1. COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
2. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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1. IN RE: CHAPTER 105 AND CHAPTER 102 PERMIT APPLICATIONS
2. FOR THE ATLANTIC SUNRISE PIPELINE PROJECT BY
3. TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, LLC

7

8 PUBLIC HEARING

9 \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

1. BEFORE: COLLEEN CONNOLLY, Chair
2. KEVIN WHITE, Environmental Group Manager
3. PAMELA DOBBINS, Environmental Group Manager
4. EUGENE TROWBRIDGE, II, Water Pollution
5. Biologist
6. HEARING: Monday, June 12, 2017

16 6:00 p.m.

1. LOCATION: Tunkhannock Middle School
2. 200 Franklin Avenue
3. Tunkhannock, PA 18657

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21 Reporter: Lindsey Deann Richardson 22

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

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1. CHAIR: Okay. It's six o'clock. We're
2. going to go on the record now to begin the public
3. hearing for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline.
4. Good evening, everyone. My name is
5. Colleen Connolly. I'm the regional spokesperson, the
6. community relations coordinator for the Pennsylvania
7. Department of Environmental Protection's Northeast
8. Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre.
9. Tonight we are here to hold a formal
10. public hearing on the Chapter 105 and Chapter 102
11. permits submitted to the DEP for the Atlantic Sunrise
12. Pipeline Project. It's proposed by Transcontinental
13. Gas Line Company (sic), otherwise known as Transco.
14. These applications are currently under technical review
15. by the DEP at this time.
16. I want to thank everyone for coming out
17. tonight. Part of the process of reviewing a permit
18. application is to hear from the public and get their
19. input. So we appreciate you coming out tonight and I
20. certainly want to hear what you have to say.
21. Also, I want to thank the staff here at
22. Tunkhannock High School - Tunkhannock Middle School
23. District for hosting us this evening.
    1. Again, I'll repeat, we're here for a
    2. formal public hearing regarding two DEP permits
    3. submitted for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project,
    4. which is proposed by the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line
    5. Company, LLC.
    6. I want to start by introducing our staff
    7. here from the Department. We have Kevin White, an
    8. environmental group manager in DEP's Waterways and
    9. Wetlands Program; Gene Trowbridge, a water pollution
    10. biologist in the Waterways and Wetlands Program at DEP.
    11. And Pam Dobbins, an environmental group manager, also
    12. from DEP's Waterways and Wetlands Program.
    13. We will be listening to your public
    14. comments tonight. I want to clarify right now what
    15. these two permits are.
    16. I said these are Chapter 105, water
    17. obstruction and encroachment permit application, and
    18. the Chapter 102, the erosion and sediment control
    19. general permit for earth disturbances associated with
    20. oil and gas exploration production, processing,
    21. treatment operations for transmission facilities,
    22. Notice of Intent. These applications, as I said, are
    23. under review by DEP's technical review staff.
    24. Again, tonight we're here to hold a
    25. formal public hearing to take testimony, and testimony
24. only, from you regarding these two permit applications.
25. We are not going to answer any questions this evening.
26. We'll take your testimony in the form of
27. comments from those who have registered to speak ahead
28. of time. If you still want to register to speak, you
29. have time at the table at the front of the door. As
30. soon as the first public speaker begins, I have to
31. close the registration after that.
32. If you wish to make a formal comment and
33. have not signed up, like I said, please go right now to
34. the front desk and we will sign you up. You must be
35. registered and present if you wish to present testimony
36. at the hearing tonight. Please remember the comments
37. offered here in person or in writing hold the same
38. weight, and postal mail also carries the same weight as
39. any other comments. So if you want to submit a public
40. comment, you want to do it here, they carry both the
41. same weight.
42. Okay. I have some rather large
43. explanations I have to give tonight on these permit
44. applications. If you'll just bear with me a moment.
45. It will only take a couple of minutes. Transco
46. submitted a Chapter 105 water obstruction encroachment
47. permit application as required by the Pennsylvania
48. Code, the PA Dam Safety and Encroachments Act and the
49. PA Clean Streams Law, to DEP for activities associated
50. with construction of their proposed Atlantic Sunrise
51. Pipeline Project.
52. The permits are required for activities
53. that are proposed to be located in, along, across or
54. projected into a water course, floodway or body of
55. water, including wetlands. And these Chapter 105
56. publications are currently, as I said, under review by
57. the Department at this time, under what we call
58. technical review.
59. Transco submitted to the Department a
60. Notice of Intent as required by the Pennsylvania Code
61. and the PA Clean Streams Law to DEP for the
62. construction and restoration of the right-of-way and
63. access roads proposed for the Atlantic Sunrise Project.
64. The proposed Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline
65. Project is designed to provide natural gas by
66. connecting to existing regions in Northeast
67. Pennsylvania, right here in our area, to markets in the
68. Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern states. The proposed
69. project will consist of compression and moving of the
70. Transco pipeline in Pennsylvania, along with a
71. greenfield pipeline referred to as the Central Penn
72. Pipeline (sic) connecting the northeastern Marcellus
73. existing region to the Transco mainline, near
74. Compression Station 195 in Southeastern Pennsylvania.
75. Additional existing Transco facilities
76. are being added and will be modified to allow gas to
77. flow bi-directionally. The proposed pipeline corridor
78. will traverse ten counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania
79. to the southern tier of Pennsylvania.
80. Notice of the Chapter 105 permit
81. application and the erosion sediment control general
82. permit Notice of Intent were published by DEP in the
83. Pennsylvania Bulletin on Saturday, May 27th, 2017. And
84. notice of this public hearing was published in the
85. Pennsylvania Bulletin on Saturday, May 27th, 2017. And
86. a notices about this public hearing were also published
87. in newspapers, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, The Citizens'
88. Voice, and the Wyoming County Examiner on Saturday,
89. May 27th, the same day.
90. DEP will accept written comments on
91. these Transco applications through Monday, June 26th,
92. 2017. So anyone who hasn't had a chance to testify can
93. - if you want submit a written comment, you can until
94. Monday, June 26th. And I'll give you a little bit more
95. information about that as we close out the hearing
96. tonight.
97. Because this is a formal DEP hearing,
98. personnel here tonight will not be answering any
99. questions. Instead, all of these comments or questions
100. will be addressed in writing by the Department at the
101. close of the public comment period, which as I said is
102. Monday, June 26th.
103. We will prepare what is called a comment
104. response document. Again, we will not be answering any
105. questions tonight. We will only be accepting comments.
106. The public comment and the Department's
107. response will be made part of the administrative
108. record, which is available for review at DEP's
109. Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre.
110. Arrangements can be made to review the administrative
111. record by calling (570) 826-2511 during regular
112. business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday
113. through Friday. The record can also be viewed by going
114. online to DEP's website, clicking on the pipeline
115. portal, and then clicking the Atlantic Sunrise tab.
116. For this hearing, though, we do have
117. some ground rules. And I'd like to go over them a
118. little so the hearing can be managed a little more
119. quickly and efficiently, and so we can have your
120. testimony heard. A couple -. I have about ten of
121. them.
122. Please turn off your cell phone or put
123. them on vibrate if you have them on. We want to hear
124. what everyone has to say. If you do have to take a
125. phone call - I know I'm waiting to hear if my husband's
126. baseball team won - if you can take it out in the
127. lobby, that would be great. Thank you.
128. No signs in the auditorium. Thank you
129. all for complying with that.
130. The hearing is for testimony only, no
131. questions or presentations. Although you can
132. submit -. If you have material with you, you can
133. submit it up here. We'll put it as part of the public
134. comment, public record.
