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CHAIR: Okay everyone, good evening. I'm Jake Glance from the Department of Environmental Protection's Public Information Office. Welcome to tonight's public hearing on the construction storm water permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Permit Number WVR301820.

Also here this evening are Jon Michael Bosley and Rick Adams with the DEP's Division of Water and Waste Management.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to give you the opportunity to share your comments with the DEP about the construction storm water permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Tonight's hearing is being recorded by a court reporter so that the comments shared can be part of the public rulemaking record. To ensure that we successfully achieve the purpose of this hearing we ask that everyone be respectful and considerate of each other by refraining from interrupting others while they're speaking and keeping their comments on topic so that our time together is used efficiently.

We do have quite a few speakers to get
through tonight so the time limit for each speaker will be five minutes. For those wishing to speak, when I call you up to provide your comments please state your name and say if you are representing any groups or organizations. If you have written comments that you would like to submit in addition to your spoken comments, please hand them to me after you speak or at the conclusion of this hearing.

Please remember that this public hearing is not the proper form for questions and answers. We are here to receive comments on this rule --- I'm sorry, on this permit and we'll respond to each comment when we issue a decision. If you have any questions now is the time to ask them about the format of the hearing. Any questions?

Likewise, if you have questions about the permit you can speak with a DEP representative at the conclusion of this hearing.

So we will get started with our first speaker. First up is Blaise Hollott.

Is that right?

MR. HOLLOTT: Yes.

CHAIR: Blaise? Okay.

After Blaise is Anne Blankenship and after Anne is Larry Cavallo.
By the way, there is a cord running on the floor here and also right here so try to leave and --- enter and leave on this side so no one gets caught up in the wires, thanks.

MR. HOLLOTT: Good evening, thank you for this opportunity to comment. My name's Blaise Hollot and as a Clarksburg native and as a WVU educated professional engineer, I'm deeply troubled that the West Virginia DEP is not serving to protect West Virginia residents and property from damage associated that will occur with storm water runoff caused by the construction of the ACP.

This concern is based upon three points, the July 2017 flooding events in McDonald, Pennsylvania. My review of storm water project mitigation techniques and best practices based upon my working knowledge as a professional engineer, and as a member of my local town's commission's Environmental Quality Board, consulting upon MS4 storm water management practices.

And also my personal experience since '93 with mountain flood events encountered at my cabin along Shaver Fork between Elkins and Parsons. You may not know, but there were recent flooding events this summer in McDonald, Pennsylvania, southwest corner of PA, that offer a catastrophic picture that should not be repeated with
the ACP Pipeline construction. The McDonald flooding events are related to construction of Pennsylvania Turnpike's construction of the southern beltway project.

Best management practices BMP based upon two year, 24 hour storm requirements proved to be willfully inadequate as reported by both the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Washington Observer Reporter. As a result of this prolonged drain event, many homes and businesses were severely damaged, some condemned.

Particularly disturbing, is that this construction impacted hills, not the steep mountain slopes that will be traversed by ACP. The McDonald situation is very real for me as I worked in this community building Habitat for Humanity homes. To witness such personal home destruction is heartbreaking.

In my home state of West Virginia, given destruction given the flood plain occupancy and a less robust economic setting would be devastating. Erosion controls involving high efficiency siltation fencing and hay bales are totally inadequate. And left the residents and businesses in ruin.

If BMT --- BMP measures failed in McDonald which has a less deep sloped terrain and less extreme rain events than which will be encountered in ACP construction,
then BMP for the ACP is totally inadequate. There's clear need for concrete action to assure private, public, and business property will be protected.

WVDEP should enact two measures to effectively protect the public. One, is the establishment of an emergency escrow fund. The WV --- the DEP should demand initiation of an industry funded escrow fund to address storm water damage that will occur when BMP fails. The establishment of such a fund funded by Dominion and their ACP partners and contractors should be done prior to ground breaking.

Such an escrow would be available to provide emergency funds to effective local families, farmers, and businesses when pipeline construction storm water flooding events occur such as what happened in McDonald this summer.

Number two, establish continuous monitoring of water quality and storm water mitigation measures over streams which --- streams that will be crossed. It's two-pronged approach here, one to continuously monitor the water flow and quality and reporting stations installed at stream crossings such as stream gauges and turbidity meters.

Also, to initiate a tracking system to
record any submitted information as well as the response, actions and results of such actions. Both systems should be in place prior to any construction groundbreaking activity to identify and document storm water mitigation compliance and non-compliance issues.

There are advises necessary and it's necessary for four concrete reasons. Number one, the much steeper slops which will allow storm water to gather and develop greater force due to gravity and length of slope that will overcome --- overcome siltation fencing and hay bales.

Number two, the tier three high quality streams that will be --- that provide drinking water to many local residents. Number three, time of construction means nothing to storm water management practices in the mountains. Mother Nature doesn’t take a vacation. And also, the hazardous materials that will be swept away by runaway storm water.

So in conclusion, I just want to thank you all very much and again suggest mitigation that can be done by two forms that being the establishment of an escrow fund as well as stream monitoring. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next is Anne Blankenship, after Anne is Larry Cavallo, and after Larry is Mike Morris.
MS. BLANKENSHIP: Good evening, my name is Anne Blankenship and I'm the Executive Director of the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association or WVONGA. WVONGA is supportive of the West Virginia DEP's issuance of a permit for construction activities associated with the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

This project will play a crucial role in supplying clean and efficient energy that will be built and operated in a way that protects our state waters. WVONGA's members have a keen interest in all aspects of environmental regulation associated with oil and gas actives including application of the state general storm water permit for oil and gas construction activities.

We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state and the only association that serves the entire oil and gas industry. The activities of our members include construction, environmental services, drilling, completion production, gathering, transporting, distribution, and processing.

WVONGA members operate in almost every county in West Virginia and employ thousands of people across the state with payrolls totaling hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Our members have a cumulative investment of nearly $10 billion in West
Virginia, account for 80 percent of the production and 90 percent of the permits, operate more than 20,000 miles of pipeline across the state, and provide oil and natural gas to more than 300,000 West Virginia homes and businesses. WVONGA fully supports the issuance of this permit as we believe it is protective of West Virginia Water Resources. The measures in it to address water quality protections go beyond even the requirements found in the Federal Clean Water Act. This permit contains requirements that other states may not impose and mandates the same sort of protections that EPA construction storm water permits, general water permits do on non-pipeline projects.

