impact under Raritan Bay -- fish being  
22 severely impacted, clams and crustaceans which FERC  
23 acknowledged would be the most harmed. They said it would  
24 take one to three years for these species to recover but it  
25 didn't factor in things like weather and currents and other

1 overall disruptions by trenching the pipeline through the  
2 bay.

3           Toxins in the sea bed would be disturbed, that  
4 would have an effect on Atlantic sturgeon which is already  
5 endangered. We know that New York Harbor was extremely  
6 polluted not that long ago and a lot of those toxins such as  
7 lead and mercury and PCB's and cadmium would be released  
8 with the effect -- and again that was not adequately  
9 addressed in the impact statement.

10           Information on PCB levels, clam populations and  
11 horseshoe crabs is dated, it doesn't reflect the realities  
12 of today's Raritan Bay and a lot of the ratings that we need  
13 today are missing. Other consultations have not yet been  
14 completed and as I said before FERC's not even mandating  
15 that they be completed before the comment period so I'm not  
16 sure how we can make a full assessment on the impact  
17 statement on the impact until they submit some of this  
18 information.

19           Consultation includes determination on how it's  
20 going to affect whales, Lara head sea turtles, Atlantic  
21 sturgeon et cetera. So again, very deficient -- and a lot  
22 of these points were the ones that led New York DEC to  
23 reject the water permit at this point. And I'm hoping New  
24 Jersey does the same but there's lack of information for how  
25 water dredging is going to be handled and what the dredged

1 material -- where it will be processed.

2           They talked about mercury concentrations which  
3 are known to exist in Raritan Bay and by trenching the  
4 pipeline deeper than 3 feet it will be disrupting these  
5 mercury concentrations. The discharge of hydrostatic test  
6 water requires a permit and that has not been provided yet.

7           It could go on and on which others will do I'm  
8 sure. So I'm very alarmed with all that so I just want to  
9 say with all the missing dated information that was cited by  
10 the New York DEC and by various environmental groups, it's  
11 really prudent, I believe, for FERC to kind of slow down  
12 here, take another look at the DEIS, revise that and then  
13 extend the comment period.

14           Ultimately I'd like to see the pipeline rejected  
15 but I think FERC needs to step up more to the ball here and  
16 protect the public and not give an automatic approval to the  
17 pipeline, okay thank you.

18           MR. BOHLKE: Christopher Bohlke, B-o-h-l-k-e, and  
19 affiliations Local International Union of Operating  
20 Engineers, Local 825. My name is Christopher Bohlke, I live  
21 in Chatsworth in Burlington County, New Jersey. I'm a  
22 member of the International Union of Operating Engineers,  
23 Local 825 which covers the entire state of New Jersey.

24           I am in favor of this natural gas pipeline.  
25 Natural gas is much more efficient than home heating oil and

1 cheaper. Home heating oil does not burn clean and is an  
2 environmental risk in that the storage tanks inherently leak  
3 into the ground -- oil into the ground.

4 I think the entire state should have natural gas  
5 made available to every resident and business so there's no  
6 need for heating oil. The price of oil is going up every  
7 day -- oil will not be cheap forever.

8 Natural gas was first used in the United States  
9 in 1821. In 1843 the iron pipe was invented. Pipelines  
10 have been in use in the United States for over 150 years.  
11 Pipeline jobs stay local. I repeat that -- Local 825  
12 Operating Engineers covers the entire state of New Jersey.  
13 Local 825 will man every pipeline job in New Jersey with a  
14 minimum presence of 67% of the manpower.

15 That is two Local 825 operating engineers to  
16 every one traveler from outside of our jurisdiction. On the  
17 last four pipeline jobs in New Jersey, at the end of the job  
18 it was calculated that Local 825 manned 80 to 85% of the  
19 equipment operation work.

20 People who work on pipelines are highly trained.  
21 Local 825 has two training facilities. Every year we train  
22 between 30 and 50 members specifically for pipelines  
23 utilizing approximately 5 million dollars-worth of  
24 equipment. In the International Union of Operating  
25 Engineers conducts nationwide pipeline training every year.

1 This past winter the International conducted approximately  
2 180 training classes all over the United States for a total  
3 of 155,000 man hours of pipeline training.

4           People who work on pipelines are highly trained.  
5 We all want to go to work. We all want to go home safely.  
6 We all want to make some money to pay our bills and our  
7 taxes in New Jersey. So I worked on 5 or 6 pipelines and I  
8 make money doing that and I pay my bills.

9           And all my friends and my co-workers same thing  
10 -- they work, they make money, they pay their bills plus  
11 natural gas is good for the environment and good for this  
12 state, thank you.

13           MS. BRUCKER: My name is Barbara Brucker, B as in  
14 boy, r-u-c-k-e-r. I'm an Old Bridge resident for more than  
15 50 years. I've worked for this township for more than 25  
16 years. Okay, the comment that I wanted to make was 40 --  
17 4-0 years ago a major water study was done by the League of  
18 Women Voters of this county.

19           It was ascertained at that point, at that time  
20 that we are sitting on enough potable water with our  
21 aquifers here in Old Bridge -- especially under Cheesequake  
22 State Park to supply the state for generations.

23           That was before fracking. That was before  
24 pipelines. On a personal level, I don't ever remember  
25 seeing -- I'm an animal person, I think I should state that



1 so that you understand partially where I'm coming from. In  
2 my life I have never seen so many cancer cases in people's  
3 pets as we have had for the last -- I want to say 17 years.

4 I've never seen so much weird things -- horrible looking  
5 sores that end up being cancer causing upon being tested

6 I've never heard of so many people being affected  
7 by it. In my life I've never heard of so many people -- I  
8 call it the thyroid scar. My last few years at work with  
9 just the way my desk was positioned I could look up and I  
10 would be looking right into someone's throat and I'd be like  
11 -- oh, he's got a scar like I have.

12 I never in my life heard of so many people with  
13 thyroid cancer that there was no family history because  
14 thyroid cancer doesn't necessarily follow family lines --  
15 that's an individual thing. And I'm sorry but the only  
16 things that it comes back to is fracking -- we already have  
17 one pipeline here -- I'm trying to speak quickly I'm sorry.

18 We already have one pipeline here in Old Bridge  
19 that wanders around the London Terrace Apartments. Old  
20 Bridge is very large, we're one of the largest towns in the  
21 state for a singular town. The recent that it's so hard to  
22 ascertain how do we say that -- we have I think, 6 or 7  
23 different mailing addresses.

24 We're so large in Old Bridge that they -- one  
25 post office wasn't enough, so we're not in one city or the

1 other, we're part of them with all of these things or more,  
2 it doesn't matter what our town says, we're Old Bridge  
3 residents, we pay our taxes to Old Bridge.

4           If one wanted to find out exactly how many  
5 residents we're talking about -- very simple, you call the  
6 tax office. It's a no brainer because by law they have to  
7 give you any information that you want.

8           Having been through different things through this  
9 township for years, I know how easy it is to get information  
10 when you need it if you want to. My other problem with this  
11 whole thing today -- it was just, I'm not a techie, I'm not  
12 a person who -- I'm not a computer person at all -- I want  
13 to know why this meeting was a secret?

14           You can't look at any of our local papers and  
15 find notice of this meeting and I have a problem with that  
16 because it's sneaky and it's shitty. It's my opinion, it's  
17 my opinion. You know, maybe I'm not correct but that's how  
18 I feel. I feel very strongly that -- this is how they got  
19 our first pipeline in -- they went behind everybody's back  
20 to do it.

21           Because unfortunately the London Towers  
22 Apartments we have a lot of children and families living  
23 there and they have enough to deal with -- with the old  
24 garbage dump right next to them and we have a very high  
25 cancer rate over there, in particular.

1           So what do they do? They put a pipeline over  
2 there. I thought that was brilliant myself, now let's kill  
3 them off, you know. I'm tired. I'm tired of people and  
4 animals and pets being poisoned. I'm tired of my food and  
5 my water being poisoned. This time I'm taking the stand.  
6 That's not a good thing for me to say with my pain and my  
7 bad foot but you know I'll manage. That's how I feel, do  
8 you need anything else from me? You can have my phone  
9 number if anyone wants to get in touch with me. I'm going  
10 to be trying to see if I can find somebody who has the  
11 literature on the study that we did because a lot of money  
12 was spent, a lot of information came out of that.

13           MR. BRAUN: After I walk you out here I'm going  
14 to talk to you too about how you can stay better informed  
15 too and if you do find information like that I'd like to see  
16 it.

17           MS. BRUCKER: Oh definitely I would share, sure.

18           MR. BRAUN: And I'll tell you how to get to us.

19           MR. CORCORAN: My name is Michael, M-i-c-h-a-e-l  
20 Corcoran. I'm a member of Local 825. I'm sorry it's  
21 C-o-r-c-o-r-a-n. I'm a member of Operating Engineers Local  
22 825. I live in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

23           I support the pipelines coming through. Part of  
24 my work and I have nothing but good things to say about it,  
25 usually we leave the jobs better than, you know, than we

1 came in, a lot cleaner. It's good for the economy, for  
2 local businesses with all the work, just I'm in support of  
3 it and I hope we can get this passed, that's it.