135. If you would like to offer testimony
136. when your name is called, please approach the
137. microphone. There's one in each aisle. They do work.
138. Earlier we tested them. Say and spell your name and
139. give your testimony. Please speak loudly and clearly
140. into the microphone so everyone can hear you.
141. We do have a stenographer who's taking
142. notes, a transcript of the hearing. So if you could
143. speak loudly enough, we would appreciate that.
144. Please don't interrupt when someone else
145. is talking, speaking out, calling out, you know,
146. hissing, booing or personal attacks. Please be
147. respectful. We look like a good group here tonight. I
148. don't think we'll have that problem. I know everybody
149. wants to hear what everyone else has to say, so we
150. would appreciate that.
151. Each person will be offered three
152. minutes to offer their testimony. I'm keeping time.
153. I'll give you one minute, I'll put up my finger,
154. pointer finger. Don't worry, you'll have one -. I'll
155. give you one minute, and then 30 seconds I will ask you
156. to wrap up your testimony.
157. Only one opportunity will be given for
158. you to offer testimony. So you have that one chance.
159. Please make it count. You cannot donate or give your
160. time to someone else. You have that three minutes to
161. say what you have to say.
162. Once you have finished the comment or
163. your testimony, please return to your seat. Please, if
164. you can, keep the comments focused on what we are here
165. for tonight, the Chapter 102, 105 permit applications.
166. I'm not going to warn you if you're getting off topic.
167. These are your three minutes, so use them as wisely as
168. you possibly can.
169. I reserve the right to deny anyone the
170. opportunity to offer testimony if I feel you're not
171. following the rules I just mentioned or you're
172. determined to be a threat at all to meeting decorum or
173. to participants' safety.
     1. I also reserve the right to have people
     2. escorted from the session, if they don't follow the
     3. rules or if they act in a threatening manner. We do
     4. have three security guards here tonight. Again, you
     5. look like a good group, I don't think we'll have a
     6. problem. When - I'll give you time queues. Please
     7. remember to stay on focus.
     8. I will go by whoever signed up first. I
     9. have a list of who signed up by e-mailing, calling or
     10. sending me a postcard. I got a postcard in the mail.
     11. And then I'll follow up with the people who registered
     12. at the hearing.
     13. So as soon as the first speaker speaks,
     14. we've got to close registration. If you do think you
     15. want to speak, you have about a minute or so to go
     16. register.
     17. Okay. Unfortunately I cannot ask you if
     18. you have any questions. We're just going to get right
     19. into the public hearing, the testimony portion. And
     20. I'll start off with the first person that registered,
     21. Diane Ward of Bradford County. Diane. And please, if
     22. you do have a copy of your testimony, you can leave it
     23. on the stage up here.
     24. Go ahead, Diane. Thank you.
     25. MS. WARD: My name is Diane Ward,
         1. D-I-A-N-E, W-A-R-D. I live at 902 Grove School Road,
         2. Wysox, PA. And I am a Bradford County resident. And I
         3. am also a property owner in Wyoming Township,
         4. Tunkhannock Township and Braintrim Township. My
         5. properties are at Lake Carey and along the Susquehanna
         6. River. As a result of this, a lot of my focus is on
         7. the preservation of water resources in Wyoming County
         8. and beyond.
         9. Attachment E-2 of the Wyoming County
         10. permit documents details the current plan for 295
         11. impacts on Wyoming County water resources via pipeline
         12. crossings. The preponderance of these are open cut or
         13. dam and pump, with 12 crossing by conventional bore,
         14. two by flume and none by the HDD. The plan calls for
         15. the Susquehanna River to be crossed at Eaton Township
         16. by Coffer Dam.
         17. These appalling facts speak for
         18. themselves. No use of HDD? Coffer Dam crossing of the
         19. Susquehanna River? Should the DEP permit the crossing
         20. techniques as currently planned, this belies our
         21. state's commitment to the Chesapeake Bay cleanup.
         22. The use of long-range peak to peak HDD
         23. crossing at selected sites, at whatever expense, would
         24. save thousands of trees, prevent erosion, maintain
         25. water quality, retain viewscape and preserve continuous
174. forest lands. HDD crossings, when properly engineered
175. and installed, do not blow out. An HDD crossing of the
176. Susquehanna River would prevent sedimentation of the
177. river during coffer construction, and put the Atlantic
178. Sunrise Pipeline safely and very deeply below the river
179. bottom, likely much deeper than planned with the coffer
180. dam construction technique.
181. The alternatives document prepared by
182. Williams did nothing to convince me that open cut, dam
183. and pump, flumes and coffer dams are the way to go. In
184. the absence of HDD, I would propose the do nothing
185. option; scrap the project and avoid all environmental
186. impacts.
187. Since that is not likely to happen, I
188. strongly suggest HDD where there are forests to save,
189. erosion to prevent, or sensitive locations where a
190. deeper pipeline is safer. You pick the sites. But
191. clearly the Susquehanna River is one of the crossings
192. that deserves this treatment.
193. One of the inconsistencies that appalls
194. me the most is that in the siting of this pipeline in
195. the original packages, one of the basic siting
196. principles stated by Williams for the project group,
197. was to select a route where the Susquehanna River
198. crossing was consistent with HDD. Look up their
199. original principles. The use of HDD for the river was
200. implied to the public at that time. If HDD is not to
201. be used, then the routing could potentially have been
202. very different.
203. As far as I am concerned, Williams made
204. a commitment to HDD when they included this factor in
205. their routing principle and rationale and I am holding
206. them to that commitment.
207. CHAIR: One minute.
208. MS. WARD: I have three additional
209. concern areas, which I will just summarize. The first
210. is the alternate Route 12A, which places the pipeline
211. in the vicinity of Leonard Creek near State Route 309,
212. with a blast building encompassing the Beaumont Inn,
213. where weddings and other large events are conducted.
214. I am also opposed to any plans, stated
215. or unstated, which may or may not exist to increase the
216. use of the Chapin dehydrator as a result of this
217. project.
218. CHAIR: Thirty (30) seconds.
219. MS. WARD: The Atlantic Sunrise Project
220. is an unnecessary money-making project for the gas
221. industry. It will sell gas, which is, in many cases
222. being stolen from royalty owners who are not being
223. afforded the protections of minimum royalty guarantees
224. of 12-and-a-half percent due them. HP557, the current
225. Bill, has not yet passed.
226. CHAIR: Time's up, ma'am. Thank you for
227. coming today.
228. MS. WARD: I have additional information
229. I'd like to submit.
230. CHAIR: You can put it on the stage.
231. Thank you.
232. Okay. We have Jerry George.
233. MR. GEORGE: Thank you. Jerry George,
234. J-E-R-R-Y, G-E-O-R-G-E. I'm a resident of Ross
235. Township, where pipeline is scheduled to go through it.
236. As a resident of Pennsylvania, I
237. recognize the Commonwealth is in dire need of this
238. project like the Atlantic Sunrise. The economic growth
239. Pennsylvanians have enjoyed for the development of this
240. Marcellus shale is exceptional, supporting thousands of
241. jobs and investing millions into the state economy.
242. Countless businesses have benefitted from the natural
243. gas industry. And with products like the Atlantic
244. Sunrise, more opportunities and benefits are on the
245. horizon.
246. The Atlantic Sunrise would help create
247. more opportunities in the region and beyond. I urge
248. you to approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the
249. Atlantic Sunrise Project without delay, which will
250. drive new investment in Pennsylvania's future. By
251. doing so, we will increase our national security while
252. ensuring our own energy independence through advanced
253. technology using local workers to develop a
254. Pennsylvania resource. And pipelines like the Atlantic
255. Sunrise are critical components to achieve American and
256. Pennsylvania growth.
257. Thanks in large part to the growing
258. natural gas industry, regional unemployment has dropped
259. and future job growth over for next decade is expected
260. to climb almost 40 percent. This is not even
261. mentioning the thousands of dollars Williams has
262. awarded in the area of non-profit organizations and
263. first responders through grant programming.