The permit and its associated storm water pollution prevention plan impose restrictions on operating conditions resulting in significant water quality protections including best management practices or BMPs that can be implemented to protect state water quality standards.

In particular, the selected BMPs that are adopted in the plan for the protection of water bodies and wetlands in areas of steep slopes and in karst terrain will ensure the construction and operation of the ACP do not negatively impact such important natural resources.
Dominion has developed best in class measures for work on steep slopes to meet the challenging --- to meet the challenge of pipeline construction in the mountainous terrain here in West Virginia. These state of the art measures go above and beyond federal and state regulatory standards in preventing sedimentation and providing erosion control on steep slopes in areas with landslide hazards.

These measures have been integrated into this permit and the plan. Dominion has hired experts to assist with surveying and understanding the karst terrain in West Virginia and surveys of potential karst have been conducted. Measures will be taken to avoid any impacts to caverns, sinkholes, and springs. Additionally, the pipeline's been engineered to withstand sinkhole formation without compromising pipe integrity or safety.

Importantly, in addition to being protective of our state waters, this project will be a tremendous boost for our state. Both in terms of making the rich natural gas supplies extracted in West Virginia more available to growing energy markets in the southeast and in terms of creating thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity during its construction phase.
Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the permit issuance. WVONGA urges the DEP to allow the ACP coverage under this permit in order to make this vitally energy infrastructure a reality. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next, Larry Cavallo, after Larry is Mike Morris, after Mike Morris is Ryan Hauser.

MR. CAVALLO: Hello. My name is Larry Cavallo, I'm here representing myself tonight. I was born and raised in West Virginia and currently live in Bridgeport, West Virginia. I'm a 32 year veteran of the Appalachian Oil and Gas Industry having worked for exploration and production companies including Dominion. I have three degrees from West Virginia University with two being Bachelor’s and Master’s of Science in Geology.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as a native West Virginian and an Oil and Gas Industry veteran, I'm here to tell you that our state and our oil and gas industry is in desperate need of long haul pipelines such as Dominion's Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

But this hearing is not about me but rather it's about storm water pollution prevention plans, water control permits, and the protection of West Virginia's water. In those regards, please know that I would never support this project if I thought it would damage our
state's water quality.

I've become convinced after a thorough review of Dominion's construction plans that it can partner --- that it and its partners have taken the necessary steps to ensure the pipeline is built and operated to protect our water. The developers have surveyed the entire construction right away to identify, avoid, and mitigate impact on karst terrain features.

They will have a karst expert onsite during construction and they have engineered the pipeline to withstand the development of karst features without compromising integrity or safety of the pipeline. On the water permit side of things, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will restore bank integrity at stream crossings to prevent erosion and downstream sedimentation.

Bank stabilization and erosion control devices will be used at crossings and on steep slopes while native vegetation and repairing structures will be used to revegetate and control erosion along the length of the line.

Water withdrawals where needed will be coordinated with the DEP during low flow conditions and construction will use pre-fabricated above ground water impalements to allow for low rate water withdrawals to
minimize stream impact.

Likewise, discharge of chemical-free hydrostatic test waters will be rate restricted and preformed only within well vegetated upland areas to eliminate translocation of evasive aquatic species.

In short, Dominion and its lead construction contractor have more than 200 years of experience building pipelines in steep, mountainous terrains. Dominion itself has built more than 2,000 pipe --- miles of pipelines through the mountains of West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

As an industry veteran and a former Dominion employee, I have seen firsthand the importance Dominion places on safety and environmental stewardship. Those core values are deeply ingrained in the culture of Dominion and they permeate the daily thought process of every Dominion employee. I am certain that Dominion has the mindset, the experience, the expertise to build this pipeline the right way, safely and with minimal impacts on our environment.

So in conclusion, I support the building of the ACP and urge you to approve the storm water pollution prevention plan and general permit. I believe the strong conditions in those documents plus the steps the developers are taking to protect West Virginia's water
resources will ensure this vitally important project is
built and operated in an environmentally sound manner.
Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment.

CHAIR: Up next, Mike Morris, after Mike is
Ryan Houser, after Ryan Houser is Jamie Mentz.

MR. MORRIS: Good evening. My name's Mike
Morris, I'm General Manager of MEC Construction and we're
--- I'm here to speak this evening of our support of the
Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

I believe it would be a tremendous boost to
our state creating thousands of jobs and millions of
dollars of economic activity during the construction
phase. I'm also a lifetime member --- or lifetime
resident of West Virginia and value our natural resources,
our environment and our quality of life a great deal and I
would not --- also would not be a supporter of this
project if I thought any of those items were at risk.

I'm convinced that the storm water
pollution prevention plan and the general water pollution
control permit will guarantee that the project can be
built and operated in ways that protects West Virginia
Water Quality. I believe also that the project developers
and Dominion Energy have put plans in place and will carry
out that those are accurately enforced.
I've worked with --- since I've been with MEC I've worked on several projects with Dominion Energy and I can tell you they hold a high standard to their environmental plans, environmental controls, and safety. So I do not have concerns that any of those would not be followed to the T. So I would also urge that the --- that you approve the storm water pollution prevention plan as well as the general permit and ensure that these projects can move forward as planned. Thank you.

CHAIR: Right now Ryan Hauser, after Ryan is Jamie Mentz, after Jamie Mentz is Sherry Rogers.

MR. HAUSER: Good evening, my name is Ryan Hauser with JF Allen Company from right here in Buckhannon. On behalf of the JF Allen Organization we would like to again formally state our support for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project.

Our organization, the JF Allen Company, has created hundreds of miles of roads and highways since our inception in the 1940s. The general public including those here this evening, travel these roads we built without a second thought to the investment that it took many decades ago. Infrastructure, when done properly, enhances our quality of life. Over the past century,
hundreds of thousands of miles of pipelines have been built across North America. Many, if not most, are still in service today. These pipelines have been built sensibly and within state and federal regulations.

Continuing with this tradition, Dominion Energy along with its partners have worked with the state and federal agencies over the past several years to optimize a pipeline route, satisfy thousands of pages of permits, answered questions from the general public, and proved numerous times that the project meets all necessary federal and state regulations.

Tonight, we are specifically talking about water quality during construction. Several decades ago, engineered plans for which the contractor is required to work to, gave little consideration to water runoff and control procedures from project sites. That has changed, and I believe everyone here in this evening --- in this room this evening can agree that it is for good reason.

