STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
* * * * * * * *
IN RE: MOUNTAINEER GAS COMPANY
EASTERN PANHANDLE EXPANSION PROJECT
* * * * * * * *
BEFORE: JACOB GLANCE, Chair
JOSEPH COCHRAN, Environmental Resource Specialist
JOHN MICHAEL BOSLEY, Supervisor
HEARING: Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 6:04 p.m.
LOCATION: Berkeley Springs High School
149 Concord Avenue
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
WITNESSES: Mike Law, John Webster, Cam Trowbridge, Frank Rodgers, Leonard Barron, Abigail Benjamin, Ann Bristow, Alice Wilson, Laura Steepleton, Patricia Kesecker, Christiane Graham, Brent Walls, Brooke Harper, Charles March, Meaghan Thompson, Susan Taylor-Dropp, Brady Worth, John Qua, Kathleen Brophy, Tracy Cannon

Reporter: Guy Starrett
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WITNESSES (cont.): Russel Mokhiber, Osha Baxter-Worth, Lynn Yellott, April Keating, Kevin Campbell, Matthew Hahn, Sandra Waggoner, John Christensen, Dawn White, Tom Langan, Lindsay Pack, Jill Clark-Gollub
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PROCEDINGS

CHAIR: Okay. Good evening everybody.

I'm Jake Glance from the Department of Environmental Protection's public information office. Welcome to tonight's public hearing on the Mountaineer Gas Company Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project. The permit number is WVR 310880. Also here this evening are Joe Cochran and John Michael Boseley with the Division of Water and Waste Management and Ed Maguire and Dennis Stottlemyer with the Office of Environmental Advocate.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to give you the opportunity to share your comments with the DEP about the Mountaineer Gas Company, Eastern Panhandle expansion project. 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 your comments on the topic so that our time together is used efficiently. We have a lot of people signed up to speak, so the time limit for each speaker
will be three minutes. I'll time everyone. So when you 
hear the alarm if you could then conclude your comments. 
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 the hearing. Please remember that this 
public hearing is not the proper forum for questions and 
answers. We are here to receive comments on this permit 
and we will respond to each comment when we issue a 
decision.

If you have any questions about the 
permit please speak with the DEP representative at the 
conclusion of this public hearing. If no one has any 
questions about the hearing format we will begin the 
hearing with our first speaker. Thank you.

Okay. If you would, please, when you 
come up to the podium -.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you introduce the 
Board and who they represent so we can see who they are?

CHAIR: Yes. John Michael? Where's John 
- John Michael Boseley right here raised his hand.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Joe is watching the door.

CHAIR: Joe is watching the door so people can get in. Dennis Stottlemeyer with the Environmental Advocates office and Ed Maguire also --- Ed, raise your hand in the back. With the Office of Environmental Advocate. So if you have questions about the permits see one of us after the --- as the hearing concludes. Any other questions?

Okay. Let's get started. The first speaker is Mike Law, the second speaker is John Webster and after John is - is it Clay or Carrie? Cam. I'm sorry. Cam Trowbridge. Right?

Mike Law.

MR. LAW: Hello everybody. Welcome you guys to Berkeley Springs today and manage to get to the healing spas and enjoy our clean water. The first thing I want to ask is that you deny this permit. Eastern Panhandle pipeline permit, it does not meet the requirements set by the West Virginia DEP oil and gas construction storm water general permit. There are no site specific designs. This proposed project is going to go across Sleepy Creek. Sleepy Creek is one of the most pristine creeks in Morgan --- in that whole east
coast of the United States.

I'm speaking for Morgan County wetlands Watchdogs. We've made sure that things like the industrial park have not contaminated our fragile wetlands here. More than any place else in the state we're aware of how fragile our water is. Second I want to touch on that we are in contact with folks in Highland County, Virginia and currently assessment records show a very large drop in land values within a half a mile of proposed pipeline, over 20 percent.

That --- in West Virginia this pipeline is going 23 miles --- and this is a half mile on each side of this. So for a solid mile for 23 miles we are going to lose over 20 percent of our tax revenues. Lower tax revenues equals lower community service. This is going to be a disaster for our community. Third I wanted to --- to mention that Morgan County has overwhelmingly voted against zoning because we value property rights so much, yet the Kesecker Farm is being stolen by a multi-national corporation, a multi-
genation farm.

The folks in Virginia have also noticed that when the pipeline construction goes through the farmland is so damaged that you cannot farm for another
50 years on that land. This pipeline makes my land essentially worthless. It makes most of the land of Morgan County worthless. I don't know who would ever move here when you know your land can be stolen any time one of our corrupt politicians feels like selling their soul. Thank you.

CHAIR: John Webster up next. After John is Cam, after Cam Frank and Catherine Rodgers signed up. Frank or Catherine is next.

MR. WEBSTER: Hello. Are our representatives here?

Okay. Our representatives are wrong and so is what they are doing. According to the SRSrocco report the fracking bubble Ponzi scheme is about to collapse. And I quote, the crucial factor overlooked is the fact that the U.S. shale industry is stealing and swindling energy from other areas to stay alive. Not only is the U.S. shale industry $212 billion in debt, but it takes more energy to produce the oil and gas than what we get from it. That's a negative return. This is a perfect example of failing --- failing energy return on investment, forcing an industry to cannibalize itself and the public to keep from going bankrupt.

At some point the Shale industry will
collapse upon itself leaving one hell of a mess behind. While it's hard to predict the timing of event it will likely occur within the next two to five years. How long is it going to take to do this pipeline? Then from this morning's Peak Prosperity website comes the following. The increasing cost of energy is manifesting itself in prices --- higher prices for everything and in lower real wages.

We are compensated for this in the short term by using financial gimmicks to make energy affordable, but all we are doing is creating debt that cannot possibly be repaid. The crisis we're likely to face is going to look like the great depression. The math is straightforward, but cruel. This is fracking. What's going to happen?

My question then to the state is why if the fracking industry is going to collapse within the next two to five years why we are we even entertaining the notion of a frack gas pipeline that will tear up Morgan County for not? Either stop the pipeline now or wait five more years to see how this all plays out. Thank you.

CHAIR: Cam? Cam is up next. After Cam is Frank, after Frank is Leonard it looks like Barroh,
MR. TROWBRIDGE: My name is Cam Trowbridge from Martinsburg. I'm a past present of the Opequon Creek project team which looks out for the welfare and water safety and quality of the Opequon Creek watershed, which encompasses eastern Berkeley County and southwestern Jefferson County. The people living in this area depend upon the Potomac River and karst area wells and springs for their drinking water, water for their livestock and agricultural irrigation, and for the purity of water for manufacturing such as the newly established Proctor and Gamble industrial complex.

What could be more harmful than drilling fluid and mud running off from a construction site into ground composed of karst? The research I have done shows that not a single gas pipeline crosses under the Potomac River between Point of Rocks, Maryland and Paw, West Virginia. Go to the National Pipeline Mapping System at PVNPMSPHMSA dot, dot, dot.gov/PublicView. Plug in the States of Maryland and West Virginia and counties Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington, and Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan. Why is there no
pipeline under the Potomac from Point of Rocks to Paw Paw? Because the underlying ground is karst.

What applies to the Potomac River applies equally to the 14 Morgan and Berkeley County wetlands and 67 county streams Mountaineer proposes to dig under. The 23 mile long construction site Mountaineer Gas proposes can create storm water runoff of drilling fluids and muds that can contaminate and pollute underground aquifers. No one has put a gas pipeline under this section of the Potomac River, or under the streams of northern Morgan and Berkeley Counties because of the dangers of drilling and laying a gas pipeline in karst rock, below the surface of the earth and at inaccessible depths, and at inaccessible locations under the water.