264. Considering - considering the impact
265. Atlantic Sunrise would have, it seems irresponsible to
266. turn our back on this opportunity.
267. Williams has been working with the
268. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PA
269. DEP, for more than two years, providing the data and
270. information needed for this permit.
271. CHAIR: One minute, sir.
272. MR. GEORGE: The Chapter 102 and 105
273. permit applications reflect the cooperation and
274. collaboration Williams has demonstrated with
275. Pennsylvania DEP, as well as federal and state
276. permitting agencies, to avoid and minimize impacts to
277. wetlands, waterbodies, and other sensitive
278. environmental areas.
279. I'm going to say this is the time to
280. build. Let's move this country forward and build
281. Pennsylvania's infrastructure. Thank you.
282. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
283. I apologize for how hot it is in here.
284. I'm going to see if I can track down someone in the
285. school to see what we can do about that.
286. Thank you, sir.
287. Next, we have Kevin Lynn.
288. MR. LYNN: Thanks. I thought it was a
289. case of flop sweat. My name is Kevin Lynn, K-E-V-I-N,
290. L-Y-N-N. I live at Harvey's Lake. I work for Linde
291. Corporation. We do work for Williams and the other big
292. energy suppliers.
293. But I'd also like to say that I'm a
294. greenie. Okay? I would like the PA DEP to approve
295. Chapter 102 and 105 permits.
296. And at the risk of incurring the wrath
297. up there on the stage, I know this hearing is all about
298. the Atlantic Sunrise and the specifics of these two
299. permits. But really this whole thing, folks, is about
300. our future. Okay? And there's one question we have to
301. ask. And that's, are we in five years going to need
302. more energy or less? Okay. We're going to need more.
303. I think we can all agree on that. The cloud, whatever
304. that is, is kept aloft by electricity. And renewables
305. aren't going to do it alone.
306. Right now 14 percent of our energy
307. supply, that keeps the lights on one day a week. But
308. greener days are coming and better days are coming.
309. Last year natural gas overtook coal
310. nationally on the energy grid for electric generation.
311. We all need -. We're using more natural gas now than
312. we use coal, no matter what the grand orange guy in the
313. White House would like us to do.
314. Nowhere is that impact bigger than
315. nearby at Penn State. In March of 2016, Penn State
316. celebrated what they called their last day of coal.
317. That's the day when 3,250 coal trucks a year, ten a
318. day, stopped rolling onto the Penn State campus in
319. order to power the campus. And 3,325 trucks of coal
320. ash, about one a day, rolled off the campus with all
321. that pollution.
322. Now, it's not just coal. Nuclear power
323. is also losing out to natural gas. And all over the
324. east, gas and electric prices are falling. And folks,
325. so is pollution. Natural gas is the cleanest fossil
326. fuel to work with. It's cheap. It's abundant. It's
327. domestic. Marcellus shale gas -. And Marcellus shale
328. gas is right under our feet here in Wyoming County.
329. That's the big play for the future. It is forecast.
330. Marcellus shale gas is forecast to supply more than
331. 50 percent of our natural gas needs by 2020, if we get
332. out of the way and let them harvest it.
333. Let's approve this and head for the
334. future. Thank you.
335. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
336. Next, we have Tom Barnard.
337. MR. BARNARD: My name is Tom Barnard.
338. I'm from Hardy, Pennsylvania. I'm a registered
339. professional engineer with over 25 years of experience
340. in water resources and water quality. Most of my work
341. is focused on identifying environmental impacts to
342. surface waters and developing measures to mitigate
343. these impacts.
344. I'm neither in favor nor opposed to the
345. Atlantic Sunrise Project. My interests are ensuring
346. that the pipeline is constructed and resulting in
347. environmental impacts that are minimized to the maximum
348. extent possible.
     1. Over the last five years, as a
     2. professional and local resident, I have been witness to
     3. the construction of four pipeline projects in Luzerne
     4. County. I have visited more than a dozen active
     5. construction sites and talked with many local residents
     6. in Williams. Published research as well as personal
     7. observation has shown that the greatest impact of
     8. surface water occurs during construction of stream
     9. crossings.
     10. I have never visited a pipeline
     11. construction site without noticing a violation of a
     12. regulation or permit condition. Examples include
     13. tracking of sediments from designated work areas,
     14. failed encroaching control structures, slopes of
     15. sediment-laden water from work areas, sweeping of
     16. substance from the surface waters and failed slopes.
     17. I have filed numerous complaints with
     18. DEP and have yet to see evidence of a single sanction
     19. of a contractor, the shutdown of a project or
     20. resolution of any situation in a timely manner. The
     21. most I ever got from DEP was a note saying that they
     22. talked to the contractor and he promised to stop doing
     23. what he was not supposed to do.
     24. I've reached the conclusion that DEP is
     25. either unwilling or unable to enforce its own
349. regulations. I served on Governor Wolf's pipeline
350. infrastructure task force as a member of the
351. conservation and natural resources work group. And I
352. offered two recommendations. I'm going to skip those
353. for the time, but they were recommendation numbers
354. seven and eight. They had to do with monitoring and
355. inspections, and the authority to shut down sites that
356. are in violation.
357. CHAIR: One minute.
358. MR. BARNARD: Note, I believe that
359. implementation of these two recommendations is
360. necessary to ensure the minimization of adverse impacts
361. of the surface water of Pennsylvania.
362. If DEP is unwilling to follow the advice
363. of the task force, the Department should provide
364. assurances that it can protect the environment.
365. Organizations such as Trout Unlimited and other
366. nongovernmental agencies and private citizens have
367. taken over the responsibility of monitoring the
368. construction projects.
369. I'm asking DEP to publish up-to-date
370. schedules to allow citizens to visit, to monitor the
371. sites as they see fit.
372. CHAIR: Thirty (30) seconds.
373. MR. BARNARD: And also that they keep
     1. the public informed of any planned deviations from
     2. submitted and approved work plans published in a
     3. publicly-available format, including stream cross
     4. exemption, sediment control measures, pipeline
     5. alignment and construction and temporary work layouts.
     6. Thank you.
     7. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
     8. Again, I will remind mind you if you
     9. have written testimony, you can leave it up here now or
     10. after the hearing.
     11. Robyn Kochan.
     12. MRS. KOCHAN: I actually gave it to my
     13. husband.
     14. CHAIR: Okay.
     15. Walter Kochan, okay.
     16. MR. KOCHAN: Walt Kochan, W-A-L-T,
     17. K-O-C-H-A-N, 11 Lake Catalpa Road, Dallas Township.
     18. I'm praying that the DEP denies the permits for 102 and
     19. 105 for multiple reasons. And I thank this gentleman
     20. for what he just shared.
     21. It's all fun and games until someone
     22. gets hurt. We hear from guys like Kevin Lynn and Jerry
     23. George, you know, let's make a buck, what the hell.
     24. That's what this is really about. This gas - like he
     25. said, this gas is going down to Louisiana for the feed
374. stocks of the Chinese, Taiwanese and the Japanese
375. plastics industry.
376. All their talk about the benefit to
377. Pennsylvanians is just that. It's just talk. It's
378. just not - it's just not true.
379. My own interest in this is I live on
380. approximately 16 acres in Dallas Township. And I'm
381. surrounded on three sides with 45-degree side slopes.