Projects such as these now require storm water pollution prevention plans and general water pollution control permits. Contractors often subject to third party onsite inspectors in addition to state and federal agencies are required to follow these design procedures to eliminate and/or minimize impacts to nearby
streams and water sources.

We have seen firsthand as a contractor business for over 70 years the improvement of these techniques and procedures, and how they minimize impact to the environment. Unless there is a major legitimate concern to which the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection should promptly and clearly report the JF Allen Organization suggest the project move forward accordingly and that the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and the General Water Pollution Control Permit be approved.

Our employees, our families, and the communities that we live in depend on these infrastructure projects and the continuing benefits that they create for years to come. Thank you again for your time and for the consideration of our support.

CHAIR: Right now, Jamie Mentz, after Jamie is Sherry Rogers, after Sherry is Abigail Benjamin.

MR. MENTZ: Good evening, I'm Jamie Mentz from the Harrison County Economic Development Corporation and my perspective is a little different.

I'm involved in the economy and hopefully growth of our economy in Northcentral West Virginia and that's really my perspective. We see this permit as one
of the last hurdles that we need to cross to get this project going.

In Harrison County where I'm from, just north of here, we've seen a tremendous amount of growth related to the anticipation of this line being built. In fact, many of our existing companies have grown so fast in the last two years that they found it very difficult to find qualified employees.

But not just the existing business. In my job, I frequently talk to companies from outside West Virginia that are interested in coming to West Virginia and taking advantage of this economic bubble that they see forming here. They see great opportunities here in West Virginia.

But those companies, just like our existing ones, will have trouble getting qualified employees. We all know what's happened in --- to West Virginia's population in the last 15 years, it's --- we're the only state in the Union that's going the wrong way. This could be a great opportunity for many of our young people who've had to leave West Virginia to come back to good quality jobs that will provide a great income for them and their families.

On a personal level, I have a son from out
of state who just today began a new job in Harrison County that's directly related to this transmission line. So I've experienced positive outcomes myself already. But apart from the economic and the jobs, Dominion Energy is a local company to us in Harrison County and we consider them a great corporate citizen. And I'm confident as our organization is that if Dominion Energy is involved it will be done as environmentally friendly as possible.

So we're here --- I'm here to support this permit. Thank you.

CHAIR: Right now is Sherry Rogers, after Sherry is Abigail Benjamin, after Abigail is Jason Lockard.

MS. ROGERS: Hello, I'm Sherry Rogers I'm the Executive Director of the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce and we are here today --- I'm here today representing the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce in support of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Dominion has always been an excellent steward and neighbor in Lewis County. They've supported our local businesses and our educational systems, they employ our residents. Dominion also --- Dominion employees also live where they are employed and are
dedicated to provide quality services with exceptional industry safety and environmental standards.

Lewis County Chamber respectfully requests approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, thank you.

CHAIR: Right now, Abigail Benjamin, after Abigail is Jason Lockard, after Jason is Don Nestor.

MS. BENJAMIN: My name is Abigail Benjamin. I'm an environmental lawyer here in Buckhannon, West Virginia. I stand in opposition to this permit. I am a 1993 graduate of Buckhannon-Upshur High School and I welcome you all to my school.

I graduated with honors from Smith College and from the University of Wisconsin Law School. In 1996 it was my joy to take the Bar Exam, my fourth one --- it's different for a different state, in West Virginia and I moved back home in August of 2017, and I have an Environmental Law and Real Estate Law practice just downtown on Main Street.

I have heard a lot of people talk about environmental protection and one of the things that stuns me is this permit. This permit there is no monitoring activities associated with this permit at this time. And I'm just going to repeat that to you, there is no monitoring activities associated with this permit at this
Now, monitoring may be requested by the Director and it really should be requested by the Director since these constructions will happen for more than one year. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has waived their authority to issue a 401 Water Quality Certification under the Clean Water Act which is a federal law passed under President Nixon in the '70s.

States may certify federal permits that would comply with the state water quality standards. Now, this is the second time in a few months that the West Virginia DEP under Austin Caperton has decided that a 401 water quality certification will be waived. I am stating it's very important that we have monitoring activities happen when these constructions are going to go on.

This is my drinking water, my children's drinking water, and I appreciate the environmental protection standards that have been stated by members of the industry but I would like to look into their proof to have water quality standards --- sorry, water monitoring activities happening during this construction process.

Thank you.

CHAIR: Next, Jason Lockard, after Jason is Don Nestor, after Don is Paul McCormick.
MR. LOCKARD: Good evening, my name is Jason Lockard with SLS Land and Energy Development out of Glenville, West Virginia and also Charleston, West Virginia. I was born and raised in Flatwoods. I'm very proud of West Virginia.

Dominion will work real closely with the laws --- the West Virginia DEP laws. SLS has worked with Dominion and they have proved over the years that they do things the way the West Virginia DEP requests. We have employees, 100 percent of our employees are West Virginia --- by West --- from West Virginia. They have land which the ACP will be running through and they will also hold Dominion their feet to the fire.

The --- I'm sorry. And we believe that Dominion will be committed to the construction of the project in ways that will minimize, prevent future erosions and minimize impact of bodies of water and wetlands. So myself and SLS we support the Atlantic Coastal Pipeline.

CHAIR: Several people have come in since we started. If you want to speak, give a public comment, the sign in sheets are right here in the middle. So if you want to speak, make sure you sign up.

Up next is Don Nestor, after Don is Paul
McCormick, after Paul McCormick is Patrick Farrell.

MR. NESTOR: Thank you and good evening.

My name is Don Nestor, I'm a CPA. I live here in Buckhannon, West Virginia. I come in support of the issuance of the permit and in support of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. I am a member of the CPA firm of Arnett Carbis Toothman in the office room of Buckhannon.

I'm a resident of Buckhannon, lifelong resident of West Virginia. I originally was raised in a little town of Pickens in the headwaters of Buckhannon River. I graduated in a class of 11 in the Pickens High School and proud to say I was the top nine percent of my class. Not many people here can say that.

But I grew up in this town and worked --- as I was growing up there in the Timber Industry working around the natural resources, worked on a coal tipple, worked in the hay fields. It was --- growing up in the heart of West Virginia was very special to me. And the quality of water was always very important. Especially if you're out trying to catch a native trout in the streams.