4 MR. POTTER: Fred Potter, P-o-t-t-e-r. I'm with  
5 Teamster's Local Union Number 469 whose office is in Hazlet,  
6 New Jersey. I'm also a Vice President for the International  
7 Group for the Teamsters. I'm a lifelong New Jersey  
8 resident. I'm here because we support this project. We  
9 have members in our local union that work on these pipeline  
10 projects.

11 I've worked on pipeline projects in the past.  
12 They leave the area that they work usually in better  
13 condition than when they went in there. We need the energy.  
14 New Jersey natural gas is a good energy project.

15 I think by having this it will not only create  
16 jobs in New York, but it will also create non-construction  
17 jobs in New Jersey because competition is necessary. These  
18 are good jobs. These jobs are safe, they use the highest  
19 standards in building them and quite frankly, I don't know  
20 why anybody would be against these projects.

21 So we fully support it. We're here with a number  
22 of our members who will also give testimony of their support  
23 for the job. We have -- our local union alone represents  
24 4,500 members including people that work for Old Bridge  
25 Township right here and a majority of our members fully

1 support these projects, that's it.

2 MR. BONANNE: Name is Vince, V-i-n-c-e Bonanne,  
3 B-o-n-a-n-n-e and my affiliation is with Teamster Local 469  
4 40 years. I've been on numerous pipelines. I support it,  
5 we need gas, we put -- I don't know any homes that aren't --  
6 don't have a gas furnace.

7 Not many coal or wood burning heat sources  
8 anymore. You have a car you put gasoline in, you know, so I  
9 -- as far as seeing pipelines put in they don't fracture or  
10 anything, they're not fracturing or drilling here, they're  
11 just putting pipelines in for service and so I actually work  
12 on the pipelines and so the cleanliness of the ground we  
13 put it back in layers just exactly as it came out --  
14 topsoil, what they call icy material so many feet, we put  
15 it exactly back and of course the remediation and the grass  
16 or the trees, you know.

17 So until somebody pops up with something else to  
18 head the house, I think we kind of need to get because if we  
19 run out it will be waking each other out for gas right?  
20 That's about it -- I just support it.

21 MS. TRAKTMAN: Ronnie Traktman, R-o-n-n-i-e  
22 T-r-a-k-t-m-a-n. I'm a resident of Sayreville, New Jersey.  
23 First of all I do have a problem with the fact that the  
24 people who will be dealing with possible safety -- DOT I  
25 guess is not here.

1           FERC doesn't make those decisions so therefore my  
2 concerns are not something that you care about nor that you  
3 can do anything about. So this to me is on some level,  
4 except that it will be in the public record, a waste of my  
5 time.

6           But, being as it will be on public record my  
7 biggest concern is that with all this fracked gas coming  
8 through the compression line in Franklin, we will have all  
9 this gas running through. If I absolutely positively knew  
10 that this was going to be done safely and with really  
11 top-notch equipment, you know, the pipes and everything  
12 maybe I would begin to think it would be an okay thing.

13           But the fact of the matter is Williams Transco  
14 and his company bottom line always matters more than anyone  
15 else's health and safety and I think they will nickel and  
16 dime and in 10 years or so when it leaks -- not if it leaks  
17 but when it leaks, we are going to be left with the problem  
18 and there's not enough money that's going to make up for the  
19 health concerns and the ecological concerns -- that will  
20 come up at the time.

21           The fact also that no one in New Jersey is going  
22 to get any kind of benefit -- certainly not anyone in  
23 Sayreville is going to get any benefit. We only have the  
24 possible risks -- we do not have any of the possible benefit  
25 from whatever is going on.

1                   And this is something that I'm not that clear  
2 about, but I have been told that because of the number of  
3 pipes underneath New Jersey's land all the way through --  
4 because we are that kind of state that's in between New York  
5 and everywhere else -- particularly Pennsylvania, that when  
6 you get so many pipes and then you add more pipes and then  
7 especially when they're these high, you know, compressed,  
8 fast oil and gas going through -- eventually it causes  
9 problems underneath.

10                   You know, like things that will hurt the earth,  
11 you know, the geology -- and the fact that yeah, you're  
12 talking about one pipeline but are we really considering all  
13 the many, many pipelines and how all that together causes  
14 possible problems in the future and I just really don't  
15 believe that there is concern for health and safety or  
16 welfare of citizens, it's more that everyone wants to make  
17 money and the bottom line is all that's going to count in  
18 the long-run and that that is where the concern is going to  
19 be.

20                   My feeling is FERC is going to say, "Yeah, well  
21 they promised that they're going to do the right thing, so  
22 since they're promising we'll say yeah, this is good,"  
23 without looking at all the things that I'm talking about  
24 where just this one pipeline is not all there is.

25                   But then when they don't do what they say they're

1 going to do, assuming that that would be good enough -- and  
2 I'm sure that it would be good enough but let's say it would  
3 be, if they did it really to the "T" that it would be very  
4 safe and very good.

5           At that point then the DOT comes in and says,  
6 "Gee whiz they didn't do what they said they were going to  
7 do. It's not safe. I guess we should stop it now," but in  
8 the meantime Sayreville and South Amboy and Old Bridge have  
9 the problem that -- but William Senesco made their money and  
10 whoever is being paid-off -- and I do believe it's not  
11 payments to but pay-offs in New Jersey.

12           I don't know what government officials, I don't  
13 know what companies but I think someone is being paid off.  
14 I didn't get my 30 seconds, no, no, I'm fine. That's  
15 basically -- I tried to get everything in four minutes.

16           MR. CHRISIANA: Dominic Christiana, D-o-m-i-n-i-c  
17 C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n-a. I'm a part of Local 825. My name is  
18 Dominic Christiana. I'm part of Local 825. I live in South  
19 River which is really local, as I am part of this union to  
20 build and remodel all the state of New Jersey.

21           This union builds safe and reliable pipelines in  
22 New Jersey. I did not just work in the area. I have been  
23 born in the area and still live in the area. This energy  
24 source is the biggest and best in the nation. It will lower  
25 energy prices -- will not only benefit me but everybody else



1 in the area. Who wouldn't want lower bills?

2 This pipeline will put more money into the  
3 pockets of the people who live here which will make people  
4 spend more money in the state that we live in. I  
5 respectfully ask you guys to approve this project.

6 MS. PASRICHA: Sindhu Pasricha, S-i-n-d-h-u  
7 Pasricha, P-a-s-r-i-c-h-a. I'm a resident of East  
8 Brunswick, New Jersey and I also volunteer in Old Bridge as  
9 a community emergency responder team, so I'm here a lot.

10 I have concerns about this pipeline and I'm  
11 opposed to this pipeline and I request that FERC deny the  
12 permits, deny the pipeline completely. Williams Transco did  
13 not give notice to all the municipalities that are being  
14 impacted by this pipeline.

15 They came to Old Bridge -- they did not come to  
16 East Brunswick. East Brunswick has pipes that are old and  
17 this will be -- these pipes will be carrying more gas at a  
18 higher volatility. So these pipelines will be carrying more  
19 gas at a higher velocity and will eventually lead to leaks  
20 along the route.

21 So all the towns, all the municipalities that are  
22 being affected by the pipelines should be given notice --  
23 proper notice by Williams. Also there are shore communities  
24 that are going to be affected by pipelines with the building  
25 of a new extension -- new pipeline going right through

1 Raritan Bay.

2           The shore communities obviously have tourism.  
3 Jersey Shore is known for their tourism. It's important to  
4 maintain the marine life in this area so this should be  
5 denied. Also the noise and pollution -- pollution from this  
6 construction and the compressor stations will not be in one  
7 area of the pipeline -- it will not be just in Old Bridge  
8 and it will not -- it won't just stay in Franklin Park, it's  
9 going to be everywhere in New Jersey.

10           So we need to limit the amount of pollution  
11 that's going to impact human health. There should not be a  
12 question of jobs or human health -- I would not even bring  
13 my dog near a compressor station. So obviously humans  
14 shouldn't be near fracking operations either, that's it  
15 thank you.

16           MS. MAHER: Okay my name is Bernadette Maher.  
17 B-e-r-n-a-d-e-t-t-e Maher, M-a-h-e-r, and the address -- no,  
18 okay. I'm a resident of Franklin Township and okay, that is  
19 I guess my affiliation and also involved with several --  
20 I've become involved with several groups regarding this  
21 project.

22           The beginning of the project is actually a  
23 compressor station which will be in Franklin Township, New  
24 Jersey and then that pipeline runs up and across the bay and  
25 under that. And I'm concerned about this project -- about

1 the emissions that will be coming out of the compressor  
2 station as well as the emissions that will be released along  
3 the pipeline along the way under the bay.

4 I'm particularly concerned about the issues  
5 regarding digging under the Raritan Bay. I grew up around  
6 in the Perth Amboy area and back at that time -- now I'm  
7 talking like 50 years ago, where you could go to the water's  
8 edge and horseshoe crabs would be around, wildlife would be  
9 around there -- some birds, covered with oil.