382. The only flat area is it front of my property. And in
383. heavy rainfalls, right now, for many years where I've
384. lived on the property 28 years to be exact, two state
385. highways flood out.
386. When I had Williams come out there and
387. look at this property, and we asked their engineer
388. straight up, what are we going to do with all this
389. water -? We already have two state highways flooded.
390. Dallas Township has already written this - along with
391. our hundreds of posting to Federal Regulatory
392. Commission between my wife and myself.
393. Williams' response amazingly was, it's
394. not our problem, it's yours. I can hardly imagine DEP,
395. which is impossible to get a hold of to get a response
396. from -. I mean, it's like a Third World country I'm
397. dealing with.
398. It's hard for me to imagine you have any
     1. faith in the ability of DEP to watch these guys go up
     2. on a mountain with three streams, which they told me
     3. are insignificant, and they really don't care much
     4. about, having any influence of making sure that this
     5. property isn't totally destroyed. I have three springs
     6. feeding into one feeding a pond underground to a second
     7. pond. And under a highway is a feeder stream to
     8. Leonards Creek and then into Bowman's Creek I've caught
     9. one of these surveyors on our property three times.
     10. CHAIR: One minute.
     11. MR. KOCHAN: Dead animals on our
     12. property. So they're so sneaky about it. After being
     13. caught twice, these people will go onto my land without
     14. their arms gear on so they can slip into the woods
     15. unseen.
     16. I only pray -. I mean, I could take DEP
     17. to a dozen sites in Luzerne and Wyoming County -
     18. CHAIR: Thirty (30) seconds.
     19. MR. KOCHAN: - where property is
     20. decimating. Pastures that were once fertile and used
     21. for cattle grazing, no longer usable. Places where
     22. there was water, the cattle watering dried up. And
     23. landowners begging for relief for the last three years.
     24. It took me -. It took me a year and
     25. thousands of dollars to merely get a map before I was
399. finally able to have Williams -
400. CHAIR: Time's up.
401. MR. KOCHAN: - remove this pipeline
402. twice.
403. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
404. Mr. Pete Butler.
405. MR. BUTLER: Hi, I'm Pete Butler,
406. P-E-T-E, Butler, B-U-T-L-E-R. Tunkhannock resident for
407. about 40 years. Just have a few comments tonight.
408. And I spent most of my career locally at
409. Proctor & Gamble. And we worked with massive amounts
410. of natural gas. And I've seen firsthand what a
411. tremendous economic shot in the arm it is to have
412. economic natural gas available for business.
413. This local plant in place well over
414. 2,000 people. And it wouldn't be there if we didn't
415. have natural gas to use for a resource.
416. On the national picture, before joining
417. P & G, I spent four years overseas as a combat
418. engineer. Tens of thousands of other people served our
419. country in that similar way. But my point is, many,
420. many, many of the young folks that are overseas
421. protecting our country are there largely to secure
422. energy - affordable energy for us.
423. So now we have affordable energy under
     1. our feet. And I feel very strongly we need to develop
     2. that resource for that reason, and economic benefits as
     3. well. But I also want it done responsibly. And I know
     4. Williams has worked with DEP to try to do that.
     5. I have a pretty high opinion of
     6. Williams. They're locally headquartered here in
     7. Tunkhannock. I've had a lot of interactions with them.
     8. I found them to be professional and helpful and
     9. community-minded.
     10. I have a compressor station about a
     11. quarter mile from my home. It doesn't cause any
     12. problems. It's not overly noisy or overly polluting,
     13. with lights or issues like that.
     14. So I've seen Williams operate. I'm
     15. confident. I know safety is key to them, whether it be
     16. methods, inspections, ongoing monitoring. They have a
     17. good safety record.
     18. I believe they use best available
     19. technology practices, as required by DEP. So I've
     20. spent my career working with natural gas. I respect
     21. it. And I know a lot of people are concerned about
     22. safety and so on.
     23. CHAIR: One minute.
     24. MR. BUTLER: But like any resource, if
     25. it's done properly with the right technology and
424. management. And I believe Williams is up for the task.
425. So just to summarize, I believe this
426. project is good for the country. It's good for the
427. region. It's good for our communities. I urge you to
428. support moving forward to completion. And I want to
429. thank you for letting me comment.
430. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
431. William Emick. Mr. Emick, are you here?
432. Okay. William Burke? William Burke?
433. You back there?
434. Okay. Mr. Ed Burke? Ed Burke?
435. Grant Adams? Grant Adams?
436. Ed Coker? There you are.
437. MR. COKER: Hi, I'm Ed Coker, E-D,
438. C-O-K-E-R. I come here this evening as a member of
439. Pipeliner's Local Union 798, to ask the Pennsylvania
440. Department of Environmental Protection to approve the
441. Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the Atlantic Sunrise
442. Pipeline without any further delay.
443. Williams has proved that it has a record
444. for safely operating the pipelines in our nation, as
445. they touch more than 30 percent of our nation's gas
446. supply. To continue to put this project off is costing
447. the State of Pennsylvania jobs and increased tax
448. revenue.
     1. As far as the environmental impact is
     2. concerned, Williams is going to spearhead communities
     3. by investing over two-and-a-half million dollars in
     4. local conservation projects. They have continued to
     5. work closely with this department, as well as the
     6. Forestry and Wildlife Services and have received a
     7. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from
     8. FERC.
     9. Ad libbing a little bit to my written
     10. statement. It's proven, you can look it up, pipelines
     11. are the safest, most environmentally friendly way to
     12. transport natural gas. And it's going to be
     13. transported and it's going to be used because our
     14. country needs it.
     15. This project represents a nearly $3
     16. billion investment, which will put Pennsylvania energy
     17. and people to work. Using our nation's natural
     18. resources reduces our dependence on foreign oil bought
     19. from countries which, quite frankly, don't like us.
     20. In closing, I am asking this department
     21. to make an investment as well by issuing these permits
     22. and put Americans workers first. Thank you.
     23. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
     24. Rebecca Peterson.
     25. MS. PETERSON: I'm Rebecca Peterson,
         1. R-E-B-E-C-C-A, P-E-T-E-R-S-O-N. I'm the director of
         2. operations for Tioga Environmental Consulting in
         3. Tunkhannock. We are a group of engineers and
         4. environmental scientists that design and permit well
         5. pads and pipelines. We also provide environmental
         6. inspections for well pads and pipelines during
         7. construction and post-construction.
         8. We permit Chapter 102 and 105 permits
         9. for Williams. And we know that they are dedicated to
         10. routing pipelines and utilizing best management
         11. practices to minimize environmental impacts during the
         12. construction.
         13. We know that the engineers and
         14. biologists at the Pennsylvania Department of
         15. Environmental Protection provide a careful technical
         16. review for all Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 permit
         17. applications to ensure that they meet applicable
         18. environmental requirements.
         19. Williams has been working with the DEP
         20. for more than two years on the Chapter 102 and 105
         21. permit for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline. And the
         22. current applications reflect the cooperation and
         23. collaboration Williams has demonstrated with DEP, as
         24. well as federal and state permitting agencies, to avoid
         25. impacts to wetlands, waterbodies and other sensitive
449. environmental areas.
450. We also provide environmental
451. inspections for Williams. And we know firsthand how
452. important the proper implementation -
453. CHAIR: One minute.
454. MS. PETERSON: - of permit requirements
455. is to the country.
456. Tioga also knows firsthand how abundant
457. and affordable natural gas has highly impacted the
458. region.
459. My coworkers and I love this area. We
460. want the best for the community and the environment.
461. We are hunters and outdoor enthusiasts. And we know
462. from professional and personal experience that
463. pipelines provide safe gas transportation without
464. negatively impacting resources or wildlife.