So the quality of water was always important and we always adjusted to the situations that we’re found in. If it was dry weather or rain or whatever it might be --- and in Pickens it was usually snow, so we
just adjusted. But I think water quality has always been
important and I think as I have developed my career being
a president of the Upshur County Chamber of Commerce, the
past president of the Upshur County Development Authority, the
past president of the Western CPA Society, the importance
of the water quality we have in the state is very
important to economic development.

One of the things we're very proud of here
in Buckhannon and Upshur County is the water resources
that we have are tremendous. And we kind of look at it
from an economically developing standpoint, having that
for the future is very, very important to our growth and
for our community.

I'm presently on the City of Buckhannon
Water Board, and one of the things that we're involved
with is monitoring the quality of water on a continual
basis, and also there have comments submitted to Dominion
concerning this pipeline and the potential for the storm
water runoff and they've all been answered as we had
expected them to be answered.

We continue to work with them in monitoring
the quality of the water coming in because that is the
responsibility of the City and Water Board and very
capable people have monitored that and Dominion has been
good to work with on that. From the economic development standpoint I mentioned I think the --- the thing we look at for the folks who want to live here and work here in West Virginia want to stay here is the job --- not only the construction but also the future jobs.

And the thing I see about a pipeline like this it's almost like having an interstate to go through, your highway go through your territory. You'll have the ability to get on and off that interstate to develop activities, same thing with the pipeline going through the factory development and natural resource here.

I've been on the Independent Oil and Gas Association Board of Directors for six different terms for a total of 18 years. I've been involved in the economic development and mostly in the oil and gas business for 45 years of my career and I think the future is jobs and that helps up develop education here in our state.

I think the --- the other thing I've gotten from being on IOGA's Board of Directors in the industry was the importance of working with the State and regulators and follow the regulations. If there's certain regulations being met, those are to be enforced. And so I think the activity here to --- by Dominion to make sure the quality of the water is maintained has been very
important.

They'll continue to support and comply with regulations as they are developed and changed, whatever it might be. And I very strongly support the pipeline and the issuance of the permit. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next, Paul McCormick, after Paul is Patrick Farrell, after Patrick is Justin Raines.

MR. MCCORMICK: Good evening, I'm Paul McCormick with the International Union of Operating Engineers. I'm a pipeline representative throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region. The operating engineers are a strong supporter of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, not only because of the jobs it'll create but the local state and regional benefits it will provide during the --- during and after construction.

I could not stand here before you if I did not believe that this project could be built safely, constructed while protecting --- could be safely constructed while protecting the water and the environment. I have worked on pipeline projects and other projects like this before and can state honestly that the criteria that goes into the storm water pollution prevention plan and the general water pollution control permit are industry approved best management practices at
local, state, and federal levels. And proven the work to
protect the water and the environment.

The same methods and practices that will be
used on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline are used in road
construction, building safe development, and green energy
projects such as solar and wind farms to minimize and
control sedimentation of water bodies and wetlands.

Additionally, improved and upgraded
controls will be implemented on this project. Dominion
has paid close attention also to the karst terrain that
characterizes a good deal of the pipeline route. Some
elements of this are, some of over 300 route changes were
due to this. And a karst expert will be onsite during
construction.

I believe that the combination of a strong
--- of the strong conditions set forth in the regulatory
documents, the onsite environmental inspections while
construction is being --- as construction proceeds, and
the mandatory site training that everyone that works on
this project will have will ensure this important project
is built and operated safety to protect water and
environment for everyone.

The operating engineers and myself ask you
to approve the storm water pollution prevention plan and
the general permit. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next is Patrick Farrell, Patrick is followed by Justin Raines, after Justin is Jane Birdsong.

MR. FARRELL: Good evening, my name is Patrick Farrell. I am the owner and president of Service Pump and Supply. I'm also a West Virginia native, I live here, I raise my family here, we also own land that will be affected by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. I can tell you that we are all very deeply concerned about water quality in this region and I'm here to give my full support to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the project that Dominion is leading.

Service Pump and Supply is a company that has five branches across four states and our main purpose is to move water and waste water for small towns and big cities for the mining industry and the oil and gas industry, and I can tell you that it can be done in an environmentally safe way and in compliance with all of the federal and state laws.

As a small business owner I also know the importance of the jobs for all of you that have family that have left the state, you know that they usually leave because of either education or job opportunities. And the
thousands of jobs that this construction will bring in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars of investments for our community.

It'll keep our families here and it'll keep people fully employed, paying taxes, which then support our schools and all of our local communities. I wouldn't be saying any of this if I didn't think it could be done in an environmentally friendly way. I know that with the construction that the rivers, the streams, the wetlands can be protected. And I encourage the DEP to approve the storm water permit as well as general permit and to give their full support to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next, Justin Raines, after Justin is Jane Birdsong, after Jane is Marion Harless.

MR. RAINES: Hello, my name's Justin Raines. I'm a sixth generation West Virginia native. I worked in the oil and gas industry for about 12 years mostly on natural gas drilling rigs. I heard a lot of talk here today about jobs, jobs, all the jobs that this pipeline's going to bring here.

I don't know if you've all have ever seen a staging area for one of these pipelines if you've seen the old motels, the RV courts, but the license plates there
don’t say West Virginia. They say Pennsylvania, they say
Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, and Oklahoma. Our motels
aren’t filling up because your neighbor’s going to get a
job off this pipeline. They’re filling up because out of
state companies are coming in here to tear a path through
the middle of our land and to take advantage of our
resources.

And then they’re going to be gone, those
jobs are going to be gone, there’s going to be a few
boosts at the pipeline --- at the local gas station, but
those jobs are going to be here for eight months, maybe a
year. That’s the timeline of the project, and then
they’re gone and we’re left with the destruction that
they’ve left behind.

A bunch of us were here just a few months
ago for the 401 certification hearing for this very same
pipeline. A lot of us made some very good comments, we
have some genuine suggestions for the DEP about how this
could proceed in a more environmentally safe manner than
it has before and that’s what happened to those comments.

Secretary Austin Caperton wadded those
comments up, he took the hundreds of man hours the DEP put
into crafting a pretty decent permit even though they
didn’t fulfill their legal representations, they were
trying. And he threw that all in the trash. That's what I expect him to do with anything beneficial we say here today.

There's a lot of good people at the DEP who work hard to protect us but as long as we got an industry shield heading it, they aren't going to be allowed to protect us at all. We can show up to these hearings and tell them what we think but nothing's going to change until we get Austin Caperton out of there. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next, Jane Birdsong, I'm going to insert Wayne Keplinger after Jane. And then after Jane and Wayne, we're going to do Marion.

