

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

\* \* \* \* \*

IN RE: ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE 4041 CERTIFICATION

PUBLIC HEARING

\* \* \* \* \*

ORIGINAL

BEFORE: JACOB GLANCE, Chair  
NANCY DICKSON, Environmental Resources  
Specialist  
LAUREN EVE  
LAURA COOPER, Environmental Resources Analyst  
ED MAGUIRE, Environmental Advocate

HEARING: Tuesday, August 1, 2017  
6:07 p.m.

LOCATION: Pocahontas High School  
271 Warrior Way  
Dunmore, WV 24934

Reporter: Jordan Barry

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

1  
2 -----  
3           CHAIR: All right. We're going to get  
4 started, everybody.

5           Good evening. I'm Jake Glance, with the  
6 Department of Environmental Protection's Public  
7 Information Office. Welcome to tonight's public hearing  
8 on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's 4041 Certification.  
9 Also here this evening are Nancy Dickson, Lauren Eve,  
10 Laura Cooper, and Ed Maguire, with the DEP --- with the  
11 WVDEP.

12           The purpose of tonight's hearing is to  
13 give you the opportunity to share your comments with the  
14 DEP about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Tonight's hearing  
15 is being recorded by a court reporter, so that the  
16 comments shared here can be part of the public rule-  
17 making record. To make sure that we successfully achieve  
18 the purpose of this hearing, we ask that everyone be  
19 respectful and considerate to each other, by refraining  
20 from interrupting others while they're speaking and  
21 keeping your comments on the topic, so that our time  
22 together is used most efficiently.

23           There are a lot of people who have signed  
24 up to speak tonight. So, the time limit for each speaker

1 is going to be three minutes. For those wishing to  
2 speak, when I call you up to provide your comments,  
3 please state your name and say if you are representing  
4 any groups or organizations.

5 If you have written comments that you  
6 would like to submit in addition to your spoken comments,  
7 please hand them to me after you speak or at the  
8 conclusion of the hearing. If no one has any questions  
9 about the format of the hearing, we're going to get  
10 started with our first speaker. Any questions?

11 Okay. The first speaker tonight is  
12 Margaret Worth. After Margaret is W. P. McNeil. And  
13 after W.P. McNeil is Gil Willis.

14 MS. WORTH: I don't know I would be a  
15 speaker, actually. I'm a little bit confused, because I  
16 assumed that the DEP was going to give us some  
17 information first. So, that's the information, huh?

18 CHAIR: Maps of the pipeline. Yep.

19 MS. WORTH: Okay. Okay. Well, then my  
20 comment is that I attended the comment session to listen  
21 to the original department --- or environmental impact  
22 statement answers and responses to those who had  
23 concerns. And I asked questions about the water  
24 impairments, and I don't know how many of you have tried

1 to understand the complete environmental impact taking  
2 place, that is obviously a very large document. And it  
3 seems, you know, ever changing.

4                   So my concern was that what I could find  
5 were three two acre water impoundments within Pocahontas  
6 County. I live in Pocahontas County. I don't represent  
7 any organizations. I am a life-time resident of  
8 Pocahontas County. I'd like to remain here for the rest  
9 of my life. But water is life. And water is vital to  
10 our ability to continue to live here in an agriculture  
11 and tourism county. And timbering and trout fishing. So  
12 nobody was able to answer my questions about where those  
13 three two acre lakes were located.

14                   And again this --- in the interest of  
15 helping the residents who aren't able to come to  
16 meetings, and who aren't able to understand what's  
17 happening, because they're at work all day, taking care  
18 of their children, and those things. I wanted to have  
19 that information, because I felt very strongly that  
20 people might be susceptible to having their drinking  
21 water supplies eliminated.

22                   So, at this time, I still haven't had an  
23 answer to where are the three two acre lake water  
24 impoundments that were in the original environmental

1 impact statement. I have not been able to see what the  
2 final environmental impact statement looks like. Like  
3 everybody here who came with the concerns about the  
4 pipeline. It's about the water. The water quality. You  
5 know, too many people in too many communities in West  
6 Virginia who now have no access to clean water in the  
7 communities in which they live.

8                   It's the same extraction industry that's  
9 ready to speak at some point this evening. And from what  
10 I understand, and having spent a lot of time trying to  
11 understanding this as best as a regular citizen can.  
12 There has been no proof that this pipeline is necessary.  
13 From the very beginning as I expressed my concern is not  
14 where that pipeline is or that it goes through the forest  
15 and does less individual inconvenience. It's still  
16 moving frack. Yes. And we know, and we're smart enough  
17 to know, that frack gas is not good for anything, and the  
18 fracking process. So, thank you.

19                   CHAIR: Next is W.P. McNeil. After W.P.  
20 McNeil is Gil Willis. And after Gil is I think ---  
21 B-E-R-N-I-E-R. Is that right?

22                   You can go later, if that's ---. Okay.  
23 Up next then is Gil Willis. After Gil is Danny or Doug.

24                   MR. WILLIS: Hey. How is everyone doing

1 tonight? Good. A beautiful night here in the county. A  
2 couple things. You know, I'm a little confused too. I  
3 was hoping that DEP was going to maybe walk us through,  
4 you know, their responsibility for the pipeline. You  
5 know, now during post pipeline construction.

6 I live actually about three miles from  
7 where the pipeline will cross 219. And also it impacts  
8 this upper watershed that's across for me. And I'm a  
9 professional guide here in the county. I've been for ---  
10 oh shoot, 30 years. You know. You know, I've made an  
11 honest, a very, you know, a good solid living here. It  
12 hasn't been easy. It never is when you have your own  
13 business and you work hard.

14 But I have a question for the DEP. You  
15 know, I was fortunate enough to spend some time with them  
16 earlier today. And we looked at all the stream crossings  
17 that are up in the upper Elk River drainage, which is  
18 where, you know, I spend a lot of my time. And my  
19 question to the DEP is once the project starts, what can  
20 they --- you know, what can we rely on as far as the DEP  
21 to be here, as far as inspecting this project on a daily  
22 --- I mean, will someone be here daily checking on this  
23 project? Or will this be something that, you know, the  
24 funds horary and, you know, there's a problem. You know.



1 You're an hour away, an hour and a half away, can you  
2 come and look at the --- can you guys make sure that  
3 that, you know, will there be someone here I guess most  
4 of the time watching this project as it progresses?

5 CHAIR: Who are you talking to?

6 MR. WILLIS: I mean, the DEP. You know.  
7 Are they here?

8 CHAIR: Yeah. There's one right there and  
9 those two right there.

10 MR. WILLIS: It's here somewhere, which I  
11 don't expect Ed to know the answer to that question, but  
12 can anybody from the DEP answer that?

13 CHAIR: We'll be glad to discuss that with  
14 you after the hearing. This is not the proper time to do  
15 that.

16 MR. WILLIS: Okay. Okay. My apologies.  
17 I was just --- I was just curious about that, because ---  
18 you know, you guys that have lived here your whole life,  
19 you know that we get a lot of rain in this county.  
20 There's a lot of erosion and, you know, I have some  
21 concerns about that as far as when construction starts.

22 But, as a business person, who survives  
23 off of people coming to this beautiful county to recreate  
24 year round, you know, I'm a little concerned about my

1 loss of income. If this project is going to happen, I  
2 feel like there's going to be a lot of businesses in this  
3 county that --- my part of the county, and probably some  
4 folks that live in other parts of the county, that make  
5 their living off of high quality recreation that we have  
6 here.

7                   So I have some concerns about that. But  
8 I'll pursue that with Dominion and some other folks down  
9 the road. I think I've used my three minutes up. Thank  
10 you.

11                   CHAIR: Doug Bernier is up next. Doug?  
12 And after Doug is Robert Merritt. After Robert Merritt  
13 is Rob Richard.

14                   MR. BERNIER: I've been living in  
15 Pocahontas County since 1991. I certainly appreciate the  
16 clean water we have. And it's a very, very valuable  
17 commodity, and I certainly don't want to see it  
18 compromised. And I would hope that the folks that work  
19 at the DEP would remember what their mission is, and what  
20 those initials stand for. They are not the department of  
21 economic development or economic promotion. And I would  
22 hope that they would take their job seriously and  
23 continue to go after this. And do the right thing.  
24 Thank you.

1                    CHAIR: Up next is Rob Merritt. Robert  
2 Merritt. Then Rob Richard. After Rob Richard is Amy  
3 Scott.

4                    MR. MERRITT: My name is Rob Merritt. I'm  
5 represented by the IUOE, the International Union of  
6 Operating Engineers of mining operations. I've worked a  
7 pipeline. A lot of people don't know a lot about the  
8 work. When you work a pipeline, it's a totally different  
9 operation than a regular pipeline. The work is heavily  
10 regulated. A lot of projects I have been on, when we  
11 leave it's --- I think it's --- a lot of the times better  
12 than when we came.

13                    There is a lot of --- this actually could  
14 create a lot of jobs. You know, I know this area here.  
15 I was born here. Born in Marlinton, raised in  
16 Charleston. My families lived there since 1967. I've  
17 been up there for years, you know. This is a beautiful  
18 country. And then I think --- honestly, in my opinion, I  
19 think if you work a hard job, like I said it's a totally  
20 different job.

21                    A lot of people last night spoke, and some  
22 40 people long. That's a lot of assets there, sure.  
23 But, you know, sometimes in life --- and I said this last  
24 night. We have to work together. Everybody does. And

1 now it's, you know, that's the hard part of the job but I  
2 hope the DEP just sticks to what they're going to stand  
3 for. That's all I got to say. Thank you.

4 CHAIR: Up next, Rob Richard. After Rob,  
5 Amy Scott. After Amy is --- it looks like Polly,  
6 B-E-V-L-E-C-H-E. Is that right?

7 MR. RICHARD: Hi, my name is Rob Richard.  
8 I work with the West Virginia Laborers' District Counsel.  
9 Representing the national union. We represent about  
10 500,000 laborers. About 5,000 in the state here. I'm  
11 here to speak on behalf of the DEP on the 401 water  
12 certificate.

