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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: ATLANTIC SUNRISE PIPELINE PUBLIC HEARING

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BEFORE: MEGAN LEHMAN, Chair  
MARCUS KOHL, Member  
DAVID GARG, Member  
JOSEPH BUCZYNSKI, Member  
PAMELA DOBBINS, Member  
MICHAEL LUCIANI, Member

HEARING: Tuesday, June 13, 2017

LOCATION: Bloomsburg High School  
1200 Railroad Street  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

WITNESSES: Thomas Shepstone, Dennis Wydra,  
Kevin Lynn, Fred Gaffney, Sierra Shamer,  
Wayne Poncheri, Robert McQuay, John Walker,  
Dean Marshall, Ed Coker, Carl Marrara,  
Chris McCue, Tom Jamieson, Abraham Amoros,  
Jason Fink, Linda Dietrichson, Ed Gillet,  
Bob Garrett, Sandy Walker, Ed Hill

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Paul McCormick, Marion Menapace,  
Tammy Murphy

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Reporter: Lindsey Deann Richardson

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MS. LEHMAN: Good evening, everyone.

Thank you for coming this evening. My name is Megan Lehman. I am the community relations coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's North Central Regional Office located in Williamsport. And which also covers this county. Tonight we're here to hold a formal public hearing on Chapter 105 and Chapter 102 permits submitted to DEP for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline project. Which is proposed by Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC, otherwise known as Transco. These applications are currently under technical review by DEP.

Thank you for coming tonight. And thank you to the staff of Bloomsburg High School for hosting us this evening. I'd like to introduce from DEP, starting with my immediate left, Marcus Kohl, North Central Regional Director. David Garg, environmental program manager for water ways and wetlands in the North Central Office. Joe Buczynski, environmental program manager for waterways and wetlands in the Northeast Regional Office. Pam Dobbins, permit chief for waterways and wetlands in the Northeast Office. And finally, Mike Luciani, senior civil engineer in the

1 Northeast Regional Office.

2           The proposed Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline  
3 project is designed to supply natural gas by connecting  
4 gas producing regions in Northeastern Pennsylvania to  
5 markets in the mid-Atlantic and Southeastern states.  
6 The proposed project will consist of compression and  
7 looping of the Transco Leidy Line in Pennsylvania,  
8 along with the Greenfield pipeline segment, referred to  
9 as the Central Penn Line connecting the Northeast  
10 Marcellus producing region to the Transco main line  
11 near station 195 in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

12           The proposed pipeline corridor will  
13 traverse ten counties from Northeastern Pennsylvania to  
14 South Central Pennsylvania. Existing - in existing  
15 Transco facilities are being added and modified to  
16 allow gas to flow bi-directionally.

17           The specific permits DEP is seeking  
18 comment on tonight are the Chapter 105 water  
19 obstruction and encroachment permit applications, and  
20 Chapter 102 erosion and sediment control, general  
21 permit for earth disturbance associated with oil and  
22 gas exploration, production, processing, or treatment  
23 operations, or transmission facilities known as the  
24 ESCGP-2, notice of intent or NOI.

25           The Chapter 105 permits are required for

1 activities that are proposed to be located in, along,  
2 across, or projecting into a watercourse, floodway, or  
3 body of water, including wetlands. The Chapter 105  
4 permits will be issued by DEP on a county by county  
5 basis.

6                   The Chapter 102 ESCGP-2 permit addresses  
7 erosion and sedimentation issues during construction of  
8 the right-of-way, compression stations, and proposed  
9 access roads. The ESCGP-2 permit also addresses post  
10 construction storm water controls, and restoration of  
11 the right-of-way, compression stations and access  
12 roads.

13                   Again, tonight we are here to hold a  
14 formal public hearing. We will take testimony in the  
15 form of comments from those who are registered to  
16 speak. You must be registered if you wish to present  
17 testimony tonight. All comments from the public,  
18 including those offered here in person, and those  
19 provided to DEP in writing, which can be sent via  
20 e-mail or postal mail by June 26th, will carry the same  
21 weight. If you wish to make a formal comment tonight  
22 and have not yet registered, please go to the table  
23 outside the auditorium and sign up with the DEP  
24 representative. We will close registration when we  
25 begin with the first for person in a few moments.



1                   Because this is a formal public hearing  
 2 on record, DEP personnel here tonight will not be  
 3 answering any questions at this time. Instead, all  
 4 comments or questions will be addressed in writing by  
 5 the Department after the close of the public comment  
 6 period, in what is called a comment and response  
 7 document. Again, DEP will not respond to any comments  
 8 or questions during this hearing tonight.

9                   And just so that you are aware, because  
 10 of that, when folks are speaking, we tend to keep  
 11 straight faces and look fairly stoic. And we want you  
 12 to understand, we are listening. That's why all of us  
 13 are here tonight, including technical staff that are  
 14 working directly on the permits. So because DEP is a  
 15 neutral party, we do not, you know, visually respond to  
 16 what's being said. But just rest assured it is being  
 17 heard and understood.

18                   The public comments and the Department's  
 19 response will be made part of the administrative  
 20 record, which will be available for review at DEP's  
 21 North Central Regional Office in Williamsport, and also  
 22 the Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre.

23                   Arrangements can be made to review the  
 24 administrative record by calling either of those  
 25 offices, phone numbers are available outside on the

1 table, during regular business hours. The record can  
2 also be viewed online by going to DEP's website, by  
3 clicking on the pipeline portal, and then clicking the  
4 Atlantic Sunrise tab.

5                   So for tonight's hearing, we have set  
6 some ground rules. These ground rules are meant to  
7 allow the hearing to be managed effectively. And also,  
8 respectfully for all parties. And allow for your  
9 testimony, and that of your fellow citizens to be  
10 heard.

11                   First of all, please turn off cell  
12 phones or put them on vibrate. And if you have to take  
13 a call, please step outside of the auditorium  
14 immediately. No signs may be held up or displayed  
15 inside the auditorium. The hearing tonight is for  
16 testimony only, not questions or presentations,  
17 although you can submit additional material for the  
18 record.

19                   I will call on people to speak in the  
20 order in which they signed up. When your name is  
21 called, please approach the microphone in the center of  
22 the aisle, say and spell your name for the record, and  
23 give your testimony. Please speak loudly and clearly  
24 into the microphone so that everyone can hear you.  
25 Unless your name is called, please do not approach the

1 microphone or speak out of turn. Please be respectful  
2 of everyone's opportunity to be heard. Don't interrupt  
3 while others are speaking. And that does include  
4 clapping, booing, or other forms of sound.

5           Each person will be allowed three  
6 minutes to offer testimony. We will keep the time and  
7 hold a warning sign as the speaker approaches the end  
8 of their time. When your time is up, I will say time.  
9 And if the speaker does not stop when asked at the end  
10 of three minutes, the microphone may be turned off.

11           Once you finish your testimony, please  
12 hand your written comments, if you have them if you'd  
13 like. You don't have to do that. And then return to  
14 your seat. One opportunity will be given to offer  
15 testimony per person. And you cannot donate or offer  
16 unused time to another speaker.

17           We reserve the right to deny anyone the  
18 opportunity to testify if they don't follow these  
19 rules, or if they're determined to be a safety hazard  
20 or disturbance to meeting decorum. We also reserve the  
21 right to have people escorted from the building for the  
22 same reason if they act in a manner that disturbs  
23 others or interrupts this hearing.

24           Finally, we reserve the right to  
25 terminate the hearing if we feel that participants are

1 not following the rules, or acting in an unruly manner  
2 that does create a safety hazard. Thank you for your  
3 corporation with all of these ground rules.

4 We'll now begin the hearing.  
5 Registration for this hearing is officially closed.  
6 Again, we are here to receive comments on the Chapter  
7 105 and 102 permit applications. I will call you up in  
8 order to speak. And also as I read each name, I'll  
9 call the next couple of people so that folks can get  
10 ready, and that they're aware that they're on deck.

11 Remember again, please state and spell  
12 your name clearly so our stenographer can understand  
13 it. Okay. And the first speaker tonight is Thomas  
14 Shepstone. Thomas is followed by Dennis Wydra, and  
15 Kevin Lynn.

16 MR. SHEPSTONE: Thank you. My name a  
17 Thomas A. Shepstone, S-H-E-P-S-T-O-N-E. And thank you  
18 for this opportunity. I'm a consulting planner with  
19 over 40 years of experience consulting with businesses  
20 and communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I also  
21 publish a blog supporting natural gas because I see  
22 what it's done economically for our region and our  
23 nation. And I'm here tonight with what I hope will be  
24 taken as constructive criticism, because I know your  
25 intentions are to be fair.