Drilling mud and fluid may well escape into underground fissures, caves and waterways. What is to contain these fluids as the drill progresses through unknown karst formations? It is too easy for a pipe to break as it lies in the air in a karst cave, unsupported by anything underneath it. How is that to be detected and once detected, how contained? What is to keep storm water runoff containing drilling fluid pollutants from flowing around a vertically orientated pipe, plunging
down to an underground aquifer as the pipe attempts to burrow below Sleepy Creek, or Back Creek, or Opequon Creek or 64 other creeks Mountaineer intends to dig under.

The West Virginia Department of the Environment created storm water permits not to facilitate gas pipelines but to protect the environment of West Virginia inhabitants from pollution and contamination. Please deny Mountaineer's application. Thank you.

CHAIR: Frank up next. After Frank is Leonard, after Leonard is Abigail Benjamin.

MR. RODGERS: Good evening everyone. I'm Frank Rodgers, Director of Cacapon Institute. Cacapon Institute opposes this gas line. As I spoke with the county Commission many months ago on the grounds of climate change that the burning of natural gas will just perpetuate the kind of flooding we saw in Berkeley Springs not too many years ago. In the case --- and there are also many hazards to the water shed, our own water sheds and the Potomac that I'm sure folks will speak about tonight.

In this particular case on this particular permit we oppose the permit because it is
moving far, far too rapidly in a dynamic situation. Just last week's paper pointed out in the editorial that this pipeline and the blasting silica are being permitted at the same time. Has there been any --- where is the study in that? Another major concern that the public should have on this is Mountaineer has not made public the route. It has been this, it has been that.

I have seen the states that go directly behind Hedgesville High School and underneath of the tractor trailer driving range runs the technical school and yet I'm told it's not going to be there. And yet there was --- there was survey space. So what is the path? What route will this take? There has to be a need for the pipeline. There has to be a --- this is a permanent process which implies damage. The Mountaineer company is being permitted to harm us. Now, if there is a need, if there is a balancing justification for this I'm open to discussion, but so far the FERC line from Maryland has not been approved.

There is no gas to put in this line and they are going to start building it. So the permit should be denied until the Maryland FERC process has been at least approved and that - thank you.
CHAIR: Leonard up next. After Leonard is Abigail, after Abigail is Ann Bristow.

MR. BARRON: My name is Lee Barron and I really like this stuff, this filtered water for my well and I'm a solar analyst. I live here locally on Pious Ridge Road and I grow all classes of plants. So I'm very dependent on this product and also the quality of the soil and trees as well. My vote is that this is too hazardous. There's a possibility to install the pipeline, that it's supposed to go three-quarters of a mile from my house up on Pious Ridge Road.

And it --- it just will compromise everything that I am doing. I don't understand it. I believe we're at the end of the fossil fuel age. We need to move on to cleaner energies. So what is happening here doesn't make sense to me. Thank you very much.

CHAIR: Abigail Benjamin up next. After Abigail is Ann Bristow, after Ann is Alice Wilson.

MS. BENJAMIN: My name is Abigail Benjamin and I'm an environmental lawyer licensed in West Virginia. I intervened in the original permit case in front of the Public Service Commission on behalf of the Blue Heron Environmental Network. Today I am
speaking on behalf of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, a non-profit with over 7,500 supporters in West Virginia. The West Virginia Rivers Coalition will supplement my oral remarks with more technical comments.

The West Virginia DEP must deny this permit due to its many deficiencies. The permit is missing critical safety contingency plans and other information the West Virginia DEP requires.

Sedimentation and erosion --- sorry. Sedimentation and erosion from pipeline construction is known to negatively impact West Virginia's rivers and streams.

Dominion's G150 pipeline, a 60 mile, 8 inch pipeline built in the Northern Panhandle, received a fine from West Virginia DEP of $55,000 from 9 violations for sediment deposits that impacted 12 streams and waterways.

The Stonewall Gathering line, a 55 mile, 36 inch pipeline, received 53 violations and a fine of $110,000. More recently the Rover pipeline had to be issued a cease and desist order because their best management practices construction were appallingly ineffective. Given this history of pipeline failures, Mountaineer Gas should have given us detailed safety plans for the permit. Missing information in this
permit is on many levels including enhanced erosion control measures on steep slopes, karst geography mitigation plans, site specific stream crossing plans, stream restoration plans and horizontal directional drilling contingency plans.

If Mountaineer Gas has submitted such an incomplete permit application how can the West Virginia DEP approve this permit and still protect our water resources? Some of the mountains traversed by the pipeline corridor in the Eastern Panhandle have steep slopes. This means the soil to moderate to severely erodible. Super silt fences or belted silt fences with sediment basins and sediment traps must be required on steep slopes. Sediment and erosion control measures on steep slopes must go above and beyond what is typically required to be effective at controlling erosion.

Many people have talked in detail about the karst geography, so I'll skip that section in honor of time. Pipeline construction causes increased sedimentation and turbidity in nearby water sources. The most significant treatment challenges for a water utility is increased turbidity. The pipeline route proposes to cross the wellhead protection for Berkeley Springs, where we are now. Filtering excess sediment
introduced from pipeline construction projects will 
increase the operating expenses of Berkeley Springs.

To conclude, the West Virginia DEP has a 
responsibility to ensure the protection of the state 
water resources. That is why the West Virginia Rivers 
Coalition urges to be denied. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next Ann Bristow. After Ann 
is Alice Wilson, after Alice is Lee Banon, 
B-A-N-O-N.

Is that right?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think he already 
spoke.

MR. BARRON: I just spoke.

CHAIR: Okay.

You signed it twice. After - then Laura Steepleton is 
after Alice.

MS. BRISTOW: Ann Bristow from Garrett 
County, Maryland. I'm a health educator and I was 
Commissioner of Governor O'Malley's Marcellus Shale 
drilling initiative where I learned how state and 
federal regulatory agencies ignore or minimize public 
health threats from the oil and gas industry. So I want 
to talk about those threats and I'd like to build on 
what Cam spoke about in terms of karst geology. Very
little is known about karst geology in this part of the world.

It's not specifically mapped. It certainly is not in Maryland, so insufficient data to evaluate a project like this under anti permits that are being discussed. There are two ways in which West Virginia wetlands and waterways can be damaged during both pipeline construction and operational failures, leaks, ruptures and explosions. I want to draw your attention. I spent some time on this and come back to karst, to a report done by Intertech for TransCanada.

These are borehole analyses done on both sides of the Potomac and there’s one borehole analysis. And if you go back to the FERC application you can look at this stuff. This is boring GO-6 in West Virginia. It's on the West Virginia shore of the Potomac River and in that they found a void which could be indicative of karst and the consulting firm for TransCanada says that, and I will quote, we do not believe that the purchase groundwater table at this location is part of a regional aquifer or that it connects to the Potomac River or to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

We do not believe - DEP is supposed to base their findings in science, not in beliefs from
industry or industry contractors. The contractor further went to bibliography of the information that supports their belief and in that they say that there's inadequate data for groundwater in the region where this borehole was made. So basically what we have happening here in both Maryland and West Virginia with our regulatory bodies is they're taking something where there's a lack of evidence because research has not been done and they're equating lack of evidence with lack of harm or lack of potential harm.

Because we do not know where this is does not mean that there may not be harm. So kind of problems you get in karst geology that are not being talked about are obviously the blowouts during horizontal directional drilling. There are petro chemical products used in the drill bit. There are proprietary chemicals used in the drilling process and in the drilling muds.