13 Our job out there in the field is mainly  
14 safety. I mean, a lot of people is concerned about the  
15 water. We --- our contractors, the contractors that are  
16 doing this --- it's almost utmost safety ---. You know,  
17 we have to battle the weather, we have to battle the  
18 nature. We have a handful of engineers. We have all  
19 this to battle. And we get through it. We put these  
20 lines in. We get them through. And then it helps the  
21 business owners around here.

22 But everything we do is utmost safety.  
23 We want our members, if they move around here --- our  
24 residents, we want you to come home every day safe. We

1 want to go home safe every day. That's what we want for  
2 our members. That's what we want for everyone. That's  
3 why I'm here to support this, because we know we can do  
4 it right.

5                   And for the jobs alone, for the tax  
6 revenue. I know a lot of people talked about the water  
7 here. You know. You got taxes that will come in here  
8 and go back to the water department and sewer. You know,  
9 there's schools around here in this county that don't  
10 have, you know, fire alarms for your kids. With these  
11 tax dollars, that's a lot of money going back into it.  
12 You know, there's a lot of things like that, but utmost  
13 safety is our issue. And that's what we do. We're here  
14 to work with the DEP on everything we can. Thank you.

15                   CHAIR: Up next, Amy Scott. After Amy is  
16 Tolly. And after Tolly is Tom Epling.

17                   MS. SCOTT: Can you hear me? Can you hear  
18 me now? My name is Amy Scott. I live in Dunmore, West  
19 Virginia. The ammunitions, the misrepresentations and  
20 false information contained in Dominion's water permit  
21 application include a perilous game of short time given  
22 to a speaker. As a result, I will be submitting a  
23 lengthy comment before the August 4th deadline and will  
24 continue my remarks on several key issues.

1                   Throughout the application document  
2 released by the EIS, our acknowledgement is that Dominion  
3 has not completed required surveys and has not completely  
4 developed mitigations plans for the damage that will be  
5 caused by the pipeline construction and the presence of  
6 the pipeline in the future. I will not spend time  
7 reviewing the incongruity of issuing a final EIS, when by  
8 definition you did not have information to assess. In  
9 short, issuing a final EIS when all the required data is  
10 not supplied violates NEVA.

11                   However, that may be, the failure to  
12 report and properly assess and mitigate damage to the ACP  
13 should not impact West Virginia DEP from requiring all  
14 necessary permit data be submitted prior to evaluating  
15 the permit application. At present, there's an over  
16 abundance of natural gas supply. The areas of the U.S.  
17 that the ACP proposes to service already have adequate  
18 pipeline capacity. The ACP is not providing natural gas  
19 to areas without current supply. The most pressing need  
20 for the ACP is the 14 percent return on investment  
21 guaranteed to Dominion and its partners. The protection  
22 of the pure waters of West Virginia should not be  
23 overwritten by an unnecessary pipeline and the financial  
24 gain of a private out of state company.

1           The pipeline is rooted intentionally by  
2 Dominion over several large sparse areas in Randolph and  
3 Pocahontas Counties. Of great concern are the  
4 interconnecting waters of the Elk and its tributaries,  
5 and of the Clover Lake Creek and its tributaries. The  
6 Elk River sinks underground in various spots along Oak  
7 Hill and enslaving park ranches continuing through the  
8 dry parts of Downtown Springs are most evident during  
9 summer. Similarly, Clover Lake's Creek sinks underground  
10 in various spots. The numerous springs that feeds its  
11 waters are quite picturesque.

12           It is evident that ground waters and  
13 surface waters interface throughout these areas.  
14 Complete studies have not been done. The 1997  
15 environmental impact statement, otherwise known as EIS,  
16 are an initial literature search for information, not the  
17 assessment of water flow in the area. Formal dye testing  
18 with public notification should be done to determine  
19 water flow in connection to private wells, springs and  
20 surface waters prior to issuing a water permit.

21           The arbitrary 150 and 500 feet lengths of  
22 spring and wells tamping outlined in per EIS is  
23 completely inadequate. The dry beds of the Elk and  
24 Clover Lake water see these instances. Numerous

1 publications by federal agencies stress the importance of  
2 avoiding disturbing the surface of karst topography.  
3 While some building has occurred in the area, it is more  
4 private proposed ACP construction. Dominion has  
5 identified 8.6 miles of bedrock and karst that they have  
6 requested --- please let me finish --- permission to  
7 blast. Should other excavation methods fail to achieve  
8 the needed trench depth.

9           First, EIS documented that Dominion's  
10 conservation plan was incomplete, and that additional  
11 detail --- data, and details be forthcoming. The  
12 probability of contaminating private drinking water,  
13 spring surface and ground water is most acute at Clover  
14 Lake, where the steepness of the pipeline is one of the  
15 two places that EIS considered landslides and soils  
16 contamination to be unavoidable, given Dominion's current  
17 proposed construction practices.

18           The placement of the ACP on the Clover  
19 Lake Mountain along Clover Lake Creek and across the  
20 Greenbrier River provides a perfect storm for  
21 contamination affecting many residents. Yet Dominion  
22 would have us believe that they can defy the laws of  
23 gravity and physics, and that nothing could possibly go  
24 wrong. No engineer would intentionally select the route



1 along Clover Lake Mountain and Clover Lake Creek, given  
2 slopes greater than 40 percent dropping our karst  
3 topography, and following a trout stream with numerous  
4 springs and underground sinks down to the Greenbrier.  
5 Yet, Dominion, with their poor environment track record  
6 did.

7 CHAIR: Ma'am ---.

8 MS. SCOTT: Last paragraph. Could I take  
9 somebody else's time?

10 MR. HEROLD: You can have mine.

11 MS. SCOTT: Thank you. Section ---.

12 CHAIR: Who are you? What's your name?

13 MR. HEROLD: William Herold.

14 MS. SCOTT: Section 219 of the  
15 Requirements Governing Water Quality Standards defines  
16 trout waters as waters that sustain year round trout  
17 populations. Excluded are waters which receive annual  
18 stockings of trout that do not support year round trout  
19 populations. Appendages taken from West Virginia Code  
20 37-3-4 listing B-2 trout waters clearly states ---. This  
21 list contains known trout waters, and is not intended to  
22 exclude any waters which meet the definition in Section  
23 2.19.

24 Clover Lake Creek supports a breeding

1 population of brook trout. My husband and others have  
2 fished these waters, and can attest to this fact.  
3 Dominion scrupulously avoids labeling them as trout  
4 waters, which means it can bypass the necessary  
5 restrictions that would be imposed to protect the fish.  
6 As stated before, since Dominion has not completed the  
7 necessary surveys of aquatic life, their application  
8 should not be considered until all of the required  
9 studies and information is submitted.

10 I am requesting that Clover Lake be  
11 properly labeled as a trout water, as the trout water it  
12 is. And that proper safeguards for protecting breeding  
13 trout be included in the permit application, should it be  
14 granted. Thank you.

15 CHAIR: Tolly Bevleche. After Tolly  
16 Bevleche is Tom Epling. After Tom Epling is John  
17 Williams.

18 MR. BEVLECHE: I've commented at a lot of  
19 these public meetings for the last two years. And one of  
20 the things that I hear more than anything else from  
21 public officials and government employees is it's a done  
22 deal. Well, I'm here tonight because I just don't want  
23 to believe that. And I would like to see the  
24 environmental protection folks do what they are supposed

1 to be doing.

2                   If there's even a small chance of long  
3 term negative impacts for our precious clean water, then  
4 that's too much. They're not making any more of it. And  
5 DEP knows that. They need to do due diligence, before  
6 giving Dominion and Atlantic their permits that they  
7 want. Of all the agencies in West Virginia, DEP knows  
8 how important clean water is to all of us. And I don't  
9 think you want to be in a position of doing what just  
10 apparently happened with having to halt pipeline  
11 construction, because of --- because of permit violations  
12 and --- as the Rover pipeline sits in the paper.

13                   We doubtless already know about all the  
14 karst and we've heard about all the trout streams. You  
15 know how delicate all this is. This is your job. You  
16 know what silt and other contaminants getting into caves  
17 and sink holes can do. And I've been reading the final  
18 EIS, in all its incompleteness, about mitigation measures  
19 that Atlantic proposes to implement.

20                   All I want to say is that it won't take  
21 more than one or two mistakes to harm the water and the  
22 steep mountainous terrain with interconnected systems of  
23 caves and springs that no one can even accurately map.  
24 Even the EIS admits that there will be permanent harm

1 done by this construction. So this can't be mitigated.  
2 More in Pocahontas and Southern Randolph Counties, other  
3 people have said or thought that recreation is all based  
4 on this delicate resource. That's including trout  
5 fishing, bird watching, mountain biking, hiking, et  
6 cetera.

7 I'm strongly opposed to this project, and  
8 especially to this route. I don't think it will benefit  
9 the state. And even if it did, what good would it be if  
10 we don't have clean water? I know it wasn't something  
11 you wanted to do, to have a public meeting. And I was  
12 one of the many people who wrote requesting it. And I  
13 thank you for doing that.

14 Now, I hope you will be --- I will be able  
15 to thank you for doing a good and scientific, unbiased  
16 job in studying the impacts of this project on the  
17 irreplaceable clean water, and thoroughly evaluating this  
18 permit application before you submit to the motion and  
19 the project is a done deal. Thank you.

20 CHAIR: Up next is Tom Epling. After Tom  
21 is John Williams. After John is Greg Hefner. Tom?

22 Moving on. John Williams.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. I am John  
24 Paul Williams, Director of Preferred Alternatives, a non-

1 profit group that comments on energy projects, such as  
2 pipelines. Preferred Alternatives has supporters near  
3 this pipeline's route in West Virginia. I am an  
4 environmental consultant who overviewed large industrial  
5 projects throughout the United States, including  
6 pipelines, for over 30 years.

7 I've opposed pipelines in the past. I'm  
8 not going to oppose this one. I'd like to present  
9 evidence that the proposed pipeline will actually improve  
10 West Virginia's water quality. The pipeline is a fine  
11 example of the infrastructure needed to shut down some of  
12 the 33 coal plants in Virginia and North Carolina. Every  
13 shut down of a coal-fired power plant will cause massive  
14 reductions of the air pollution that causes acid rain and  
15 degrades water quality in West Virginia.