1                   However, Atlantic Sunrise permit  
2 applications under Chapters 102 and 105 should be  
3 approved by DEP for a very simple reason. And it is  
4 that any DEP decision with respect to Chapters 102 and  
5 105 should simply be a matter of technical compliance.  
6 Period. Both chapters consist of very specific  
7 criteria and standards, which shouldn't be influenced  
8 by public opinion as to anything but compliance with  
9 those criteria and standards.

10                   Significantly in this regard, both  
11 Chapters provide only that the Department may, at it's  
12 discretion, hold a public hearing. Hearings aren't  
13 mandatory because the subject is technical, not  
14 political. The regulations moreover do not provide for  
15 multiple hearings, but rather a hearing on each  
16 application. This strongly suggests what is going on  
17 in this case is a little more - is a little more than  
18 DEP providing a public ranting opportunity for those  
19 who wish to attack the applications. Although, I have  
20 to say, I don't think that's the intent. And I think  
21 the two hearings held so far were probably more pro  
22 than negative.

23                   Still as a supporter of the project,  
24 there's very little for me to say other than to point  
25 out that the Atlantic Sunrise Project has been

1 extensively reviewed by both FERC and DEP. And the  
2 applications clearly meet the Chapter 102 and 105  
3 requirements.

4           Project opponents though will probably  
5 be here tonight, and they have been at previous  
6 hearings, and at three more completely unnecessary  
7 hearings to attack the project and everything  
8 imaginable. Having nothing to do whatsoever with  
9 Chapters 102 and 105. They'll talk about their  
10 opposition to fossil fuels, their hatred of the oil and  
11 gas industry, and their ideology. But very little  
12 about Chapter 102 having to do with erosion and  
13 sedimentation control, or Chapter 105 having to do with  
14 dam safety and water waste management.

15           I urge DEP to simply follow its own  
16 rules. If it does so, there's no basis for anything  
17 but an approval of the Atlantic Sunrise Project. The  
18 voluminous materials submitted to both FERC and DEP  
19 document compliance to the enth-degree. I further urge  
20 DEP to not enable pipeline project opponents by  
21 conducting redundant public hearings in the future that  
22 serve no purpose, other than to allow those opponents  
23 to vent with a view toward getting media coverage of  
24 their antics. The regulations are straightforward.  
25 Just enforce them. Thank you.

1                   MS. LEHMAN: Next up is Dennis Wydra,  
2 followed by Kevin Lynn and Fred Gaffney.

3                   MR. WYDRA: Thank you. I strongly  
4 support approval of the Pennsylvania DEP's Chapter 2  
5 and Chapter 5 permits for water obstruction  
6 encroachment and erosion and sediment control for the  
7 Williams ASP project. This company has worked with DEP  
8 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for over  
9 two years to meet all their rigorous requirements.  
10 Williams has made for than 400 modifications of the  
11 pipeline route. And now has 25 percent of that route  
12 of existing right-of-ways.

13                   FERC is now on the record that the  
14 construction of the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline will not  
15 negatively impact water quality or supply during or  
16 after construction. Full-time environmental inspectors  
17 will oversee construction to insure compliance with  
18 required regs. Williams will avoid and minimize  
19 impacts to wetland through routing adjustments, and by  
20 reducing the project limits of disturbance where  
21 possible. There will be no loss of wetland acreage and  
22 wetlands within the permit of right-of-way. They will  
23 be simply converted to forest and PSS vegetation to PEM  
24 and PSS vegetation types.

25                   PennDOT makes wetland litigation a

1 normal environmental practice while constructing new  
2 roads without any adverse impact. And Williams will do  
3 the same meeting DEP's stringent requirements. The ASP  
4 route will have no adverse impact on watershed it  
5 traverses. Their environmental construction plan will  
6 have almost no impact on the Susquehanna and Chesapeake  
7 Bay watersheds.

8                   FERC's impact statement concluded, given  
9 the impact of Williams minimization and mitigation  
10 measures proposed by Transco, as well as our  
11 recommendations, we conclude that the construction and  
12 operation of the project will not have a significant  
13 adverse affect on wildlife, including migratory birds.  
14 And U.S. Fish and Wildlife has concluded it will not  
15 have any adverse impact on bald eagles or the bog  
16 turtle. Actually, pipelines have a very positive  
17 affect on wildlife habitat, as it opens new natural  
18 food plots for deer and turkey after replanting, with  
19 up to eight different varieties of seeds depending on  
20 what the experts determine the soil conditions warrant.

21                   I have successfully geared - I led most  
22 of my life to pipeline in McKean and Delaware Counties.  
23 It's important to note that it affords a critical place  
24 to permit handicap hunters, both young and old, a  
25 better place to hunt than walking through the forest.



1 I included a photo of my handicap stepson. And he  
2 couldn't walk through the forest, but he hunted through  
3 many years along pipelines up above the Mansfield  
4 Wal-Mart.

5 One of the neat things about pipelines  
6 is run off. Run off will have no negative impact from  
7 the pipeline, as the construction route will be  
8 restored to original contours and revegetated like  
9 never before. When you look closer at the photo in my  
10 testimony, you'll find that it actually provides better  
11 run off protection than the forested floor. And I'm  
12 going to say this. It's not in here, but pipelines  
13 have better run off protection than 50 percent of our  
14 state forest and our state game land.

15 MS. LEHMAN: Your time is up, sir.

16 MR. WYDRA: Thank you. Appreciate it.

17 MS. LEHMAN: Okay. Next up is Kevin  
18 Lynn, followed by Fred Gaffney, Sierra Shamer, and  
19 Wayne Poncheri.

20 MR. LYNN: Hi. Thanks for letting me  
21 speak. My name is Kevin Lynn, K-E-V-I-N, L-Y-N-N. I  
22 live not too far from here at Harvey's Lake. And I  
23 work for the Lindy Corporation. We do lots of work for  
24 Williams. I'm also a greenie. I also would like the  
25 PA DEP to approve Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 permits

1 for the Atlantic Sunrise project.

2           Tonight you're going to hear lots of  
3 people talk about the stringent standards that Williams  
4 sets for projects, they do. They're tough. They're  
5 just like greenies would expect. And there are lots of  
6 well-meaning people here who are worried about the  
7 environment. I am here to tell you that Williams is  
8 also very worried about the environment. But I want  
9 talk to you tonight about the future for about two  
10 minutes. The future of energy, you know, the big  
11 picture.

12           I have one question. Going forward,  
13 folks, five years out, will we need more energy or  
14 less? I think most of agree we're going to need more  
15 energy. The cloud, whatever that actually is, it's a  
16 little too young for old guys like me. The cloud is  
17 kept aloft by electricity. I know that much. We're  
18 going to need more energy. And renewables enough are  
19 not going to do it. Renewables right now comprise  
20 14 percent of our energy supply. That keeps the lights  
21 on only one day a week. And folks, that's no way to  
22 head toward the future. So we need more energy and we  
23 need it clean. And that's where natural gas comes in.

24           Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel  
25 in the world. It's 50 percent cleaner than the coal

1 our President Orange loves so much. And folks, the  
2 news is really good. Every day that we use natural gas  
3 to power our country, we're not using coal. And every  
4 time we shut down a coal plant and change it over to  
5 natural gas, the air gets cleaner. Every time Williams  
6 expands its capacity, it's good news for us. It's  
7 happening more and more.

8                   Last year natural gas overtook coal as  
9 the number one fuel for electric generation in this  
10 country. The air is getting cleaner every day. And  
11 nowhere is that more obvious than nearby Penn State.  
12 In March of 2016, Penn State celebrated their, quote,  
13 last day of coal, end quote. After 150 years of  
14 burning coal to power Penn State, they've switched to  
15 natural gas.

16                   Once last year 3,250 coal trucks a year,  
17 almost ten a day, rumbled under the Penn State campus  
18 with their dirty fuel. 325 ash trucks a year, almost  
19 one a day, left the campus with their filth.  
20 Everything is better. In 2011, the Penn State Energy -  
21 campus energy system operated at 72 percent. That's  
22 going to improve to 80 percent, which is twice the  
23 efficiency of the electric grid. This is happening all  
24 over the country. And it's all because we have more  
25 natural gas.

1                   Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel.  
2 I said that. Natural gas is also cheap, abundant, and  
3 domestic, which means we're not enriching a single tin  
4 horn dictatorship. More than that, this gas is  
5 Marcellus gas. It's from under our feet just north of  
6 here in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We are literally  
7 fuelling our own growth with a domestic supply that  
8 could last 100 years.

9                   The future is cleaner, cheaper, and  
10 safer because of natural gas. Let's embrace that  
11 further and pass the Chapter 102 and 105 permits.  
12 Let's get to the future sooner rather than later.  
13 Thank you.