10 This oil was just right on them and their efforts  
11 to clean the bay have been just incredible over the course  
12 of that time. So many species are now thriving and I  
13 believe this project will disrupt that.

14 I'm concerned about the toxic substances that are  
15 under the sand that have settled down there and digging and  
16 drilling will force them to come back up. I mean there are  
17 so many superfund sites located in this area, National Lead,  
18 I believe their project is going to go through National  
19 Lead.

20 I know they only tested a very small portion of  
21 that whole parcel and deemed it to be okay. I think there  
22 are a lot of areas lacking in the DEIS. Some of the points  
23 particularly around the bay are the noise levels of the  
24 drilling and the pipeline that will disrupt the whales who  
25 are vulnerable to noise vibration and have additional risks

1 of being hit by ships during construction that again will  
2 disrupt wildlife.

3           People use the bay for recreation and I don't  
4 believe that this project is going to help New Jersey in any  
5 way. First of all New Jersey gets all the risks -- the  
6 environmental risk, the health impact risks and the gas is  
7 going under the bay to New York and then it will turn at the  
8 Rockaway Loop and go over to Brooklyn, New York.

9           It's -- New York has banned fracking and this is  
10 just a way for fracked gas to come into New York, so it just  
11 seems utterly ridiculous and what are the other things that  
12 I wanted to say. Again, I mentioned the horseshoe crabs --  
13 that was just -- that for me was something that really stuck  
14 out.

15           And also from growing up in that area around  
16 Amerada Hess and Shell and all the gas companies -- my  
17 daughter has a birth defect, thank you.

18           MR. VANSCOTEN: Jason Vanscoten, J-a-s-o-n  
19 V-a-n-s-c-o-t-e-n. I'm a member of the Teamster's Local  
20 Union 469. I've been working the pipelines for off and one  
21 15 years. Environmentally they've all been perfect better  
22 than when we left and when we were there before.

23           Me and my wife talk about it all the time. We  
24 feel it's the best source of energy we have going now for  
25 us, better than coal, nuclear and we need it. We use it.

1 There's a big demand in the Northeast for it and we both  
2 support it, our whole family, that's it.

3 MR. MORGAN: Joseph Morgan, M-o-r-g-a-n,  
4 Teamster's Local 469. I'm for this project. It'll bring a  
5 lot of jobs here. I work on a lot of projects and most of  
6 the pipelines I was on were very safe, probably some of the  
7 safest projects I've been on.

8 I think it's good -- I mean I actually have gas  
9 in my house. My range, everything is gas -- I think  
10 everybody really -- I think we all should support it, we  
11 need this and that's all I got.

12 MR. HOLLAND: My name is Andrew Holland.  
13 A-n-d-r-e-w H-o-l-l-a-n-d. I'm a Teamster for Local 469. I  
14 support this project for a few reasons. One -- the job  
15 aspect of it obviously, the renewable energy that we'll get  
16 from it and I think it's going to generate money in the long  
17 run.

18 MR. SPRINGVLOED: Cornelius, C-o-r-n-e-l-i-u-s  
19 Springvloed, S-p-r-i-n-g-v-l-o-e-d. I think the pipeline  
20 work is a good thing. It puts a lot of people to work.  
21 Natural gas -- I'm with Local 825 Operating Engineers.  
22 We're certified to go out there and do this kind of work and  
23 everything is environmentally protected when we're done and  
24 so it's a good thing to be put on.

25 MR. WELLS: My name is Curtiss Wells,

1 C-u-r-t-i-s-s W-e-l-l-s and I'm a member of Teamster's Local  
2 469. Alright and you know I'm here to show my support for  
3 this project. It gives a lot of great jobs, not just  
4 short-term jobs for the construction end but there's a lot  
5 of lasting jobs.

6 I've been on several similar type pipeline  
7 projects where I know that the safety is -- is I control it,  
8 the safety on a pipeline job is I would say by far in a way,  
9 more than on a standard job and a standard job has plenty of  
10 safety.

11 No, it's great for the -- the places where we do  
12 these types of projects normally the town or cities that it  
13 goes through are restored to, in my opinion, better than  
14 when we go through and I just think it would be good for  
15 everybody. That's all I have got to say.

16 MR. SCALERA: My first name is Ciro, C-i-r-o --  
17 can I leave a card or no, you don't need one -- C-i-r-o and  
18 the last name is Scalera, S-c-a-l-e-r-a. I'm Director of  
19 Government Relations for the New Jersey Laborer's Union.

20 Okay, I really I have five points I want to make.  
21 I'll just make them quickly. I'm sure you've heard  
22 iterations of all of them. Natural gas has become and maybe  
23 I should first state for the record that we support all  
24 forms of energy and we build all forms of energy.

25 We are an all options, all energy labor union.

1 We build solar, we build wind, we build pipelines,  
2 everything. And in our state natural gas is becoming and  
3 will become a very important future for electricity -- not  
4 just supplying homes that use, you know, gas and natural gas  
5 products.

6           And we just led an effort and were active in  
7 keeping the nuclear energy here but that's a time limited  
8 option. Oyster Creek is closing this year in the fall, they  
9 moved it up. They're going to keep Salem and Hope Creek  
10 open -- that's 38% of New Jersey's energy comes from nuclear  
11 and in 10 years it won't be here. What will be here? And  
12 how will we meet that future need?

13 That's important to us.

14           So the other point -- my second point is that  
15 maintenance and infrastructure investment is critical. When  
16 we have bad weather events up here like we did with Sandy  
17 and we bring utility workers up from the south -- they look  
18 at our infrastructure and they almost laugh.

19           Everything we have is so old and out of date.  
20 The investments that Williams is proposing to make, the  
21 expansions that they are proposing to do is going to put our  
22 region in a situation where we're not going to have the  
23 situation that we saw up in Massachusetts this winter, which  
24 some very not so desirable options had to be explored to  
25 keep people's homes warm and to provide the electricity.

1           A lot of the -- this increased capacity will  
2 replace fuel oil. I mean I don't think it's a great time to  
3 be a fuel oil merchant in New Jersey. You're looking at  
4 your graph and where things are heading -- it's probably not  
5 in a good curve.

6           And from an emissions point of view, an  
7 environmental point of view, that's probably not a bad  
8 trend. You know, natural gas is a cleaner approach in terms  
9 of carbon emissions and we support -- we support that.

10           This project, the NESE project has tangible  
11 benefits to New Jersey. We understand why, you know, it's a  
12 pipeline that goes to New York and New York has certain  
13 needs -- we recognize that. Our union also represents and  
14 we do -- and we have members in New York City, Long Island  
15 who live there and so we're not in an island. This region,  
16 from a demographic and an economic standpoint is everything  
17 is interdependent on the other.

18           And so helping, you know, ensure a greater and  
19 better flow to New York City is an important public policy  
20 aspect for us but there are New Jersey benefits. There's,  
21 you know, Rutger's study, 240 million in benefits. There  
22 would be a lot of jobs created in doing this effort.

23           And finally, you know, this project is going to  
24 fully comply with FERC, EPA, DEP, whatever rules and regs  
25 are required. Certainly the standards that we're going to



1 use as we build and enhance the existing systems, we're  
2 going to comply with whatever the rules and regs are -- so  
3 with that I would say we strongly support this project.

4 MR. MORELLA: Yeah, my name is Felice Morello,  
5 M-o-r-e-l-l-o is the last name. Yes I'm here to represent  
6 the pipeline -- I'm employed with Operating Engineers in  
7 Springfield, New Jersey and I just want to be brief that I  
8 think that the project will benefit the environment,  
9 economics and just more job creating and safer fuel than  
10 fossil fuel.

11 And that's what I want to say that it's just will  
12 be benefitting us more than any other fuel that they have in  
13 mind in solar or in anything else. That's about it, yeah.

14 MR. LUKACH: Dennis Lukach, D-e-n-n-i-s  
15 L-u-k-a-c-h. Okay I'm an intervener, number 2 -- number  
16 424716. I'd like to express my opinions to the Williams  
17 Transco Pipeline a/k/a Northeast Supply Enhancement Project.

18 Contaminated sediments is my concern including  
19 the toxins that are going to be dredged in the process and  
20 the proximity to the Raritan Bay slag superfund site. Both  
21 will interfere with species, habitat, reducing egg  
22 volatility, early life stages mortality and an amount of  
23 defects in the larvae.

24 Included endangered species such as the  
25 Loggerhead sea turtle, cloister crabs, blue claw crabs,

1 humpback whales, fluke, carver seals and many other  
2 migratory species will be disrupted -- migratory species  
3 forcing them to possibly migrate somewhere else.

4           My concerns are as a fisherman, the ongoing noise  
5 that this project will develop and the stakeholder interest  
6 in contributing taxpayers of Sayreville, New Jersey. My  
7 personal interests which I made directly come because this  
8 project impacts the safety and health and well-being of my  
9 family, community and environmental resources.