There's currently a FERC investigation against energy transfer partners in Ohio for the railroad pipeline that they may have used chemicals in that drilling that they should not have. And this is the same kind of horizontal directional drilling. The last is methane leakage incarcerology. It can gather in
areas like caves, like wells. It can migrate to cause explosions. I wish I had time to tell you more, but it's awful. Thank you.

CHAIR: Alison Wilson up next. After Alice is Laura Steepleton, after Laura is Patricia Kesecker, K-E - Kesecker. She's next after --- she's the third spot. Yeah. Alice come on up.

MS. WILSON: Hello. My name is Alice Wilson and I live in Martinsburg and I wanted to thank you for holding this public hearing. It is extremely important. I am, as I said, current resident of Martinsburg since 2009. I was born and raised in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, fifth generation in Anne Arundel County, Maryland around Annapolis. I grew up on the shores of West River in a blue collar maritime family drinking well water, exploring the rivers, streams and marshes, and catching and eating local seafood. I have a Bachelor's degree in Biology, concentrating on the ecological studies of how all living things are interrelated and dependent on each other, and dependent on the local geology and careful use of natural resources.

I am here tonight to speak about the terrible risks involved in trenching and drilling this
land in Morgan and Berkeley Counties. Since I have lived in Berkeley County I have explored many of the creeks and streams in the area, and volunteered with the foresters and Audubon staff planting trees and shrubs, cleaning debris from the waters and creek sides. I have hiked past sinkholes.

This area is known to be karst geology. Karst is unstable, porous, easily dissolved and contains underground fractures that lead to caves, connects aquifers and contains holes which have collapsed forming sinkholes. Our waters from the mountain streams provide water to our wells, to farm ponds, municipal water supplies, springs that feed livestock and irrigate crops. Our wetlands are not just useless swamps, but are the nurseries of billions of tiny organisms that are the beginnings of the food chains, upon which all of our food supplies depend. Drilling and trenching in this area threatens to destabilize and pollute fragile karst lands and waters. The drilling mud is a pollutant.

When it is spilled, as it did in the Rover pipeline earlier this year, I believe it was in Ohio, the mud kills the tiny organisms it covers. It can seep into the aquifers and pollute water supplies for unknown distances due to the underground caverns,
fissures and cracks in the karst. Wells, ponds, irrigating water supplies and drinking waters for a large area can be rendered unusable.

Water is life. It is essential to nearly all life forms. There are no --- there are --- there are alternatives to gas, oil and other fossil fuels. There is no alternative to water. Please deny the permit for Mountaineer to drill in the Eastern Panhandle. Thank you.

CHAIR: Did you want to submit this as a written --- ma'am?

MS. WILSON: Yes, please.

CHAIR: Okay.

You're Laura.

Right?

MS. STEEPLETON: Yeah.

CHAIR: Okay.

Laura's up next. After Laura is Patricia, after Patricia is Christiane Graham, Christine Graham. Yeah.

MS. STEEPLETON: Hello. I got to get the nerves out considering I know most of you I shouldn't be afraid to speak here. My name is Laura Steepleton. I'm a resident right here in Berkeley Springs and a
concerned person about --- concerned about our water and
the pipeline. Also part of the community group Eastern
Panhandle Protectors. I have a lot of technical things
I want to talk about, but first I just want to say why
are we here doing this right now? This is ridiculous.
I don't expect your agency to protect us.

I spent years in southern West Virginia
where they blow up mountains for coal and they put rocks
down and they say that's the stream that's been created,
or they destroy the head water stream and they said
that's okay. Well, towns are poisoned because they
can't get their water because of either coal or the gas
industry. And you expect me to have faith that you're
going to do the right thing? I'm sorry. I don't, but I
imagine there must be some decent people in this agency
and I beg you if there are, please stand up and do
something right.

For you to speak out, for you not to be
the agency that we come to terms of --- it's called
don't accept protection. That's what we call West
Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. And
when I looked over this permit for Mountaineer Gas I was
like I can't believe you're submitting this.
Mountaineer Gas told us when we tried to intervene in
this process a year and a half ago thanks to Brent with the Potomac Riverkeepers, Abigail Benjamin who was representing Blue Heron Environmental Network.

Blue Heron Environmental Network were setting up and protecting that creek for 30 years. Mountaineer Gas and the Public Service Commission said we will follow all of the environmental sensitivities. We'll look at all of your records and your data. That creek is such a clean creek and we have endangered species in there. Mountaineer Gas has not contacted anyone to get any of our information, or records or talked to us about any sensitivities. They have treated our landowners like garbage, they have lied to them and they have manipulated them and you think we trust them to do the right thing for crossing our water?

No, we don't. Their requirements aren't even fulfilled. You don't have any mitigation for karst, you don't have any contingency plans for how you plan to drill under these creeks, horizontal threshold drilling under Sleepy Creek and Back Creek. We already know the risk in that, especially in karst geology. Drilling is --- karst not on the creeks, but underground the karst as well and nothing spread.

We've already had problems with other
pipelines recently, the railroad pipeline, the mariner
east pipeline where that has happened, where that has
clogged people's well and they no longer have their own
wells for drinking water. And they have to be hooked up
on the back of lines. And there's so many more.
There's no water monitoring programs put in place,
there's no --- I'm sorry.

There is no inspection frequencies,
aren't as stringent for other --- as they are with other
pipeline projects in this state and there's not even a
401 meeting because it's under 12 inches. I beg of you
to do the right thing. Deny this permit. We don't need
this gas. There's 14,000 miles pipelines in West
Virginia. They are not more economically prosperous
than we are in this part of the state. We don't need
this. Thank you.

CHAIR: Patricia's up next. After
Patricia is Christiane, after Christiane is Brent Walls.

MS. KESECKER: My name is Patricia
Kesecker. We have had a farm for pretty much 80 years
plus, family. They came in and did a survey. First
they said they was going to do a survey something along
the powerlines. That was not true. They have come in
and told us that they will take in the domain, which
they did. They took us to court. We lost all of our
rights. Now they want to go across our fields, 75 feet wide. They're going to hold 50 feet of that for
themselves.

We pay the property taxes on that and if
anything happens according to their contract we are responsible. I don't know if you saw in December the 5th. There was a family, a farming family in Illinois. The father was 59, the son was 30. They were putting a braised tile in the bottom area. The tractor got stuck, one pulled the other one out, hit a 20 inch gas pack line. Killed both the father and the 30 year old son. Two workers were injured and this is what was there. TransCanada, which is what we're starting that comes into Maryland is Columbia, comes into West Virginia it's Mountaineer.

And that's a slur on our Mountaineer country I think because they're calling themselves Mountaineer. This tractor you cannot even tell what it was. It melted it down. According to their contract they said we are responsible for any damages. Are they going to come back on this widow and have her pay to fix their 20 inch gas line at all after losing her --- her husband and a son? They have so many excuses. They
keep switching everything back, you know. We're not allowed to farm across it, we're not allowed to put tractors across it.

Well, we farm. We have two bigger tractors and a Columbine. Suppose they put this --- they're supposed to put it down start at three feet, now go to four to five feet. With our rocks, they had to put one straight up and down and eventually the dirt wears away and you hit it, you're gone. But how do they expect us to be responsible for their damage? They're putting the danger in the ground.

Why should we be responsible for what they're doing to us and all? We took this to court. We're now facing a three man Commission that the court appoints five, we have to pick three, one for us, one for them and a middle one. And all after that we're going to be going for a 12 man jury in the summer. We have no contract to sign because they took everything away. They started out with 500 --- over $5,000 feet across that farm. They're going to the middle of the best cornfield. We asked them to move it down. We didn't want it at all, we didn't want the money and all this, but they're still forcing us to do it.