14                   MS. LEHMAN: Frank Gaffney.

15                   MR. GAFFNEY: Good evening. My name is  
16 Fred Gaffney. That's G-A-F-F-N-E-Y. I'm the President  
17 of the Columbia-Montour Chamber of Commerce, which  
18 represents approximately 500 organizations throughout  
19 Columbia and Montour Counties and beyond. The  
20 Columbia-Montour Chamber of Commerce works to  
21 strengthen the region's economy by supporting existing  
22 employers, as well as encouraging new business  
23 development.

24                   As such, our organization has researched  
25 the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline project. We've met with

1 representatives of the project and conducted  
2 independent research of natural gas pipeline  
3 construction and safety in general. This research  
4 indicates that modern pipeline technology provides  
5 among the safest methods of transporting natural gas.

6           Specific to this project, Williams has  
7 demonstrated its concern property owners and the  
8 environment with the adoption of more than 400 route  
9 modifications affecting over 60 percent of its original  
10 route. Following a comment period from our membership,  
11 the Chamber's Board of Directors adopted the following  
12 resolution. Whereas Pennsylvania's natural gas  
13 industry is a major economic driver in the Commonwealth  
14 through job creation, directly related to gas  
15 extraction and transportation, lower utility costs and  
16 revenues.

17           And whereas Pennsylvania's natural gas  
18 reserves are projected to be able to serve current and  
19 future demands within the Commonwealth with significant  
20 surplus or export for decades.

21           And whereas the current infrastructure  
22 within Pennsylvania is insufficient for the safe and  
23 economical transportation and distribution of  
24 Pennsylvania's natural gas supply to all markets,  
25 including residences and businesses within the

1 Commonwealth.

2                   And whereas state and federal regulatory  
3 agencies proclaim the modern pipelines to be the safest  
4 method of transporting natural gas.

5                   Now therefore be it resolved that the  
6 Board of Directors of the Columbia-Montour Chamber of  
7 Commerce supports the expansion of Pennsylvania's  
8 natural gas transportation and distribution pipeline  
9 infrastructure through a responsible collaboration with  
10 property owners for the benefit of the citizenry, and  
11 Commonwealth - and the economy of the Commonwealth.

12                   Williams has supported dozens of  
13 community organizations and conservations projects in  
14 our area. If approved, the Atlantic Sunrise project is  
15 expected to support 2,300 jobs, and generate \$1.6  
16 billion in economic activity during the construction  
17 stage. We believe this project would be beneficial to  
18 our region and the Commonwealth as a whole. Thank you  
19 for the opportunity to provide comment.

20                   MS. LEHMAN: Okay. Next is Sierra  
21 Shamer, followed by Wayne Poncheri and Robert McQuay.  
22 And just to remind everyone, please spell your name, as  
23 well.

24                   MS. SHAMER: Hi. My name is Sierra  
25 Shamer, S-H-A-M-E-R. First name S-I-E-R-R-A. I'm a

1 community organizer and environmental scientist.

2           There are glaring issues with the  
3 construction plans as proposed by Transco. They failed  
4 to discuss the watershed impact in detail and ignore  
5 the cumulative impacts of constructing a natural gas -  
6 a large natural gas transmission line through Central  
7 Pennsylvania.

8           The Atlantic Sunrise will require  
9 hundreds of new unconventional wells, which will impact  
10 air-water quality for thousands of residents throughout  
11 Pennsylvania, as evidenced by DEP's oil and gas  
12 complaint records. The numerous wetlands, wetland  
13 streams, and rivers crossings, will cause erosion and  
14 sedimentation issues. Especially because the majority  
15 of these crossings will impact the surface. They will  
16 not be constructed via horizontal directional drilling.

17           This project will result in only harm  
18 for Central Pennsylvania, its environment, and its  
19 residents. DEP should re-evaluate and deny these  
20 permits. And re-evaluate also the 401 water quality  
21 certificate.

22           New York State has denied the water  
23 quality certificate for similar natural gas pipelines  
24 due to impacts to water quality, particularly of high  
25 quality streams. Similar high quality streams and

1 watershed exist in Pennsylvania. Please consider these  
2 facts when assessing the 102, 105 permits, and 401  
3 water quality certificate. Thank you.

4 MS. LEHMAN: Next is Wayne Poncheri,  
5 followed by Robert McQuay and John Walker.

6 MR. PONCHERI: Hi. My name is Wayne  
7 Poncheri, W-A-Y-N-E, P-O-N-C-H-E-R-I. I am the chief  
8 executive officer of Abbey Road Control in Drums,  
9 Pennsylvania. I am for the approval of the pipeline.  
10 And while the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project will  
11 bring many good jobs to our area, it also will be a  
12 tremendous boost for the entire economy along the path  
13 and for our nation as a whole.

14 James Ricard, who is an economy advisor  
15 for the Pentagon and the intelligence communities of  
16 the United States has said the benefits of interstate  
17 pipeline will be transformed and hundreds of thousands  
18 of jobs are created in the actually pipeline  
19 construction. And more jobs can come from connecting  
20 to large natural gas from keynotes, allowing natural  
21 gas organizations to be placed at existing facilities.

22 The economic boost would be immediate  
23 and transformative. Many more jobs are created through  
24 the conversion of vehicles from gasoline to natural  
25 gas. Dependence on foreign oil would end. And U.S.



1 trades deficit would evaporate to zero. The  
2 environmental benefits are obvious, as natural gas  
3 burns cleaner than diesel or gasoline.

4           According to the Chamber of Commerce,  
5 who just spoke, more pipelines need to be built in the  
6 Northeastern United States. And if we ignore this  
7 need, 78,000 jobs will be lost in our quarter of the  
8 country. Another 7.6 billion in GEP will be lost.

9           A lot of the opponents to the pipeline  
10 speak of safety. But I don't think they give enough to  
11 what the alternatives would be, which would also be  
12 pulling the gas and having to shove them by truck or  
13 rail. And of the ways to ship gas, the only truly safe  
14 way is by ship on the ocean. Second is pipeline, which  
15 is much safer than trucks or rail. And I think this  
16 needs to be considered. Thank you.

17           MS. LEHMAN: Robert McQuay. Mr. McQuay,  
18 followed by John Walker, Dean Marshall and then Ed  
19 Coker.

20           MR. MCQUAY: Robert McQuay, M-C-Q-U-A-Y.  
21 Thank you for this opportunity to share my support for  
22 the Williams Transco Atlantic Sunrise project. Often  
23 those who support a project will respond to the  
24 environmental concerns with information about economic  
25 impact and jobs. I understand this doesn't really

1 address the concern. And I will focus on why I support  
2 this project from an environmental and safety  
3 viewpoint, along with other benefits. The dramatic  
4 resurgence of the United States as an energy superpower  
5 has provided tremendous economic and environmental  
6 benefits. Even as America is leading the world in oil  
7 and natural gas production, methane emissions have  
8 fallen thanks to industry leadership investing in new  
9 technologies. U.S. carbon emissions from  
10 power-generation are now at nearly 30-year lows due to  
11 increase use of natural gas.

12                   Methane emissions from 1990 to 2015  
13 associated with the natural gas industry declined by  
14 18.6 percent, while U.S. natural gas production  
15 increased by more than 50 percent, according to EPA and  
16 EIA data. This shows U.S. emissions of methane from  
17 the natural gas sector decreased noticeably during one  
18 of the largest increases in natural gas production in  
19 the nation's history.

20                   Furthermore, America's oil and natural  
21 gas industry continues to lead all other industries in  
22 zero and low carbon investments. Between 2000 and  
23 2014, the oil and natural gas industry invested \$89.9  
24 billion in such environments. More than double that of  
25 the next largest private sectors.

1           In a dynamic, innovation-driven industry  
2 like energy, we should be careful not to adopt  
3 regulations that prevent technological improvements or  
4 shrink opportunities for investments that could deliver  
5 environmental benefits, and consumer savings for years  
6 to come.

7           Some of the technologies that have been  
8 improved and adopted over the past several years  
9 directly benefit the pipeline industry and the  
10 environment. Engineers and environmental scientists  
11 work to define routes and methods with the least amount  
12 of impact. And then follow best practices for  
13 installation restoration. Safety for people working on  
14 the projects, people who will living nearby, and the  
15 general population is always foremost in the minds of  
16 those who operate the pipelines.

17           I've had direct experience working with  
18 Williams. And they take extra precautions to protect  
19 and preserve the environment, assure safety for all,  
20 and support and respect communities where they are  
21 operating.