465. We call on the PA DEP to approve the
466. Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the Atlantic Sunrise
467. Project without delay.
468. CHAIR: Thirty (30) seconds.
469. MS. PETERSON: We believe it's critical
470. that the Atlantic Sunrise Project be in service to
471. ensure the economic stability and growth of the area
472. and meet our energy needs. Thank you.
473. CHAIR: Thank you.
474. Thomas Schachner.
475. MR. SCHACHNER: Good evening. Tom,
476. T-O-M, Schachner, S-C-H-A-C-H-N-E-R. I'm here to speak
477. in support of the Atlantic Sunrise Project.
478. The Atlantic Sunrise Project is designed
479. to supply enough natural gas to meet the daily needs of
480. more than 7,000,000 American homes by connecting
481. producing regions in Northeastern Pennsylvania to the
482. markets in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern regions.
483. I am an employee of Cleveland Brothers
484. Equipment Company. Currently we have 27 locations
485. throughout Pennsylvania and Northern Western Virginia.
486. We are a family-owned and operated company founded in
487. 1948. We employ over 1,200 people, both union and
488. nonunion. And have invested in over a half a billion
489. dollars in Caterpillar equipment and engines since
490. 2010, supporting the oil and gas industry here in
491. Pennsylvania.
492. Our company has close and long-standing
493. supply relationships with pipeline contractors
494. operating throughout Pennsylvania, including many of
495. those who would be involved in this project. We
496. provide them with the best available equipment with
497. respect to productivity, reliability, safety and
498. emissions control.
     1. The pipeline companies that will be
     2. doing the work on this project are known for employing
     3. best practices in the construction industry, including
     4. earth moving, material handling and land restoration.
     5. We provide 24 hours a day, seven days a week equipment
     6. support to ensure that the projects are not delayed due
     7. to equipment downtime.
     8. At stake in this project's approval are
     9. the jobs of many thousands of workers that support the
     10. production of natural gas and natural gas liquids in
     11. the shale formations across Pennsylvania. They cannot
     12. produce what cannot be transported to market because of
     13. lack of pipeline capacity. The Atlantic Sunrise will
     14. go a long way to help alleviate that constraint.
     15. CHAIR: One minute, sir.
     16. MR. SCHACHNER: Because of all the
     17. construction and energy production activities this
     18. pipeline will enable - communities throughout
     19. Pennsylvania will benefit from worker incomes earned,
     20. much of it spent locally. The resulting state and
     21. local taxes paid by workers and their employees will
     22. support public education, environmental programs,
     23. infrastructure, public safety and other state and local
     24. government operations.
     25. CHAIR: Thirty (30) seconds.
499. MR. SCHACHNER: From an energy
500. independence standpoint, projects like the Atlantic
501. Sunrise will enable abundant, clean, affordable and
502. domestic fuel to be provided across our state in a safe
503. manner, while reducing our dependance on OPEC and other
504. foreign governments for energy.
505. This should be about safe and clean
506. energy production and jobs, jobs for our children and
507. our children's children.
508. Thank you for this opportunity for me to
509. support the pipeline project and the citizens of
510. Pennsylvania.
511. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
512. Subash Chandra. Mr. Chandra?
513. Sandy Spencer.
514. MS. SPENCER: Sandy Spencer, S-A-N-D-Y,
515. S-P-E-N-C-E-R. Thank you for this opportunity to share
516. my support of the Williams Transco Atlantic Sunrise
517. Project.
518. Often those who support a project
519. respond to the environmental concerns with information
520. about economic impact and jobs. I understand this
521. really doesn't address the concern and I will focus on
522. why I support this project from an environmental and
523. safety viewpoint, along with other benefits.
     1. The dramatic resurgence of the United
     2. States as an energy superpower has provided tremendous
     3. economic and environmental benefits. Even as America
     4. is leading the world in oil and natural gas production,
     5. methane emissions have fallen, thanks to industry
     6. leadership and investment in new technologies. U.S.
     7. carbon emissions from power generation are now at
     8. nearly 30-year lows due to increased use of natural
     9. gas.
     10. Methane emissions from 1990 to 2015
     11. associated with the nature gas industry declined by
     12. 18.6 percent, while U.S. natural gas production
     13. increased by more than 50 percent, according EPA and
     14. EIA data. This shows U.S. emissions of methane from
     15. the natural gas sector decreased noticeably during one
     16. of the largest increases in natural gas production in
     17. the nation's history.
     18. Furthermore, America's oil and natural
     19. gas industry continues to lead all other industries in
     20. zero and low-carbon investments. Between 2000 and
     21. 2014, the oil and natural gas industry invested $89.9
     22. billion in such investments, more than double that of
     23. the next largest private sectors.
     24. In a dynamic, innovation-driven industry
     25. like energy, we should be careful not to adopt
524. regulations that prevent technological improvements or
525. stray from opportunities for investments that could
526. deliver environmental benefits and consumer savings for
527. years to come.
528. Some of the technologies that have been
529. improved and adopted over the past several years
530. directly benefit the pipeline industry and environment.
531. Engineers and environmental scientists work to define
532. routes and methods with the least amount of impact, and
533. then follow best practices for installation and
534. restoration.
535. CHAIR: One minute.
536. MS. SPENCER: Safety for people working
537. on the project, people who will be living nearby, and
538. the general population is always foremost in the minds
539. of those who operate the pipelines. I've had direct
540. experience working with Williams and they take extra
541. precautions to protect and preserve the environment,
542. assure safety for all and support and respect
543. communities where they are operating.
544. Although zero impact is always the goal,
545. with any project there will be some impact. As our
546. world works to become less dependent on fossil fuels, -
547. CHAIR: Thirty (30) seconds.
548. MS. SPENCER: - renewable energy options
     1. also have environmental impacts. Electric cars are
     2. powered by the very electric that is created in large
     3. percentage by natural gas. Wind turbines and solar
     4. panels are made with products created with natural gas.
     5. The harnesses and ropes that safely hold and support
     6. the rock climber who is enjoying the beauty of the
     7. great outdoors are made with products that include
     8. natural gas.
     9. In closing, I'm happy to offer my
     10. support for this project. And I encourage DEP without
     11. delay to approve it.
     12. CHAIR: Thank you, ma'am.
     13. Jim Spak. If you want to raise that up,
     14. you can. There you go.
     15. MR. SPAK: Believe it or not, when I was
     16. in ninth grade I was only five feet tall. Then all of
     17. a sudden I started growing. But that was 50 years ago.
     18. My name is Jim Spak. I'm from Ashley,
     19. Pennsylvania and I want to make my comments right now.
     20. Since the Pennsylvania Department of
     21. Environmental Protection has set this hearing for
     22. public comment on the proposed Atlantic Sunrise
     23. pipeline, I feel compelled to offer my observations on
     24. this project.
     25. This pipeline is part of a major
         1. national network for continued promotion and use of
         2. fossil fuels which are dramatically increasing our
         3. manmade contributions to climate change. Many people
         4. don't realize the immense political and economic power
         5. that's concentrated in the hands of the people who
         6. control and run the fossil fuel industries.
         7. And despite the significant attempts at
         8. public relations and green-washing, the fact remains
         9. that natural gas is a significant contributor to
         10. potential catastrophic effects of unchecked climate
         11. change. If this multibillion dollar fossil fuel
         12. infrastructure is successfully completed, it's going to
         13. mean more nails in the coffin of Mother Earth.
         14. Unfortunately our new President and
         15. leadership in Congress have their heads in the sand
         16. foolishly cheerleading as the United States pulled out
         17. of the Paris Climate Accords.