16 There are over 40 aging coal-fired power  
17 plants in North Carolina and Virginia that could be  
18 closed once adequate supplies of economic natural gas is  
19 available to replace the coal. And we've already seen  
20 how natural gas has sped the closure of two coal fired  
21 power plants on the New River. And the sell in each  
22 plant narrows this converted coal fire power to run on  
23 gas. The selling of these waters switched away from  
24 coal, and caused a 10,000 ton reduction of air pollution

1 that causes acid rain.

2                   So selling these also slowed the whole ice  
3 thaw and stop discharging waste water and that coal water  
4 into the New River. Since the New River flows in West  
5 Virginia, those should almost actually improve West  
6 Virginia's water quality, and we'll get more of those  
7 benefits on taxes readily available including hopefully a  
8 shutdown of the aging coal powered power plant, like the  
9 Radford Ammunition Plant.

10                   Virginia and North Carolina admit that  
11 their coal-fired power plants, over 100,000 tons per year  
12 of the air pollution that causes acid rain. If even one  
13 coal plant is replaced with a gas powered unit, that will  
14 remove 10,000 --- thousands of tons of toxic air  
15 pollution that causes acid rain as it sells each boiler  
16 replacement. Thank you very much for the opportunity to  
17 comment here tonight.

18                   CHAIR: I would like to remind everybody  
19 to be respectful of the speakers up here. We will not be  
20 suppressing any opinions here tonight.

21                   Next up, Greg Hefner. After Greg, Allen  
22 Johnson. After Allen is Deni Elliott.

23                   MR. HEFNER: Good evening. My name is  
24 Greg Hefner. I represent the Harrison County Economic

1 Development Corporation and the Harrison County Chamber  
2 of Commerce. I want to thank the DEP for the opportunity  
3 to speak here this evening. And I want to thank each and  
4 every one of you for coming out to discuss this very  
5 important project.

6           The Atlantic Coast Pipeline would be an  
7 economic game changer for West Virginia, Virginia, and  
8 North Carolina. This project will generate \$2.7 billion  
9 of economic activity across the area. That's a huge  
10 number, and it'll have a significant impact on our  
11 citizens in the State of West Virginia.

12           Projects like this go a long way to better  
13 position West Virginia's economy, to benefit all West  
14 Virginians. Not only now, but for generations into the  
15 future. We're looking at 17,000 construction jobs. That  
16 is --- that's a tremendous impact. It will give our  
17 young people an opportunity to stay right here in West  
18 Virginia and earn a good living. It will also give some  
19 of our kids who have had to move away an opportunity to  
20 come back and earn a good living right here in West  
21 Virginia.

22           \$28 million in new tax revenue. What  
23 would that do to improve our schools, our roads, all the  
24 vital services that we provide to our citizens? This

1 project will revitalize the manufacturing economy. It  
2 will increase access to natural gas, will enhance  
3 economic development, by attracting new investment right  
4 here in West Virginia. Again, providing jobs for young  
5 people, so they don't have to move away.

6                   This project has a significant upside and  
7 very little downside, in my opinion. Dominion is  
8 committed to the best in class standards for both the  
9 construction and operation of the Atlantic Coast  
10 Pipeline. They will go above and beyond regulatory  
11 requirements to minimize environmental impact. In fact,  
12 the proposed route has involved years of comprehensive  
13 studies and surveys, in order to minimize impact to  
14 sensitive areas.

15                   Over 300 reroutes have already been done  
16 on this project, to reduce environmental concerns. State  
17 of the art stream and wetland crossings and other state  
18 of the art construction methods will protect water  
19 quality, the land, and wildlife. Throughout this lengthy  
20 review process, DEP, Dominion and other agencies have  
21 been carefully analyzing potential impacts on land, air  
22 quality, and water quality, wildlife and other resources  
23 to ensure the project has adopted all necessary measures  
24 to protect the environment.



1 Dominion has provided more than 100,000  
2 pages of reports and documentation covering every aspect  
3 of this project. They've done their due diligence. This  
4 project has nearly three years of review and input by  
5 various federal, state, and local agencies. Folks, it's  
6 time to build this project and put the people to work.

7 I'm a lifelong West Virginian, and I  
8 deeply care about our environment. The fact is, West  
9 Virginia is an energy state. We are blessed with an  
10 abundant supply for natural gas and coal. We need to  
11 work together to extract these God given resources in a  
12 responsible manner. Dominion has an excellent track  
13 record of doing things the right way. They have operated  
14 in West Virginia for decades. They are a good neighbor,  
15 and have proven to everyone that they do things the right  
16 way.

17 And so without hesitation, that I stand  
18 here and advocate for this pipeline. Thank you.

19 CHAIR: Up next, Allen Johnson. After  
20 Allen is Deni Elliot. After Deni is Louise Barnisky.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. I'm Allen  
22 Johnson. I'm with Eight Rivers Council also Christians  
23 for Mountains. And I live in Frost. I moved to this  
24 area over 40 years ago. My wife and I, when we moved in

1 '83 and decided it was water --- I love clean, clear  
2 water. I mean, you know, a good community citizen.  
3 Every place next to the National Forest. Monongahela  
4 National Forest, which is now 600 yards from my house,  
5 where the ACP is trying to go through. A little area I  
6 know well. I've hiked a lot of times. Very steep slope.

7  
8 I've seen rain storms, what they can do  
9 when the ground is stable. So I --- I know there will be  
10 sedimentation. I hope it's not as bad as the Rover  
11 pipeline, that is getting so bad and reported by citizen  
12 activist monitors who saw that and reported it enough  
13 that finally the DEP put a cease and desist order on it.

14 I think most of the DEP people are good  
15 people. They have good hearts. I'm concerned is when it  
16 comes from on top, the political pressure upon the DEP to  
17 have this and still --- continue to be an energy state.  
18 I know this energy state has half or what half has been  
19 particularly in the areas where there has been major  
20 extracted industry. The boom and bust cycle. The boom  
21 and the bust that messed up and polluted --- and this  
22 area here does not need to be an energy sacrifice zone.  
23 The DEIS itself says zero jobs. No jobs in Pocahontas  
24 County. No permanent jobs. No gas. No gas at all. And

1 we're told to keep quiet and suck it up for the rest of  
2 the country, and their jobs. And then we'll have our  
3 water, our beautiful scenery, our ecosystem, our precious  
4 water that we are stellar. We are the best in the  
5 nation. There's a reason for that. And we're going to  
6 risk it and then what? And it will get degraded through  
7 some degree maybe a lot of degree.

8 I guess the last thing I want to say and  
9 ask, a gentleman said a little bit ago, asked that the  
10 DEP, I guess if they're not there, citizens monitoring.  
11 We're going to have to have citizen monitors on it.  
12 Drones. People on foot. If this thing goes through,  
13 we're going to have to watch it. And if it gets bad,  
14 which I expect, and the DEP doesn't act on it quickly and  
15 properly, well then I hope that some of us will act and  
16 stop it. Non-violently. Nothing like that. But, I'm  
17 saying, get in the way.

18 So, folks, I know that if this thing goes  
19 in, and it degrades the land, I hold the politicians who  
20 support it responsible, Dominion responsible, and the  
21 DEP, if we don't get it stopped --- I hope you stop it.  
22 Don't even let it go on. Thank you.

23 CHAIR: Up next is Deni Elliott. After  
24 Deni is Louise Barnisky. And after Louise is Larry

1 Cavallo.

2 MS. ELLIOTT: Hi. I'm Deni Elliott. I'm  
3 a teacher here in Pocahontas County. But tonight I'm  
4 representing the Greenbrier River Watershed Association.  
5 And it has members from the headquarters here to the  
6 conquest for the New River in Hinton. And I'm here to  
7 protect Greenbrier River. Our association has that as  
8 its policy. And so, we look at what Dominion has written  
9 and has reached approval for, as far as building is  
10 concerned. There is too many loopholes. Too many things  
11 that are not being spoken for.

12 So I will read off some specifics. The  
13 proposed best management and practices and mitigations  
14 measures are deficient and will result in impairment and  
15 degradation of water resources and aquatic habitats.  
16 Operation and sediment controls are inadequate to prevent  
17 permanent degradation of aquatic habitats and the  
18 receiving streams. No drainage areas have been  
19 delineated. That's a requirement. Can I ---?

20 Okay. Anyway. No drainage areas have  
21 been delineated to satisfy requirements specified in the  
22 West Virginia erosion and sediment control. And no  
23 speculation is based on peak discharge from the two year,  
24 storm have presented to satisfy requirements specified

1 in the West Virginia erosion and sediment control best  
2 practice. Best management and practice manual.

3           Anyway, and bioassays have not been  
4 conducted at the proposed stream properties or streams  
5 that will be impacted by construction activities.  
6 Therefore, there is no baseline data to determine the  
7 impacts of the proposed construction. If you don't have  
8 baseline data, then you can't say if something is being  
9 damaged or not. And that's my spiel from the Watershed  
10 Association.

11           I would also like to speak personally. I  
12 have lived in five states. And I have decided to stay  
13 here in West Virginia. And it's because of the mountains  
14 and because of the water. It is just downright gorgeous.  
15 And I don't mind jobs and I really think --- well, if we  
16 gets tax dollars, that's another issue. And jobs are  
17 another issue too. Those are presumptions. Even though  
18 those are good things, you have to take Dominion at face  
19 value.

20           It is putting in a pipeline. It is going  
21 to charge the receivers of gas more money for the  
22 pipeline, and they're going to take that gas and export  
23 it. So they are using your water, your environment, to  
24 export this gas out of Cove Point, Maryland, and put

1 money in their pockets.

2                   CHAIR: Next, Louise Barnisky. After  
3 Louise is Larry Cavallo. After Larry is Patrick Skeen.

4                   MS. BARNISKY: Good evening. I didn't  
5 know I would be speaking. But you know I'm an old ---  
6 I'm an old grandma. 84 years old. And I've lived in  
7 Pocahontas County for a long, long, long time. I want to  
8 tell you something. Pocahontas County is wasting away.  
9 We have nothing here. We've been promised and promised  
10 and promised things that will help protect us. I went  
11 through two floods and a fire. I wouldn't mind if  
12 Dominion come and build a line under my porch. And maybe  
13 he can help me out some.