22           Although zero impact is always the goal,  
23 with any project there will be some impact. As our  
24 would works to become less dependent on fossil fuels,  
25 renewable energy options also have environmental

1 impacts. Electric cars are powered by the very  
2 electric that is created in a large percentage by  
3 natural gas. Wind turbines and solar panels are made  
4 with products created with natural gas. The harness  
5 and ropes that safely hold and support the rock climber  
6 who's enjoying the beauty of our great outdoors are  
7 made with products that include natural gas.

8                   In closing, I'm happy to offer my  
9 support for this project. I appreciate the many  
10 opportunities and benefit it brings to my community,  
11 including economic benefits, increase in jobs,  
12 increased business, and lower energy costs, while  
13 knowing Williams will do it right. I'm convinced they  
14 care. Thank you.

15                   MS. LEHMAN: Okay. Next up is John  
16 Walker, followed by Dean Marshall.

17                   MR. WALKER: I sincerely hope that you  
18 won't count my time to get up here as part of my three  
19 minutes.

20                   MS. LEHMAN: Of course we will not. We  
21 don't start the time until after you spell your name.

22                   MR. WALKER: This looks like a lot and  
23 it is a lot. You've given me three minutes to speak  
24 about what I have spent three years researching. My  
25 name is John Walker. And I don't think there's any way

1 you can misspell that.

2                   Now, these documents are reflective of  
3 what I found out, a few things about Williams and  
4 Transco. Transco in 1991, was fined by FERC \$11  
5 million as a result of a violation of FERC rules. And  
6 that was the largest fine ever levied at that time. In  
7 1996, Williams bought Transco. And in 2002, Williams  
8 was fined \$20 million which was the largest fine ever  
9 levied at that time by FERC.

10                   Now, I tell you those things because  
11 there is a long list of violations. And the reason I'm  
12 telling you this, rather than addressing it directly  
13 what you have called us here tonight to do, is because  
14 there's a lot, either that you don't know, or that you  
15 don't care about. Because there are 40 incidents -  
16 well, let me start back at the beginning. There are 88  
17 incidents that Williams found it necessary to report  
18 from 1986 to the early part of the - to the 1990s.  
19 They have acted to obfuscate their poor practice.

20                   Now, you've heard wonderful things about  
21 them tonight. I didn't find that out. I found out  
22 lots of things that were not wonderful. And I will be  
23 sending to you, the documents that I've found. I've  
24 got a list of questions that haven't been answered.  
25 I've got the Atlantic Sunrise project by Key-Log

1 Industries, who have found a lot of costs that FERC has  
2 not even considered. And you, as the keeper of our  
3 environmental protection, have responsibilities in all  
4 of these areas. You are not here to talk about that  
5 tonight.

6 But let me tell you, this is a report of  
7 the accident at Unityville. They have reported that it  
8 was stress cracking was the accident. They also  
9 reported that they reversed the bi-directional  
10 pipeline, that they had been warned about immediately  
11 before the explosion. By immediately, I mean in 2014.  
12 The explosion happened in 2015. And in 2015, they  
13 reversed the direction of the pipeline. And in  
14 12 hours and 6 minutes, it exploded. And they said it  
15 had been increasing the pressure throughout the day.

16 MS. LEHMAN: Your at time, sir.

17 MR. WALKER: And said nothing about what  
18 they had done. Nobody was watching. There's lots  
19 more. I'll send it to you.

20 MS. LEHMAN: Next is Dean Marshall,  
21 followed by Ed Coker, Carl Marrara, and Chris McCue.

22 MR. MARSHALL: Is the mic on? My name  
23 is Dean Marshall, D-E-A-N, M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L. My home is  
24 along Fishing Creek just down the stream from the  
25 triple Williams Transco pipeline Leidy loop crossing.

1 On the evening on June 9th, 2015, one of three parallel  
2 Transco pipelines ruptured along a 30-foot longitudinal  
3 seam near Unityville, PA and spewed high pressure gas  
4 for over an hour after the nearest valves were closed.  
5 Thankfully there was no explosion and evacuated  
6 residents were allowed to return home after a few  
7 hours.

8                   As Williams proceeded to investigate the  
9 cause, which they later reported as corrosion and  
10 stress cracking, and hydrotest the repairs, other leaks  
11 occurred in nearby locations. These were not promptly  
12 reported, if at all, until inquiries were made to the  
13 Press Enterprise by myself and other concerned area  
14 residents.

15                   The lines in question are 40 to 50 years  
16 plus old. And cross several wetlands and high volume  
17 streams in the Fishing Creek watershed. One must  
18 wonder if, aside from the risk of accidents during  
19 construction, this much larger and higher pressure  
20 line, will there be ongoing risk of watershed damage  
21 for its service life? Will those risks increase as the  
22 line ages? Will storms, erosion, settling, and  
23 shifting earth increase the risks? Are these factors  
24 taken seriously in the permitting process?

25                   I also think about to Labor Day weekend

1 in 2012 when my partner and I were alerted about a flow  
2 of green drilling or cutting mud flowing down Loyalsock  
3 Creek from the Marc one pipeline construction site,  
4 upstream from Worlds End State Park. We drove there,  
5 took still photos and video of the creek bed chocked  
6 with green slime, and called DEP to report it. Several  
7 others made calls as well. The releases continued  
8 sporadically over the long holiday weekend.

9 DEP assured us in a callback that it  
10 was, quote, merely sediment from the stream that  
11 stirred up by an open cut crossing near Ringdale, about  
12 ten miles upstream. I would like to know today that if  
13 DEP grants Williams Atlantic Sunrise LNG export  
14 project, water and wetland crossing permits, and there  
15 are, quote, accidents, end quote, in the construction  
16 phase or any time during service, will DEP simply  
17 downplay or cover up the impacts?

18 I ask you today to think carefully and  
19 take into consideration that you, along with this  
20 company, which by the way has an abysmal safety record,  
21 will be held accountable. This project has no benefit  
22 to Columbia County, yet contains generations of ongoing  
23 risks. Our watershed is a true source of property  
24 value, economic benefit, and scenic beauty enjoyed by  
25 residents and visitors. Thank you.



1                   MS. LEHMAN: Ed Coker.

2                   MR. COKER: Hi. My name is Ed Coker,  
3 C-O-K-E-R. I'm here to tonight as a member of the  
4 Pipeliners Local Union 798 to urge the DEP to issue the  
5 Chapter 102 and 105 permits necessary for Williams to  
6 construct the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline.

7                   I'd like to point out at this time, that  
8 Williams has awaited patiently the issuance of these  
9 permits since 2015, when the applications were first  
10 submitted. Williams does have a proven record, again  
11 and again of being a responsible operator of  
12 pipelines, friends of the communities they go through,  
13 and a champion of the environment.

14                   They have worked with the DEP, FERC, and  
15 the Forestry and Wildlife Services to ensure they meet  
16 all criteria necessary for the construction of this  
17 project. In addition to that, they have voluntarily  
18 donated over two and a half million dollars to local  
19 conservation projects. And I've got a whole written  
20 statement. I kind of want to get off it a second.

21                   This is what I do for a living, as is  
22 some other people in here, other labor unions that are  
23 here. And we've worked for Williams. We know their  
24 high quality standards. We have to adhere to them or  
25 we're not employed. So I just want to point that out.

1           Natural gas is here. It is what's going  
2 to make our country independent of nations that don't  
3 like us. They just don't like us. And we need natural  
4 gas. Everybody in this room is affected by natural gas  
5 whether you realize it. From the chairs you're sitting  
6 in right now, to the air-conditioning you're enjoying.

7           In the wintertime, the heat, the cars  
8 you drive in, the umbrellas you cover your head with in  
9 the rain, every bit of that is touched by natural gas.  
10 And if we're ever going to build our energy  
11 independence, we've got to build these pipelines now.  
12 Yes, there are older pipelines in existence, that's  
13 probably time they be replaced. And I'm all for that.

14           These pipelines are being built with the  
15 latest technology, the highest grade pipe, to the  
16 highest standards. And being held to more regulations  
17 than ever before. So I'm going to skip for rest of  
18 this. And I'm just going to say, I urge you to please  
19 without any further hesitation approve these permits,  
20 so we can make Pennsylvania and the United States  
21 energy independent. Thank you.

22           MS. LEHMAN: Next is Carl Marrara,  
23 followed by Chris McCue, Tom Jamieson, and Abraham  
24 Amoros.

25           MR. MARRARA: Thank you very much. My

1 name is Carl Marrara, C-A-R-L, M-A-R-R-A-R-A. And I'm  
2 with the Pennsylvania Manufacturer's Association based  
3 in Harrisburg, but actually grew up in Danville. The  
4 last time I was actually in this building, I took my  
5 SATs. And I'm hoping today goes a lot better than that  
6 day went.