MS. BIRDSONG: My name's Jane Birdsong, I live in Randolph County, West Virginia along the Tiger River. I'm a stream monitor for Trout Unlimited doing monthly testing in five locations to maintain a database for streams entering the middle fork in Upshur County and two streams in Randolph County which enter the Tiger.

Trout Unlimited is serious about keeping our streams clean and healthy for fish. As I understand, your requirements say that geologically sensitive areas should be avoided by pipelines due to their potential for instability. The region which is being proposed to lay this huge 42 inch pipeline is predominantly karst
limestone and dolomite which is characterized by
underground drainage systems with sinkholes and caves.

This is not the type of terrain that your
requirements allow. The sheer height of some of the
mountains on the proposed route from Millcreek to near
Helvetia are going to cause landslides and huge amounts of
sediment to enter our streams and ultimately the Tiger
River where I live. It's also the water source for the
City of Elkins.

In case you didn’t know, sediment is the
worst problem for fish and macro invertebrates in our
streams. Another problem is that bank stabilization
should be done with natural channel design method, not the
riprap that is being proposed in this permit. These
permits require tier three stream crossings to have anti-
degradation review.

I would like to see that in print that it
is required and I insist that monitor devices for flow and
turbidity be installed at all stream crossings of this
pipeline and that provisions be made for anti-degradation
review. This Atlantic Coast Pipeline is not needed by the
people of West Virginia, nor Virginia, nor North Carolina.
It's wanted by Dominion Gas so that the gas below our
homes and fields can be transported to the Atlantic Coast
for easy access to sell to Europe.

That is not eminent domain. We have the right to protect our water from corporations that alter our environment. The Department of Environmental Protection should carefully monitor how these pipelines are built, how the trees are removed, the time of year of construction, and especially sediment control and mitigation for storm water events.

Don’t waive your right to approve this, see that Dominion follows your regulations.

CHAIR: Wayne Keplinger is up next, after Wayne is Marion Harless, after Marion is Andrew Phipps.

MR. KEPLINGER: My name's Wayne Keplinger. I grew up here in Buckhannon, lived in West Virginia all my life. I'll probably die here. I have a granddaughter with me and I hear a lot of talk of economic development and jobs, environmental protection. Seven generations from now, who's going to be making these regulations? Who's going to be enforcing these laws?

We're in an era of deregulation, we don't know that they're not going to strip away more regulations tomorrow. Seven generations, that's her children, her children, her grandchildren. I think we need to make it safe for them. Talk about jobs and economic development
like their life. Water is life, water is life.

If you think otherwise than that, you're thinking less than human. Sure there can be economic development, there can be jobs, I think you're making a --- if you approve the storm water go through these pipelines, you're betraying earth, her children. You're not betraying me. I'll die here. So I'm not going to try to give you a lot of technical explanations that I know.

I've seen promises, I've heard promises, I've seen them broken time and time and time again. Who's going to make the regulations tomorrow? Who is going to enforce the regulations tomorrow? Who's going to deregulate tomorrow? So I'm just asking you to think of my voice here as the voice of a child seven generations away. And hoping that you do not approve this.

CHAIR: Up next, Marion Harless, Marion is followed by Andrew Phipps, after Andrew is James --- I mispronounced this name last time it's spelled K-O-T-C-O-N.

MS. HARLESS: Good evening, Marion Harless Comparative Psychologist, Wildlife Biologist, Naturalist, Organic Grower, Native West Virginian. I came to talk about storm water but evidently we came to praise Dominion and so I would like to offer just one little comment about
Dominion. Researchers spent 25 years studying a population of rattlesnakes over on the Allegheny front beyond Dolly Sods. When Dominion decided to put up wind turbines --- giant wind turbine I always like to say, the researchers talked with Dominion and as Dominion assured them they would not bother the hibernation site.

When the researchers went back in the spring, there was a nice thick cement pad for the wind turbine right on top of the rattlesnake hibernation site. They destroyed an entire population of timber rattlesnakes, our state rattle, which are present in ever decreasing numbers. That's one of the things I know about Dominion.

And speaking of solar, I wonder if anybody has the data on how much silicon has been shipped out of West Virginia so they can make solar panels in other states and other countries. If we took a little bit of time to consider things beyond coal and gas and oil, we might find actually we have quite a bit to offer in terms of diversified economies, agriculture being the best one, and then tourism.

Pickens was mentioned. Perhaps you'd been to Pickens, I hadn't actually planned to say this, but if you had been to Pickens of Helvetia you know --- if you go
into Millcreek you know what the hills look like and that's where they're going to run that pipeline. You might not know that the Pickens Helvetia area is the second cloudiest spot in the United States --- the contiguous United States outside of the Olympic Peninsula which is a great place to visit if you want to go be a tourist somewhere.

And the amount of vegetation, the amount of --- the number of trees that are going to be destroyed to put this pipeline in are, I believe --- and I said this in my other comments, written and otherwise. That they're going to interfere with the cloud production and that's going to interfere with the precipitation. That's going to interfere with our water.

I've had lots of classes in water. I like to play in the water, swim, et cetera. But they're going to destroy our water. I was dumbfounded when Caperton said we don't think there would be any --- no, he said there would be zero environmental impact. This is --- it's amazing.

In a December 3rd issue of the Charleston Gazette-Mail, there was a nice op ed piece by a woman named Lissa Lucas. I don't know her. She's running for the legislature, good for her. And it was all about
China.

I have written quite a bit about China since August. On all of their damage that they've been doing around the world. And I didn't realize until a couple of weeks ago the state general and legislative reports that West Virginia has been actually kind of begging China to come in and take over West Virginia. And this is --- this is amazing. And so please look at Lissa's --- Lissa Lucas's editorial.

And while you're looking back through old newspapers. Look back to December the 12th, 1912 (sic), for the explosion of the 20 --- the reports of the previous day. Pipeline explosion at Sissonville and see the photographs of that. And bear in mind that was a 20-inch pipeline, not a 42-inch pipeline.

There's a gas or oil line explosion and/or fire almost daily in the United States --- whoops. Oh. Time's up. These --- what I wanted to talk about was access roads. These access roads are going to cut across the hills. Sometimes they're streets, sometimes they're roads, sometimes they're gravel, sometimes they're old logging roads. They are animal trails in some cases. They are going to be widened to accommodate this equipment into the pipeline site itself.
And I spent --- from January to March I spent eight hours some days reading that draft environmental impact statement. I have made many, many comments on it. And it was pretty incomplete to begin with and do things like say we need to control with tree foil.