14                   You know folks, our children are here  
15 without education. We have no schools that is up to date  
16 anymore. Everything is in problems. I was in the school  
17 system for 25 years and nine months. And I saw the good  
18 times and now I'm seeing the bad times. I have great  
19 grandchildren that are going to school and need help.  
20 Our schools --- they're telling us we're going to close  
21 our schools. They're going to do this, they're going to  
22 do that.

23                   You people that are coming here to West  
24 Virginia to live, you don't know what it's all about.

1 You're not old enough, a lot of you, to know what it's  
2 all about. You're coming here and trying to change our  
3 county. And I worked --- my husband worked at a fish  
4 hatchery for 25 years. We had plenty good water. They  
5 never come and checked the water wells, fish hatcheries  
6 and all of our water systems.

7 Folks, I tell you. We need some help in  
8 West Virginia, and for our younger people who have no  
9 jobs. I see my grandchildren, my great grand children  
10 have to go away and never come back. We need help. And  
11 we need it. And I feel like Dominion Power Company knows  
12 what they're doing. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIR: Larry Cavallo is next. After  
14 Larry is Patrick Skeen. And after Patrick, Tracey McLean  
15 put maybe. Does maybe mean yes or no?

16 AUDIENCE: They're both gone.

17 CHAIR: They're both gone? That's a no.  
18 Larry Cavallo. Patrick Skeen. And then after Patrick is  
19 Debbie Necter. Is that right?

20 MR. CAVALLO: Hello. My name is Larry  
21 Cavallo. I was born and raised in West Virginia, and  
22 currently live in Bridgeport, West Virginia. I'm a 32  
23 year veteran of the oil and gas industry, having worked  
24 30 years for exploration and production companies,

1 including Dominion. And the last few years, as an  
2 industry consultant. I have three degrees from West  
3 Virginia, with two of those being a Bachelor of Science  
4 in Geology and a Master's of Science in Geology. My  
5 Master's thesis dealt with subsurface mapping of the  
6 Mississippi and Greenbrier River systems in Southern West  
7 Virginia.

8 I had some time today, so I spent a  
9 little time driving around Pocahontas County today. And  
10 it really reminded me what a special place Pocahontas  
11 County and neighboring Greenbrier County is. It brought  
12 back memories when I was a geology student camping around  
13 with the mountains and valleys, with my backpack, my rock  
14 handler, my compass, and a paper map. It brought back  
15 memories from when I was much younger and deer hunting up  
16 the road on property adjacent to the observatory. That's  
17 where I killed my first deer.

18 So today was very helpful to me. And it  
19 inspired me to kind of drop my four page text that I was  
20 going to read to you. And just speak to you for a few  
21 moments. So I'll say that in my opinion, I think it's  
22 important that we, as an intelligent society, balance  
23 economic development with environmental protection. To  
24 that end, I've spent a great deal of time reading all



1 these technical documents that Dominion has put out,  
2 regarding the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

3           They've done a wonderful job assessing the  
4 entire corridor. They've mapped and identified all the  
5 karst features that are near the pipeline. They've  
6 identified steep slopes. And they've identified all the  
7 wetlands. They have done a wonderful job rerouting  
8 around these features wherever they could. And they've  
9 engineered their plans to minimize impact, where they  
10 could not reroute.

11           I mentioned earlier, I am a former  
12 Dominion employee. And as such, I got to see firsthand  
13 every day how important safety and environmental  
14 stewardship is to a company like Dominion. I really  
15 believe Dominion is the right company to build this  
16 pipeline. And I trust the DEP and other regulatory  
17 agencies to make the right decisions on all these  
18 permits. And I trust these regulatory agencies to hold  
19 Dominion --- the Dominions of the world to very high  
20 environmental protection standards.

21           So, and you can probably tell, I support  
22 the building of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The West  
23 Virginia economy needs it. The oil and gas industry  
24 needs it. Our country needs it. And I believe I'm

1 uniquely qualified as a geologist, a former Dominion  
2 employee, and oil and gas professional, and someone who  
3 has a special feeling for Pocahontas County, to say  
4 Dominion has a good account to balance the development of  
5 the pipeline and protect the environment. Thank you.

6 CHAIR: Patrick Skeen is up next.

7 Patrick?

8 AUDIENCE: He's not here.

9 CHAIR: Not here?

10 AUDIENCE: No.

11 CHAIR: Okay. Did I mention Annie Barb  
12 also puts maybe on the comment? Annie? Are you here?  
13 Okay. Debbie is next. After Debbie is Robin  
14 Mutscheller. Mutscheller? And then after Robin is Lucia  
15 Mosesso. Is that right? Lucia? Close enough. Are you  
16 here? Okay.

17 MS. NECTER: Hi. My name is Debbie. And  
18 I agree with the gentleman who said that the best thing  
19 we've got going is clean water. I don't agree that as  
20 much job revenue is going to be created. And I think  
21 there are safer ways that this state can do so. I too  
22 have a statement written out. And I may use most of it.

23 But I tend to get emotional. Because I  
24 don't intend to remain positive while our most precious

1 resource is abused. And the statement clearly says it  
2 does not have all the information required. It does not  
3 have all the bases covered. And until they do, this  
4 should not be allowed. I might be naive, but I've always  
5 believed that the Department of Environmental Protection  
6 is here to protect the natural resources for all of us.

7           There's nothing typical about any of this.  
8 Every demonstration that we have up here uses the word  
9 typical. There's nothing typical about the topography of  
10 this state. And the word mitigate has no assurances for  
11 me. That too is a word they like to use a lot. There's  
12 no guarantees with the word mitigate. There is something  
13 wrong with a system that has the single goal of turning  
14 natural resources into capital, regardless of the loss  
15 for humans and the environment on which we all depend.

16           The resource extracted sector globally is  
17 the most corrupt sector on the earth. It starts with  
18 greed, and it ends up with dried hopes. The bottom line,  
19 convenience and necessity in this matter would be a lie.  
20 It does not apply. We all know this gas is destined for  
21 export.

22           What is the Department of Environmental  
23 Protection's responsibility to us, to all of us? Your  
24 children included. I hope that you do the right thing

1 and save our water and our land and our rural way of  
2 life. Say no to these pipelines and the associated  
3 infrastructure. Thank you.

4 CHAIR: Okay. Robin is up next. And then  
5 Lucia. And then after Lucia is Cathy Mosesso. No.  
6 Cathy? After Lucia is Paul McCormick.

7 MS. MUTSCHELLER: Hi. I am Robin  
8 Mutscheller. I am a current Dominion employee. I am a  
9 native of Marlinton and a long-time resident of  
10 Marlinton. The opinion I'm about to give, the statement,  
11 is of my own. I think that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline  
12 is a vitally important infrastructure project. I believe  
13 our region's public utilities need the additional supply  
14 of natural gas to meet the growing energy needs, in order  
15 to keep the lights on.

16 In my 30 years of experience with  
17 Dominion, I have seen firsthand the high standards of  
18 safety and environmental stewardship and environmental  
19 protection standards that Dominion has to protect the  
20 environment, the employees, and the communities for which  
21 they serve. I believe that it is important for this  
22 project to move forward. And I think the pipeline will  
23 be constructed safely, with no negative environmental  
24 impact.

1 I'm in the trenches every day. And I see  
2 what Dominion does. And I'm here in support of the  
3 pipeline project. Thank you.

4 CHAIR: Lucia is up next. Then Paul  
5 McCormick. And after Paul is Greg Rich.

6 MS. MOSESSO: Hello. My name is Lucia  
7 Mosesso. And I was raised in Pocahontas County. I've  
8 spent the past ten years in Pennsylvania and Morgantown,  
9 West Virginia. I recently had the privilege to move my  
10 family home in the area. After living the harsh  
11 realities of the coal and oil and gas industry from  
12 personally witnessing the permanently contaminated  
13 waters, I can confidently say that any impacts, no matter  
14 how small, to our finite resource of clean water is not  
15 worth the risk.

16 The jobs created here are not for our  
17 home, not for our children. And the negative impact will  
18 not allow our children to move home, rather force them to  
19 find farms and lives far from here. Where access to  
20 treated piped water will exist. I am here to ask the DEP  
21 to do their job, to acknowledge the incompleteness of the  
22 park statement and to deny the 401 water certification.

23 CHAIR: Up next, Paul McCormick. After  
24 Paul is Greg Rich. After Greg is Lisa Rich.

1                   MR. MCCORMICK: Good evening. I'm Paul  
2 McCormick with the Pipeline Department of the  
3 International Union of Operating Engineers. And I am  
4 here to support the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. We're  
5 seeking a favorable decision on the project, and part of  
6 the process is looking at procedures that Dominion has  
7 put in the permit application. The 401 certificate in  
8 West Virginia looks at all of these also.

9                   In three minutes, I can't cover all but I  
10 will mention some of the devices and control measures  
11 that will be used in the pipeline --- that are used in  
12 the pipeline industry that on this project, they will be  
13 followed strictly to protect the environment and the  
14 water quality in the State of West Virginia. Some of  
15 these are silt tests, water bars, sub holes, rock  
16 settlement rollers, lift hay bails, ATV horizontal  
17 directional drilling on this project. Some of these are  
18 protections for coal restoration at the end of the  
19 project with the entire right away. Seeding and  
20 mulching. The grass and clover for the wildlife after  
21 the pipes are installed. Constant monitoring during and  
22 after construction by environmental inspections.

23                   Dominion is selected four of the highest  
24 caliber companies to construct this project. And the

1 International Union of Operating Engineers has the most  
2 highly skilled, safety trained equipment operators with  
3 many of them here in West Virginia, Virginia, and North  
4 Carolina. The International Union of Operating Engineers  
5 asks after reviewing comments at the meetings to please  
6 approve the 401 certificate for this project. Thank you.

7 CHAIR: Greg Rich up now. After Greg is  
8 Lisa Rich. And after Lisa Rich is John --- the last name  
9 is spelled L-E-Y-Z-O-R-E-K. Leyzorek.