7 We are a state-wide not-for-profit  
8 organization that represents the people who make things  
9 here in our Commonwealth, representing 560,000 hard  
10 working Pennsylvanians on plant floors. And supporting  
11 millions more through supply chains, and distribution  
12 networks, and vendors of industrial services. I'm  
13 honored to be here today. Respectfully asking the  
14 Pennsylvania DEP to approve Chapter 102 and 105 permits  
15 for the Atlantic Sunrise project without delay.

16 Manufacturers depend on affordable  
17 natural gas and gas byproducts to remain globally  
18 competitive. Natural gas demand is poised to increase  
19 by 40 percent over the next decade. And the  
20 researchers of the National Association of  
21 Manufacturers found that the key drivers will be in  
22 manufacturing and power generation.

23 Therefore, it's projects such as the  
24 Atlantic Sunrise project that are so vitally important  
25 to the productive sector of our Commonwealth's economy.

1           Affordable gas is simply not getting to  
2 network with approximately 25 to 30 percent of  
3 Marcellus wells drill to date still not having pipeline  
4 take away capacity. Projects such as the Atlantic  
5 Sunrise Project open and expand these markets,  
6 stabilizing the energy industry that is so vitally  
7 important to manufacturers throughout our Commonwealth.

8           The economic impact will have lasting  
9 results far for beyond the construction of the pipeline  
10 and the manufacturing sector. According to a recent  
11 study completed by IHS Economics, increase supply of  
12 natural gas, especially at lower delivering prices  
13 enhances competitiveness of economy by making them more  
14 attractive to manufacturing that are intensive users of  
15 natural gas, such as chemicals, paper and metals. The  
16 close proximity of existing consumers of manufacturing  
17 establishments to increase natural gas supplies can  
18 generate new pipeline-related economic development.

19           In a nutshell, the combination of  
20 increased access to shale gas and transmission lines  
21 that move affordable energy to manufacturers across  
22 America meant 1.9 million jobs in 2015 alone. The  
23 United States federal government recognizes that  
24 pipelines are the safest method for transporting  
25 energy. Modern pipelines use cutting edge technologies

1 such as the Atlantic Sunrise Project are the safest of  
2 all.

3                   While public safety and welfare are  
4 paramount, it seems like this project has been vetted  
5 time and time again. It's time to move forward. As a  
6 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic  
7 Development commissioned a study recommending that  
8 Pennsylvania take aggressive action to address  
9 potential development in infrastructure constraints  
10 proactively. This includes investing in suitable sites  
11 to accelerate development, and support MGL pipeline  
12 infrastructure and storage capacity.

13                   These actions are critical to insuring  
14 Pennsylvania is in a position to development long-term  
15 job creating manufacturing opportunities.  
16 Pennsylvania's natural gas revolution is giving our  
17 manufacturers new momentum with abundant,  
18 cost-competitive energy. But to fully realize the  
19 potential of shale gas, Pennsylvania needs to robust  
20 infrastructure transmission, which is why we urge you  
21 to approve today. Thank you.

22                   MS. LEHMAN: Okay. Next up is Chris  
23 McCue, followed by Tom Jamieson, Abraham Amoros, and  
24 Jillian Lashmett.

25                   MR. MCCUE: Chris McCue, C-H-R-I-S,

1 M-C-C-U-E. Good evening. I'm Chris McCue. I'm vice  
2 president of Borton Lawson Engineering. Borton Lawson  
3 is a 160-person engineering firm with offices in  
4 Wilkes-Barre, Bethlehem, and Pittsburgh. For the past  
5 nine years, we have been providing engineering and  
6 environmental consulting services for natural gas  
7 lines, including Williams.

8                   During that time we have worked with  
9 numerous facets of Williams organization and found the  
10 performance and standards related to design practices,  
11 environmental compliance, and safety to be exemplary.  
12 On behalf of Borton Lawson, we respectfully request the  
13 Department to work to expedite the review and approval  
14 of the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 permit applications  
15 for the Atlantic Sunrise Project for the following  
16 reasons.

17                   First, FERC issued the final EIS for the  
18 project concluding that environmental impacts would be  
19 reduced to less than significant levels with  
20 implementation mitigation measures proposed for the  
21 project. Williams has made numerous adjustments to  
22 more than half of the route to address concerns  
23 identified by landowners, public officials, and the  
24 permitting agencies. This collaborative approach  
25 demonstrates their desire to balance the needs of the

1 environment.

2 Williams has demonstrated it's  
3 commitment to environmental stewardship by voluntarily  
4 funding more than two and half million dollars in local  
5 conservation projects, beyond the requirements of the  
6 Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 permits. Williams has  
7 diligently been working with the department for the  
8 last two years providing data needed to review and  
9 approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits, including  
10 water quality analysis, wetland studies, cultural and  
11 archeological studies, best management practices,  
12 wildlife protection measures, minimization of impacts  
13 to agricultural land, and plans for full-time  
14 environmental monitoring during construction. Williams  
15 desires to construct this project in full compliance  
16 with all regulatory requirements.

17 The Atlantic Sunrise product is critical  
18 to the successful development of Marcellus area due to  
19 the fact that we have limited take away capacity  
20 available to transport gas out of Pennsylvania to the  
21 United States, and in the area in general, to provide  
22 affordable, clean energy. Further delays in pipeline  
23 infrastructure will only risk further migration of  
24 economic investments to other areas of the country,  
25 such as the Permian Basin in Texas, where existing

1 infrastructures are already in place.

2 Williams Atlantic Sunrise is a privately  
3 funded project, which will directly benefit ten  
4 Pennsylvania counties. And according to Penn State  
5 University, the project will provide approximately  
6 2,300 local jobs and generate \$1.6 billion of economic  
7 activity to the project area.

8 And finally, Borton Lawson is an example  
9 of a local company successfully supporting the natural  
10 gas industry. Which in turn provides family sustaining  
11 jobs and careers. Presently, we employ approximately  
12 40 professionals working directly for the natural gas  
13 industry. These positions translate to approximately  
14 two and half to three million dollars in local salaries  
15 and benefits.

16 MS. LEHMAN: Time.

17 MR. MCCUE: These employees live in  
18 numerous --- thank you.

19 MS. LEHMAN: Sorry. Okay. Next is Tom  
20 Jamieson, followed by Abraham Amoros, Jillian Lashmett,  
21 Chris McCallum.

22 MR. JAMIESON: Good evening. My name's  
23 Tom Jamieson, J-A-M-I-E-S-O-N. I'm with Cleveland  
24 Brothers Equipment Company. I'm here to speak in  
25 support of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project.



1                   This project is designed to supply  
2 enough natural gas to meet the daily needs of more than  
3 7 million American homes by connecting producing  
4 regions of Northeast Pennsylvania to markets in the  
5 Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern states. Cleveland  
6 Brothers is a caterpillar dealership with 27 locations  
7 throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia. We are a  
8 family-owned company established in 1948. We employ  
9 over 1,200 employees, both union and non-union.

10                   Since 2010, we've invested over a half a  
11 billion dollars in machinery to support the oil and gas  
12 industry here in Pennsylvania. Our company has had a  
13 longstanding supply relationship with pipeline  
14 contractors operating throughout Pennsylvania,  
15 including many of those that will be involved in this  
16 project. The pipeline companies that will be doing the  
17 work on this project are known for employing best  
18 practices and construction, including earth moving,  
19 material handling, and land restoration.

20                   This project will support hundred of  
21 jobs at Cleveland Brothers. Delays created like in the  
22 Mariner East Two project causes us to increase our  
23 employee level by over 200 people. Also at stake in  
24 this project's approval, the jobs of the thousands of  
25 workers to support production and natural gas from the

1 shale formations across Pennsylvania. They cannot  
2 produce or transport to market because of the lack of  
3 pipeline capacity.

4           Because of all the construction and  
5 energy production activities, the pipeline will enable  
6 communities throughout Pennsylvania - throughout  
7 Pennsylvania will benefit from workers' income, much of  
8 it spent locally. The resulting state and local taxes  
9 paid by them and our employers will support public  
10 education, environmental programs, infrastructure,  
11 public safety, and other state and local government  
12 operations.

13           Much of the opposition to this project  
14 will point to alternative energy sources or dangers of  
15 carbon, gas leaks associated with pipelines, dangers to  
16 our waterways. Please keep this in mind. This project  
17 will be built by some of the best pipeline contractors  
18 in the country, who, like all Americans, care about the  
19 environment. And who have proven over decades, that  
20 these pipelines are in fact constructed safely.