I know down the line we need to plant these. So it's just sloppy all the way through. I certainly hope that the DEP does not approve this. And that the pipeline project be abandoned if there's no help for West Virginia. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next, Andrew Phipps, after Andrew is James Kotcon.

MR. PHIPPS: Hello. My name is Andrew Phipps. I am 26 years old. I have lived in West Virginia my whole life. I went to this high school back then as an angry teenager, if you'd told me that there was a chance this place could be wiped off the face of the earth I would have been ecstatic. But now at age 26 I'm here defending it against so-called adults in this industry who are perfectly content to put a bomb just across the street.

I'm asking that the DEP deny the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's application for the oil and gas construction storm water general permit. The ACP's
application does not meet the requirements for several reasons.

First, final mitigation or avoidance measures for geologically sensitive areas are not included and are still being developed. Second, site specific designs are still being developed for locations with unique geo-hazards and the potential for instability. Third, the ACP wants to use riprap instead of the DEP's preference for natural stream channel design techniques.

Fourth, high quality tier three waters will be crossed. We need an anti-degradation review as required by the permit. Is that going to happen? I don't know. Fifth, there's no water quality monitoring proposed. The bare minimum if this goes through should be something like what the U.S. Geological Survey and the Virginia DEQ are doing at their proposed pipeline crossings, which would be installing and maintaining a network of water quality monitors that measured conditions before, during and after construction of pipelines.

We need to be proactive in preventing the degradation of our water instead of the usual reactive approach. Our slopes are too steep to handle this.
construction without having massive erosion and sedimentation. And we're going to be dealing with this for years to come. Just look at the numerous violations for other area pipelines. Why should this one be any better?

One example is the Stonewall gas gathering pipeline. It's already dumped loads of sediment into the West Fork and its tributaries. The industry's salt fences, filter socks and hay bales haven't prevented erosion and sedimentation into our streams. They have a history of not using best management practices at all in some places. There's even been one known incident where heavy equipment was driven directly over a stream bed on Elk Lick in Lewis County.

There were similar issues with the Roger Pipeline. They were bad enough for the DEP to order an unfortunately brief halt to construction. All of this is on top of the inevitable release of hazardous material, including diesel fuel that will happen. You can't trust these companies to do anything other than cut every corner they can to save money, hope no one notices, and then pay the ineffective, insufficient fines.

This isn't environmental protection. It's just allowing corporations who view people and the planet
as expendable to buy the ability to pollute. And we'll be dealing with the sedimentation and the dead aquatic life for years. The underfunded, understaffed DEP just can't prevent this.

I'm asking the DEP to do the improbable, unexpected thing here and think of people first. We're in an abusive relationship with this industry. They say we need them, and most people jump onboard. But like an abusive parent, they destroy everything that might lead to the ones they abuse having better prospects.

What I'm talking about here is land, water and people. When this industry fades, clean energy technology becomes too cheap for them to compete with. We'll be left with nothing here, as usual. It's always the same with the extraction industries.

Who's going to want to come here once their fracking leaves their land and water unsafe? Who's going to bring their kids here? Who's going to bring their new business, their new idea? There's a reason we're so far behind other places in West Virginia. And it's only going to get worse if fracking spreads with the approval of more pipelines. No one who's shaping the future of our world wants to move to a fracking colony.

I'm a programmer. I'm a systems
administrator, I'm a programmer. I can tell you, none of my coder friends want to come to West Virginia. All this talk about jobs. What if you don't want to work for the oil and gas industry? Nobody wants to come live in a fracking colony. Nobody's going to bring their kids here.

You want to tell me that Ritchie Country and Doddridge County have any kind of future after what the industry's already done to them? You're delusional. I'm asking that DEP deny the ACP's storm water permit to help save our land, our water, our people and our future. Thank you.

CHAIR: James, you're up. After James, it is Heather Schneider. Heather is the last person to sign up to speak tonight. So if you want to speak, the sign-in sheets, as I've said before, are right there.

MR. KOTCON: My name is James Kotcon. And I am chairman of the West Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club. And I am from Morgantown, West Virginia. I've heard a lot of the comments from the industry supporters. And I am reminded of a quote I heard many years again, because the industry is feeding a lot of people.

When is it okay to bite the hand that feeds you? And the answer is, when the hand is feeding
you poison. I'm going to present for the record a study that came out just last week. Hydraulic fraction and infant health, new evidence from Pennsylvania. This study shows a very significant correlation between proximity to hydraulic fracturing well sites and low infant birth rates, weight loss and other adverse health outcomes for infants.

Now I want you to think about babies for a little while. Because I think that's kind of why we're all here. That is not an outcome we should be looking forward to. That is not an outcome we would want to impose on our neighbors. Those outcomes occur within two miles of fracking sites. And they don't occur outside of that range. It's very clearly localized to hydraulic fracturing sites.

What does that have to do with pipelines? When West Virginia Legislature passed the Horizontal Well Control Act, they mandated a series of studies back in 2011. And those studies were completed. They were paid for by DEP, which means us taxpayers. And they identified a number of adverse air pollution impacts, primarily associated with diesel emissions.

Constructing this pipeline is going to have many of those same kinds of diesel emissions. I can
already predict what DEP is going to say in their
response to comments that this hearing is about water
pollution, it's not about air pollution and therefore
they won't address these comments. But if you look at
the rules, there is no place to address air pollution
impacts from pipeline construction. They are explicitly
exempted from air pollution impacts. It is unregulated.
It is the Wild, Wild West and they will do what they darn
well please.

Water issues have been addressed
repeatedly here and I won't repeat them other than to say
that the design of their water pollution and air
pollution needs to be based on sound data. It needs to
be strictly required. We need to adhere to the laws
requiring anti-degradation reviews and there needs to be
clear designs ahead of time.

The fact that DEP has still not got
complete designs from these sites and yet they're holding
a hearing on water pollution permit seems to me just if
not outrageous, at least pretty ridiculous and
embarrassing perhaps. There are many figures tonight
that say that construction can be done in an
environmentally responsible way.

But I would urge that we not fall for the
industry promises. The question is, will it be done in an environmentally responsible way? And the record is pretty clear that unless a company is required to do that by mandatory provisions with detailed monitoring requirements and stringent enforcement, the company's going to lie. Do not fall for their promises.

DEP has to include detailed water quality provisions that are enforceable, stringent and monitored. And if they cannot do that, they should deny the permit.