And, well, we might be able to move it if
you would consider this amount. If they can consider it for that why can't they just move it down further where it would be safer and not on top of the hill where a tractor go across it. They started out with the end of domain as a transmission line. Then before we went to the Commissioners they came along in a paper. Then they're going to be a distribution line. Well, now they're still building it.

So guess what? We're going to be a storage line. Now, 1,400 pound pressure that they normally run in this 10 inch line. They can jack that pressure up to 475 feet - 475 pound pressure in that line and it's going to be sitting there. Whether they get it under the canal or not, they're still doing it in West Virginia.

CHAIR: Ma'am, please conclude.

MS. KESECKER: So the - the thing is we don't need it. They can just take everything away from us and, like I said, we are the eyes and ears of the valley, but when we hear the bulldozers it's too late.

CHAIR: Up next is Brent Walls. After Brent is Brooke Harper.

MS. GRAHAM: Hello. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to - to testify today. I'm --- I'm
Christiane Graham. I just bought a home in the Sleepy Creek area and I absolutely love this area in West Virginia. I'm asking the West Virginia Department of the Environment to deny this permit, to discharge storm water unsafely that is generated during pipeline construction activities by --- let me call them all three, TransCanada, Columbia Gas and Mountaineer Gas.

Both --- the three corporations have not demonstrated any safe pipeline building practices as seen in TransCanada's recent oil spill of 211,000 gallons in South Dakota. I understand the job situation in West Virginia is dire and people are looking for well-paying jobs. Let's not be fooled by the corporation's promises to create jobs. All the high paying jobs are filled already by trained staff, not residents of West Virginia for the duration of the project.

They are not interested in costly training, although they will hire for lower paying positions for one to two years, these are not permanent jobs, as they have done in Pennsylvania and New York. In these jobs many workers will risk their health as they handle highly toxic chemicals and transport water, a special West Virginia resource. The water impact is
unmeasurable. Building this pipeline will destroy the fishing streams, i.e., the creek, and poison the wells in the panhandle.

You have to ask yourselves is it worth it and I know I speak --- I'm preaching to the choir. I understand that. The two gas lines --- pipelines being built in Virginia have used --- by Mountaineer have used 17 billion gallons of free water between 2005 and 2013. Make no mistake that neither TransCanada, Mountaineer or Columbia Gas will be paying for any clean West Virginia water or pick up any of the associated health costs. I am directly affected by the pipeline that is projected to run within two miles of the home I bought in Morgan County. I've hired a local West Virginia contractor and I support the local economy. My well water will be endangered by this pipeline, as water running through the fragile karst geology can rapidly dissolve and form pathways between ground and polluted surface water.

As a person of faith I believe in the sacredness of the interdependent web of all life. My congregation leads conscious efforts to heal and sustain the planet that we call home. Many religious communities agree with scientific research that climate change is now an existential threat to humanity and our
biosphere. The danger to all life on earth due to irresponsible burning of fossil fuels for energy production is unconscionable.

We are facing a climate crisis that is already causing suffering for people worldwide every day. And I ask you in this case actually the people from the Department of the Environment, what will you tell your children and your grandchildren when they are asking you, what did you do when the weather got worse and the climate completely started changing? So I thank you very much for listening to me.

CHAIR: Brent's up next. After Brent is Brooke Harper, after Brooke is Charles March.

MR. WALLS: I'm going to take you all's picture and the reason why I'm taking you all's picture is it's a great turnout.

All right. My name is Brent Walls. I'm the Upper Potomac River keeper. I've been in this watershed for over ten years and the gas companies that we see tonight are the --- that have been put in their petition and their --- their application for this gas pipeline are bullies. They're bullies, they are users, they are liars. They are companies that only look for profits. That's what they're after. There's no benefit
whatever to the residents of West Virginia and there are no benefits to the residents of Maryland.

They are users of a system. This is actually one pipeline, not two pipelines like what they have done very successfully at doing in the past two years. Mountaineer Gas pipeline with just a West Virginia permit and the TransCanada pipeline with a federal permit. They are one. They are dependent on each other. The Mountaineer Gas pipeline would not exist without the source from TransCanada.

So they are users of a system and that's how they get into this process and that is exactly how they're able to pull the wool over the state's eyes. I find it ironic that we are allowing a gas pipeline that does leak through karst geology. And might I remind you a significant portion of the Eastern Panhandle is karst geology?

And I also find it ironic that the State of West Virginia banned the disposal of fracking waste in landfills that are situated in karst geology even though there are leachate protection systems in those landfills that are supposed to be state of the art and will protect our groundwater from any kind of potential contamination.
That was passed not more than two, I think three years ago and the --- the landfill that's here in Berkeley County cannot take or receive fracked waste because of the karst geology, but yet we're --- they're going to allow a pipeline to go through this karst geology. For the past decade or more gas companies and the authority developments in these counties have been looking to try to get gas to this area and they have not done so, and the reason is is because it's difficult to get anything under the Potomac River. This application is insufficient as been pointed out by several people tonight.

It doesn't have a communications plan, it doesn't have a mitigation plan. There are no boring logs for any of the crossings that are --- for all these streams. We have no idea exactly where the karst geology is. We have no idea where these streams and the groundwater are connected. None of that information is provided in this application. It is absolutely insufficient, where if there's a spill on any one of these streams six hours or less will get to the drinking water intakes for Washington County and Berkeley County.

Six hours.

Department of Environmental Protection
needs to deny this permit because the FERC permit has not been approved. This is premature of DEP to pass and allow this permit to go forward until there is a decision made by the federal government and the federal agency FERC. Thank you very much.

CHAIR: Brooke Harper. After Brooke is Charles March, after Charles is Meaghan Thompson.

MS. HARPER: Brooke Harper. Maryland and D.C. Policy Director for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network who represents thousands across this region who are counting on both MDE and the West Virginia DEP to conduct a thorough and transparent review of stream and wetland crossings, upstream and downstream impacts, cumulative impacts and to ensure that Maryland and West Virginia's waterways are protected and its water quality standards are met.

And quite truthfully the only way to do that is to deny this pipeline and to deny this permit. I'm also a Hagerstown resident and I have great concerns that Mountaineer Gas Company's application of further pipeline does not meet the requirement for the following reasons. So, one, there's no mitigation or avoidance measures of geologically sensitive karst areas are not included in the application.
It encompasses over half of the Mountaineer gas pipeline route and the TransCanada pipeline crossing over the Potomac River. Karst increases the risk of a blowout spill and also increases the magnitude of private and public water contamination if both pipelines were completed. In fact, if a blowout were to occur it could impact the drinking water of nearly 100,000 residents in Berkeley and Washington Counties. It also does not look at the entirety of the project which includes a TransCanada pipeline.

The entire pipeline project will impact 19 streams, 10 wetlands in Maryland and 100 streams and wetlands in West Virginia. The pipeline route will pass through stream systems that have major flora and fauna and the clear path of 75 foot path requirement that's been cleared along the entire route of both pipelines through forest and farm land has the potential to pollute streams and wetlands with sediment runoff and reducing habitat for aquatic species.

In addition to these considerations site specific designs for stream crossing methods are not included in the application. Open cut crossings and underground boring is proposed, but not the method as specified and there's no contingency plan for
underground borings. There's inherent risks with the construction of pipelines and the methods used to route them across rivers and waterways from storm water pollution to massive drills during the hydraulic directional drilling method.

This method uses millions of gallons of slick water typically laced with diesel fuel to drill longitudinally under rivers and other structures. The intense pressure combined with the volume of slick water has led to blowouts during the drilling process that can discharge millions of gallons of slick water into streams and wetlands. A blowout can also occur on the Mountaineer Gas pipeline causing the Sleepy Creek, Back Creek and other tributaries to the Potomac River. For these reasons we ask that you deny the storm water permit for the Mountaineer Gas and we ask that you do your due diligence.