21           There's not one alternative energy  
22 project in Pennsylvania the opposition can point to  
23 that will supply seven million homes 24 hours a day  
24 with clean and affordable energy sources like this  
25 project. Nor can the opposition create the thousands

1 of jobs and incomes for state's oil and gas workers,  
2 who simply want to support their families through  
3 honest and hard work. This should be about safe and  
4 clean energy production and jobs. Jobs for citizens.  
5 Jobs for our children. And jobs for our children's  
6 children.

7 Thank you for the opportunity for me to  
8 offer my view about why this is important to our  
9 company and to Pennsylvania. Thank you.

10 MS. LEHMAN: Okay. Abraham Amoros,  
11 followed by Jillian Lashmett, Chris McCallum and Jason  
12 Fink.

13 MR. AMOROS: Good evening. My name is  
14 Abe Amoros, A-M-O-R-O-S. And I'm the Pennsylvania  
15 Legislative Director for the Laborer's International  
16 Union of North America.

17 I'm here to testify in favor of the  
18 Atlantic Sunrise project. And urge the approval of  
19 Chapters 102 and 105 permits. Pipelines are proven to  
20 be the safest and most efficient method to get natural  
21 gas to consumers. Currently, Williams touches more  
22 than 30 percent of the nation's natural gas,  
23 transporting it to markets across the country.  
24 Williams has also secured all necessary permits and has  
25 commenced construction on Atlantic Sunrise facilities

1 in all other states.

2                   Federal and state regulators play in  
3 important role in protecting the health and safety of  
4 citizens they dutifully serve, as well as the  
5 environment and wildlife. Williams wants tough  
6 regulations and they want those regulations enforced.

7                   The challenges that exist in the current  
8 regulatory environment stem from jurisdictional  
9 overlap. This overlap has unfortunately stunted  
10 growth. And undoubtedly cost the state jobs and  
11 economic investment. The outstanding Chapter 102 and  
12 105 permits, for which applications were first  
13 submitted in 2015, are among the final approvals needed  
14 to move this project forward.

15                   Williams has committed to implementing  
16 the best management practices during construction and  
17 restoration to mitigate the potential impacts  
18 associated with the installation of the project. It  
19 has dedicated full-time environmental inspectors that  
20 this will be employed during construction to oversee  
21 and ensure that Williams' best management practices are  
22 implemented. And that the project complies with all  
23 applicable regulatory permit and approval emissions.

24                   Working with stakeholders and permitting  
25 agencies, Williams has demonstrated a collaborative

1 approach, which has resulted in the adoption of more  
2 than 400 route modifications, affecting more than  
3 60 percent of its original route.

4           Per DEP's request, environmental culture  
5 resources surveys on 100 percent of the preferred  
6 routes have been completed. Atlantic Sunrise will not  
7 negatively impact the water quality or supply during or  
8 after construction, as full-time environmental  
9 inspectors will oversee construction activities to  
10 ensure full compliance of the required environmental  
11 mitigation measures.

12           As has been mentioned before, this is a  
13 \$3 billion privately-funded energy infrastructure  
14 project that is ready to put Pennsylvania energy and  
15 thousands of people to work. Pennsylvania will benefit  
16 from Atlantic Sunrise's approval, which will span ten  
17 counties from Susquehanna down to Lancaster.

18           And as has also been mentioned in  
19 economic impact analysis conducted by researchers of  
20 Penn State, estimates that 2,300 people will be  
21 employed in those counties during the one year  
22 construction phase. Which will increase economic  
23 activity by \$1.6 billion in the project area.

24           Quite simply, natural gas is essential  
25 to the quality of life that many of us take for

1 granted. Pennsylvania has an opportunity now to  
2 strengthen and build on its strong energy  
3 infrastructure.

4                   The Atlantic Sunrise project will create  
5 important jobs, foster and continue growth into the  
6 future. And on behalf of the men and women of my  
7 union, I urge DEP to approve the Chapter 102 and 105  
8 permit applications. Thank you.

9                   MS. LEHMAN: Next up is Jillian  
10 Lashmett. Then Chris McCallum, Jason Fink, and Tammy  
11 Murphy. Is Jillian here? Jillian is not here, okay.  
12 How about Chris McCallum? Okay, Chris is not here.  
13 Jason Fink?

14                   MR. FINK: Good evening. My name is  
15 Jason Fink, J-A-S-O-N, F-I-N-K. And I'm the executive  
16 vice president of the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of  
17 Commerce. And I live at 551 Harding Avenue in  
18 Williamsport.

19                   I come forward to request the DEP move  
20 quickly to approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for  
21 the Atlantic Sunrise project. This project has been  
22 thoroughly vetted by various entities. It has received  
23 a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from  
24 FERC in February of this year.

25                   Williams has been working with DEP for

1 more than two years providing the data and information  
2 needed for the permit applications to be processed in a  
3 timely and efficient manner. It is now time, after  
4 these two plus years, for this project to receive DEP  
5 approval that it has demonstrated it has earned.

6                   During this time spent in working with  
7 DEP, Williams has demonstrated a collaborative  
8 approach, which has resulted in the adoption of more  
9 than 400 route modifications affecting more than  
10 60 percent of its original route.

11                   They have performed environmental and  
12 cultural resource surveys on 100 percent of the  
13 preferred route. One-quarter of the project will be  
14 done collocating the pipeline with existing  
15 right-of-way. FERC environmental impact statement  
16 determined that no long-term effects on surface waters  
17 are anticipated as a result of construction and  
18 operation of the projects.

19                   It has also stated that given the impact  
20 of Williams minimization and mitigation measures  
21 proposed by Transco, as well as their recommendations,  
22 they conclude the construction and operation of the  
23 project would not have a significant adverse effect on  
24 wildlife, including migratory birds.

25                   Atlantic Sunrise has been through an

1 unprecedented amount of regulatory and public review at  
2 federal and state levels from the various agencies with  
3 oversight of it. This overlap has stunted growth and  
4 undoubtedly cost the state jobs and economic  
5 investment. This nearly \$3 billion project will be a  
6 major drive of Pennsylvania's economy by transporting  
7 Pennsylvania's Marcellus gas to markets far beyond the  
8 binding area of the gas. It will help to drive down  
9 the cost of both residents industries that rely upon it  
10 for home heating, air conditioning and manufacturing  
11 processes.

12                   It is time now for DEP to step forward  
13 to end this bureaucratic nightmare for Williams and its  
14 Atlantic Sunrise project. Williams has already shown  
15 the federal branches of the government that it can and  
16 will construct this pipeline with the safety and  
17 environmental concerns and oversight that we all expect  
18 from any industry conducting operations in the  
19 Commonwealth.

20                   DEP should approve the Atlantic Sunrise  
21 project given all that Williams has demonstrated to  
22 receive the approvals from various federal agencies,  
23 including FERC. Thank you for your consideration of my  
24 comments in favor of the Atlantic Sunrise and Williams.

25                   MS. LEHMAN: Next up, Tammy Murphy. Is



1 Tammy here? Okay. Linda Dietrichson is next? Linda  
2 will be followed by Ed Gillet, Bob Garrett, and Sandy  
3 Walker.

4 MS. DIETRICHSON: Good evening. I'm a  
5 member of the Fishing Creek Watershed Association and  
6 the Coalition, the Columbia-Montour Coalition for  
7 Source Water Protection. But my comments tonight are  
8 my own. My name is Linda Dietrichson. Dietrichson is  
9 spelled D-I-E-T-R-I-C-H-S-O-N.

10 DEP, protecting our water resources has  
11 been your job for nearly five decades. You know what's  
12 involved with a project the size of the Atlantic  
13 Sunrise. The final EIS report released by FERC defines  
14 the challenge for the rest of us. Quote, the project  
15 would cross source water protection areas associated  
16 with the Susquehanna River, Swatara Creek, and four  
17 water bodies with potable water intake within three  
18 miles downstream of the proposed water body crossing.

19 Excuse me. That includes water that  
20 people here in Bloomsburg need to drink. By FERC's  
21 count, the project is proposed to cross 388 water  
22 bodies. Five considered major. There are 105 wetlands  
23 to be crossed. Each one presenting distinct  
24 challenges. Each one posing risks of irreparable harm  
25 to local water supplies. Those risks are far too great

1 to take.

2                   DEP, you know from experience that  
3 FERC's assurance that, quote, impacts on wetland  
4 resources would be effectively minimized or mitigated,  
5 end quote, is not true. Even with best practices and  
6 no major accidents, mistakes will be made. Harm to the  
7 environment will occur. And Williams Transco has an  
8 appalling safety record. Their assurances are  
9 worthless.

10                   As effective as you can be as our  
11 protector, you do not have the resources to monitor the  
12 project as closely as will be required. The dangers  
13 and costs from the project should not be born by the  
14 citizens or the land. But there's a sure way to  
15 prevent disaster. Deny the permits. Fossil fuels  
16 extraction is dirty, dangerous, old technology.