10 MR. RICH: I'm not here to encourage or  
11 discourage anyone. I am from North Carolina. I moved to  
12 Pocahontas County a little over five years. But I've  
13 worked for Piedmont Natural Gas for 32 years, and I  
14 retired. And I know very little about the meeting and  
15 whatever, but I would like to reiterate what this guy  
16 said. I was an inspector on the pipeline. I installed  
17 thousands of services, miles and miles of distribution  
18 and transmission line.

19 And these people are bound and bonded and  
20 ensured to put back the way they found it. It'll have to  
21 be in good shape when they leave it. Believe me. And if  
22 it's not, then the inspectors and the environmental  
23 people is not going to let them get by without starting  
24 something and not fix it. And, but like I said, I'm not

1 here to encourage or discourage anyone. And whether the  
2 gas line comes through or not, I don't care.

3                   But there's a lot of misconception about  
4 it. A lot of things that have been said is not true.  
5 And I'd just like the truth to get out there, and the  
6 results of this pipeline and what it's going to do for  
7 the people on the East Coast. I know nothing about  
8 shipping gas overseas or whatever. I don't know. But I  
9 do know the impact it'll have on the East Coast, and  
10 between here and the East Coast. And I know I don't want  
11 to see how our streams get destroyed or whatever. But,  
12 like I said, these people are going to have to fix it.  
13 And believe me, there's ways of fixing a mistake. This  
14 just means they have to do it right. Thank you.

15                   CHAIR: Lisa Rich. After Lisa is John.  
16 And John is Charles Sheets.

17                   MS. RICH: He's my husband. And we don't  
18 agree with a lot of this. Because he's a gas man, and  
19 I'm not. I'm born and raised in West Virginia. Spent  
20 summers in Pocahontas County all through the '60s. Lived  
21 in Kanawha County. And if any of you are familiar with  
22 Kanawha County, and the Kanawha River, I grew up just not  
23 very far from the river. We hiked over to it all the  
24 time. I can still remember seeing union carbide plants



1 and other large physical plants dumping their waste into  
2 the Kanawha River. Which to this day is --- you don't  
3 get into the Kanawha River.

4                   We live not very far from Putnam County.  
5 I had an aunt that lived on a little road called Manila  
6 Creek. And at Manila Creek in the '50s and early '60s,  
7 they were able to strip mine. All up and down the  
8 hillsides out there. That was back 50 years ago. And in  
9 my aunt's creek, Manila Creek, that runs through that  
10 property --- now my aunt is gone. But that runs down  
11 this area, the stream, the rocks, the dirt. Everything  
12 was stained. A faint orangey, yellowy color. And to  
13 this day, downstream from the strip mines, there's no  
14 life in the creek at all. There's no crawdads, there's  
15 nothing. There's nothing.

16                   And in the '60s, they were started ---  
17 starting to be made by --- I don't know who, by DEP or  
18 somebody, was making the miners repair what they had  
19 done. Well, they went out along the hillsides and they  
20 planted trees and they planted grass. But, 50 years ago,  
21 and 50 years later, the stream still has no wildlife in  
22 it. I grew up in the summers here in Pocahontas County,  
23 out on Beaver Creek, Necks Creek. I still have family  
24 that has property out there.

1                   And when we moved back here, about five  
2 and a half years ago, one of the things I wanted my  
3 daughter to experience was the pristine cleanliness of  
4 the waters here. And the mountains. The --- I've lived  
5 a lot of places in the United States. And there's  
6 nowhere like this. How clean this still is. And I know  
7 that gas companies have ways to bore underwater. To bore  
8 under rivers. And they can bore under streams.

9                   And they say they can do it safely, yeah,  
10 I think in some cases they can. But it's just that one  
11 little accident that could happen that could destroy the  
12 water forever. Because I've seen that with my own eyes,  
13 in Putnam County and Kanawha County. I've seen it all  
14 over in other places in the state. And I just don't want  
15 to see that happening here. I like what he had to say  
16 about how natural gas would close down a lot of coal  
17 mines. From the coal burning places. Or at least  
18 transfer them over to cleaner burning. I like that idea.

19                   But I'm just not so sure that it's, you  
20 know, at the cost of this county. And by the way, this  
21 pipeline will not bring jobs to Pocahontas County.  
22 Contractors will come in and work. They don't hire local  
23 people to put in pipelines. And they don't hire local  
24 people who respect the pipelines once they're in. The

1 people that are contractors come in from somewhere else.  
2 So just keep that in mind when you're thinking about  
3 jobs. Because it's not going to be jobs for here.

4 CHAIR: John Leyzork. After John is  
5 Charles Sheets. After Charles Sheets is Hallie Herold.  
6 Hallie? Yes?

7 MR. LEYZORK: Thank you. I'm John  
8 Leyzork. Comments very briefly on two levels. First  
9 level is, the 35,000 foot level. And that is tonight's  
10 question for the DEP would like to become accessors to  
11 fraud. Where this pipeline is being promoted and defined  
12 on the basis of least environmental flaws that is  
13 necessary, it's not necessary. There's existing pipeline  
14 infrastructure that will do what this pipeline is  
15 proposed to do, in terms of transporting gas. The  
16 problem for somebody else, not Dominion, but there's no  
17 need for this pipeline to transport gas.

18 The second virtual element is kind of  
19 interesting, because some pathological liars, they lie  
20 even when it does not serve their interest, even when  
21 it's transparently obvious that they're lying. Dominion  
22 has admitted in several hearings that the gas flowing  
23 through the pipeline does not belong to them. They are  
24 selling transport. So they are making money while the

1 gas used for --- a gentlemen up here said that it would  
2 be used to surplus the coal fire generation, but nobody  
3 including Dominion can actually make this claim, because  
4 nobody knows.

5                   The gas belongs to somebody else. The  
6 owner of the gas well decides where it goes is based on  
7 economics. Global economics, these people have pointed  
8 out, will essentially guarantee that this gas will be  
9 exported. This pipeline and proposed construction will  
10 have a junction with an existing pipeline in Virginia. I  
11 think somebody had mentioned ---. So the connection will  
12 exist. Global economics will determine --- because the  
13 owners of the gas well in relation to the stock holders  
14 will determine where it will go. They will not be  
15 shutting down coal-fired power plants in this country,  
16 and will not be used in West Virginia, North Carolina.  
17 That's just an economic fact.

18                   So now we get down to the low level, which  
19 are the concerns that the State DEP has a legal  
20 obligation to consider. This pipeline, as everybody  
21 knows, is proposed to cut through some extremely steep  
22 slopes. I think I see, by the way, that pipelines have  
23 not been designed to go up and down slopes of the  
24 steepest in the proposed routes. No engineer controls

1 have been proposed for dealing with the problems of  
2 erosion, landslides, and run off from slopes of this  
3 degree and steepness.

4           Also, some of the pipelines will need ---  
5 currently selected, which could be constantly expected to  
6 mitigate or reverse possible damage to water flows. So,  
7 we have fraud that the DEP may not want to become an  
8 accessory to. And we have no way of evaluating whether  
9 construction will be effective in the industry, and  
10 therefore, the 401 permit should be denied. Thank you  
11 very much.

12           CHAIR: Charles Sheets. Charles here?

13           MR. SHEETS: Can I defer to later if I  
14 choose to?

15           CHAIR: Hallie Herold. After Herold, Mike  
16 Frazier, with an X in the comment box. Does that mean  
17 yes or no?

18           MR. FRAZIER: Yes.

19           CHAIR: Yes? And then Sharon Frazier also  
20 has a yes.

21           MS. HEROLD: Hi. I'm Hallie Herold. I'm  
22 just going to wing it, so you have to bear with me here.  
23 I am from Pocahontas County. I live a couple miles away  
24 from the 92 crossing of the proposed Atlantic Coast

1 Pipeline. I just wanted to talk a little bit about what  
2 Amy Scott talked about. I'm very concerned for my  
3 personal drinking water, as Dominion has not done an  
4 aquifer study, to assess how the groundwater systems are  
5 affected. And thus, if our personal well would be sucked  
6 dry or contaminated, we would be promised no clean water.  
7 We would be left high and dry.

8 I also would like to talk a little bit  
9 about something I've been waiting to hear, and I'm  
10 surprised I haven't heard it yet, but Pocahontas County  
11 is the birthplace of rivers. We are home to the  
12 headwaters for 80 rivers, which I would love to protect  
13 our rivers, just for the sake of protecting clean water,  
14 but we all know everything comes down to money.

15 So, I'd like to tie it into our economy a  
16 little bit. Everybody is talking about jobs. And I  
17 don't want to be selfish, but Pocahontas County will see  
18 zero jobs. And I think that's important that the  
19 residents here understand that. But, one thing that does  
20 create jobs for Pocahontas County is our tourist  
21 industry. More than five jobs is created by the tourism  
22 industry, and our tourism industry relies directly upon  
23 our clean water, our mountains, and our untouched beauty.

24 So, it just seems silly to me to let this

1 project come in and tear up our environment, potentially  
2 destroy one of our flourished economies in the county for  
3 maybe some --- I've heard six months --- or eight weeks.  
4 I'm not sure what the exact time is for construction of  
5 the pipeline for Pocahontas County, but zero permanent  
6 jobs. And I just don't think it's worth risking  
7 basically everything that we have for some ditch digging  
8 and fence building. I'll leave it there.

9                    CHAIR: Mike Frazier. After Mike, Sharon  
10 Frazier. And then Jacob Mack. Is that right? Yes.

11                    MR. FRAZIER: I'm Mike Frazier. I'm from  
12 Huntington. My wife and I have a cabin over in Seneca  
13 Farms. And the reason we came over here --- we're both  
14 lifelong West Virginians --- is because of the beauty of  
15 this area. The streams, for water, for fishing. And  
16 what I ask the DEP is why are we risking this? What are  
17 we gaining as West Virginians, as Pocahontas people?  
18 Nothing. As they pointed out, there are no jobs, zero  
19 jobs in Pocahontas County. There are very few permanent  
20 West Virginia jobs. I think I saw 17.