Thank you.

MS. SCHNEIDER: My name is Heather Schneider and I am a citizen of Upshur County, specifically Buckhannon. And I am here to ask that you do not approve the ACP's permit application. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline's application does not meet the requirements for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's oil and gas construction storm water general permit.

Under the Clean Water Act, there needs to be restoration, establishment, enhancement and/or in certain circumstances, preservation of streams and other aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting adverse impacts. These and other final mitigation or avoidance measures of geologically sensitive areas are not included
in the application and are still being developed by
geotechnical engineers.

This is not substantive enough to ensure
that our water sources will be protected if the permit is
granted with this insufficient application. Site
specific designs are still being developed for locations
with unique geo-hazards and great potential for
instability. The use of riprap is proposed instead of
WVDEP's preferred method of restoration using natural
stream channel design for stream bank stabilization.

High quality tier three waters will be
crossed and must undergo an anti-degradation review as
required by the permit. Also, no water quality
monitoring is proposed. Monitoring may not be required,
but it can be requested. I am requesting it right now
for the people.

Monitors should be installed at sensitive
stream crossings similar to the efforts being conducted
along proposed pipeline routes in Virginia. There are
nine stream crossings. Nine. This monitoring effort
must collect baseline water quality data. And if the
pipeline is constructed, monitor water quality in these
streams before, during and after pipeline construction.
This data must be publically available. In near real-
How long will we sacrifice our home, our water on the altar of a few temporary jobs? Again, the ACP's application does not meet the requirements for the WVDEP's oil and gas construction storm water general permit. Best industry practices. Best industry practices are not the same as best environmental protection practices. The environment is our home.

Thank you.

CHAIR: Next, Carrie Kline. After Carrie Kline is Michael Kline.

MS. KLINE: I'm Carrie Kline. I live in Elkins. The part of Randolph County that makes decisions for the part of Randolph County that is going to have a pipeline come through it if this happens. I understand this is a hearing on storm water permits. And in some ways that seems like a glossing over. It sounds like an engineering term.

We're talking about water. We're talking about drinking water. We're talking about bathing. And I'm not a scientist. I'm an oral historian and a folklorist and I work in the tourism industry. Doing oral histories, we had the privilege and sorrow of
recording people's horrible stories of working in the gas industry, living where wells are, compressor stations, and being extremely sick.

I interview truckers who have been burned. And if West Virginia were not designated as a national sacrifice zone for energy that is, quote, unquote, affordable for other people, they would not be trying to put a pipeline through our communities. We deserve better. We deserve jobs and renewable energy and agriculture and tourism. It's a huge industry.

My motor coaches are not going to come. I have a step on guide. They're not going to be able to get through with these big pipes. Try turning left on Randolph Avenue in Elkins. I hope none of you have to do that now. There's not room for another vehicle.

Pipelines beget fracking. Don't kid ourselves. The idea is pipelines and then we need --- we've got to feed them. We've got to feed them more and more. Each well pad uses six to eight million gallons of water. If we think we're dry now, we're going to run out of water. And even the industry knows this is a real issue. That's why for the short term they will provide people with this funny term, to me, water buffalos.

So you get that for a while, and then
you're dry. We can't live without water. And we can't live with water that's got sediment in it. We can't fish. People come to West Virginia to fish. You know they do. And we all love our rivers. We fish, we swim, we bring our children there.

The jobs come and the jobs go. There are going to be less than 100 permanent jobs for over 600 miles of pipeline in three states. Not only is that a poor way to build our economy. It's a poor way to protect the pipeline. That doesn't include maintenance.

And I really feel for people who work as biologists who work for the DEP, because you are so understaffed. And you are working in a time of such extreme deregulation. You're not given what you need to protect our resources.

So as I said, tourism is a huge industry. I know that. And I'm working with three regional organizations in our part of the state to try to create jobs so that young people here can stay. We have more artists in this area. And I don't just mean visual artists. You can't really lift a rock without finding a musician around here.

We have a culture that is endangered. And we want young people to be able to stay, and they want
to. They're trying to --- they're trying to build it up. Downtown Buckhannon looks good. Elkins is trying too. But they need --- they need to know that this is going to be a place for art. They need to be able to sell their art. The kind of jobs and the kind of culture that comes in with pipelines and fracking is incompatible with a tourism and arts industry with that kind of culture. Pipelines leak and they burst. Even the new Dakota Access pipeline just had a major leak. There have been many, many leaks and pipelines and bursts and someone mentioned Sissonville explosion, 12/12/2012. These are dangerous. And between the Upshur --- Buckhannon-Upshur High School and the State Troopers' is where the pipeline is supposed to go.

What are we thinking? Let's think. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next, Michael Kline.

MR. KLINE: Thank you very much. In a civilized society we wouldn't even need --- need to be having these discussions. But as citizens are trying to hold it together in a sacrifice, a national sacrifice zone, which is what we're officially called by the industry, by outside corporations. We're fighting --- we feel that we're fighting for our lives.
As I think of this pipeline, as I think of these huge sections of pipe, about three of them fit I think on a big tractor trailer. What are they, 50 feet long, 40 feet long, these huge long sections of pipe coming through our town. As Carrie said, you can't get through Elkins now without waiting, waiting, waiting. If you live on a side street that doesn't have a red light, you sit there and you wait.

That's the way it is now. What's it going to be once they start hauling all that pipe through our town? It has to come through Elkins. There are no bypasses around Elkins. It's a bottleneck east and west. It's a bottleneck north and south. And not only will they bring sections of pipe, they will bring crews of young, single predatory workers with them. All young men are predators.

And during their hours off they will be stalking our gymnasiums, our football fields, the aisles of the Walmart looking for entertainment with our young girls and young women. This is the character of pipeline crews. It's a terrifying thing to think about as a resident of Elkins.

But our subject here tonight is water, isn't it? The trouble is, there are all these complex
relationships that are linked to water. And so there's no easy way to talk about this. Like, Dominion is a reliable company. Come on, have we all drunk the Kool-Aid? What's going on here?

It takes six to eight million gallons of water to frack a well. How much of that water is usable after the fracking job? About ten percent. Ninety (90) percent of the water that goes down into these wells is forever taken out of circulation. The disrupted karst formations leak water that is poisonous. It is poison with radioactive materials that are loosened in the operation. Nobody's mentioned radioactivity tonight.