17                   The ASP is obsolete and unnecessary.  
18 Merely a shortcut for Williams Transco to extract and  
19 export. They have so much invested in this project  
20 that they won't back out. That is why we need you to  
21 stop them.

22                   I feel like Princess Leia as I appeal to  
23 you to be stalwart in your resistance to the pressures  
24 to approve the permits for this pipeline project. You  
25 must be Obi-Wan Kenobi, using your force for the good

1 of all Pennsylvania. Not allowing our waters to be  
2 destroyed for corporate profit.

3 DEP, you must deny the permits that  
4 would allow the Atlantic Sunrise to gouge it's way  
5 through our water body and wetlands. Stop the project  
6 from destroying millions of gallons of water per day  
7 from our rivers and streams. Water that will be  
8 polluted or lost by the industry. That's water that  
9 rightfully belongs to the people, animals, and habitat  
10 of our area.

11 DEP, be the force for good. Thank you.

12 MS. LEHMAN: Next up is Ed Gillet,  
13 followed by Bob Garrett, Sandy Walker and Ed Hill.

14 MR. GILLET: My name is Ed Gillet. I  
15 represent the operating engineers Local 542. We are  
16 the equipment operators that build these pipelines. We  
17 have approximately 6,500 members. We live here in  
18 Pennsylvania, pay taxes here, and raise our families  
19 here. I worked on several pipeline projects over the  
20 last four years. I've seen great changes in the way  
21 environmental issues are addressed.

22 Environmental practices are second to  
23 none on current pipeline projects. Pipeline  
24 infrastructure is as important as our roads and  
25 railways. It's not possibly to meet our country's

1 energy needs without natural gas. Pennsylvania must  
2 continue to upgrade and build the necessary  
3 infrastructure to safely and efficiently transport our  
4 energy resources.

5           Large scale infrastructure projects,  
6 such as the Atlantic Sunrise, play an increasing role  
7 in the strength of our economy, both now and future  
8 decades. As Pennsylvania takes its place as a global  
9 energy hub, Local 542 will continue to provide  
10 qualified, hard working members with the training and  
11 support they need to develop a safe and efficient  
12 energy transportation network.

13           Not only me, but the entire membership  
14 of Local 542 operating engineers respectfully ask for  
15 your consideration in letting this project move  
16 forward. Thank you.

17           MS. LEHMAN: Next is Bob Garrett. Bob  
18 will be followed by Sandy Walker, Ed Hill, Jr., and  
19 Paul McCormick.

20           MR. GARRETT: Hello. My name is Bob  
21 Garrett, G-A-R-R-E-T-T. I'm the President CEO of the  
22 Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce. We had  
23 700 members representing 55,000 employees in the union  
24 of Montour County areas. I would like thank the DEP  
25 for conducting tonight's hearing.

1 I would like to draw on our recent  
2 experience that we had with the Sunbury pipelines. And  
3 we know a little bit of what we speak related to  
4 Chapters 102 and 105. What I would say for the record,  
5 is that this company, Williams, is well-vetted,  
6 well-known and responsive. We have found them through  
7 our research to be exemplary self-reporters. We also  
8 know that the construction companies that are likely or  
9 have been selected to work on this, and their  
10 employees, such as the pipeliners and the other unions  
11 that you will hear from tonight, tend to - that we  
12 found, they followed the law, guidelines, and  
13 conditions. In fact, it was our experience that during  
14 construction of the Sunbury pipeline, that they  
15 exceeded the conditions that were set for them. And we  
16 were able to use that construction project as a best  
17 management practice with some of our local university  
18 statements, et cetera.

19 So I would just say tonight to invite  
20 anyone here to come lest over to the Greater  
21 Susquehanna Valley. View the pipeline alignment.  
22 There's a lot to see as it's greening up. The gas is  
23 flowing through the pipeline. And I thank you for the  
24 opportunity to be here the tonight.

25 MS. LEHMAN: Sandy Walker is next.

1 Again, Sandy is followed Ed Hill, Jr. And Paul  
2 McCormick.

3 MS. WALKER: Sandy Walker is my name.  
4 W-A-L-K-E-R. I have a question for you. How many of  
5 you live close to or along the pipeline? So you can  
6 live within let's say, 1,200 feet of the pipeline. How  
7 many? How many of you are concerned about jobs as DEP?  
8 I would assume that Department of Environmental  
9 Protection is protecting the environment. The jobs  
10 that all these people are talking about is not  
11 something that has to be your concern. That's my  
12 assumption. And I hope it's correct.

13 FERC over-estimated the value of jobs  
14 for this project. And, in fact, it's going to cost the  
15 public somewhere between \$21.3 and \$91.6 billion over  
16 the life of the pipeline. It's going to cost us that.

17 So I grew up in Pittsburgh. And this  
18 could be us talking about coal 70 years ago. And  
19 everybody would have thought it was wonderful. And  
20 then later emphysema. And they had to finally turn on  
21 all the street lights in the Pittsburgh because they  
22 couldn't see during the day from burning coal.

23 Now, it's methane. We don't see it, but  
24 in the four corners down in Southwest, there's a  
25 methane cloud over that place. And people are

1 suffering there from the health - their health for that.

2                   The market for this Atlantic Sunrise  
3 pipeline isn't going to affect or heat any homes in  
4 Pennsylvania. It's going to go to market to be  
5 exported. Some of it may go south. But Pennsylvania  
6 gets nothing from that. Just so that you're aware of  
7 that.

8                   So methane is a concern because we want  
9 clean air in DEP. And methane isn't the only thing.  
10 It's Benzene, which causes cancer. The other concern  
11 is a great concern of mine is how many trees will be  
12 cut down. Trees, as you know from DEP, regulate the  
13 aquifers. They regulate the water systems. And they  
14 regulate the temperatures. Water consumption for  
15 fracking, which as Linda said will never be used again  
16 by us for drinking, or by fish for swimming.

17                   So those are areas that are your  
18 concern. And I would assume that that's what you would  
19 address. I'm also concerned about the number of  
20 inspectors you have for this project. Thank you.

21                   MS. LEHMAN: Next up is Ed Hill, Junior,  
22 followed by Paul McCormick.

23                   MR. HILL: Good evening. My name is Ed  
24 Hill, Junior. It's E-D, H-I-L-L. I'm a representative  
25 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

1 And approximately 20,000 construction members in  
2 Pennsylvania. I'm here tonight in support of the  
3 Atlantic Sunrise project. And encourage the PA DEP to  
4 approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for this  
5 project.

6 I'd like to begin by thanking the PA DEP  
7 for holding the public hearing tonight. And giving us  
8 an opportunity to voice our opinions on the matter at  
9 hand.

10 Williams has been working with the  
11 Pennsylvania DEP for more than two years providing data  
12 and information needed to it and other agencies for  
13 approval of the Atlantic Sunrise project. Williams is  
14 committed to implementing best management practices  
15 during the construction and restoration to mitigate  
16 potential impacts associated with the installation of  
17 this project. Many practices have been well above and  
18 will be well above requirements. Transco has also  
19 demonstrated their commitment.

20 By utilizing professionally trained  
21 construction workers, including those from the IBW, by  
22 which who attend at least 900-hours of new class  
23 training, and 8,000 hours of on the job training over a  
24 five-year period before they reach journeyman status.

25 In addition to the IBW, Transco



1 committed to using other highly training construction  
2 workers, including the pipeliners, laborers, and  
3 operating engineers. Which again, demonstrates a  
4 commitment following best possible safety involving  
5 practices by utilizing the best trained construction  
6 workers in America.

7 Williams has developed and worked with  
8 agencies on a timeline that allows the Department's  
9 thorough and complete review of the application. As  
10 well as comprehensive construction schedule that would  
11 replace the projects service in the safest and most  
12 environmentally responsible manner.

13 The proposed construction schedule would  
14 enable the company to fully consider all environmental  
15 factors, maximize favorable construction in weather  
16 conditions, while minimizing adverse impacts, which  
17 would result in a longer construction period.

18 Again, Williams Transco is committed to  
19 ensuring safety and environmental protection during  
20 construction and operation of the Atlantic Sunrise  
21 project. The IBW encourages a timely approval of the  
22 102 and 105 permits. Thank you.

23 MS. LEHMAN: The next speaker is Paul  
24 McCormick. And then after that the final speaker who  
25 is registered, I believe, is this is Marion Menapace.

1 Sorry if I'm mispronouncing names tonight.

2 MR. MCCORMICK: Good evening. Paul  
3 McCormick. P-A-U-L, M-C-C-O-R-M-I-C-K. I'm with the  
4 International Union of Operating Engineers Pipeline  
5 Department as the Northeast pipeline representative.