10           This would affect air quality, water quality,  
11 health and safety are threatened by the potential for all  
12 this for an explosion also due to human error and equipment  
13 malfunction along with constant noise and emission and toxic  
14 chemicals that increase during blowdowns -- the impact of  
15 such construction and operation of the compressor station,  
16 human life, wildlife, environmental resources, vegetation in  
17 my area.

18           And years of efforts clean-up and maintaining  
19 Raritan Bay have improved our habitat and wildlife, marine  
20 life, fish and shellfish. The construction activities,  
21 vessels and equipment, noise, disruption and potential odor,  
22 chemical leakage from the project can severely damage the  
23 bay's environment and economy and are relevant to clean  
24 water and health habitats.

25           There is also a danger of vessel strikes and

1 collisions with marine animals in the proposed pipeline  
2 areas in the bay. I appreciate the support of Raritan Bay  
3 eco-system -- I support the Raritan Bay's eco-system,  
4 wildlife habitat and recreational commercial activities and  
5 do not want to see them impacted by this project.

6 I'm a fisherman and I live very close to the  
7 metering transfer station that is right off the highway on  
8 Route 35 and I believe that this is too close to residential  
9 areas and the blowdowns from this will create health issues  
10 in my neighborhood -- including devaluing my property  
11 because of such a station being there.

12 I also feel that this station is not protected  
13 enough to -- as a soft target for terrorism and not  
14 monitored properly and God forbid a vehicle goes off the  
15 highway and takes out one of these pipelines I think we're  
16 goners.

17 Basically, I'm a fisherman. I have been all my  
18 life. I grew up in Perth Amboy, I resided in Morgan for the  
19 last 26 years and have seen the bay come a long way. I  
20 don't want to see it be disrupted by this project which has  
21 no economic value to New Jersey except to supply gas which  
22 is obtained from fracking in Pennsylvania area.

23 Fracking is not good for the environment. I feel  
24 that there are other ways of creating sustainable energy for  
25 the city such as wind powered turbines and solar power. I'm

1 also threatened by the potential of explosion, human error,  
2 leakage that will definitely -- the project in whole will  
3 disrupt the cycle of Raritan Bay and all the species that  
4 are involved in our recreational and clambers, commercial  
5 and what not.

6 Oysters -- which Raritan Bay Gatekeepers  
7 Association have been creating beds for years and put a lot  
8 of effort into it I think will be directly impacted by the  
9 sediment that is dredged up by this from years of sediment  
10 pollution in the -- coming out of the rivers, National Lead,  
11 Ace and R Cableworks, and so forth going down the lines back  
12 in the '60's.

13 This contamination is down there. It's going to  
14 be dredged up and it's going to impact the estuaries, the  
15 fish, larvae and like I said there's further issues further  
16 in that. I'm more opposed to it going underneath the  
17 Raritan Bay in such a way for such a distance that it would  
18 create a hazard, potentially a very dynamic and devastating  
19 explosion in the area. I don't believe that it is safe as  
20 Williams transports says it is and I don't know I guess  
21 that's just about it. It's going to affect a lot of things  
22 and I'm more concerned about where the gas is coming from,  
23 the fracking industry, wherever all of Williams chemical is  
24 getting this from and so forth down the line.

25 That's it in a nutshell. I'm a threatened --

1 like I said, I'm threatened by the station being so close to  
2 my residence. The length and the depth that they propose to  
3 do this work, the timeframe, the closures of recreational  
4 and commercial and everything along the way.

5           Like I said there's more sustainable ways of  
6 obtaining energy, wind turbines and solar energy. Once  
7 again, I am an intervenor on this project 424716, and once  
8 again my name is Dennis Lukach and I'm from the Morgan  
9 section of Sayreville and that's about all I could think of  
10 right now.

11           MS. ALLEN: Let the record show that the Draft  
12 EIS comment session for the Northeast Supply Enhancement  
13 Project in Old Bridge, New Jersey closed at 8:02 p.m.

14           (Whereupon at 8:02 p.m., the meeting concluded.)

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

3 This is to certify that the attached proceeding  
4 before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the  
5 Matter of:

6 Name of Proceeding: Transcontinental Gas Pipe  
7 Line Company, LLC

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17 Docket No.: CP17-101-000

18 Place: Old Bridge, NJ

19 Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2018

20 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original  
21 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy  
22 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription  
23 of the proceedings.

24 Larry Flowers

25 Official Reporter

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - - x  
Transcontinental Gas : Docket No. CP17-101-000  
Pipe Line Company, LLC :  
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NORTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

George Bush Community Center  
1 Old bridge Plaza  
Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857  
Wednesday, April 25, 2018

The Draft EIS comment session, pursuant to notice,  
opened at 5:00 p.m.

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

2 MS. OWEN: Hi, my name is Christine Owen, I'm the  
3 Environmental Project Manager at FERC. The Draft EIS  
4 comment session for the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project  
5 proposed by Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company or Transco  
6 in Old Bridge, New Jersey began at 5:04 PM. The purpose of  
7 this meeting is to record public comments on the Draft  
8 Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Federal Energy  
9 Regulatory Commission on March 23rd, 2018.

10 MS. MIRANDA: I am Rosita Miranda, Western  
11 Section Chief of the Regulatory Branch for the New York  
12 District, US Army Corp of Engineers. I will be the  
13 presiding officer on behalf of the Corps of Engineers at  
14 today's public hearing. The Corps of Engineers is here  
15 today to obtain information and evidence that address Corps  
16 concerns to assist in the regulatory review of a permit  
17 application by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company,  
18 LLC., for the installation and construction of a new natural  
19 gas transmission pipeline loop and associated subsea  
20 manifold tie-in and cathodic protection in Old Bridge  
21 Township and the Borough of Sayreville, Middlesex County,  
22 New Jersey and in Raritan Bay, Lower New York Bay, and the  
23 Atlantic Ocean; Middlesex County and Monmouth County, New  
24 Jersey and Richmond County, and Queens County, New York.  
25 FERC, as the lead federal agency, will make a



1 decision whether to issue approval to facilitate the  
2 construction and operation of this natural gas pipeline.  
3 The Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent for nor an  
4 opponent of the proposed work. Our role is to determine  
5 whether the proposed activity in this case, the installation  
6 of a natural gas pipeline and associated facilities in  
7 waters of the United States is or is not contrary to the  
8 overall public interest.

9           This hearing will play an important part in that  
10 determination. Please understand that we do not expect to  
11 answer questions in this hearing related to the proposal, as  
12 we are here to obtain information and comments. Questions  
13 on the regulatory process in general can be directed to the  
14 staff in the audience today. The New York district has  
15 issued a public notice for this project with the comment  
16 period closing on May 7th. The public notice is currently  
17 posted on the New York District website. The website  
18 address is [www.NAN.USACE.army.mil](http://www.NAN.USACE.army.mil). We do have copies  
19 available at the registration table as well. If someone's  
20 not currently on our public notice email distribution list  
21 and would like to receive an email announcement for future  
22 public notices from the office, their email address can be  
23 provided to one of the staff members at the registration  
24 table today. Thank you.

25           MS. OWEN: All right. So, I'll bring back our

1 first commenter.

2 >> MR. STILES: Michael Stiles, M I C H A E L J. S  
3 T I L E S.

4 My name is Mike Stiles, I'm the Business Manager  
5 of Pipefitters Local 274, with jurisdiction in mainline and  
6 gas distribution in the State of New Jersey. I'm here to  
7 support the Williams-Transcontinental Northeast Supply  
8 Enhancement Project. The Transco Project will provide a  
9 critical natural gas resource for New York City and the  
10 Northeast region, providing enough energy to serve the needs  
11 of over 1.2 million homes by the 2019-2020 winter heating  
12 system. The Transco Project will improve important new  
13 infrastructure that will improve the reliability of New York  
14 City's natural gas delivery network. The Northeast Supply  
15 Enhancement Project will provide service to National Grid,  
16 the largest distributor of natural gas in the Northeast  
17 region in the United States.

18 National Grid is investing over \$200 million per  
19 year to convert customers from fuel oil in New York City,  
20 Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Long Island. The  
21 Northeast Supply Enhancement Project will help ensure that  
22 reliable gas supplies are available to support these  
23 conversions. New York City's goal is to reduce city  
24 emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050. The City needs  
25 this project to phase out the use of heavy fuel heating

1 oils. Natural gas will displace the equivalent of  
2 3,005,797 gallons of heavy heating oil, reducing CO2  
3 emissions by 2.4 million tons per year. The Northeast  
4 Supply Enhancement Project has the potential to displace up  
5 to 15.6 million tons of CO2 in New York City, which is  
6 equivalent to removing 3 million cars from our roadways  
7 yearly.

8           The project will also provide the energy  
9 necessary to keep local economies growing, providing clean  
10 energy, and it will improve the quality of life for the  
11 residents. Pipelines are the safest and most efficient way  
12 to transport our natural gas resources, vital to the  
13 country's economic well-being. In fact, pipelines are the  
14 best way to protect our precious natural habitat. Pipelines  
15 keep America energy-efficient without relying on foreign  
16 oil.