21                    This --- make no mistake, this is about  
22 money. Okay. Dominion is taking this --- whoever is  
23 buying this gas. It's all about money. And they're  
24 taking it out of West Virginia. And for too long, West

1 Virginia has allowed this to happen. We've got the coal  
2 industry. And now we've got the natural gas. They're  
3 taking our natural gas, and they're going to export it.  
4 We're not going to get anything out of this. No jobs.  
5 Minimal tax increases. And the risk is just ridiculous,  
6 if you think about it.

7                   We --- our cabin is on a well. Okay. And  
8 we share that well with seven other families. And that  
9 well is inside of a cave. And I would be willing to bet  
10 that Dominion has not done any kind of a chart to see  
11 what happens. You know there's going to be a negative  
12 effect. They can't possibly do this and not have  
13 sedimentation that's going to have a negative impact.  
14 When they say they're going to mitigate it, I hope they  
15 can. But, who knows what's going to happen when they hit  
16 this limestone cave and our well is connected to one that  
17 is two miles downstream. There's no way to know.

18                   And I'm sure Dominion doesn't intend to  
19 ruin our water. No gas company has ever, I'm sure,  
20 presented something like this and said, you know, we're  
21 not going to go out there and do a great job. Surely  
22 they intend to do a great job. But, I don't know why the  
23 Environmental Protection Agency would allow this sort of  
24 crapshoot. They're guessing. I mean, their own studies



1 say we think we can mitigate the damage and make it  
2 acceptable.

3                   One of the gentleman earlier said, well,  
4 you know, wherever they can't move the pipeline, they're  
5 taking steps. They can move the pipeline. They can move  
6 it. They've chosen not to, because they want to go for  
7 the easiest and cheapest area. And if it was, you know,  
8 if those were their interests, you'd guarantee that  
9 they'd be moving it.

10                   So, they're willing to risk this beautiful  
11 area that we have, the fresh water, the beautiful vistas.  
12 I don't want to look out and see a 42 inch pipeline. I  
13 want to look out and see the beautiful trees. That's why  
14 I'm here. Pocahontas may not have a lot of manufacturing  
15 jobs, but it's got natural beauty. Thank you.

16                   CHAIR: Sharon Frazier. After Sharon,  
17 Jacob Mack. After Jacob is Angie Rosser.

18                   MS. FRAZIER: I'm Mike's wife. I also  
19 live in Huntington. I've lived in West Virginia all my  
20 life. And as a young person, I would come over here ---  
21 I'm kind of emotional about this. This is a long dream,  
22 we had to go over here to finally buy a cabin over here.  
23 We still live in Huntington, but we come here as much as  
24 we can. As my husband said, we're on a well. We're

1 about 1,000 feet from the pipeline. Between that  
2 pipeline and our cabin are huge sinkholes, caves.  
3 They're all through over there. And like he said, our  
4 well goes deep, deep down into a cave that's linked into  
5 other caves all through there.

6 I'm sure every pipeline company uses best  
7 practices, and nobody intends to cause problems. But, if  
8 there's a problem, I don't see where you can mitigate it  
9 in a situation like that. Seven cabins are out in this  
10 well. Two are full time residents. People who moved  
11 away from here, came back here, in their retirement, and  
12 live full time. The rest of us are from West Virginia,  
13 Maryland, who all really value the water and the beauty  
14 of this place. If we lose our well, you may as well take  
15 our houses and shove them over the hill. You can't live  
16 there --- they can't live there full time. We can't come  
17 here anymore.

18 Now, environmental protection --- they're  
19 kind of our heroes here. They're here for us. We cannot  
20 get up and stop this. We can't get out, I guess, of  
21 these big corporations. That's what you're here for, is  
22 to look out for us. To look out for our environment.  
23 This environment is shared by all of us. Everybody in  
24 this room and everybody to come in the future. It's not

1 just us. It's our children and our grandchildren. And  
2 we're looking to you to be our heroes.

3                   And everybody talks about your extraction  
4 industry here. We're an energy state. But this is the  
5 last great place, the last beautiful place, I truly  
6 believe. And that's what Pocahontas County has. And we  
7 need to look to the environmental protection agency to do  
8 their job, and to actually protect the environment. I  
9 trust you all to do that for us. We can't do that.  
10 That's your mission.

11                   And I didn't think we were going to talk  
12 about the economies here, but I will just briefly say,  
13 everything I've read about this pipeline talks about  
14 spurring growth in North Carolina and Virginia. And  
15 every --- anything I've heard here about where do I make  
16 some money or condo owners being told you'll be able to  
17 rent your condos out for the out of town people who would  
18 be coming in to work on this pipeline, and then they'll  
19 be moving on.

20                   And I can't help but notice that the  
21 governor of North Carolina just announced he doesn't want  
22 any offshore drilling off North Carolina, because it  
23 could affect their water, it could affect their tourism,  
24 it could affect their environment. But they're more than

1 happy to affect ours to no benefit, I'm certain, relative  
2 to what they're going to take. They're going to take and  
3 take. They're going to have their economic boom, and  
4 keep their water and environment clean, while we're being  
5 asked to compromise ours, and take great risk.

6                   And I'll just add, I picked this up today  
7 at the store. In Pocahontas, what to do, and what the  
8 economy, what this area is about, it's all about water.  
9 If you look at it, everything on here is about the  
10 Greenbrier River, fly fishing, restaurants operating  
11 along the water streams. So, with that, I am an  
12 outsider, but we came here by choice. And we're  
13 surrounded by other people who are just envious that we  
14 get to live here. And we hope that the Environmental  
15 Protection Agency will do that and protect the  
16 environment.

17                   CHAIR: Jacob Mack. After Jacob is Angie  
18 Rosser. After Angie is Autumn Crowe.

19                   MR. MACK: Good evening. I'm Jacob Mack.  
20 And I'm from Green Bank. I just wanted to speak  
21 specifically to three things. First the DEP, secondly  
22 the jobs, and thirdly to my experience with Dominion. I  
23 firmly believe that I can only speak for the things that  
24 I've attested to, and those are the things that I work to

1 do each day.

2                   So, basically in regards to the DEP, I  
3 have two things. We do construction and trucking. And  
4 two of the things that we do on the trucking side of  
5 things is liquid and solid waste. That's the polite way  
6 to say it. We have a number of permits that we have with  
7 the West Virginia DEP. I'm very familiar with those  
8 folks. And I've worked with those folks on sometimes a  
9 weekly basis. I have found the DEP to be extremely  
10 vigilant. I've also found them to be fair.

11                   And the second thing I would like to speak  
12 to is jobs. Currently, we employ over 20 people out of  
13 Green Bank and the surrounding community. And we intend  
14 to use the work that's generated from the Atlantic Coast  
15 Pipeline to put at least 10 to 20 more permanent jobs on  
16 at our facility.

17                   In regards to the Dominion facility,  
18 working with Dominion. We are a vender for Dominion. We  
19 provide liquids, solid waste services to Dominion. And  
20 we've done that since approximately 2008. We've gone on  
21 Dominion property, sometimes every day of the week.  
22 Dominion is very stringent when it comes to two things,  
23 safety and environmental issues. I got a phone call from  
24 their head man at one facility that we serviced just

1 recently.

2                   And he said we have a new policy we want  
3 to make sure that you are aware of. It's probably an old  
4 policy, but we still want to make sure you're aware of  
5 this, because you are a vender to our facility. You're  
6 providing us with liquid and solid waste services, and we  
7 ask that your trucks and drivers stop at the gate, before  
8 entering the gate, do a quick walk around that truck, and  
9 ensure that there are no liquids, fuel, hydraulic fluid,  
10 or anything of that nature, dripping off of that truck.  
11 If you notice anything when you're walking around, you  
12 are not permitted onto Dominion's facility.

13                   Let me tell you something, folks. We need  
14 a pipeline. This pipeline needs to be built. Dominion  
15 is the folks that we want building this pipeline. Thank  
16 you.

17                   CHAIR: Up next, Angie Rosser. After  
18 Angie is Autumn Crowe. After Autumn is Eddie Fletcher.

19                   MS. ROSSER: My name is Angie Rosser with  
20 the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. We work to protect  
21 watersheds throughout the state, but I can tell you  
22 without any reservation that this is one of the most  
23 special and unique watersheds in our state. Indeed, it  
24 is the birthplace of rivers. We contend that the DEP

1 cannot certify this 401 application based on its  
2 incomplete nature that --- we're talking about 400 stream  
3 crossings in the length of this project in West Virginia  
4 alone.

5 I'd like just to mention three cautionary  
6 tales that tell us that pipeline projects degrade water  
7 quality. The first would be --- and these are just in  
8 the last two, three years. And the first being the G-150  
9 project that was headed up by Dominion Resources. That  
10 had 13 violations in that project, the Stonewall  
11 Gathering line, 53 violations and most recently, the  
12 Rover pipeline had so many violations they had to  
13 temporarily shut the project down, because of the impact  
14 it was having on streams and water quality.

15 So, what we're asking the DEP to do is to  
16 make sure this application is complete, to insist on the  
17 lacking information and if they are certain that this  
18 does not cause a problem of water quality --- that they  
19 bolster that certainty by making sure that --- every  
20 condition possible can be put on these stream crossings  
21 that we're talking about the some of the most  
22 ecologically significant to the headwater streams in our  
23 state.

24 And I'm very concerned and skeptical if

1 the agency is going to be able to handle not only this  
2 major project, but two to three other major pipeline  
3 projects happening in our state, potentially being  
4 constructed at the same time to be able to be on the  
5 ground and enforcing potential violations. So, I urge  
6 the agency to seriously consider one of those conditions  
7 being that the company pays for an inspector to be on  
8 site when construction is happening, that that inspector  
9 be accountable to the state. Because, as asked earlier,  
10 we need to make sure that there is someone with their eye  
11 on this project, because of how much is at stake.

12 And we've spent the day looking at what is  
13 at stake. We went to Valley Fork, Falling Spring, Dry  
14 Branch, Big Springs around the Elk Head Waters, Clover  
15 Creek, home of the most beautiful valley I've ever laid  
16 eyes on. And the Greenbrier River crossing. And just  
17 the heaviness of my heart knowing that if this project  
18 goes forward, these places will not be the same. So,  
19 thank you to the DEP for giving this consideration and  
20 understanding the gravity of your responsibilities here.