Thousands of West Virginia residents have signed petitions in opposition to the pipeline. Hundreds have attended demonstrations and hearings such as these and families like Patricia Kesecker, who you just heard from, are fighting this pipeline by refusing to give their land over to a frack gas pipeline. The state emission of your organization is to use all
available resources to protect and restore West Virginia's environment and come to it with the needs of present and future generations.

We ask that you use all available resources and protect the needs of future generations by not locking communities into a frack gas pipeline that threatens their health, their well-being, safety and our overall climate. We ask that you deny this pipeline and the permit for it to go forward.

CHAIR: Charles March is up next. After Charles is Meaghan Thompson, after Meaghan is Susan Prop.

MS. DROPP: Dropp.

CHAIR: Dropp. Charles.

MR. MARCH: Thank you. Yes, I'm Charles March from the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association. I'll keep my comments brief. A lot of the folks have already spoke of some of the issues and so I won't repeat those. In 2007 the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in their evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay watershed area of West Virginia categorized Sleepy Creek as an impair stream.

That impairment has not changed. The impairment was based on high bacteria count and
excessive sediment caused by ongoing stream bank erosion. That has not changed either. Sleepy Creek in this watershed was also identified as home to three endangered species. Operella, which is found only in ten places in the world, our medium sized wood turtles and eastern land mussels. That has not changed. Survival of these species within the watershed is ecologically important and primarily dictated by the local geology and stream pathology that these folks have mentioned.

Therefore, for all of this reasons of excessive disruption to Sleepy Creek and distributaries should be avoided and they should be avoided until we have concrete evidence and proof that these people are good for their word. Thank you.

CHAIR: Meaghan Thompson is up next. After Meaghan is Susan, after Susan is Brady Worth. Thank you.

MS. THOMPSON: Hi. I'm Meaghan. I represent myself, I represent the Eastern Panhandle Protectors and I represent the land and the water. This pipeline is they say being brought in for economical development. So here's some statistics that I just read this morning. In West Virginia alone $9 billion was
brought in in consumer spending for outdoor recreation. Nationwide $900 billion in consumer spending and just over $7.5 million direct jobs was brought in, more than the coal and gas industries combined.

And a little bit history of Southern Appalachia. From our early European settlement through the mid-1900s the predominant force in Appalachian economy was resource extraction. In fact, many of the regions national forest and parks were created as a reaction to ecological devastation caused by those industrial --- industries decades earlier.

President Franklin B. Roosevelt acknowledged as much during his address at the 1940 dedication of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park stating that we realize now that we committed excesses that we are today seeking to atone for. Dirty fossil fuels are resources of the past and they will only last for so long. The water and the land will continue to live on and we should protect it now for our generations and for future generations.

The world we live in is constantly changing in the face of technological development, so why are we still going back to these old ways that we know do not work? We need to train our young workers in
fields that they will be able to continue to support themselves and their families in the future such as solar and wind energy. In doing this we protect our other resources such as outdoor recreation which bring in tourism and in turn economic wealth and development.

I live on a farm outside of Shepherdstown, which has the potential to be affected by this pipeline if there is a leak. We water all of our crops from our well and if the water's contaminated how can we sell things to people that they're going to ingest in our body --- in their bodies? And our farm runs off solar power. It's completely off grid. We don't use the gas, we don't need their pipelines.

So there's an example right there of a business that is thriving in this area that doesn't need this pipeline and none of us need it, and I don't think anyone here really wants it, so ---.

CHAIR: Susan. After Susan is Brady, after Brady is John Qua. Last name is Q-U-A. Yeah. Close enough?

Okay.

MR. TAYLOR-DROPP: I'm Susan Taylor-Dropp and I've lived here for 25 years because I love the mountains, the forests and Sleepy Creek. The
subdivision I live in, among others, has been cut off by the state choosing to close our Burnt Mill Bridge access saying they don't have the money to rebuild it or repair it. In some respects that's fine. We don't mind not listening to the rumble of people going across the bridge, but I'm talking the current plan route includes a corner of our subdivision and the only access road.

How will mostly elderly residents safely leave the area if an emergency should happen during the installation or when it has been installed and operational? From Sleepy Creek it comes up a steep wooded hill under Burnt Mill Road close to Meridian Road cutting off any access in case of fire or other pipeline disaster. We'd be trapped. There are almost a hundred families that live in this area.

One would believe new pipelines would be safer than older ones, but a recent analysis of federal data completed by the Pipeline Safety Trust indicates new pipelines are failing at even a higher rate. I wanted to tell you as the initial President of Sleepy Creek Watershed we picked the wood turtle as our emblem. The wood turtle is listed as vulnerable in West Virginia and only occurs in the Eastern Panhandle. It hibernates three feet underground. What's that going to do when
they start blasting? You don't have to be an environmentalist to care about this pipeline. You just have to care about your wells, your safety and your property values.

Landowners are likely to see a decrease in property values due to the restricted use of land on the easement area as well as the visual impacts of 50 to 100 foot by clear cut maintained constantly with deadly herbicides to treat any further growth that will seep into our waters and into Sleepy Creek. How will the limited road of Route 9 and the smaller feeder roads handle traffic while the construction is going on? Large, heavy equipment, the pipes and other supplies needed to support construction of the pipeline.

This will be going on for over two years. Route 9 is bad enough when you have a 30 mile --- 35 mile an hour driver in front of you, but what about large construction equipment? I'm a metal to the pedal person, so ---. Weight restriction signs were put up to discourage heavy trucks. How will you handle that. We oppose the subdivision where I live in and Sleepy Creek Watershed, too.

CHAIR: Brady. After Brady is John, after John is Kathleen Brophy.
MR. WORTH: Hi. I'm Brady. I represent common sense. I don't know if it's an organization, but if it is everybody should join. A lot of people talked about all the technical aspects, the geology, the topography, the wildlife. Nobody's ever said whether or not it's a good idea and it was funny because on my way here my wife and I, we were talking about what we would say, how we would say it. And all I kept thinking about was a song that Frank Sinatra sung called High Hopes where he said, oops, there goes another rubber tree plant.

I don't know if any of you've ever heard of Fort Landy. It's a brainstorm idea where a guy decided he was going to corner the market on rubber. He was going to go to the Amazon, he was going to clear cut 5,000 acres of rain forest, displace two villages full of people, 10,000 people. 10,000 people. Build movie theaters, build them playgrounds, build factories, refineries. They paid --- they got road construction crews, house construction crews, everybody in there.

And, you know, the only thing they forgot to hire was a botanist that knew how to grow rubber tree plants. The Board never hired one single person who knew how to grow a rubber tree plant. As a consequence
to that they - in 1928 he started it. In - what was it?
Yeah, in 1945 synthetic rubber was created. So at a
loss of over $200 million somebody decided they're going
to displace 10,000 people to grow rubber that they don't
know how to grow because they never took the time to
find out how so they can make money.

Then it was deemed unnecessary and they
never produced one tire, not one tire in the entire
time. So I say no to this on the basis of common sense
and I would hope that everybody else would, too.

CHAIR: John's up next. After John is
Kathleen, after Kathleen is Tracy Cannon.

MR. QUA: Hello. My name is John Qua.
I'm the representative of 350 DC. We fight for climate
justice in the environment in the District of Columbia.
While you will rightfully hear much from West Virginia,
Maryland, folks tonight this pipeline also threatens
millions of resident's drinking water in the District of
Columbia which the Potomac is our only source of
drinking water.