         18. The technology is here for green energy,
         19. clean and sustainable, with a zero-carbon footprint.
         20. The decisions we make now will determine whether or not
         21. our children and grandchildren will bless us for making
         22. prudent, courageous and wise decisions to preserve the
         23. future of our planet, or will they curse us for letting
         24. the last great chance we had slip through our hands?
         25. The people who are profiting from a
             1. continued use of fossil fuels, their children and
             2. grandchildren are going to suffer the same as the rest
             3. of us. I just hope they can open our eyes to make a
             4. wise decision to make clean, sustainable transfer to
             5. zero emissions -
             6. CHAIR: One minute.
             7. MR. SPAK: - zero human carbon footprint
             8. and clean sustainable life that can save the planet for
             9. further generations. Thank you.
             10. CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Spak, if you
             11. want to leave your comments up on the stage, you can or
             12. you can wait until after the hearing. It's up to you.
             13. Barbara Clifford? Barbara Clifford?
             14. Doug McLinko. Thank you.
             15. MR. MCLINKO: Doug McLinko, D-O-U-G,
             16. M-C-L-I-N-K-O. I'm the Commissioner in Bradford
             17. County. I'd like to go over some of the pipeline
             18. installed in Bradford County. Natural gas has been
             19. processed straight from God himself there.
             20. Transportation-wise, we see 41 miles of
             21. Tennessee pipeline, 24 inch. We have 30 - 23 miles of
             22. 30 inch Tennessee pipeline. We have two miles of 30
             23. inch Tennessee loop.
             24. Gathering lines we have -. This is
             25. what's built, 148 miles of six-inch line, 62 inch (sic)
549. of eight inch line - 62 miles of eight-inch lines.
550. Eighty-three (83) miles of ten-inch lines. 286 miles
551. of 12-inch lines. 152 miles of 16-inch lines. And
552. then 45 miles of 20-inch lines, 47 miles of 24-inch
553. line.
554. And you folks have done a nice job
555. overseeing it and ensuring it's responsibly installed.
556. So built lines is 823 miles, plus a Tennessee proposed
557. gathering line, I'm sorry. We have 200 - just over 200
558. miles.
559. Bottom line is, if we laid all the
560. pipelines together, we would reach Florida. We have no
561. problems, they've been installed -. We don't have
562. eminent domain, so people have worked with their
563. neighbors to install them. And again, you guys at DEP
564. have done a good job making sure they're put in safely.
565. With billions of cubic feet of gas
566. flowing through Bradford County a year and with over a
567. thousand miles installed and proposed gas lines in
568. Bradford County constructed and being built with
569. virtually no problems. In fact, the gas lines were
570. installed with the help of neighbors helping neighbors
571. and citizens helping their community, state and nation.
572. It is very important to note that natural gas pipelines
573. can be installed with little or no issues.
     1. The Tennessee pipeline has been in
     2. Bradford County for 50 years. There's billions - tens
     3. of billions of cubic feet of gas a year that goes
     4. through that gas line. In fact, it goes across my
     5. uncle's farm and recently has been looped, as I have
     6. said, again installed with no opposition and no
     7. problems to increase the flow of natural gas. It was
     8. done quickly, safely and has billions of cubic feet of
     9. gas that goes through.
     10. My home has a gas line across the front
     11. of it, with no problems. I do not own the mineral
     12. rights to that and we are happy to have that there.
     13. Wildlife flourishes. We cut hay. And it's just no
     14. problem whatsoever.
     15. CHAIR: One minute.
     16. MR. MCLINKO: We are very happy to help
     17. our community. Pennsylvania needs to be able to move
     18. gas, create jobs to have low energy prices for home use
     19. and for a very healthy tax revenue.
     20. I will conclude with the patriotic part
     21. of our God-given resource. Energy is a geopolitical
     22. weapon. As we see terrorism across the globe and right
     23. here in our country, we must understand that these
     24. people, terrorists, are funded through middle eastern
     25. energy. Through energy independence, we can stand
574. alone in America.
575. We will have alternative energy some
576. day, but today we have this at our feet. Let's use it.
577. I encourage Chapter 102 and 105 permits. Let's get
578. this Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline going.
579. Thank you, folks, very much for the work
580. that you do.
581. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
582. Again, ladies and gentlemen, it is a
583. little hot in here, I'm going to try to move this
584. along.
585. We tried contacting the School District,
586. I don't know if that worked, if we got in touch with
587. anybody, but apparently not. I apologize.
588. Is it Ed Smith? Mr. Smith? First on
589. the list, there you are.
590. MR. SMITH: Good evening, everyone. My
591. name is Ed Smith, S-M-I-T-H. I reside in the Town of
592. Springfield, outside of the Town of Springfield,
593. Pennsylvania for the past 26 years full time.
594. I came here when I was nine years old.
595. My family before me - 1957. But the last 25 years I
596. lived here full time. My wife and I are retired. We
597. run a small cattle ranch. We are owners of three
598. properties in Susquehanna County.
     1. We are presently engaged with a pipeline
     2. that was installed six years ago and it runs across our
     3. land. We have no complaints. We are very satisfied.
     4. The wildlife as well as the cattle, love the new grass,
     5. they did an excellent job. Everything was clean,
     6. professional and well done, according to schedule.
     7. We, if anything, need to thank them more
     8. rather than complain. They did an excellent job.
     9. I would like just like to say a few
     10. words about natural gas and the Atlantic Sunrise
     11. Pipeline Project. I would greatly support and am here
     12. to support the permits to be approved by the Department
     13. of Environmental Conservation for the permits number
     14. 102 and 105. If that is possible, we would love to
     15. have that happen.
     16. I think by now we are all aware of what
     17. natural gas is and its advantages. There's no reason
     18. to waste more time on that. I believe the time has
     19. come for us all to agree to share this abundant natural
     20. resource with other states and other countries.
     21. The Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline can make
     22. this all possible, providing both a useable resource
     23. and prosperity, not only to this wonderful state of
     24. Pennsylvania that we live in - and our future children
     25. will grow here as well -
         1. CHAIR: One minute.
         2. MR. SMITH: - other states and other
         3. countries as well, by all the jobs it will create.
         4. Please support this well-needed project and help bring
         5. natural gas to the front line of energy.
         6. Thank you very much for your time.
         7. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
         8. Josh Brucher, B-R-U-C-H-E-R, Brucher.
         9. You submitted, sir?
         10. MR. BRUCHER: Yes.
         11. CHAIR: You don't wish to testify?
         12. Okay. Thank you.
         13. Dave Horn.
         14. MR. HORN: Good evening. My name is
         15. Dave Horn, D-A-V-E, H-O-R-N. And I'm here as a member
         16. of the Laborers' International Union of North America.
         17. Some of my members are here now, but it's hot in here
         18. and they have been working 10 to 12-hour days, so they
         19. may be out catching a little bit of air.
         20. But I'm here to testify in favor of the
         21. Sunrise Project and urge the approval of the 102 and
         22. 105 permits. Pipelines have already been proven the
         23. safest and most effective method of moving natural gas
         24. for consumers.
         25. Currently, Williams pipe has more than
             1. 30 percent of the nation's national gas, transporting
             2. to new markets across the country. We had to secure
             3. all necessary permits and have begun production of
             4. Atlantic Sunrise in other states. So we understand the
             5. role that federal and state regulators play in
             6. protecting the health and safety of the citizens, as
             7. well as the environment, including our wildlife.
             8. After receiving the Certificate of
             9. Public Convenience and Necessity from FERC in February
             10. of 2017, Williams is on the verge of the last remaining
             11. permit to begin construction in Pennsylvania. The
             12. outstanding Chapter 102 and 105 permits, for which
             13. applications were first submitted in 2015, were among
             14. the final approvals needed to move this project
             15. forward.