6 Our national training fund this year  
7 alone in 2017, has put on over 180 pipeline training  
8 courses, with most of them lasting at least two weeks,  
9 some even three and four. At a tune of over \$6  
10 million.

11 The International Union of Operating  
12 Engineers has the most highly skilled and training  
13 equipment operators in the pipeline industry bar none.  
14 Our members know the importance of not only running the  
15 equipment safely but know how to do it in a  
16 responsible way to protect the environment with the  
17 rules and regulations set forth by, not only FERC, Army  
18 Corp, local and state conversation districts, the DEP  
19 with the regulations they set forth at 102 and 105  
20 permits.

21 For example, not only does Williams have  
22 full-time environmental inspectors on the job, the  
23 contractor has environmental crews with our members on  
24 them on the right-of-way, with that being their only  
25 task. Making sure all environmental controls are in

1 place and working properly. If not, they are repaired,  
2 modified, or adjusted so that they will too protect the  
3 environment.

4           Local operating engineers and their  
5 families will benefit this project with a decent living  
6 wage, health care, pensions, and something to look  
7 forward to at retirement. As well as local area  
8 businesses, such as stores, lodging facilities, parts  
9 suppliers, et cetera. Also, local tax revenue for the  
10 communities, fire departments, schools, and townships  
11 will see an increase in prosperity.

12           The International Union of Operating  
13 Engineers thanks you for holding these meetings. Do  
14 your due diligence, just as FERC, Army Corp, and other  
15 agencies have, and approve this project. We ask you to  
16 do your due diligence in reviewing all pertinent  
17 information, and approve these permits. Thank you.

18           MS. LEHMAN: And we have Marion  
19 Menapace. Again, I'm sorry for any mispronunciations  
20 tonight. I try my best.

21           MS. MENAPACE: Good evening. My name is  
22 Marion, M-A-R-I-O-N, Menapace, M-E-N-A-P-A-C-E. And  
23 I'm very glad you're here because perhaps our  
24 Pennsylvania EPA will save us from what's happening  
25 with our Federal EPA, which is the metamorphing into

1 the Environmental Pollution Agency.

2 I'm not here to talk about all the  
3 terrible things that have happened with pipelines. We  
4 know this. But I recently actually towards the end of  
5 last year, listened in to a telephone conference  
6 between the pipeline and hazardous material  
7 administration, and people representing pipelines. It  
8 seems that the former administration had tightened  
9 rules and regulations, especially with regard to  
10 inspection and maintenance. And the pipeline people  
11 did not like this. Protesting that it was much too  
12 expensive.

13 These pipelines will stay in the ground  
14 for decades, as long as the pipe, as long as the gas  
15 flows, there will be corrosion. And accidents will  
16 happen generations from now if the gas keeps flowing.  
17 But it won't.

18 Conservation hasn't been mentioned.  
19 Conservation is tremendously important right now.  
20 There is an alliance to save energy that said, and this  
21 is the latest quote I have is back in 2014. That in  
22 2014, with conservation, better equipment, better  
23 utilities, even the utility companies are working on  
24 this because they want to save energy. We have saved  
25 50 quadrillion BTUs with conservation in 2014 alone.

1 And that's much more now. I can't tell you exactly how  
2 much because I couldn't find the figures. But  
3 quadrillion is 35 million tons of coal. It is a  
4 trillion feet of natural gas. And 150 million barrels  
5 of crude oil. So conservation is extremely important.  
6 We should be looking towards that. There's a wonderful  
7 site online --- okay. Final comments.

8                   We have the cheapest way to produce  
9 energy is by being energy efficient. And two of our  
10 neighboring states have already been fracking and  
11 that's what we have to work towards. They have been  
12 enlightened. Thank you.

13                   MS. LEHMAN: This will conclude  
14 tonight's public hearing. We will note for the record  
15 that the representatives of the Pennsylvania Department  
16 of Environmental Protection were present to hold this  
17 hearing. As a reminder, the public comment period will  
18 close on Monday, June 26, 2017. If you wish to  
19 submit - oh, yes. Yes.

20                   We are going to allow anyone who  
21 registered, but didn't get here by the time their name  
22 was called to step forward and speak before we close.  
23 And so if you would like to, please state your name and  
24 spell it for the record. And you have three minutes.

25                   MS. MURPHY: My name is Tammy Murphy.

1 That's T-A-M-M-Y, M-U-R-P-H-Y. I'm with Physicians for  
2 Social Responsibility in Pennsylvania. And we are  
3 asking that the DEP deny the application for Transco  
4 Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project due to the  
5 irreparable harm that it would cause to the state's  
6 waterways and environment during construction, and  
7 throughout the lifespan and beyond. This project has  
8 harmful environmental impacts, safety issues, air and  
9 climate change impacts, economic ramifications,  
10 permanent impacts on scenery and rural character of  
11 this region, and drinking water sources, ground water  
12 wells, wetlands, springs, and seeps water quality and  
13 septic systems, as admitted even by Transco itself.

14                   The aquatic resources have the  
15 potentially to be impacted by many activities,  
16 including water body crossings, clearings, blasting,  
17 and water withdrawals from hydrostatic testing. Some  
18 of the resources within the project are high quality  
19 and sensitive resources, including exceptional value  
20 and trout streams.

21                   Transco fails to discuss, except for the  
22 most basic terms, the impacts that can be expected from  
23 other activity in the area. Including that Transco  
24 failed to adequately qualify impacts of other projects  
25 in the vicinity of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline. Even

1 when Transco acknowledges the impacts from these other  
2 activities, it does not explain how these will affect  
3 and contribute to adverse impacts to the water  
4 resources.

5           For example, in its discussion of impact  
6 to surface water resources and application, Transco  
7 admits the natural gas drilling creates the potential  
8 for cumulative effects on the water surfaces, affected  
9 by the same watersheds crossed by the project. It does  
10 not provide any more information about these potential  
11 affects, because the information was readily available  
12 according to the Transco application, the Luzerne  
13 County application.

14           So having identified many technical  
15 difficulties in the Transco application, nine  
16 deficiency letters sent, you are aware that your staff  
17 needs to do a thorough technical review of Transco's  
18 responses to the deficiency letters to each permit  
19 application.

20           A report prepared by Key-Log Economics  
21 in the proposed Atlantic Sunrise pipeline shows  
22 enormous ecological damage, including Key-Log Economic  
23 details. The true cost of the Atlantic Sunrise  
24 pipeline. Costs which include the effects of the  
25 pipeline on property values, the diminished values of

1 the ecosystem services, economic damages associated  
2 with the increase of greenhouse gas emissions, the  
3 public health cost due to the release of toxins, and  
4 smog-forming pollutants.

5           The report estimates that the pipeline's  
6 total cost to the environment to be between \$21.3 and  
7 \$91.6 billion. The ecosystem services value lost  
8 during construction are estimated to be \$6.2 to \$22.7  
9 million. While annual cost for the diminished  
10 ecosystem would approximately cost \$2.9 to  
11 \$11.4 million per year.

12           The benefits people obtain from  
13 ecosystems is perhaps the simplest and the most  
14 commonly heard definition of the ecosystem services.  
15 These services can be identified and quantified. Lost  
16 ecosystem services the value of food production, water  
17 supply, air quality, erosion control, biological  
18 diversity, soil fertility and waste treatment. Due to

19           MS. LEHMAN: Your time is up, sorry.

20           MS. MURPHY: Times up?

21           MS. LEHMAN: The other two individuals  
22 who had registered and were not here earlier, we'll  
23 give them an opportunity as well. Jillian Lashmett.  
24 Has Jillian arrived? No? Chris McCallum? Okay. That  
25 is everyone who has registered.



1                   So now, we will conclude tonight's  
2 hearing. Again, noting for the record that DEP  
3 representatives were here to hold this hearing. And  
4 reminding you the public comment period closes on  
5 Monday, June 26th. So if you would like to submit  
6 written comments or questions, please refer to the  
7 handout at the front desk. You can e-mail or mail your  
8 comments. And again, comments made in person at these  
9 hearing and comments submitted in writing will be given  
10 equal consideration by the Department.

11                   Thank you for being here. Thank you  
12 your testimony, and your respect to all the speakers.  
13 We appreciate your interest in this project. Have a  
14 safe trip home. And good night.

15                   \* \* \* \* \*  
16                   HEARING CONCLUDED  
17                   \* \* \* \* \*

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings,  
hearing held before Chair Lehman was reported by me on  
5/25/2017 and I Lindsey Deann Richardson read this  
transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a  
true and accurate record of the proceeding.



Lindsey Deann Richardson,  
Court Reporter