We work for the City Council to respond
to the Potomac pipeline because it threatens millions of
District's resident's drinking water and because D.C.
will have no legislative say in the construction of this
pipeline. And they actually unanimously passed resolution, every single council member in opposition to this pipeline.

So I wanted to read you their words. We the undersigned members of the D.C. Council urge you to deny the Eastern Panhandle expansion project, prevent the construction of this pipeline and to protect all users of the Potomac Watershed. And while we - while we understand that these are residents of West Virginia, we must act to protect our shared interest in the Potomac River and the drinking water of millions of Maryland and D.C. residents.

As you know, this fracked gas pipeline will be directly beneath the Potomac and the C&O canal in Hancock, Maryland. For its project TransCanada proposes utilizing horizontal directional drilling, the same technique that resulted in such massive spills and contaminated the drilling fluid in Ohio that the federal energy and regulatory Commission banned its use for several months earlier this year. Ohio's pristine protected wetlands were contaminated by more than four million gallons of spilled drilling mud, which was later confirmed to contain toxic diesel fuel.

Furthermore, the rock formations beneath
the Potomac River are comprised primarily of karst, a highly porous geology which can easily trap and transport pollutants. TransCanada has a long history of serious spills from its existing pipelines and underestimating the size of spills. A spill in the Potomac watershed whether in construction or operation of the Eastern Panhandle expansion could have a disastrous effect on the residents of D.C. because all of our drinking water comes from the Potomac River.

For all of these reasons we oppose the construction of the pipeline beneath the Potomac River, the drinking water supply for millions of residents in D.C. The District government has taken many steps to protect our residents from the health risks of lead in their drinking water and given TransCanada's track record we hope you will help us protect our residents from this latest risk to their health and safety. Please take action to protect our region from the potential disaster that could render the water of millions of people unsafe to drink and deny these permits. Signed by all members of the D.C. Council.

CHAIR: Kathleen is up next. After Kathleen is Tracy Cannon, after Tracy is Russ Mokhiber.

MS. BROPHY: Good evening. My name is
Kathleen. I'm also a resident of Washington, D.C., but I spent my whole life across the --- across the ponds of Maryland. And I've enjoyed the Potomac River all my life, so has my family. So as John said, I'm also from 350 DC and I'm here to represent also the D.C. residents, 681,000 of whom --- for whom the Potomac River is their sole drinking source. I'm presenting and I'm entering into the record a statement from George Hawkins, the General Manager of the D.C. Water and Sewage Authority who is also in opposition to the pipeline.

I am writing to you to share our concern D.C. Water with possible water quality impacts that could accompany the construction of the Eastern Panhandle Expansion project near Hancock, Maryland. As you know, the proposed pipeline would run beneath the Potomac River, which is the source of drinking water for the 681,000 residents of the District of Columbia. In addition, we provide drinking water to more than 17.8 million people a year who visit the nation's capital. Because of those enormous stakes, D.C. Water is extremely wary of any construction or endeavor that has the potential to jeopardize the clear waters of the Potomac River, the sole source of water for all those
Let me emphasize that last point. The Potomac River is the sole source of drinking water for the nation's capital. A decision on whether to approve this permit is based on your sense of the cost and benefits of that decision. The benefit seems to be marginally better transmission system for natural gas. The risk, although low in probability, is a catastrophic disruption of an essential and singular source of drinking water to the entire Washington, D.C.

Three years ago I warned of the dangers of fracking in natural forests and all the uncertainties that surround a long-term impact of hydraulic fracturing on source water across this country. In this case, the Eastern Panhandle pipeline would carry fracked natural gas to an existing pipeline that runs east, west. The company building the pipeline, TransCanada, wants to drill a pipeline under the Potomac River and the C&O Canal to transport that gas. Your decision about whether to approve a permit for this project could have serious impacts on water quality for many years to come.

For that reason, I encourage you to carefully weigh the potential for lasting damage to the entire water supply for this region before you award
this permit. Unless there is an absolutely compelling
need for this pipeline to support the public health and
welfare of the national capital region, I would suggest
deferring on the decision now by declining to approve
this permit and holding your options open for the
future.

Thank you in advance for your time and
feel free to contact D.C. Water for more information.

CHAIR: Tracy is up next. After Tracy is
Russ, after Russ is Osha Baxter-Worth.

MS. CANNON: Okay. I'd like to thank
the West Virginia Department of the Environment for
having this hearing and for all of you for being here	onight. I'm Tracy Cannon, an area resident for 33
years. I live on Back Creek in Berkeley County, one of
the creeks that would be affected if this pipeline goes
through. It's one of the last healthy creeks in West
Virginia. I've come here this evening to ask the West
Virginia Department of the Environment given the name of
your agency if you are okay with a pipeline going under
the many streams in our region.

The pipeline road would be maintained, as
Susan Dropp pointed out, with toxic herbicides that keep
trees from growing on the path. All that herbicide
would be washed down into our streams. I'm friends with many of the members of the Blue Heron Environmental Network who have been protecting Back Creek for 25 years now. I know how they'll feel if the endangered species that they've been protecting all this time were killed by those pesticides.

Is the DEP okay with the gas company manipulating landowners into signing away their rights for a pipeline that will be on their land forever? I know many of these landowners in Berkeley County and Morgan County and they've told me that they wish this project wasn't coming through their neighborhood. Many have concerns about their well water in an area where everyone has a well, and others have concern about potential explosion and some neighborhoods, as it has been pointed out, would be trapped behind the pipeline with no --- no way out if there were an explosion or other sort of incident.

Property owners in this area were told by land agents that they had to settle with the gas company or the company could seize their land through eminent domain and they might get nothing for their sacrifice. Many were also led to believe by these land agents that they will get free gas hookups or even free natural gas
from this gas company and none of those things is true. Mountaineer Gas had in the Martinsburg Journal in June stating that they do not intend to give anyone in this region free hookups.

So many of these area residents are friends of mine, often longtime friends. Young people I knew when they were children have bought --- bought their first home or moved into a family home. Many have started families only to find out that a pipeline is coming within 50 feet of their well. I'm not okay with any of this and I hope you are --- I hope you all aren't either. I ask the DEP to take these environmental and human costs into consideration when deciding whether to approve this pipeline. Thank you very much.

CHAIR: Russ, you're up right now. After Russ Osha, after Osha is Lynn Yellott, Y-E-L-L-O-T-T. Is that right?

MR. MOKHIBER: There's another guy who just walked in who wants --- Dr. Matt.

CHAIR: Okay.

MR. MOKHIBER: I would take my three minutes to speak about the political economy of West Virginia, otherwise known as the corporate State of West Virginia. We --- and by the way of energy DEP to reject
this based on what everybody before me said. I came in
maybe five minutes late. Nobody has spoken up in favor
of it. If you go through the list of our elected
representatives who are up for election in November,
none of them are here.

All of them are in favor. We live in a
corporate State of West Virginia. Let's go out west.
County Commissioner filed for in favor, two delegates
from Morgan County Saira Blair, Daryl Cowles in the
natural gas industry. Our state senator, the esteemed
Charles Trump introduced legislation into West Virginia
legislature written by the natural gas industry to fast
track this pipeline to the Public Service Commission.
Our member of Congress, Alex Mooney, in the pocket and
U.S. Senator up for re-election Joe Manchin in the
pocket and two years -.

When we held the first meeting Patricia
Kesecker was at the first meeting and concerned about
them coming to take her land and Senator Manchin came to
Berkeley Springs to talk to the Pipelines Economic
Development Authorities and they said there are people
opposed. What are we going to do? And he said, don't
worry about it, we can take their land with imminent
domain. Don't worry about it. That was in the paper.
That was actually reported in the Morgan Messenger. We can take their land with imminent domain, don't worry about it.