21 CHAIR: Autumn Crowe. Next, after Autumn  
22 is Eddie Fletcher. After Eddie is Traci Hickson.

23 MS. CROWE: Good evening. I'm Autumn  
24 Crowe. I'm an environmental scientist and program



1 director for the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. I also  
2 grew up fishing and swimming in Greenbrier River. And  
3 I'm deeply concerned about the impact this pipeline will  
4 have on our rivers and streams.

5           This area is known as the birthplace of  
6 rivers, because eight rivers originate in Pocahontas  
7 County. People come from all over to visit this area,  
8 for boating, fishing, recreational opportunities that  
9 these rivers provide. The rivers and streams in this  
10 area are the life blood of this region's economy, as  
11 you've heard. So, it's important for us to protect the  
12 uniqueness of this area, because the Atlantic Coast  
13 Pipeline puts these pristine head waters in jeopardy.

14           The 401 application for this project was  
15 submitted two years ago in 2015. This company had two  
16 years to get the application right, but it's still  
17 fundamentally flawed. It's missing critical information.

18           The information that's in it is inconsistent. And the  
19 language used in it downplays the impact, giving it a  
20 general tone of arrogance. The ACP wants us to just take  
21 their word that they will be able to do the construction  
22 without harming our water resources.

23           And yet, as we've heard, they have a  
24 horrible track record from this company's pipeline

1 construction. They impacted --- under Dominion's G-150  
2 project, they impacted 20 streams. And really, all the  
3 pipeline construction in this region has had a  
4 devastating impact to rivers and streams. With all those  
5 recent impacts, it's so imperative that we hold this  
6 pipeline accountable to the environmental laws, and  
7 specifically the Clean Water Acts.

8                   We looked at a lot of places today that  
9 have sensitive resources. And these areas are in  
10 desperate need of more protections. This region is  
11 dominated by steep slopes, and highly erodible soils.  
12 It's filled with subterranean streams. And it has some  
13 of the best trout streams in the country, if not the  
14 world. And these high quality streams and springs are  
15 also drinking water sources to several communities around  
16 here, and many private residences.

17                   DEP must require that ACP submit site  
18 specific construction plans when crossing these sensitive  
19 resources. They've only submitted two site specific  
20 plans for two water body crossings. And that's the  
21 minimum required of them. So, they are not going above  
22 and beyond. In their application, they state that they  
23 will be using straw bale for erosion control, and rip-rap  
24 for stream bank stabilization. These techniques are

1 ineffective. And they're not practical for erosion  
2 control and bank stabilization.

3           DEP must require them to revise these  
4 sections of their application before issuing a permit.  
5 ACP has yet to submit a complete karst mitigation plan.  
6 And until they do, their application should be deemed  
7 incomplete. Currently, ACP plans to conduct blasting in  
8 Brig Springs Fork when they dig a huge trench to cross  
9 the stream that currently supports thriving populations  
10 of wild rainbow and brown trout.

11           The whole area is karst topography. DEP  
12 should not allow blasting in trout streams or karst  
13 terrain. It's too damaging to the sensitive resources to  
14 be done safely and responsibly. The construction is  
15 going to impact tier three, high quality streams, our  
16 most pristine streams left in this state. Before this  
17 permit is issued, DEP must adhere to the requirements of  
18 the Clean Water Act, and conduct an anti-degradation  
19 review to ensure that the water quality of these pristine  
20 streams will not be degraded by the construction of this  
21 project.

22           CHAIR: Ms. Crowe.

23           MS. CROWE: Yes. One more thing. This  
24 mitigation plan is incomplete for this project. ACP

1 wants to use a mitigation bank while will buy credits  
2 based on the amount of permanent impacts that will occur.  
3 However, they have not completed their evaluation metrics  
4 to calculate the amount of mitigation that we needed for  
5 such a long list of impacts. Those mitigation banks are  
6 not always located in the same watershed, where they ---  
7 the impact will occur. And we request that the  
8 mitigation be within the watershed.

9 DEP cannot certify this project, and be  
10 able to meet the safe water quality standards and  
11 maintain the streams' designated uses. Because of all  
12 the deficiencies in their application, we request DEP to  
13 deem this application incomplete until adequate  
14 information is submitted. If ACP cannot supply the  
15 information necessary for DEP to ensure that the project  
16 will not result in conditions not allowable in water is  
17 at stake, then the permit should be denied.

18 CHAIR: Eddie Fletcher. And Traci  
19 Hickson. After Traci is Bill Price.

20 MR. FLETCHER: Good evening. My name is  
21 Eddie Fletcher. I'm a lifetime native of this area.  
22 I've spent my whole life here. And basically the main  
23 thing I want to say is the people that are here for money  
24 and representing corporations, I just really feel sorry

1 for you. You don't get it. I truly feel sorry for you  
2 that you don't feel the love that I do for this land and  
3 what it gives back to me.

4           Like I said, I'm a life time West  
5 Virginian. When I turned 18, I also, you know, got in a  
6 car and went to D.C., and I got a job. And all I had to  
7 do was say I was from West Virginia. They knew I was a  
8 worker. They'd give you a job. I did some things I'm  
9 not proud of. I did some jobs I'm not proud of.

10           But I became my own man. And now, as I  
11 reflect back on it, one thing I am proud of is that I  
12 never put the orange shirt on and came out to a community  
13 and tell them what they should do with their community.  
14 One thing I would like to say too, a gentleman earlier  
15 talked about God given resources. I don't know if God  
16 spoke to him particularly and said he'd given them to him  
17 or not, but I just wanted to make a comment on that. And  
18 the gentleman in the orange shirt said he represents the  
19 DEP, in the statement I think he got confused, because if  
20 he really does and we listened when you said that. I'm  
21 really scared.

22           And there was a geologist here that said  
23 --- he identified all the parks. He said he works for  
24 Dominion to get all his degrees and whatnot. Because

1 Greenbrier County and Pocahontas County has more miles of  
2 mapped forest than any other two counties in the United  
3 States of America. And the experts say that probably  
4 only a fourth of it has been discovered. So, come on,  
5 man. Your job is as a geologist, you've got all those  
6 degrees, you're telling Dominion has identified all the  
7 karst. I don't buy it.

8                   So, you know, I don't know what else to  
9 say. They say they're going to put it back right and do  
10 it right. And you know, come on, let's look at history,  
11 man. DEP, look at your history. Look at ours. You  
12 know, we're here together. There's nothing else to say.

13       You know, it's a sad thing. It's history repeating  
14 itself. That's all I have to say.

15                   CHAIR: Traci Hickson.

16                   MR. DOETHER: I would like to speak, but I  
17 forgot to check the box.

18                   CHAIR: You also wish to speak, Traci?

19                   MS. HICKSON: Yes.

20                   MR. DOETHER: I've lived in Pocahontas  
21 County a little more than 50 years now. And my training  
22 is in geology. And I spent --- or I just spent much of  
23 my time ---. Unfortunately, or fortunately, I spent a  
24 lot of time under the karst in those caves. I just

1 wanted to bring up one instance about how hazardous and  
2 unpredictable it is to do things in karst. If you look  
3 at a topographic map, there's streams that are headed  
4 north to the Tygris and Elk River. And these particular  
5 waters joined, if that's how it's going, if that's  
6 underground, and it --- it goes under the mountain to the  
7 south, ends up under Dry Branch goes down and joins the  
8 Elk Rivers drainage, and comes out at Elk Springs.

9 In this case, we know a little bit about  
10 it. But, as a previous speaker said, there's probably at  
11 least three quarters of this we don't know anything  
12 about. How in the world they're going to be able to  
13 predict what happens to whose well or what stream during  
14 any kind of heavy construction in karst. It beats me.  
15 But, I think it's a terrible challenge. I feel sorry for  
16 them trying to figure it out, but I don't really feel  
17 confident they can. Thank you.

18 CHAIR: Traci, you're up. After Traci is  
19 Bill Price. After Bill Price, someone signed up, and I  
20 cannot read their name. Anybody is welcome to come down  
21 and tell me what their name is. The last name that I  
22 have to sign up is Rebecca O'Brien. So, if you signed in  
23 about the time that Rebecca did, I think the first letter  
24 is an H. So, that would be the first name is H. I'm

1 guessing there.

2                   MS. HICKSON: My name is Traci Hickson.  
3 I grew up in Cadow along the Greenbrier River. I've been  
4 in love with the rivers and creeks and streams of West  
5 Virginia as long as I can remember. And I'm here tonight  
6 to talk about water quality and the value that we place  
7 on water quality. When I was about eight years old, my  
8 dad said, Traci, feel free to drink all the water you  
9 want. It's the only thing in this world that's for free.  
10 If that were only true.

11                   We all know how much time and money and  
12 commitment it takes to protect West Virginia's water  
13 quality. And that's why we need a West Virginia DEP.  
14 That's why as tax payers, we pay for a West Virginia DEP,  
15 that has the duty to protect our water quality. These  
16 pipeline companies are treating our waters and streams  
17 here as if they are free for the taking. Asking the DEP  
18 to permit --- for a blanket permit for impacts on 740  
19 water bodies, including 98 perennial streams.

20                   And you know, it's a cumulative. It just  
21 starts adding up. With 19 pipelines proposed in the  
22 Appalachian basin alone. We know that Rover has already  
23 made a mess. We know Amherst east up in Pennsylvania had  
24 some big problems. So, what's our quality water worth



1 here in our state worth a lot more than a few temporary  
2 jobs. And the DEP kind of has a value already.

3                   Here in Pocahontas County, our Pocahontas  
4 County service district, invested \$26 million and more --  
5 - I think the price goes up just about every week ---  
6 putting in a state of the art sewage treatment system to  
7 protect the water quality of Cut Run, one of the streams  
8 going into the Elk River watershed. \$26 million that  
9 rent payers are paying, tax payers are paying. And yet  
10 here is the ACP coming in, giving us a blanket permit for  
11 all these water quality impacts.

12                   I know Dominion has put a lot of time and  
13 money and people and produced a lot of plans for  
14 preventing soil erosion and landslides on the steep  
15 slopes that run through our stream. But, we all know  
16 that what goes on paper doesn't match reality. Doesn't  
17 always match reality. And we all know that a lot of  
18 contractors --- and it's really rare to find a contractor  
19 that you can trust, who is going to be out there at our  
20 streams and creeks and on the steep slopes, blasting  
21 away. It'd be interesting to know if anyone has ever met  
22 a contractor who can really be trusted.