17           MR. SCHULTZ: My name is William Schultz,  
18 [spelling].  
19 Comments are, my concerns are, one is, at least if we have  
20 to put up the pipeline, make it as safe as possible. And  
21 I'm concerned with the depth of the pipe crossing Raritan  
22 Bay, the depth of the pipe being buried out of channel. Out  
23 of the channel the pipe is only supposed to be, I believe  
24 it's like six feet down. Average Bay depth is about twelve  
25 feet. I have spoken with Reinauer Transportation in regards

1 to some of the barges that transit the Bay. Their barges  
2 carry a 7 to 12 ton anchor. It's common knowledge that  
3 anytime a commercial vessel gets in trouble the first thing  
4 the captain does is drop his anchor, tries to stop the boat.

5           Transco has spoken with Williams people. They  
6 say that they're not concerned because the channel depth  
7 will allow for the anchors to grab on the bottom and the  
8 channel depth, the pipeline is, I believe it's like 30 feet  
9 down below the bed of the channel. However, it's a narrow  
10 channel that crosses the Bay, as soon as a tug would lose  
11 power or a ship loses power, chances are he's going to be  
12 drifting out of the channel. Drops a 7 12 ton anchor into  
13 12 feet of water out of the channel still, according to a  
14 tugboat company, it's going to take them about a half a mile  
15 to stop. So, that's a half mile that they're going to be  
16 dragging an anchor that is going to be well beyond the depth  
17 of the pipeline before they can stop a barge.

18           Another concern that I have is the installation  
19 of the pipeline where it enters Raritan Bay, and the  
20 exclusion zone for boaters around the installation area,  
21 because as boaters exit Cheesequake Creek currently, because  
22 of shoaling that's taken place and that's not scheduled for  
23 any dredging within the next couple of years. Because of  
24 the shoaling that's taken place, boaters existing the  
25 Cheesequake Creek have to take a heading towards Great Beds

1 Lighthouse, that's towards Perth Amboy, which puts them on  
2 an intersection very quickly with the exclusion zone that  
3 will accompany the installation of the pipeline.

4           So, essentially closing off five marinas from  
5 Raritan Bay while the pipeline is being installed, they  
6 won't be able to get out of the inlet.

7           My third concern is with legacy pipelines. The  
8 pipeline certainly has an accepted life span. And going  
9 through the reports that I've seen so far there's no plan  
10 for the discontinuance of the pipeline. So, the life-span  
11 of the pipeline is, let's say 30 years, what happens in 35  
12 years? Does it just get abandoned? And what assurances are  
13 there that the pipeline will be purged of any product? On  
14 industrial sites currently - I am a retired firefighter -  
15 and on industrial sites we already have problems with legacy  
16 pipelines that were abandoned by companies with product in  
17 them and we don't know where they are. This pipeline will  
18 intersect with several utilities right where it enters the  
19 Bay.

20           MS. BROWN: It is Edina, E D I N A. Last name is  
21 Brown.

22           My name is Edina Brown, I'm the Councilwoman here  
23 in Old Bridge, specifically Ward 3. So, first thing is I  
24 want to make sure that I say the process here to have this  
25 hearing and to get people to come and make comments I feel

1 is a bit, ineffective for the people who are commenting, but  
2 I'm sure there's a reason for that. However, I just wanted  
3 to point that out.

4           The other thing that I want to point out is that  
5 I feel like the pipeline is definitely something that a lot  
6 of people in Old Bridge don't know about and aren't aware  
7 about it; so I feel like there should be more education on  
8 both sides. You know, even if FERC plans to build this, I  
9 feel like they should at least come out and tell people more  
10 about it just so they're aware.

11           Of course, you all know the potential harm to  
12 wildlife, to the community, but one of the main concerns  
13 that I hear of is that people are terrified because there  
14 could be explosions besides just, you know, the day-to-day  
15 harm of the pollutants and the chemicals that are going and  
16 released into the air, the butane and all. But these are  
17 the things that really, really concern constituents here and  
18 obviously they concern me as well.

19           And I'm done.

20           MR. O'DONNELL: Thomas J. O'Donnell, O 'capital D  
21 o n n e l l, Junior.

22           I'm for it. My reasoning is I've worked on many  
23 gas lines already. And all I can see on the jobs that I've  
24 been on is the quality of the work gets better and better as  
25 each year goes by. The quality of materials, as long as

1 they're using American materials, it seems to get better and  
2 better every year.

3           It's a necessary evil. Nobody likes to have  
4 something that can create damage run by them. But everybody  
5 wants to heat their house, everybody wants to cook their  
6 eggs on gas. It's a necessary evil. Power lines, same  
7 problem. Everybody wants electricity but that line comes  
8 down, it can make a lot of problems. The important thing is  
9 that we maintain quality control through the whole process.  
10 As long as that's done, there's nothing wrong with it.

11           I mean, I don't have a lot to say, the last one I  
12 went to I had to talk in front of a bunch of people and they  
13 throw out statements which gives you something to work with.  
14 I'm sitting here looking at you and nobody's giving me  
15 anything to work with. You understand what I'm saying? So,  
16 it's good for our economy. It's good for our country  
17 because the more, same as the power lines and the highway  
18 systems, the petroleum systems need to be there so that our  
19 entire country, no matter where you go - was that the 30  
20 second timer?

21           FERC: No.

22           MR. O'DONNELL: All right. Anywhere you go, you  
23 can get there, have electricity and gas. And right now, we  
24 need to connect all the systems together like we did with  
25 the highway systems and like we did with the electric

1 systems. We need to connect it all together so we can move  
2 product around. From my point of view, its a lot of guys'  
3 work. Good money work. You know? You look back at the end  
4 of the day and you see what you have accomplished, it makes  
5 you feel good. Nobody wants to do poor quality work, you  
6 know, and when you look back and you see what you did, and  
7 you look at your paycheck and you see what you got, you feel  
8 good twice.

9           And what you do is you expand the economy because  
10 the money I make, I spend. It gives more people, small  
11 businesses, money for them. And it becomes a circle. I  
12 don't have a lot to go on; I know it's a necessary evil,  
13 that's all I'm saying. And only from the point of view is  
14 that there's a possibility for somebody to get hurt in the  
15 long, long haul. Just like there is on the highways, and  
16 more people get killed on the highways than anywhere in the  
17 world. Even wars. So, highways is a necessary evil.  
18 Electric is a necessary evil. And this is a necessary  
19 evil, but it does help the economy at the same time. A lot  
20 of people have shoes on their children because they're  
21 making a good buck, you know? They're living in a decent  
22 place in a decent home. Like I said, the important thing is  
23 when you look back at the end of the day and you see the  
24 quality of your work and what you accomplished.

25           That's it. I guess I'm done.



1                   MR. PENE: Eric Pene. P E N E. My name is Eric  
2 Pene, I live in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, Warren County. I  
3 am a member of the International Union of Operating  
4 Engineers, Local 825. I am in favor of this natural gas  
5 pipeline. Local 825 has sent me to work on many natural gas  
6 pipelines in New Jersey in the past 10, 15 years. I know  
7 when I am sent out to work on pipeline jobs I am going to  
8 work a lot of hours. I know I am going to make extra money  
9 because pipeliners work long hours. I like this kind of  
10 work because I can provide a little extra for my family.  
11 Recently I was able to help my daughter buy a new car. This  
12 would not have been possible if I had not worked on a couple  
13 of pipeline jobs in the last five years.

14                   Local 825 has provided me special training  
15 specifically for working on pipelines. I am a proud member  
16 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local  
17 825, and I am proud and thankful to work on pipelines which  
18 enable me to do more for my family. Natural gas is very  
19 efficient and cheaper than oil. Using natural gas is much  
20 better for the environment and better for New Jersey. In my  
21 opinion, this pipeline should be approved because it will  
22 provide good jobs for the members of Local 825 and other  
23 trades as well. Local businesses will also prosper from  
24 pipeline construction. This is good for New Jersey. Thank  
25 you.

1           MR. POTTER: Good evening. My name is Fred  
2 Potter. F R E D. Potter, P O T T E R. The Third.

3           All right. My name is Fred Potter, I'm a  
4 Teamster for Local 469. I'm a resident of New Jersey; Point  
5 Pleasant. I'm in favor of the pipeline. These are good  
6 jobs that -- not only good jobs now for during the project  
7 but it will create competition and fair prices with having  
8 natural gas resources in New Jersey. So, that will bring  
9 competition, better prices and it will also create more jobs  
10 to come in New Jersey. That's pretty much it. Thank you.

11           MR. BARRETT: My name is Jacob Barrett. J A C O  
12 B, B A R R E T T. And I just wanted to say that I've worked  
13 on these pipelines for the past eight years all over New  
14 Jersey, all over Pennsylvania. They are safe. They provide  
15 clean energy. Most importantly to me and my family, they  
16 provide, not good: great jobs. And I really urge whoever it  
17 is I need to urge, to push this through. Thank you.

