

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: ADELPHIA - NG COMPRESSOR STATION

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BEFORE: JAMES REBARCHAK, MODERATOR

HEARING: Tuesday, December 5, 2018

7:06 p.m.

LOCATION: West Rockhill Elementary School

1000 Washington Avenue

Sellersville, PA 18960

WITNESSES: Jim Miller, Don Duvall, Jay Keyser, Rose Merrigan, John DeSimone, Shirley Mann, Sheila McCarthy, Arianne Elinich, Rupika Ketu, Marilyn Vogel, Anthony Boegner, Christine Shelly, Elizabeth Herrington, Gregg Herrington, Doug Herrington, Jamee Pemberton, Kathy Weirbach, Emily Marshall, Robert Linden, Alexander Ulmers, Tammy Murphy, Cliff Cole, Sean Devan, Nancy Flack, John Polier, Sue Furlong, Karen Bedics

Reporter: Kimberly Chatburn

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I N D E X

1		
2		
3	OPENING REMARKS	
4	By Mr. Rebarchak	5 - 8
5	TESTIMONY	
6	By Mr. Miller	8 - 10
7	By Mr. Duvall	10 - 13
8	By Mr. Keyser	13 - 15
9	By Ms. Merrigan	15 - 18
10	By Mr. DeSimone	18 - 21
11	By Ms. Mann	21 - 24
12	By Ms. Springer	24 - 26
13	By Ms. Elinich	26 - 31
14	By Ms. Ketu	31 - 34
15	By Ms. Vogel	34 - 38
16	By Mr. Boegner	38 - 40
17	By Ms. Shelly	40 - 42
18	By Ms. Herrington	42 - 45
19	By Mr. G.Herrington	45 - 48
20	By Mr. D.Herrington	48 - 49
21	By Ms. Pemberton	49 - 51
22	By Ms. Wierbach	51 - 53
23	By Ms. Marshall	53 - 56
24	By Mr. Linden	56 - 57
25	By Mr. Ulmers	57

I N D E X (cont'd)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TESTIMONY

By Ms. Murphy	57 - 58
By Mr. Cole	58 - 59
By Mr. Devan	59
By Ms. Flack	60 - 61
By Mr. Polier	61 - 64
By Ms. Furlong	64 - 65
By Ms. Bedics	66 - 67
By Ms. Merrigan	67 - 68

CLOSING REMARKS

By Mr. Rebarchak	69 - 70
------------------	---------

E X H I B I T S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

			Page	Page
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Admitted</u>
	2	Donald Duvall's Notes	--	--
	3	Jay Keyser's Notes	--	--
	5	John DeSimone's Notes	--	--
	6	Tammy Springer's Notes	--	--
	8	Rupika Ketu's Notes	--	--
	9	Marilyn Vogel's Notes	--	--

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
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MR. REBARCHAK: We're going to get started. We have a number of people that signed up to comment. I want everybody to have the opportunity to comment tonight. Before I read my statement, just for those of you who may not have been to the school before, right outside the doors to our left are the restrooms. So if you need to use them, they're out that way.

So thank you for coming tonight. My name is Jim Rebarchak. I am a Southeast Regional Air Quality Program Manager for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the moderator for tonight's public hearing.

Thank you all for coming and thank you to the Pennridge School District and West Rockhill Elementary School for hosting this evening.

I would like to begin with introductions and acknowledgements. In the room from - from West Rockhill Township is Greg Lippincott here. And Greg thank you for coming. Jim Miller - Miller. Don Duvall. And Jay Keyser.

All right.

Thank you for coming tonight.

1 Are there any other elected officials
2 in the room that wish to introduce themselves at
3 this time?

4 MS. BEDICS: Karen Bedics, I'm the
5 Supervisor of the Springfield Township, where the
6 pipeline runs parallel -.

7 MR. REBARCHAK: All right. Thank you
8 from coming.

9 From DEP again, myself, Jim Rebarchak,
10 Jill Gallagher, who is our - Environmental Manager
11 in our operations section, Sachin Shankar, at the
12 sign-in table our Assistant Regional Director, and
13 Shawn Mountain, who is District Supervisor for Bucks
14 County. Also seated next to us is our stenographer,
15 Kim, who is here tonight to help transcribe your
16 comments for the record.

17 The purpose of the hearing this
18 evening is to receive public comments on the draft
19 air quality plan approval DEP intends to issue to
20 Adelphia Gateway, LLC for a compressor station to be
21 located in West Rockhill Township. Air quality plan
22 approvals are attended to address air pollution
23 sources and applicable control devices.

24 After a thorough and complete review
25 of the application, DEP generates a draft plan

1 approval that contains specific conditions,
2 including monitoring and record keeping that will
3 record the construction and operation parts are
4 conducted in compliance with these implacable rules
5 and regulations. That draft climate control is what
6 we are currently receiving comments on.

7 After the comment period ends, we will
8 consider all comments received here tonight as well
9 as those received in writing up until December 14th.

10 So if you don't get a chance to speak here tonight
11 and you leave the room and you want to comment, you
12 can still comment, just before 14th.