So nobody here believes DEP is going to do the right thing. Nobody here believes that. We're all opposed to it. Nobody believes it. Not one elected representative is here. They're all in favor of it. Why? Because we live in a corporate State of West Virginia and what we have to do this year is we have to run people against each one of those representatives.

Bob Thor, Saira Blair, Daryl Cowles, Charles Trump, Alex Mooney and Joe Manchin on the anti-pipeline candidate against each one. That should be our goal and that's doable whether or not the Democrats do it or not. Thank you.

CHAIR: Osha up next. After Osha is Lynn and after Lynn is April Keating.

MS. BAXTER-WORTH: Hi there. My name is Osha. Not much will get me in front of a crowd of people to talk about anything if you know me. I - I'm completely opposed to this pipeline. I think it is an absurd idea speaking on behalf of the planet earth and the environment itself. I mean, it's our water. You're supposed to love and respect your mother earth, not
screw her. That's really all I have to say.

CHAIR: Lynn's up next. After Lynn is April Keating, after April is Matthew Hahn.

MS. YELLOTT: My name is Lynn Yellott. My husband and I are two of the six million people whose water depends on the health of the Potomac. We've lived in our home in Jefferson County for 17 years. It borders the Potomac. Our well is 150 feet below the river surface and its water comes through karst geology. We have had it tested. It's good water. If our drinking water is polluted because of drilling for the pipeline from a rupture or explosion, we have no other source of water. We're too far from a municipal water source and that would be polluted anyway.

My husband swims in the Potomac. We kayak on the river and the Potomac is mentioned as an attraction on the many visit Jefferson County websites. It brings a large number of tourists who patronize local businesses from an independent bookstore, to boating and bicycling outfitters to --- and to restaurants, to name a few. We --- we need to make sure we protect the river as a recreation and drinking source.

And just as we avoided visiting Charleston, West Virginia, still like to avoid going
there because of the Elk River spill, prospective
visitors and new businesses will avoid our area with
devastating economic impact if there's any fear of
compromised water. At the hearing in Hancock we had
heard from economic development officials and
politicians. I won't call them representatives because
they don't ordinary --- they don't represent ordinary
people like us and they said that our area requires gas
for economic development.

I'd like to know exactly what kind of
businesses aren't coming here because there's no gas.
I'd like to know how much money each of these officials
is getting from the gas and pipeline corporations. And
why aren't these proponents of development focusing on
--- their energies on guaranteeing decent broadband for
all of us and higher teacher pay in our area since so
many of our good teachers work in neighboring states
with much better salaries? These are the criteria
businesses use when deciding whether or not to locate
here and I hope that the DEP will ask them these
questions.

And there is no reason to think that the
pipeline corporations like the coal companies, won't
treat West Virginia as a third world country, taking
from state residents to enrich their out of state coffers. And as Russell pointed out or in one of his articles, Senator Trump's bill, S390, seemed to do just that. If we truly want to look to the future, I want to echo what some other people said earlier. That it's time to keep the fossil fuel and fossil fueled industries from lining the pockets of West Virginia politicians.

And the DEP should ask themselves what they'll tell their grandchildren, when as adults those grandchildren are contending with extreme weather and extreme upheaval, and ask what did you do to protect the environment? And what will you tell your grandchildren when they ask what did you do to usher in an alternative --- an era of alternative energy sources that will turn around climate change? And I just hope that you will see that you're the Department of Environmental Protection. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next is April. After April is Matthew Hahn, after Matthew is Sandra Waggoner.

MS. KEATING: Well, this is an amazing turnout and what a gorgeous audience you guys are. I came over from Buckhannon, West Virginia, the heart of the state, in Upshur County where we are fighting ACP.
And I came over here to support you people and it looks like you don't need a whole lot. You guys have got it going on. There's so many people here that I'm really amazed and really thinking on your feet and that's what we're asking DEP and our representatives to do now, is think on their feet.

I want to talk to you about water and morals and I'm not going to take forever, but this is a moral issue. These pipelines lead to more fracking. If anybody wants to come to north central West Virginia and visit Frackistan I will be happy to arrange a tour that will curl your hair and upset your stomach. There are people living without water who used to have good water. Now they're carrying their water. Their water was poisoned by fracking. They have nosebleeds, they have heart problems and they have breathing problems.

And I know that these are linked to the compressor stations that they live near because when they leave their home and go on vacation they feel good, and when they come back home they get sick again. This is what we're looking at, water contamination. That coupled with the climate crisis that we're in with the storms and the droughts and everything going crazy the water is going to become more and more precious.
Fracking uses up to nine million gallons every time they fracture.

They can fracture a well up to eight different times. If this pipeline does not have a karst mitigation plan then there is absolutely no way that this pipeline should be allowed to proceed. And that's not the only thing it needs. Really it shouldn't be put in at all. No pipeline should be. We need to stop using gas. We need to phase ourselves out starting now and move to renewable energy. Solar, and wind and other renewable energies employ more people in 2015 than '16 in the coal and gas industries combined.

We know this. And we know that we can do hemp in West Virginia. We can have factories and we can protect our water and our tourism industry and our public health. West Virginia has the highest cancer rate of certain cancers in the nation and if you look at the communities that have injection wells from fracking, and widespread fracking and water loss you will see that those are the communities that have these health problems.

We can't separate pipelines from fracking and fracking from water. It's all connected. Water to public health and if you want to make people sick so
that you can make a profit there's something really wrong with you and we don't want you here.

CHAIR: We're going to insert Kevin Campbell in right now. After Kevin is Matt Hahn and after Matthew will be Sandra Waggoner. So Kevin Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you. I drove over from Upshur County tonight with April. And as she mentioned we have the ACP and next door to us in Lewis County they also have the --- the envy, too. Both of those are 42 inch and 1,440 psi. This 10 inch or 400 psi could cause catastrophic damage. I don't want to make it sound like it's --- it's small compared to the monstrosities that we have, but it's small today. If this is allowed --- they've already gotten their easements. They can go back and make it bigger later. They can add another pipeline parallel to it in the same easement.

This is a monster that will not stop growing and it's going to continue to grow because this gas is worth twice as much on the world market as it is here. And once they can get that price for it on the world market then they can double the price to everybody domestically. It's obvious. It's going to happen.
They also have a free pass on this thing.

They're guaranteed a return on their investment for building the thing and the ratepayers are guaranteed to get the bill from the electric utilities because that's how it's set up. And even though the majority of the gas that goes through this pipeline will eventually make its way to export the U.S. ratepayers are going to be paying for it. That's most of you. There's probably one or two here besides me that are off the grid. I'm not paying for it. The other thing that your community needs to be aware of is when these pipelines go in there is virtually no concern for public safety whatsoever.

People mentioned being trapped on uphill slopes, being trapped in neighborhoods where there's no way out. Over in Lewis County we have the stonewall momentum gathering line, which has had gas running through it now for two years. It operates --- it's a 36 inch line operating at 700 psi and there is no evacuation plan for anybody living within a mile and a half of that pipeline.

Nobody knows what to do in an emergency because that is not a requirement anywhere in the regulations that the people near the pipeline know what
to do. You're all expandable to the industry, to the state and even to your own emergency management. Thank you.

CHAIR: Matthew Hahn up next. After Matthew is Sandra Waggoner.

MR. HAHN: This pipeline is a terrible idea. Why in the year 2018 would we support such a stupid idea as a fossil fuel pipeline running through our county? In the year 2017 in this country we spent $306 billion trying to recover from natural disasters caused by climate change. This is just the beginning of climate change and that's how much money we spent already. This is a stupid idea to be doing this. Why would we do something like this in the year 2018?