18           MR. REAM: Hi, my name is Jim Ream, Sr. R E A M.  
19

20           Regarding the pipeline, I see it starts in  
21 Pennsylvania. I live in Pennsylvania. I don't have a  
22 problem with it. I've been on four pipelines in the past.  
23 One with the environmental crew. We did over 12 miles of  
24 silt fence, so there was definitely protection for the  
25 environment. Erosion blankets on every creek bed. I think

1 some of it was overdone, but well needed. Much needed. The  
2 last pipeline, I was with the drilling crew working with a  
3 lot of bentonite. Everything was safe. We encased every  
4 machine with plastic or tarps so it was safe for the  
5 environment regarding the oil or any possible leaks. I was  
6 there until the end and it was dirty, filthy work; but it's  
7 necessary I think for the public.

8 MR. CARUSO: My name is Carmine Caruso. C A R M  
9 I N E, C A R U S O. I'm here supporting the pipeline  
10 because it's clean. It's efficient energy. It creates  
11 jobs. Also, we need to help the environment so nothing gets  
12 destroyed. Everything is clean. And most of all, when the  
13 job is done it's going to create a lot more jobs because  
14 it's going to be natural gas. You're going to need meter  
15 readers and everything else. I feel that it's a good asset  
16 to the state of New Jersey. We can use a lot more people  
17 and a lot more help.

18 And it's good for everybody. It's good for the  
19 local towns. Pipeline comes in, the local towns always make  
20 out because you have basic supply and demand. You have Home  
21 Depot. You have general stores. You have housing. And  
22 gas, whatever. Everybody wins. It's a win-win situation.  
23 And thank you for letting me speak here today at the  
24 pipeline.

25 MR. CORCORAN: My name is Kevin Corcoran. Do you

1 need my address or anything else?

2           FERC: Just your name and spelling.

3           MR. CORCORAN: C O R C O R A N. The comment that  
4 I would like to make is regarding the safety of the  
5 compressor station. Suppose 206. Undoubtedly other people  
6 will tell you basically that it is being built near an  
7 active blasting site. I'm the treasurer of the Princeton  
8 development, which is close by. We actually feel the shocks  
9 and the blasting from the rock quarry -- Trap Rock Quarry  
10 which is supposedly going to be -- still blasting, 20-40,  
11 all right. According to Franklin Township. There's also a  
12 Superfund site right alongside the compressor station.

13 That's called the Higgins farm. And basically -- there are  
14 also on that area. Franklin Township does not have the  
15 ability to fight a major forest fire. They don't have the  
16 water pressure to do so. All right. They flatly told us.

17           So, my question, I guess that I would leave you  
18 with is, PHMSA, I know ordinarily calculates the potential  
19 impact radius, PIR. Have you calculated what the PIR is if  
20 the compressor station should blast or if the pipeline were  
21 to blast at any point? All right.

22           Secondly, that area used to be farmland and now  
23 there are residential developments all around. There's a  
24 55-plus community called Princeton Manor that is a half-  
25 mile, its entrance is a half mile from the compressor

1 station, and the pipeline goes within a hundred yards of  
2 their rec center and their housing. There's also Highgate  
3 Manor, which is a 700-residents community. The pipeline,  
4 which is roughly a mile beyond the compressor station, with  
5 high pressure goes under that community.

6           So, my question is, is PHMSA going to proceed to  
7 calculate where there are high casualty areas all along the  
8 route of that pipeline? Which as we understand, much of it  
9 is 50 years old, and therefore may have to have a  
10 significant amount of the pipe changed to a different class  
11 because it's a high casualty area, or swapped out.

12           So, that's basically my concern. Thank you.

13           MR. FLYNN: My name is Sean Flynn. I'm  
14 affiliated with Local 825, Operating Engineers. I'm here in  
15 favor of this approval. It's the FERC approval that this  
16 meeting is in reference to, correct? I think gas is a  
17 clean, reliable source of energy that we need to do all we  
18 can do to make it more and readily available to the public.

19           Approving these projects will help. That's about  
20 all I have. Thank you.

21           MS. KRONHEIM: You're Army Corp. FERC and Army  
22 Corp. My name is Patty Kronheim, I'm from Hopewell  
23 Township, New Jersey and I'm the Chair of Hopewell Township  
24 Citizens Against the Pipeline. And the first thing I want  
25 to say, this comment again is this format of not having

1 people be in the room where everyone can hear each other, I  
2 think is broken and I know FERC is doing a reevaluation of  
3 your format. I think that that needs to be changed because  
4 it's a loss to everyone. And also PHMSA's presence there,  
5 which was very helpful.

6           So, I just want to say that I think the DEIS  
7 should be withdrawn, and the reason I think it should be  
8 withdrawn is because it's missing too much critical  
9 information, not allowing for analysis the project's  
10 environmental impact. The issues I want to touch on briefly  
11 are water, air and safety. Some of the missing water data  
12 includes no detailed monitoring plans for potential impacts  
13 to the Raritan Bay. No modeling of sediment contamination  
14 in the Bay from the backhoe-ing of separately potential  
15 highly toxic off-shore sources. No thorough evaluation on  
16 potential impacts to marine life; from shellfish to Atlantic  
17 sturgeon to whales. It's just not enough information. And  
18 it's also missing data on on-shore related impacts that's  
19 necessary for the Superfund site in Higgins Farm. As well  
20 as the impacts to Carter Brook and the Millstone watershed  
21 basin.

22           Air impacts that are a concern is that there's no  
23 peak exposure to emissions that are given; peak exposures,  
24 not annual emissions. There's no evaluation of multiple  
25 exposures, and the DEIS underestimates the hazardous air

1 pollutant emissions of formaldehyde and #acrylin, saying  
2 they fall within the NJDEP reporting standards. But then  
3 they only measure emissions from one of the turbines. If  
4 they would actually to take both turbines into account it  
5 would not meet those standards.

6           As for safety, the DEIS offers no analysis on how  
7 increased volume and rate of gas pushed through this project  
8 may impact Williams' aging pipeline system in New Jersey.  
9 As you may be aware, we have a higher safety standard and  
10 this is such an issue that a resolution was passed by the  
11 New Jersey Legislature last week saying that all interstate  
12 pipelines coming into the state should meet New Jersey's  
13 higher standards for operating, construction, and  
14 maintenance. We understand that this is a resolution and  
15 that it's up to PHMSA, it's up to the federal government'  
16 this is a real concern of the New Jersey Legislature right  
17 now.

18           So, perhaps one more thing that is not mentioned  
19 in the DEIS, and that's any cumulative air impacts from  
20 compressor station 205. They're completely not mentioned.  
21 It's as if 205 doesn't exist; and if you look at 205  
22 emissions that were recorded on the Garden State Expansion  
23 Project, there were almost no emissions reported. They only  
24 did an environmental assessment; it was not even an  
25 environmental impact study. And there was a large expansion

1 done to that station. And these stations are ten miles  
2 apart.

3           So, I think because these projects are within a  
4 two year period -- I spoke with Commissioner LeFleur about  
5 this, had the opportunity to speak with her in Princeton  
6 last week, and students asked her: 'What about cumulative  
7 impacts?' And she said if projects are within two years of  
8 each other, they really should be evaluated. And there's no  
9 mention of cumulative impacts, air impacts from compressor  
10 station 205, and I think that needs to be looked into.

11           So basically I just want to add that FERC needs  
12 to take out their red pen and they need to mark this DEIS as  
13 incomplete and withdraw it and then only issue a revised  
14 DEIS only after collecting all the missing information and  
15 independently ensuring that Williams' data is accurate.  
16 Thank you.

17           MR. VASQUEZ: My name is Alfonso, and I am a  
18 member of the International Union of Operating Engineers,  
19 Local 825. I live in Sayreville, New Jersey. As operating  
20 engineers, we are the men and women who build safe,  
21 reliable, and efficient pipelines in New Jersey. We are  
22 active outdoorsmen and women committed to the environment,  
23 and to suggest that we are only here because of jobs is a  
24 gross simplification. We do not just work here. We live  
25 here and raise our families here, too. Safe and reliable



1 energy sources for our communities are important. This  
2 project will help us in the long run. Here we have the  
3 opportunity to tap into one of the largest sources of energy  
4 in the nation. Lower energy prices will benefit me, my  
5 family, and my neighbors. It will also help small  
6 businesses stay in our communities, and large ones to bring  
7 more investment to New Jersey. We need to remain  
8 competitive. We must have a responsible energy agenda which  
9 includes a good infrastructure and stable energy pricing.

10 I respectfully ask to approve this project. That  
11 is all.

12 MS. KUEHN: My name is Carol Kuehn. C A R O L,  
13 last name is K U E H N. I'm an intervener, stakeholder, and  
14 impacted property owner, as the proposed compressor station  
15 206 site would abut the rear of my property line. But I'm  
16 here today to speak about the proposed Raritan Bay Loop and  
17 the impact this project could have on Raritan Bay and the  
18 surrounding communities.

19 First, I'm concerned about the harm this project  
20 would have on the shoreline economy, disrupting recreational  
21 fishing and whale watching activities. The proposed  
22 pipeline would cross over seven separate recreational  
23 fishing grounds, harming the marine population and impacting  
24 the recreational fishing in those areas. Whale watching  
25 would also be impacted, as the whale watching boats would

1 have to travel longer distances to view whales. Commercial  
2 fishers would also be adversely affected economically as  
3 they will have to clear out their equipment prior to  
4 construction. Shellfish harvesters would be particularly  
5 hurt by loss of time taken up in this pursuit.