This is a death trip. You want China to come with their 86 trillion, gazillion dollars, however many? Whatever suitcases full of money they're going to bring to help us develop our resources? Come on people. I can buy into energy self-sufficiency. I can buy into that idea. But not one cubic whatever for export.

Why should we be compromising our water, our children, our land, our future, so that some company can ship our resources to Europe or to Middle Asia or to China? We watched all of the coal in eastern Kentucky stripped mined 40 years ago to satisfy the needs of the Tennessee Valley, the TVA. I've been watching this for
nearly half a century, this kind of extraction. I know, you want me to finish, okay.

But I'm saying all of this in love and hope. I'm not saying it to degrade or belittle any of you here tonight. But I think we need to approach this mindfully and with an eye toward the future of our families and our family lines. So God bless you all and may God save us all.

CHAIR: That was the last person who is signed up to speak. Anybody else who wishes to make a public comment tonight?

MS. BIAS: My name is Olive Bias. I'm from West Virginia. I've lived here all my life here too. And my family are throughout various parts of Appalachia. We were also at the hearings for the pipeline for Mountain Valley Pipeline, Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Richmond. So I'm going to go over some of the notes that I gave over there as well.

So risk assessment for oil and gas industry, I'm just going to include Atlantic Coast Pipeline. There's evaporation pits for waste, and there's landfills for waste, there's burial of waste. There's a mist of waste water for evaporation, there's transportation, there's land farming bioremediation,
there's going to be overburden and spoil relocation from
blown up mountains, which they are proposing to blow up
10 to 60 plus feet to put down this pipeline.

Lewis County will have compressors, which
will release methane at the compressor stations. All of
this stuff is toxic. And the federal regulations
actually exempts oversight for many of the procedures and
substances that are used for oil and gas wells. So it's
all a false sense of security when people say that, you
know, we don't need the 401, we've got the nationwide
permit from Army Corps. We're going to do the best we
can to take care of the environment.

I also want to acknowledge the Monacan
Nation, the Lumbee Tribe, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Coharie,
the Mohara and Eastern Cherokee. They're going to be
affected by having this pipeline laid down. Where the
FERC and Dominion did not do any consultation with many
of these tribes, because they are not federally
recognized. And that's a product of paper genocide and
colonialism.

And me myself being a mixed blood
indigenous person of Eastern Cherokee heritage, it pisses
me off. Because these are our ancestral lands that those
pipelines are going through.
So people mentioned the G150 Pipeline that Dominion built. It contaminated 12 waterways within West Virginia and the DEP requested info, went over there, checked out the site. On and on and on. Doddridge County had a pipeline of crude oil that never even got reported when it spilled.

Pipeline Safety and Hazardous Material Administration from 2003 to 2014 did studies that there was at least 11,412 barrels of hazardous liquids alone that got spilled from pipelines being built. And the FERC from La Fleur but also the institute for energy economics and financial analysis as well as the seventh annual Marcellus and Utica mid-stream conference, acknowledged the fact that over-building of pipelines is a really big problem.

This pipelines don't need to get built at all for them to be able to process gas to other areas that they're trying to provide gas for. And that's been acknowledged. And even with the Marcellus and Utica, you know, shale reservoir of natural gas is going to get used up if you're building pipelines. So like even with your own logic if you want to put these pipelines down it doesn't make any sense.

These pipelines are also going to be on
soil types from these mountains that are prone not only to erosion, because it's acidic soils. But also landslides. This is self-sabotage. There's no other way to put it. Well, there is another way to put it. It's what people said earlier, we're a sacrifice zone.

I also just want to acknowledge that I think it's really important for the people that like have lived here for most of our lives that this is not our first rodeo when it comes to pipelines being built or mountain top removal or coal mining. None of this stuff. And I have family that's sick from this stuff.

And even when it comes to like secondary containment facilities that just have chemicals that are used for processing all of this stuff. People are getting sick from that too. And as many people that came from Dominion that have all these prepared statements that they gave talking about, you know, we can trust Dominion and I've worked the pipelines before and that I can give personal testimony as to how safe it's going to be.

Well, I know people that have worked within coal and pipelines that can also state the exact opposite. So I want to thank the people that came here to have this be a more balanced argument I guess in
regards to talking about like the realities of these
pipelines getting laid down.

   How many acres of state forest and
national forest that this is going to go through. How
many rivers, Shenandoah River, the Green Brier River, the
Potomac River. It's going to affect Appalachian Trail.
And even if people don't want to call this mountain top
removal for laying down this pipeline, you want to get
into semantics. Cool.

   We're not getting blowing up the mountains
to get to the coal seams. But you're destroying ---.
What --- what arrogance do you have that you think you
can blow up the earth, deface the earth like that to lay
down a pipeline?

   MS. BOLIN-CLEMENS: I got here really
late. But I just wanted to let you know that I care
about all of you. And I drove all the way from Richmond,
Virginia to come to talk to you. Because we are facing
the same situation, of course, in Virginia that you are.

   And we have it on record, it's on film.
Dominion has admitted that there will be impacts to
streams, there will be impacts to wells. But they're
hoping minimal. And that's the key word, hoping. And
this is not okay. Your water is in danger.
West Virginia has got a long history of the fuel industry. It also has a very long industry of the coal. There was a time and a purpose for that. That time is over. And it's time for us to start focusing on renewable energies. There's absolutely no reason this pipeline needs to be built. It is not slated to serve you in any way. It's all for export.

It is not going to bring in tons of jobs. They're going to be very temporary jobs, if you get one of them. Because most of the --- I think a gentleman alluded that they bring in their own people from outside and set them at the man camps.

I'm not even going to talk about that.

But as an indigenous woman who was at Standing Rock for eight months and know all about it, I can tell you about the dangers of that.

But what I'm here today is to ask you to continue to put pressure. To not give them this permit. It's just too dangerous. There's too many questions. Make them do every test under the sun. Because they've not done their due diligence for your wellbeing. This is your water. Just know that and hold onto that and make them do the right thing. Thank you.

CHAIR: Is there anyone else who would
like to speak?

This concludes the public hearing on the construction storm water permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The comment period ends on December 31st, 2017. If you wish to receive a copy of the comments and responses, please make sure your email address is on the sign-in sheet.

Thank you for your participation. Have a safe drive home.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: May I just express my appreciation for the opportunity of speaking tonight? I've been to many of these meetings where it's not permitted. And this was a very refreshing opportunity. Thank you.

CHAIR: Thank you.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:32 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.

[Signature]

Court Reporter