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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Energy Projects

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Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC      Docket No. CP16-357-000  
Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC      Docket No. CP16-361-000  
- - - - - x

MOUNTAINEER XPRESS PROJECT  
GULF XPRESS PROJECT

Doddridge County Park  
1252 Snowbird Road  
West Union, WV 26456

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

A public verbal comment session on the DEIS was held,  
pursuant to notice. starting at 5 p.m.

Reported by: Daniel Hawkins

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

2 BETH CROWDER: My name is Margo Beth Crowder. I  
3 go by my middle name, Beth.

4 I bought this property in 1975. We were aware of  
5 the fact that we were surface owners. We were shown a gas  
6 well, we were shown several gas wells, and we understood  
7 about the well tender having access to the surface. We made  
8 some decisions based on what we were told.

9 That was in the Seventies. In the Nineties, a  
10 firm called Eastern American came in and drilled a well.  
11 The existing wells were shallow; Benson sand is about 1,200  
12 feet. The new wells that came in in the Nineties were to  
13 5,000 feet. We were told things; we did get representation  
14 and we did try to influence the siting of these wells, and  
15 they ended up using some bottom land that we didn't really  
16 want them to use. Even though we had representation, we got  
17 a very average settlement. When they put in the third one  
18 we had the same lawyer to resist the third well.

19 We were told that we were then spaced out. That  
20 the wells were, that on that property there could be no  
21 additional wells without violating the rules about how close  
22 they could be. Our 1901 lease also had some references to  
23 how close to residences, or actually it says buildings, it  
24 doesn't specify residences. So in the Nineties, we were  
25 told that we had nothing further to fear from additional

1 ground being taken up by additional wells. Apparently what  
2 we naively thought was a law, was an industry courtesy and  
3 it did not foresee or include Marcellus shale drilling.

4           The well site on the property has taken up about  
5 20 acres and it pursues minerals that are in excess of the  
6 surface tract. And the surface lease. They pursue minerals  
7 through my property, and one of the bottom holes is 8,990  
8 feet from the wellhead. I don't believe that the 1901 lease  
9 gave the gas company the right to use vast quantities of  
10 this surface to pursue minerals elsewhere under other leases  
11 and under the properties.

12           We did understand that things could change, you  
13 know, when we purchased the place in '75 and I don't think  
14 the legal term consideration of parties could really foresee  
15 anything like Marcellus shale. But we were told that we  
16 were maxed out, spaced out they called it, and then it  
17 turned out we weren't that at all; and they're using a large  
18 amount of surface to pursue minerals that are not underneath  
19 our surface.

20           And we are part of a court case. We're going to  
21 court next week. It's Crowder and Wenzl versus EQT. And  
22 we're specifically questioning something called horizontal  
23 trespass, which hasn't really been adjudicated in the courts  
24 because when people take the settlement they accept the gag  
25 order. We have not accepted any settlement, we haven't

1 agreed to anything, and we would like to pursue this for the  
2 purpose of precedent affecting other surface owners.

3 Thank you very much.

4 (Pause)

5 (Whereupon at 8 o'clock p.m., the verbal comment  
6 session concluded.)

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

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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:

7 MOUNTAINEER XPRESS PROJECT

8 GULF XPRESS PROJECT

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15 Docket No.: CP16-357-000 &amp; CP16-361-000

16 Place: West Union, WV

17 Date: March 22, 2017

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

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Daniel Hawkins

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Official Reporter

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Reported by: Gaynell Catherine

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

2 (5:00 p.m.)

3 MR. WESTFALL: My name is Chip Westfall,  
4 W-e-s-t-f-a-l-l. I'm a County Commissioner representing  
5 Calhoun County. There's to be a compressor and about 10  
6 miles of pipeline built in our county and I am here to speak  
7 in favor of how much that the compressor and pipeline are  
8 going to increase the tax base in our county.

9 It will actually increase our property taxes  
10 income by about 45% or a little better than that even. And  
11 for a poor county like us it will make the difference  
12 between surviving and going under for the next ten years.

13 I know that there is the location that the  
14 compressor is where we are going to get most of our money  
15 from is a very isolated area. There's no problem with it  
16 being close to houses and making noises or being as far as a  
17 danger to anyone because it's 2 -3 miles to anything and  
18 couldn't be in a better location.

19 And to encourage Columbia or Trans-Canada whoever  
20 is doing it now to get started as soon as possible because  
21 we are close to being in dire straits right now our county.  
22 The Columbia -- the company itself has also been very  
23 helpful.

24 They tried to work ways that they could help our  
25 school system as much as possible. Our school system is



1 actually in deficit by about 2 million dollars of a 10  
2 million dollar budget but Columbia has done -- bent over  
3 backwards to try and figure out ways that they can get as  
4 much money -- the tax revenue money for the school system as  
5 possible.

6           And we truly do appreciate that and the school  
7 system appreciates it. But as far as the complaints from  
8 the public if anyone was going to get complained to it would  
9 be me because I have been right out front with this, pushing  
10 this since we first got called about it.

11           And if anybody is going to bitch about it they  
12 would be bitching to me and there has not been one complaint  
13 since this has started, that's really all I have to say.

14           MS. CLEAVER: My name is Susan Cleaver. I'm not  
15 happy about this pipeline. It is coming probably within  
16 12,000 feet of my house and there is going to be another  
17 pipeline on the other side of my house approximately the  
18 same distance.

19           They are breaking up our countryside they are  
20 clear-cutting our trees, impacting streams, animals, birds,  
21 our property values, our health. I don't think that we need  
22 this infrastructure because we have to stop burning fossil  
23 fuels anyway which natural gas is one. Methane is a very  
24 dangerous greenhouse gas.

25           Yeah mostly I look at the danger with all the

1 clear-cutting. The trees are the lungs of the world. We  
2 are promoting global warming in that way as well. The loss  
3 of our county and the communities that this can help to  
4 promote by fracking and clear-cutting and pipelines through  
5 our county just lowers all the value of our whole county  
6 both beauty and health.

7 I don't think that we -- I think that we should  
8 just forget about using natural gas as a bridge fuel and  
9 promote clean energy because we are going to have to do that  
10 anyway. I can't see spending all of this money and doing  
11 all of this infrastructure for something that we won't be  
12 able to use in the near future.

13 I am concerned especially about some birds who  
14 need large habitat, animals that need large habitats,  
15 mussels that need certain habitats. Our hillsides are so  
16 steep in West Virginia it is terrible to think about  
17 clear-cutting them and putting a pipeline there.

18 And you can see all of the other pipelines on the  
19 steep hillsides that are just failing and eroding. And I  
20 guess I'll send in -- hopefully I'll send in more comments  
21 later but I just wanted to start out making some tonight  
22 since I was here.

23 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 8:00  
24 p.m.)

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