23                   And I'm going to be submitting some  
24 extensive comments. I'm very concerned about invasive

1 species spreading along the route. I think anyone who  
2 cares about the deer or deer habitat in the state should  
3 be concerned, with the spread of things like chronic  
4 wasting disease among our deer population. Japanese  
5 stiltgrass, Japanese knotweed. There's just no way ---  
6 you know, if you look at their invasive species  
7 management plan, there's no signs of anybody cleaning the  
8 mud off their boots. Invasive species haven't even been  
9 surveyed for the access roads.

10                   You know, in terms of the long term  
11 permanent and cumulative impact in terms of water, I  
12 think we really ought to be concerned about what's going  
13 to happen to our forest understory if these invasives  
14 spread along the pipeline. Thank you.

15                   CHAIR: Bill Price. After Bill is Rebecca  
16 O'Brien.

17                   MR. PRICE: Good evening. My name is Bill  
18 Price. I'm here tonight to represent myself. But, I  
19 also want to recognize that I work for the Sierra Club,  
20 based in Charleston, West Virginia. We have around 2,000  
21 West Virginians, who are members of the Sierra Club, who  
22 are very concerned and opposed to the Atlantic Coast  
23 Pipeline. When my wife and I want to get away from the  
24 Kanawha Valley --- I believe there's lots of times we

1 want to get away from the Kanawha Valley. And one of our  
2 favorite places to come is Pocahontas County.

3 We've stayed at --- along the Greenbrier  
4 River. This is a beautiful place. You have something to  
5 be proud of. Do you have issues? Yes. But, the  
6 Atlantic Coast Pipeline will not solve those issues. If  
7 you really, really want to improve the water quality in  
8 the State of West Virginia, quit doing stuff that  
9 diminishes the water quality of West Virginia. Please.

10 To think that the solution to water  
11 quality issues in the State of West Virginia is to put a  
12 fossil fuel and pipe it 200 miles at least. And who  
13 knows beyond that. To close down coal fired power plants  
14 --- coal fired power plants. But, that is to be replaced  
15 with energy efficiency. Solar. Wind in some places.  
16 Other energy sources. When we take a look at the life  
17 cycle --- and I'll use that phrase that other people use.  
18 Gas extraction. It's incomprehensible to me that you can  
19 think that you're improving the water quality of this  
20 state by fracking gas. Because you don't. If you  
21 believe you do, then go to Doddridge County. Talk to  
22 those residents. But, I just wanted to clear that up.

23 I also want to talk about --- real quick,  
24 about jobs. Everybody likes jobs. I have one. My

1 father was a coal minder. We believe that good paying,  
2 unionized jobs are the way to go. But, this pipeline is  
3 not the creator of those types of jobs. I know. Just 30  
4 more seconds. Okay. I promise.

5                   According to the report by the Political  
6 Economy Research Institute, a million dollars invested in  
7 natural gas creates five jobs. If you take that same  
8 million dollars and you invest it in improving the grid  
9 of the way you deliver electricity to homes and start  
10 with a system we could make --- grow jobs. If you take  
11 that same million dollars and you invest it in solar,  
12 using the natural resources of the sun, and it could be  
13 argued that the sun shines more on Pocahontas County than  
14 anywhere else in the world, you'd create 14 jobs. That's  
15 the better way. Create jobs and cleaner energy sources,  
16 improve our water quality, and have a positive economy  
17 based on clean energy. And improved water quality.

18                   CHAIR: Rebecca O'Brien next. After  
19 Rebecca is ---.

20                   MS. O'BRIEN: I'm not very good at  
21 speaking to large groups. But, I feel strongly enough so  
22 I'm going to try to do this. We know, I believe we're  
23 certain, that this project is not going to provide us  
24 substantial jobs for Pocahontas County citizens. And

1 this natural gas resource belongs to West Virginia. To  
2 West Virginians. To our citizens. And if this project  
3 goes through, our natural gas is going to be transported  
4 to other continents, other countries, to provide jobs for  
5 the citizens of those other continents.

6                   It should be kept underground until  
7 perhaps the State of West Virginia needs this natural  
8 gas. Why should we risk our water and our environment  
9 for jobs to be created overseas? A lot of people in  
10 America, 40 percent, voted for Donald Trump, mostly  
11 because he said he'd bring the jobs back to America.  
12 Well, this project doesn't bring jobs back to America.  
13 I'm going to save that question for last.

14                   West Virginia has had a history of having  
15 our natural resources removed from our state with very  
16 little benefit to the citizens of the state. I want to  
17 read to you a few words from my husband, John O'Brien's  
18 book, At Home in the Heart of Appalachia. He spent many,  
19 many days, weeks, months, researching the history of this  
20 region. And this is what he --- these are the thoughts  
21 he wrote down about that.

22                   In the 1870s, a serious recession dried up  
23 venture capital in America, but when the recession ended  
24 within the decade, it was as if a damn had burst.

1 Thousands of ruthless, thoroughly dishonest agents  
2 swarmed into the mountains, achieving new levels of  
3 chicanery by the hour. Appalachian families were  
4 cheated, threatened, bullied, and swindled out of their  
5 ancestral land. Coal and timber boomtowns exploded into  
6 existence.

7                   I'm not saying that these people, or  
8 Dominion are, you know, bullying, but some of those  
9 things apply. Within 40 years, timber companies had  
10 clear cut the oldest and largest hardwood forest that  
11 human beings would ever see. In that time, 30 billion  
12 board feet of quality lumber and an equal amount of  
13 pulpwood left the state, along with 98 percent of the  
14 profit. This was enough wood to built a 13 foot wide,  
15 two inch thick walkway to the moon.

16                   The figures from Virginia, North Carolina,  
17 and Tennessee are comparable. Both coal and timber  
18 operations ravaged enormous portions of the mountain  
19 landscape, as well as subsistence cultures that had  
20 survived peacefully here for more than 100 years. All of  
21 this transpired while county officials and the elected  
22 officials in Charleston and local newspaper --- yes, and  
23 local newspaper editors, looked the other way. And often  
24 then, they became the coal and timber executives.

1                   And the last thing I wanted --- I want to  
2 ask a question. I called your offices a couple weeks  
3 ago, and she referred to me to the EPA, and I didn't get  
4 an answer then. I still have to try and synch a time to  
5 contact them. But, my question is, if the natural gas  
6 industry is supposed to bring lots of tax dollars to the  
7 State of West Virginia, and they've been fracking in the  
8 state in some of our counties for a few years --- I'm not  
9 sure exactly how many, but why are we in such a financial  
10 crisis? If they're paying a substantial amount of tax  
11 dollars, why are we having such a problem balancing our  
12 budget? I want to find out how much they've paid so far.

13                   CHAIR: Nikki, you're up.

14                   MS. ALIKAKOS: Hello. My name is Nikki  
15 Alikakos. I am a local Pocahontas County resident, born  
16 and raised. I presently work in the hospitality  
17 industry, as well as in the school system, and I'm a  
18 mother. I, in my work, had a guest where I worked at,  
19 and he said that he was from the Midwest. He was working  
20 in Ohio. And that he was a pipeliner.

21                   And I said, oh yeah? They're going to  
22 build a pipeline right here. And he said where? I said  
23 well, right about there. Wherever Dominion puts their  
24 arbitrary red line. And he just dropped his head and

1 shook his head and said what a shame. What a shame. The  
2 rivers are going to run red for years. We're talking  
3 about over 1,900 streams and river crossings. This will  
4 be devastating. This will change the landscape. And you  
5 guys know it. You've seen it happen.

6                   Do you like working five weeks on, three  
7 days off? Who is raising your kids? So, we're supposed  
8 to send our sons off to work in man camps and drink 18  
9 beers in a row? And then go to a titty bar? I'm sorry.  
10 That's not the environment that we need here. That's not  
11 what we're looking for. That's not what we want. That  
12 is not going to help the environment. And for human  
13 beings, for families, for anyone.

14                   And the CEO of Dominion makes about \$9.2  
15 million a year. That person has no idea what it is to  
16 live in Pocahontas County. This area has always been  
17 based on making it. Doing it yourself and making a  
18 subsistent living. No energy company is going to come  
19 into this area and save us. For as much as we'd like to  
20 believe it, it's not going to happen. It's hard living  
21 here. And the reason you can come in and get this passed  
22 is because there's just not enough of us to stand up to  
23 the massive amounts of wealth, influence, and corruption  
24 that you yield.



1 West Virginia has been victim to energy  
2 harvesting for as long as we've been a state. They  
3 pushed what was left over, whatever they didn't want in  
4 Virginia, whatever couldn't work on a plantation, it  
5 wasn't okay with having slaves, they pushed it all  
6 against the mountains, against the Native Americans, and  
7 let them find out --- let them live if they could and die  
8 if they couldn't.

9 See, for you it doesn't mean anything.  
10 Because this isn't your backyard. But for us, it does.  
11 And for all of us, I would rather live without  
12 electricity than have this pipeline go through my  
13 neighbor's backyard. I don't want to live in an altered  
14 environment. I want to live in a natural environment. I  
15 don't want to live in a pipeline wasteland. And I don't  
16 think anyone else here does.

17 And I think if you look into your  
18 consciousness and see that the eight guys at Dominion who  
19 invested in energy in the form of gas and coal 200 years  
20 ago and turn it around, and make it something sustainable  
21 that's good for everyone, and not just good for them,  
22 you'll see that this is wrong on every level and there is  
23 no excuse for it. And you all know it.

24 CHAIR: Is there anybody else who wishes

1 to speak tonight? If not then you can submit written  
2 comments. This concludes the public hearing on the  
3 Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The public comment period ends  
4 on Friday. You can submit written comments at the e-mail  
5 address dep.comments@wv.gov. Thank you for your  
6 participation, and have a nice evening.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:57 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

I certify that the attached transcript meets the requirements set forth within article twenty-seven, chapter forty-seven of the West Virginia Code.

  
Jordan Barry,

Court Reporter