             16. The 102 and 105 permit applications
             17. reflect the collaboration and cooperation Williams
             18. and - Williams has demonstrated with DEP, as well as
             19. the federal and state regulations to avoid or minimize
             20. the impact to wetlands, waterbodies and other sensitive
             21. environmental areas.
             22. Williams has committed to implementing
             23. the best standards and practices during construction
             24. and restoration to mitigate potential impacts
             25. associated with installation of this project. It has
599. dedicated full time environmental inspectors that will
600. be employed during construction to oversee and ensure
601. that Williams best management practices are
602. implemented, and the project complies with applicable
603. regulatory permit and approval conditions.
604. According to FERC, the environmental
605. impact statement, no long-term effects on surface
606. waters are anticipated as a result of construction and
607. operation of this project. The company has also
608. avoided and minimized impacts to wetlands through
609. infield rerouting, adjustment and reducing the project
610. and disturbance where possible.
611. CHAIR: One minute.
612. MR. HORN: There will be no loss of
613. wetland acreage as a result of construction.
614. Pennsylvania will benefit from the Atlantic Sunrise
615. approval which will span ten counties from the
616. Susquehanna down to Lancaster.
617. Once operational, the new pipeline will
618. remain - will be maintained and operated according to
619. procedures outlined in the Williams Transco pipeline
620. Integrity Management Program. These procedures, many
621. of which exceed minimum federal industry regulations,
622. include monitoring 24 hours a day seven days a week.
623. Quite simply, natural gas is essential
     1. to the quality of life that many of us take for
     2. granted. Pennsylvania has an opportunity now to
     3. strengthen and build on a strong energy infrastructure.
     4. The Atlantic Sunrise Project will create important jobs
     5. and foster continued growth in the -.
     6. CHAIR: Thirty (30) seconds.
     7. MR. HORN: On behalf of the men and
     8. women of LIUNA, I urge the DEP to approve Chapter 102
     9. and 105 permits. Thank you.
     10. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
     11. Bill Ellry, E-L-L-R-Y.
     12. MR. KELLEY: Bill Kelley speaking.
     13. CHAIR: Bill Kelley. I should have
     14. pronounced - it was Kelley. Bill Kelley, okay. Well,
     15. there is a K in it.
     16. Thank you. Go ahead.
     17. MR. KELLEY: Good evening. My name is
     18. Bill Kelley, Sr. That's B-I-L-L, K-E-L-L-E-Y.
     19. I am the owner and founder of Taylor
     20. Rental BX3. We have been here for 11 years and we have
     21. been partnering up with the gas industry for those last
     22. eight or nine years.
     23. Since they've come to the area, our
     24. business has grown from a father-son business to two
     25. locations, one in Wyoming County on Route 6 and one in
624. Montrose. We have been able to bring up to 35 families
625. into our payroll and get benefits before ObamaCare, due
626. to the gas industry. It has been a great blessing for
627. us.
628. We enjoy about 60 percent of our revenue
629. from the gas industry and related contractors. And we
630. have found them to be very, very respectful, hard
631. working and a lot of integrity, and good people to work
632. with.
633. Williams has been an exceptional
634. corporation. I consider it to be great corporate
635. people, as far as -. I've worked in communities with
636. them. I've worked with them on projects. I've been to
637. seminars with them and found they always try to do the
638. right thing. And I'm here to support them.
639. The other thing I want to share with you
640. is when we don't have the gas leaving, recessions come
641. very strongly. We had a wonderful growth 2013, '14,
642. then when it started nosediving, it nosedived hard. We
643. just couldn't seem to get out of it.
644. The Constitution up in New York, they
645. didn't get approved due to political reasons and other
646. things. But due to the fact it didn't get approved,
647. there are a couple trucking companies up there putting
648. compressor stations in and running hundreds of trucks a
649. day up into New England.
650. If this -. I'm not suggesting this may
651. happen, but the market's going to do what the market's
652. going to do. And one of the things I think, it's a lot
653. more responsible for us to send it through the pipeline
654. to a multibillion dollar corporation that always does
655. the right thing and always tries to. Thank you.
656. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
657. Ken Landes?
658. MR. LANDES: Hi. My name is Ken Landes,
659. K-E-N, L-A-N-D-E-S. I'm a resident of Tunkhannock
660. Borough and a landowner in Susquehanna County and I
661. have some comments on Williams and natural gas
662. activity.
663. In the last eight years it's had a low
664. impact. When they've gone through streams, we haven't
665. seen any problems. The projects look good afterwards.
666. There's follow-up. There's constant follow-up from
667. trucks from Williams and other people making sure the
668. projects are correct. So is monitoring on a regular
669. basis.
670. One of the things - comments somebody
671. said about trees being cut down. What I see is, yes,
672. we lose some trees from the pipeline, but many of the
673. land owners are no longer cutting lumber, so you're
674. seeing more mature trees, more mature forests. You're
675. also seeing better seeing better stewards of the
676. environment. Landowners have more money, so they're
677. doing more things for the environment, more wildlife,
678. that will improve the community. So I see it as a good
679. thing overall to approve 102 and 105.
680. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
681. Veto Barziloski. Sorry, I hope I
682. pronounced that correctly.
683. MR. BARZILOSKI: Good evening. I would
684. like to thank you folks for coming in on this nice
685. almost summer evening. My name is Veto Barziloski,
686. spelled V-E-T-O, Capital B, A-R-Z-I-L-O-S-K-I. I'm the
687. president of Bennies Nurseries, Incorporated, a local
688. landscaping - landscaping company and environmental
689. restoration company. Family owned and operated for
690. 85 years this year.
691. We've had the privilege over the last -
692. well, my lifetime, of working with DEP, soil
693. conservation, NCRS, forestry, several other agencies on
694. different projects. And we thank you for the efforts
695. that you folks put into these things.
696. We've all heard brief testimony about
697. the Atlantic Sunrise and I'm a hundred percent for it.
698. Our company is a hundred percent for it. So rather
699. than expound on the importance of this pipeline, which
700. many have already done, I'd like to give testimony to
701. the company that's actually constructing this line,
702. that's the Williams companies.
703. We host -. I'm going to speak with two
704. hats, a landowner hat, and a contractor, for the
705. company hat. As a landowner, we host over a mile of
706. pipeline leased and operated by Williams. In fact,
707. starting in 2011 they have been fantastic.
708. I was skeptical to begin with. Working
709. in the environmental industry, I was skeptical to begin
710. with. But even as of today, they monitor. They have
711. done everything -. They follow all permits. They've
712. done everything great, actually.
713. And I think we have a real good rapport
714. with them across our properties. As a contractor, to
715. sum it up in a nutshell, they do not allow us, as a
716. contractor, any margin of error. You folks are
717. enforcing that.
718. CHAIR: One minute, sir.
719. MR. BARZILOSKI: You folks are enforcing
720. that. And they know that. And working with several -
721. several engineers, environmental engineers inspectors,
722. we sense a true respect for the environment. They want
723. to do what is right.
     1. And we urge you folks to go ahead and
     2. get all you need together to get these permits through
     3. so construction can be started. And we thank you.
     4. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
     5. Paul Rowker, Rowker (changes
     6. pronunciation).
     7. MR. ROWKER: I didn't register.
     8. CHAIR: Okay.
     9. MR. ROWKER: I don't have a comment. I
     10. signed in and I apologize.
     11. CHAIR: That's okay. That's okay. If
     12. not, that's fine, sir.
     13. Amy Jacoby? Miss Jacoby, if you're
     14. here?