We need jobs in the State of West Virginia. Renewable energy supplies those jobs. Solar power currently supports three times the number of jobs of the entire fossil fuel industry. So why would we be investing in a fossil fuel project like this now? The reason is because our public officials are bought and sold by the fossil fuel industry. They believe in profits over people and people die because of this so these companies can make more money and so our public officials can support their
buddies and their parties to our detriment, to the
detriment of every person in this room to the detriment
of our children. We need to stop this. We need to draw
a line in the sand and Russell was absolutely right.
Our best protection is to get rid of every one of these
elected officials as quickly as possible. Vote against
every one of these incumbent by yourself.

We need to take back government. We need
honest government that is here for citizens, not for
corporate profits. Our lives are at stake. Let's not
let this happen. Thank you.

CHAIR: Up next Sandra Waggoner.

MS. WAGGONER: Hello. My name is Sandra Waggoner. I oppose the Potomac pipeline, period, and
all new and existing pipelines that are crisscrossing
this country. Clean water, clean soil and clean air are
the basic needs for our survival, human kind, animals.
That's it. Clean water, clean air, clean soil. And
anybody that can't see that is foolish, is foolish. An
interesting thing in Wikipedia. I don't know if anybody
already mentioned this or not.

I got in a little late and I apologize
for that, but just in the 21st Century, so since the
year 2000, there's over 590 reported pipeline instances
severe just in our United States. Over 590. We cannot let this continue, we cannot let this continue. And I really didn't have anything prepared other than my sincerest hope that there'll be enough people that we will win and stop the Potomac pipeline.

On another note, if you're interested in any way --- I'm not --- for Arcadia Power. If anybody's interested in talking to me about that as an easy way for you to switch to wind at your current residence now and get off of coal is one small step we can do towards renewables if anybody's interested in that discussion afterwards. No Potomac pipeline. Thank you.

CHAIR: Is there anyone else who wishes to speak tonight? If you would, please just state your name for the record.

MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, John Christensen. Good evening everybody. I think I know most of everybody here. John Christensen, Mountain View Solar. And was headed down to Charleston to do some lobbying work, but saw this public hearing and I --- I couldn't help it. Couldn't help but to stay here. I want to be with my friends and everything that's been stated tonight unequivocally right on. I mean, just perfect and I can go on and on and on and bore everybody, but how many
people here have solar on their house right now? Look at this. Let's hear it.

There is an alternative to this pipeline. It's solar power. It's very easy, it's very cheap, get off the grid, connect to the grid and get your meter in credits. It's all good. You save money. This gas pipeline is not going to help anybody here and it could kill us. It could kill us. So I mean, the --- the decision on this is very easy.

You know, do you want to go to the future of clean energy, and clean air and clean water or do we want to stay in the past and drink this dirty fossil fuel crap that is thrust down our throat? I mean, even bottled water has traces of petroleum in it, so we want to get off of this. We want to get healthy, we want to have a future for our grandkids and our kids. Let's go solar and the heck with this pipeline. Thank you.

**MS. WHITE:** Hello. I'm Dawn White and I sat through two and a half hours of comments over in Maryland and most of those comments were extraordinarily well presented with facts. And tonight I was so pleased to hear someone bring up the political side of things, but I just want to tell you that most of us in Morgan County have never encountered costs.
I have a law practice in Martinsburg and I was consulted by a farmer who told me that his farm pond had completely disappeared in the course of five days after a neighbor drilled a residential well. That's karst. And let me tell you for a lawyer that's almost impossible to prove that the one caused the other. It's circumstantial, so I wouldn't worry too much about pollution of your water. I'd worry more about whether or not you're going to be able to find it and it doesn't come back.

That was a problem in Bunker Hill in '94 and I'm very glad I live in Morgan County until I went to my office one morning and discovered a hole about six feet deep that would have completely swallowed my car in the back alley that went down to my office building. Fortunately it was the responsibility of the City of Martinsburg, but they told me its karst. So that's my experience of karst. I also wanted to tell you that I think we have to recognize the politics behind all of this and I hear people talking about putting in new candidates and everything.

And, of course, that's a brilliant idea, but I think we also have to recognize that the Department of the Environment is going to be under
extraordinary pressure in Charleston right now and continual until they make their decision. And the reason we have none of our elected officials, our local elected officials, here --- and Mr. Trump and Mr. Cowles both spoke in favor over in Hancock, is because they know that this signed mine stems to gain enormously from the availability of natural gas here in Morgan County. They are at the moment totally dependent on propane, so that might be another link that you should remember.

But I think that what you have to do is to contact and support the Department of the Environment in giving them the courage to do their work because for all of the presentations that we've had on behalf of the gas line never once have anywhere they spoken to the issues of concern to all of us. So right now write a letter to the Department of Environment and remind them that they represent us and not our local officials.

Thank you.

CHAIR: Just state your name, please.

MR. LANGAN: Tom Langan. I live right off Pious Ridge Road near River View --- near River Road. One thing I went to the Hancock organization and I see several organizers which did a great job over in Hancock. Thank you. But I heard that this TransCanada
corporation is good citizen. It's going to take care of the pipeline and I just wanted to say that I found some statistics in U.S. according to census report only .00897 percent of companies make it to 100 years old. TransCanada is 67 years old.

The chances of it being here to be this corporate citizen that they say they are, to take care and maintain the pipeline are .009 percent. Think about the late '80s something was built and you had to go back to your contractor. They wouldn't be there. Thank you.

CHAIR: Sir? Is his name Tom? Is there anybody else who wishes to speak tonight? Just say your name for the record.

MS. PACK: My name is Lindsay Pack. I'm not from West Virginia. I'm from Maryland. Originally from Texas and I don't know a lot about West Virginia, but I want to recommend a book that gives you a whole different perspective at least to me about West Virginia, its background. It's a short read, less than 200 pages. It's available on Amazon. It's called Written in Blood. Have any of you read it? No. I urge you, please read Written in Blood. Thank you.

MR. WEBSTER: One thing that never comes up in these conversations ---.
CHAIR: What is your name?

MR. WEBSTER: John Webster. John Webster.

CHAIR: John Webster. Okay. Thank you.

MR. WEBSTER: Is the fact that plastic bottles are made from frack gas. Every bottle of water you buy is made from frack gas. And what do the fracking companies or pipeline companies give people when their wells go bad? They give them water in frack plastic bottles. They're still making profit.

CHAIR: Anyone else who wishes to speak tonight? State your name for the record.

MS. CLARK-GOLLUB: Hi. My name is Jill Clark-Gollub and I live in Montgomery County, Maryland and I drove two hours up here today just to --- without prepared remarks, but to lend my solidarity to my brothers and sisters up here who are fighting this pipeline.

For the good of all of us and as one of millions of Marylanders who drink Potomac River water I just want to put in my two cents to say please don't let the dying gas of the fossil fuel industry do any more
harm to us. As people very eloquently said here, we can't have any life without water.

We can't have healthy communities in Maryland or West Virginia with this pipeline going through karst geology on our Potomac River being built by one of the fossil fuel industry's most harmful and irresponsible companies in the world. Thank you.

CHAIR: Anyone else who wishes to speak tonight? If not, this concludes the public hearing on the Mountaineer Gas Company Eastern Panhandle Expansion project. The permit number is WVR 310880. The comment period ends on January 19th. If you wish to receive a copy of the comments and responses please make sure your e-mail address is on the sign in sheet. Thank you for your participation and have a safe drive home.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:44 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