6           Second, I am concerned about the impact to marine  
7 life from toxic substances. The dredging and trenching  
8 required for the pipeline would release toxins into the  
9 water over an 117-acre area. This release of toxic  
10 sediments would damage the recovery of the Atlantic  
11 Sturgeon, an endangered species.

12           PCBs have been associated with endocrine  
13 disruption causing impairment of reproduction, development,  
14 and other hormone-mediated processes in marine mammals, and  
15 they would also be released into the water from trenching.

16           Concerns regarding noise and vibrations caused by  
17 pipeline construction on the 33 species of fish in the  
18 Raritan Bay include temporary or permanent auditory system  
19 damages that can reduce their survival, growth, and  
20 reproduction as well as disruption to migratory patterns of  
21 several species such as the Striped Bass, which move back  
22 and forth between salt and fresh water. Marine mammals  
23 could also suffer from sound levels that could disrupt their  
24 behavior patterns such as migration, breathing, breeding,  
25 and feeding.

1           Fourth. The Horseshoe crabs and migratory birds  
2 will be threatened by pipeline construction in Raritan Bay.  
3 Migratory birds such as Red Knots, Gunlins, Sanderlings, and  
4 Ruddy Turnstones, as well as some other crab species and  
5 several gastropods are found in the construction area and  
6 rely on Horseshoe crab eggs and larvae as a major food  
7 source. The mitigation efforts proposed by Williams-Transco  
8 are inadequate given the complex behaviors of these species  
9 and of the local marine and tidal ecosystems as well as the  
10 extended time construction will take place. Probably nine  
11 months, continuing around the clock at times.

12           Finally, I'm concerned about the areas of the  
13 Raritan Bay slag site that are in or close to the proposed  
14 loop section of NESE, and I'm asking FERC to address this  
15 by, one, requiring additional studies by Williams-Transco,  
16 to propose construction methods and the impact on the jetty  
17 sections number 7 and 11 of the Raritan Bay slag NPL  
18 Superfund site before considering issue of the final draft  
19 impact statement.

20           Two, requiring that the EPA submit their  
21 determination in writing and make available for public  
22 reviewing stating, A) their assessment about the potential  
23 for construction of the Raritan Bay Loop to affect the jetty  
24 areas of the Superfund site; B) Specific actions that should  
25 be taken to avoid any impact from NESE's proposed Raritan

1 Bay construction, loop construction on the contamination  
2 present at the Superfund site.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to share these  
4 concerns.

5 MS. POWELL: Sorry. Linda Powell. L I N D A, P  
6 O W E L L. And I'm commenting on the Northeast Supply  
7 Expansion Project. About this part, we feel that there's  
8 incomplete information and an underestimation of the impact  
9 that the construction, that this fails to protect us and our  
10 environment. Williams-Transco has had many accidents in the  
11 past decade. So, having them say that they will minimize  
12 the potential impact is really insufficient. There's so  
13 much potential for contamination both in the Madison and  
14 Raritan Bay loops and in the pipeline under the bay. The  
15 planned route is so close to several Superfund sites. Fuel  
16 tanks and landfills. There's the Raritan Bay slag Superfund  
17 site. And it can certainly be disturbed during any digging  
18 and construction in that area, bringing up all the waste and  
19 toxins that have settled over the years.

20 The contaminated groundwater by DuPont is also in  
21 the route of the pipeline. FERC, you guys should require  
22 more studies of these areas, for example, the contaminated  
23 area around the Raritan Bay slag jetty sector; and with a  
24 lot more samples from a much larger area. And the  
25 cumulative impact of the planned construction that is so

1 close to so many contamination sites. And after gathering  
2 more information that is currently missing from --I didn't  
3 put it in here, but the DEIS; have it reviewed  
4 independently, not by Williams-Transco. Then publish this  
5 information and give the public ample time to read and  
6 comment, not just the 45 days to read 749 pages -- which I  
7 certainly can't do.

8           And that's what I have for today.

9           MS. ROEDELLE: Elizabeth, E L I Z A B E T H, Roedell, R  
10 O E D E L L. Again, my name is Elizabeth Roedell, I reside  
11 in South Brunswick Township, New Jersey, a community  
12 impacted by the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project. And I  
13 am an intervenor in these proceedings, and topic I'd like to  
14 talk about is the impact on Horseshoe crabs, migratory  
15 birds, state endangered, state threatened birds, and other  
16 special species in the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Gateway  
17 National Recreation Area, which is an IBA. And after  
18 reviewing the DEIS, which was issued March 23rd, 2018. I  
19 find that it is missing critical information and certain  
20 data by Transco that -- are unable to conduct a meaningful  
21 analysis. As a result, I am requesting that FERC issue a  
22 revised DEIS, after receiving the missing data and extend  
23 public comment period to at least 45 days following the  
24 release of a revised DEIS.

25           I'm concerned in particular with wildlife and

1 aquatic resources and threatened, endangered, and other  
2 special status species. The Raritan Bay and the Sandy Hook  
3 Gateway National Recreation Area is a globally significant  
4 IBA.

5           Sandy Hook is a barrier beach peninsula at the  
6 northern tip of the New Jersey shoreline. It is designated  
7 as a globally significant IBA by the National Audubon  
8 Society for its ability to support piping plovers. Sandy  
9 Hook is a critical component of the Sandy Hook Bay complex,  
10 a significant habitat complex of the New York Bight watershed,  
11 designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The New  
12 Jersey Department of Environmental Protection designated  
13 Sandy Hook a natural heritage priority site, one of the  
14 state's most significant natural areas.           Of particular  
15 concern are the federally endangered, state endangered Least  
16 Tern, the federally threatened, state endangered, Piper  
17 Plover, and the regional responsibility species, the  
18 American Black duck, the seaside sparrow, the copper rail,  
19 malloret, marsh wren, osprey and a willet. And  
20 congregations of waterfowl, and congregations of exceptional  
21 diversity. The migrant stopover for shore birds, for  
22 flyover for land birds. And it has been a long time  
23 monitoring site for the hawk since 1979.

24           Of particular concern are the Horseshoe crabs  
25 that are found in the project area. Horseshoe crab eggs and

1 larvae are an important food source for migratory birds,  
2 including Red Knots, Gullins, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstone;  
3 other crab species and several others. The Horseshoe crabs  
4 are in the project area, they may be injured or killed by  
5 evacuation activities and increased turbidity. Indirect  
6 effects could include temporary loss of their foraging  
7 habitat.

8           So, I would like to conclude then by requesting  
9 that there be a detailed, critical wildlife habitat study be  
10 conducted from the year round statistics of the extended  
11 period to fully assess the short-term and long-term  
12 cumulative impact. And I'm also requesting that FERC issue  
13 a revised DEIS after collecting the missing information and  
14 obtain certain data submitted by Transco and provide a  
15 meaningful opportunity for the public to comment. The  
16 residents deserve to be assured that the impact on the  
17 environmental is thoroughly evaluated.

18           MR. ORTEGA: My name is Daniel Ortega, O R T E G  
19 A. I work for the Engineers Labor-Employers Cooperative,  
20 Local 825. We are the management firm for the Operating  
21 Engineers, Local 825. We represent over 7,000 union  
22 members, and together with our contractors, we work building  
23 projects, create jobs, maintain a work force for  
24 development.

25           I'm here to comment about the proposed pipeline.

1 The benefits of this project are numerous, included but not  
2 limited to the jobs created for our members and contractors  
3 who will work in this project. Local 825 members have  
4 exceptional skills in construction and this project will  
5 provide many jobs during its construction phase. Our  
6 workforce is highly trained and safety is our top priority.  
7 Our training facilities have been ranked among the best  
8 places in the country for training and continuing  
9 education. We have successfully and safely built all kinds  
10 of facilities in all types of surroundings, including  
11 environmentally-sensitive areas.

12 Our members are men and women who are committed  
13 to preserving the environment for future generations, and to  
14 suggest they are driven only by consideration for jobs at  
15 the expense of public safety or the environment is in of  
16 itself a gross oversimplification. This project is not  
17 solely about construction jobs. Our members don't just work  
18 here. We live here and we raise our families here, too. We  
19 also know the benefits of safe, reliable energy resources  
20 for our communities, and these projects will help protect  
21 this area in the long run. In order for New Jersey to  
22 remain economically competitive, and a great place to live,  
23 we need responsible energy infrastructure development.  
24 Pipelines are part of a sound energy policy. And they are  
25 the safest and most reliable way to transport natural gas



1 and petroleum products. This project is a perfect example  
2 of the type of construction project that is important to our  
3 organization and members.

4           At the end of 2013, the Operating Engineers  
5 successfully completed the New Jersey portion of the  
6 Tennessee Gas Pipeline. This project expanded over twenty  
7 miles throughout New Jersey, crossing over several -- and  
8 parks including the Appalachian Trail, and the reservation.  
9 Plus, many of the residents say they're called our  
10 backyards. We believe the position to oppose was premature,  
11 prematurely based on fear, almost certainly not by facts.  
12 Local 825 strongly support this project. We respectfully  
13 ask it be moved forward.