     15. Okay. LeAnn Buchanan? Last name is
     16. Buchanan, I think it's LeAnn. LeAnn Buchanan.
     17. I'm sorry, Ann Buchanan? I think the
     18. name before it -. Okay.
     19. All right. Dale Shupp? There you go.
     20. MR. SHUPP: Dale Shupp, D-A-L-E,
     21. S-H-U-P-P. I come before you -. I am president of the
     22. Wyoming-Lackawanna Farm Bureau here. And we are very
     23. much in favor, because if you have seen, this gas
     24. business, has been the best thing for farmland
     25. preservation and has not cost the government one penny.
         1. You see the farmers have got money,
         2. they're upgrading their farms. They're buying new
         3. equipment and everything in that respect. So the open
         4. ground and agriculture is our number thing in the
         5. state. So it's keeping that open ground and keeping
         6. things going, so -.
         7. I do have pipeline run across me - on
         8. me, it went under the Susquehanna River. I was very
         9. skeptical when they started talking about drilling the
         10. river, man, but it was a fantastic job. Couldn't
         11. believe the guy when he drilled out there beside the
         12. river at 2,300 feet. He knocked a stake right out of
         13. the ground.
         14. As long as farmers come, this gas
         15. business has been a blessing, because they were really
         16. struggling and in bad shape.
         17. And then that's all. I'm looking
         18. forward to seeing this thing go forward. Thank you.
         19. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
         20. Okay. Paul Casparno, Casparro? Okay.
         21. There we go.
         22. MR. CASPARRO: Thank you for allowing me
         23. to speak. My name is Paul Casparro, P-A-U-L,
         24. C-A-S-P-A-R-R-O. I'm the business manager for the
         25. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local
724. Union 81, Scranton, Pennsylvania.
725. I call on the Pennsylvania DEP to
726. approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the
727. Atlantic Sunrise Project without delay. Creating an
728. economic environment that encourages private investment
729. and creates job, while balancing the health and safety
730. of the public and the environment should be a top
731. priority.
732. Undoubtedly, permitting and regulation
733. play a key role in every infrastructure and economic
734. development project, however, there must be a balance.
735. Pipelines are proven to be the safest
736. and most efficient method to move natural gas for
737. consumers. Williams has operated safely in the state
738. for decades and currently touches more than 30 percent
739. of the nation's natural gas, transporting it to markets
740. across the country.
741. After receiving a Certificate of Public
742. Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy
743. Regulatory Commission in February 2017, Williams is on
744. the verge of securing the last remaining state permits
745. to begin construction in Pennsylvania. Specifically,
746. Atlantic Sunrise has undergone an unprecedented amount
747. of regulatory and public review.
748. The time to build is now, the time to
     1. approve Atlantic Sunrise is now. Thank you.
     2. CHAIR: Thank you, sir.
     3. Okay, that is our last speaker who
     4. registered for the evening.
     5. MS. FINAN: I'm sorry, I signed up
     6. online.
     7. CHAIR: Your name? Kelly, you did.
     8. Come on down. I do remember you. Kelly Finan.
     9. MS. FINAN: So as you know, my name is
     10. Kelly Finan, spelled, K-E-L-L-Y, F, as in Frank,
     11. I-N-A-N. I live in Hop Bottom, which is Susquehanna
     12. County, which is where this pipeline is going to begin.
     13. As a resident of Susquehanna County, I
     14. oppose the building and operation of the Atlantic
     15. Sunrise Pipeline. The natural gas that will supply the
     16. pipeline starts its journal beneath my feet in
     17. Susquehanna County. The demand for gas that it creates
     18. will increase the number of hydraulically fractured
     19. wells, compressors, dehydrators and pipelines in our
     20. rural community that is unprotected by any zoning.
     21. Several recent public health studies
     22. show correlation between natural gas extraction in
     23. Pennsylvania and significant health impacts to
     24. residents. In other words, and I can't emphasize this
     25. enough, natural gas extraction is already harming the
749. health of my neighbors, family and friends.
750. Allow me to cite a couple of sites. A
751. published peer reviewed paper by the University of
752. Pittsburgh and Columbia University compared public
753. health records for Wayne County, where there is no
754. fracking, to my county, Susquehanna, and to Bradford
755. County, where there is obviously fracking. They found
756. there were significantly more hospitalizations per
757. capita in both my county and Bradford County when
758. compared to Wayne County since 2007, when fracking
759. began in this region.
760. The paper's authors attributed the new
761. hospitalizations to the natural gas extraction,
762. particularly cardiac issues from the increase of
763. airborne particulate matter from diesel engines.
764. If that doesn't chill everyone in this
765. room to the bone, perhaps this will. A second study
766. funded by The Pittsburgh Foundation, published in the
767. Journal of Environmental Protection, showed that since
768. fracking began, the number of infant deaths in the
769. first 28 days of life rose 29 percent in ten heavily-
770. fracked Pennsylvania counties. That includes my
771. county, by the way. During the same time, infant
772. deaths in the rest of the state dropped by two percent.
773. A third study that took place in
     1. Southwestern Pennsylvania agreed. It linked the low
     2. birth weights and babies that are small for their
     3. gestational age to their mother's proximity to the
     4. natural gas wells.
     5. I'm not even including the data on
     6. compressor stations, which will be scattered along the
     7. length of this pipeline, where they will likely emit
     8. volatile organic compounds into the air.
     9. CHAIR: One minute.
     10. MS. FINAN: I want to emphasize that two
     11. of the three studies that I've cited used public health
     12. data from my county since fracking began there.
     13. I'm not speculating about the future.
     14. The emissions from fracking are hurting the
     15. cardiovascular systems of my family, my neighbors and
     16. my friends right now even as I make this testimony.
     17. The babies born to some of my friends and neighbors
     18. will weigh less and are more prone to cancer and other
     19. illnesses thanks to the extraction in my county.
     20. Some people support the industry because
     21. of the potential to create job.
     22. CHAIR: Thirty (30) seconds.
     23. MS. FINAN: But I'm choosing human
     24. health over jobs. I would like to close by reminding
     25. the DEP that one of the rights of a Pennsylvania
774. citizen, specifically detailed in Article 1,
775. Paragraph 27 of the Commonwealth Constitution is the
776. right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of
777. the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of
778. the environment.
779. My township and my county have been
780. unable or unwilling to guarantee this right, perhaps
781. the State will. Thank you.
782. CHAIR: Thank you.
783. Okay. I'll ask this question. Is there
784. anyone who did preregister, whether out front or by
785. e-mail or phone call that I haven't called on yet, that
786. you preregistered? Anyone at all?
787. Okay. Now I can safely say that will
788. conclude our public hearing for this evening, Monday,
789. June 12, 2017. I want to note for the record that
790. representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of
791. Environmental Protection were present to hold this
792. hearing.
793. As a reminder, the public comment
794. hearing for the permit application, Chapters 105 and
795. 102, closes Monday, June 26, 2017. If you wish to
796. submit questions or comments between now and then,
797. please feel free to use the resources and information
798. out front.
     1. Thank you for being here. Have a good
     2. night. Please drive safely. Thank you. 3 \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

4 HEARING CONCLUDED

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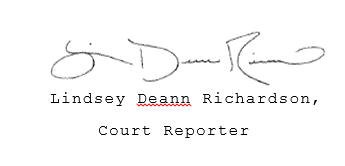
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2 CERTIFICATE

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1. I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings,
2. hearing held before Chair Connolly was reported by me
3. on 06/12/2017 and I Lindsey Deann Richardson read this
4. transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a
5. true and accurate record of the proceeding. 9

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