14           Thank you.

15           MR. SIANO: My name is Michael Siano. Last name  
16 S I A N O. I'm here representing Teamsters Union Local 469.  
17 The project creates jobs for good working families. I've  
18 worked them many times, and they're some of the safest jobs  
19 around and also the time, if not every time, they leave the  
20 neighborhood looking better than what it did before the  
21 project started. Like I said, it's just this day and age  
22 it's hard for working families and it's a good job for a lot  
23 of families. I know a lot of people say it's just a  
24 temporary job, but what construction job isn't temporary?  
25 You know? So,

1 I guess that's it. Thank you very much.

2 MR. WHITE: My name is Robert White. W H I T E.  
3 I'm a pipeliner. I've been doing it since 1964. I've seen  
4 changes in the methods that they're using to fit pipe  
5 together over the years, and I worked in Alaska on the  
6 pipeline, worked at the oil fields and I've seen a lot of  
7 changes. And all the improvements that are out there now  
8 are so much better than what they had been using 40 years  
9 ago. It's a hundred percent X-ray on every weld, and  
10 they're using automatic welding now. A lot of big pipe, big  
11 diameter pipe is done with a machine instead of the welder  
12 by hand, which is better. It's quicker. It heats it up and  
13 it cools down and it's done quicker, which -- instead of  
14 heating up more than once.

15 It's amazing how they've improved it over the  
16 years, so I believe, compared to shipping on the railroads,  
17 there's nothing safe about that. They're constantly  
18 derailling; and pipeline, once they're in and they patrol  
19 them, they keep them monitored all the time. There's no  
20 benefit to stopping a pipeline. You can't, money-wise, once  
21 it's in it's like turning on your spigot, you know? Getting  
22 water from the spigot. Same thing. And they do test them  
23 periodically. They don't just put them in and forget them.  
24 They come around it and sometimes, I've seen it where they  
25 pressure-tested it and they find that it's not strong

1 enough, they'll replace it. They've, the last thing they  
2 want to do is to see a failure. Failures come and go, but  
3 comparing the odds of a failure with a pipeline, compared to  
4 like, with the railroad, there is no comparison.

5           It's, you know, I seen how they used to put pipes  
6 together, and it's just amazing now the way they do it.  
7 They're coming up with such unique methods. They used to  
8 bevel a pipe and then face it by hand with a grinder. Now  
9 they have a machine that works like a lathe. It fits in the  
10 pipe and it will mill a face, a shoulder -- it's like  
11 factory. Like, when they do pipe they have sections, and  
12 they lower them in and they do tie-ins. Every so often  
13 they'll have a tie-in. Maybe every thousand feet they'll  
14 put two sections together. The tie-in crew does that kind  
15 of work, you know. I've done that. I've beveled pipe.  
16 I've done everything that there is on pipeline testing and  
17 all that. They test them with hydrostatic. They test them  
18 with water. They do 24 hours under high pressure, like  
19 double what the gas is going to be. It makes a big  
20 difference nowadays. It used to be it was only one or two  
21 percent, ten percent x-ray. Now it's a hundred percent x-  
22 ray. Everything is under the microscope all the time. It's  
23 very rare that there's a failure. I just appreciate the  
24 chance to talk to you. I come from a long ways away, but I  
25 was asked to come here and say something, so. Thank you.

1 MS. CUTHBERT: Barbara Cuthbert. C U T H B E R  
2 T. What am I going to start with? I am very  
3 concerned that part of, that the Draft Environmental Impact  
4 Statement is incomplete. FERC listed a lot of things in  
5 their document that they said either Williams has to hand in  
6 by May 14th or before they start construction. So, my  
7 opinion is, how could that possibly be a thorough,  
8 independent analysis of all the information that should be  
9 looked at?

10 In Old Bridge and Sayreville there are a lot of  
11 contaminated sites. There are landfills. And there's also  
12 the Raritan Bay slag Superfund site, where the plans for the  
13 pipeline will either go through these sites or go very, very  
14 close to it. In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
15 FERC actually asked Williams to hand in some other plan; let  
16 me see if I can find it. Because in the last, in the recent  
17 years Williams did a pipeline replacement in the area and  
18 they did encounter contaminated soil. I know in the area of  
19 Madison Loop, the DuPont cleanup of their contaminated  
20 ground water is still going on. They are planning to cross  
21 that as part of the pipeline.

22 So, I'm disappointed with any possible accounting  
23 for the damage to health and the environment that was not  
24 accounted for by saying that the impacts would be minimal,  
25 by saying if, underline if, if Williams does everything they

1 say they do and everything FERC tells them to do, everything  
2 will be minimized to below whatever levels. Williams has a  
3 horrible safety record. Williams does not always follow  
4 their own procedures. Neither they nor their contracted  
5 people. Recently in Pennsylvania one of their contracted  
6 people did HDD where they did not have permission to do  
7 that. That's just an example and there are a lot of other  
8 examples. I'm not saying they are the worst company, but  
9 I'm saying that there's no way that there's comfort in  
10 relying on any oversight from FERC or PHMSA -- who is  
11 understaffed -- having this whole process give people safety  
12 and keep their health all right. And be protected from the  
13 dangers of the construction and also the dangers of if it  
14 gets constructed, the compressor station in Franklin.

15           There wasn't any analysis or reporting of looking  
16 at: should they build this whole pipeline and the part of it  
17 goes right by the Raritan Bay Slag Superfund jetty sector?  
18 A combined impact of all the contaminants. I didn't see  
19 anything there. Same thing in Franklin Township. I know  
20 I'm jumping topics here. Franklin Township is planning to  
21 put the compressor station right next to Trap Rock Quarry.  
22 There was no analysis of air, water, contaminants, from  
23 those two industrial sites. They did, yeah, air quality  
24 things from -- where were they from? North Brunswick, East  
25 Brunswick, Philadelphia, and some other town. But right

1 there, there wasn't anything looking at those two sites.

2 So, basically, its that the DEIS - I have to stop.

3 FERC: You can finish your thought.

4 MS. CUTHBERT: That's cute, I like that.

5 The lack of it being complete leads me to want to  
6 see FERC get all the information they asked for. Analyze it  
7 independently. And then publish it and then give us more  
8 time to look at it. Because for people like me who knew  
9 nothing about this before I got involved, it's another  
10 language, it's another world. You know, and it will affect  
11 - if it goes through, it will affect us for 50 years or so,  
12 or more. Thank you. \$\$

13 MR. RYBA: I am Stephan Ryba, Chief of the  
14 Regulatory Branch for the New York District, U.S. Army Corps  
15 of Engineers. I'll be the presiding officer on behalf of  
16 the Corps of Engineers at today's public hearing.

17 The Corps of Engineers is here today to obtain  
18 information and evidence that address Corps' concerns to  
19 assist in the regulatory review of a permit application by  
20 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC, for the  
21 installation, construction of a new natural gas transmission  
22 pipeline loop and associated subsea manifold tie-in and  
23 cathodic protection in Old Bridge Township and the Borough  
24 of Sayreville, Middlesex County, New Jersey and in Raritan  
25 Bay, Lower New York Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean, Middlesex

1 County and Monmouth County, New Jersey and Richmond County  
2 and Queens County, New York.

3 FERC, as lead federal agency, will make a  
4 decision whether to issue approval to facilitate the  
5 construction and operation of this natural gas pipeline.  
6 The Corps of Engineers is neither a proponent for nor an  
7 opponent of the proposed work. Our role is to determine  
8 whether the proposed activity -- in this case, the  
9 installation of a natural gas pipeline and associated  
10 facilities in waters of the U.S. is or is not contrary to  
11 the overall public interest. This hearing will play an  
12 important part in that determination.

13 Please understand that we do not expect to answer  
14 questions in this hearing related to the proposal, as we are  
15 here to obtain information and your comments. Questions on  
16 the regulatory process in general can be directed to my  
17 staff in the audience today.

18 The New Year's District has issued a public  
19 notice for this project with a comment period closing on May  
20 7th. The public notice is currently posted on the New York  
21 District website, and that website address is:  
22 [www.nan.usace.army.mil](http://www.nan.usace.army.mil)

23 We do have some copies available on the  
24 registration table as well.

25 If you are not currently on our public notice

1 e-mail distribution list and would like to receive an e-mail  
2 announcement for future public notices from my office,  
3 please provide your e-mail address to one of our staff  
4 members at the registration table today. Thank you.

5 [Pause; 6:30 to 8 p.m.]

6 [Whereupon at 8 p.m., the verbal comment session  
7 concluded.]

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

2

3 This is to certify that the attached proceeding

4

5 before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the

6

7 Matter of:

8

9 Name of Proceeding: Transcontinental Gas Pipe

10

11 Line Company, LLC

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21 Docket No.: CP17-101-000

22 Place: Old Bridge, NJ

23 Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2018

24

25 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original

26

27 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy

28

29 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription

30

31 of the proceedings.

32

33 Dan Hawkins

34

35 Official Reporter