13 The application draft plan approval
14 technical review memo and additional information on
15 submitting comments has been posted on the DEPs
16 Adelphia project webpage, which is found at
17 www.dep.pa.gov/southeast.

18 As we move towards the comments, a few
19 ground rules. I will call those who have indicated
20 that they wish to provide comments for the record in
21 the order that they have registered. When it is
22 your turn, please come to the microphone to my left,
23 clearly state your name and address, spelling any
24 words that may be less common and then begin your
25 comments.

1 You will have three minutes to provide
2 remarks. We ask that any organizations designate
3 one speaker to provide the testimony on its behalf.

4 Time may not be relinquished to others. During the
5 hearing DEP will not respond to questions or
6 comments. Instead, all comments received this
7 evening or submitted to the department in writing
8 before December 14th will be responded to in a
9 comment response document, which will then be
10 provided to all those who commented.

11 We ask that there be no interruptions
12 to give everybody an equal opportunity to speak.
13 Loud disruptions, such as applause or booing limits
14 the time of others. As a final reminder, the
15 testimony we receive tonight and any written
16 comments submitted to DEP carry equal weight and
17 will both be considered equally during final
18 consideration of the record.

19 We will now be receiving comments.

20 Jim Miller.

21 MR. MILLER: Good evening, my name is
22 Jim Miller. Is it this one?

23 COURT REPORTER: No, that one. That
24 mic.

25 MR. MILLER: This one? Okay. My name

1 is Jim Miller. I'm a chairman on the Board of
2 Supervisors for West Rockhill Township. I don't
3 plan on saying a lot tonight, but I do have some
4 bullet items and I want these people to be allowed
5 to do their part and that's why I want to keep mine
6 to a minimum.

7 We have concerns about air quality. I
8 think we've been hearing at our township meeting.
9 We've been hearing it loud and clear. And I want to
10 make sure that - that when whatever plans you put
11 together we have a chance to review them. That
12 these people out here all have a thorough
13 understanding of them, that they get a good chance
14 to review them, and that all the feedback is taken.

15 I'm also concerned about other things
16 along with this with the air quality, as far what
17 coming out of the air is going to seep into the
18 soil. Things like that. We need to - we need to
19 understand all of that. We also need to know how
20 emergency response is going to be handled. We have
21 several fire departments that handle our - our area
22 and we need to know that they all have specific
23 instructions and back up instructions for anything
24 they need to do. And that - that can also include
25 traffic control if there's a major issue.

1 In addition to that we have issues
2 with noise. We have issues with monitoring all the
3 noise and - and how are we going to control that
4 and - and give these people the quality of life they
5 deserve. They - they bought property out here
6 because they're in the country. They didn't -- they
7 didn't buy property out here so they could have a 50
8 foot building next to them. So these are all things
9 I want to talk about.

10 One last thing is buffering. There
11 are a lot of neighbors very close to this property.
12 And we need to make sure that if - if this goes in
13 that those properties are well buffered and that
14 these people can, like I said, have the quality of
15 life they deserve.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. REBARCHAK: Don Duvall.

18 If I could just remind everybody, if
19 you did bring two copies of your comments, if you
20 could please give one copy to the stenographer when
21 you complete your comments, that would be very
22 helpful to the transcription of the comments.

23 MR. DUVALL: And good evening and
24 welcome to West Rockwood Township, the DEP crowd.
25 We appreciate your organization coming here and

1 listening to the issues of the people of this
2 community. It's a great interest in this community
3 as to what will - your influence will be in this
4 activity. So if you have an opportunity, I think
5 they would like to hear what your role is in this
6 whole process considering this installation.

7 This community has put a lot of
8 efforts and funds into the conservation of this
9 area. And based on the terrain and atmosphere, they
10 strive to cooperate to serve the environment in this
11 geographic location for the purpose of peaceful
12 living. It is my belief that they will oppose an
13 unacceptable conclusion to what has been created
14 thus far. They understand progress, however they
15 will resist activity that would attempt to alter
16 what they - they have invested in - into their
17 lifestyle.

18 A very significant matter that exists
19 is the apparent refusal of Adelpia to have dialogue
20 with the residents. Adelpia has been refusing to
21 meet with any of the residents. And that is very
22 unacceptable position and presents an effort for
23 them to ignore the community and try to do as they
24 wish. They have - there have been statements that
25 they won't plan and comply with any of our laws and

1 ordnances. And that is also an unacceptable
2 activity for this venue.

3 The information Adelphia has forwarded
4 is a pile of papers about 10, 12 inches thick, which
5 has very little information involving what this
6 station would be comprised of, where it be located,
7 what it does and so forth. So - so that's - that's
8 a problem that needs to be corrected so people in
9 this community can understand what's going on and
10 what impact it's going to have on them. That - that
11 position doesn't bode well for this particular
12 facility, and so I take from this communities'
13 perspective.

14 So it's critical that you hear
15 everybody's comments tonight and questions during
16 this meeting. The here - heretofore cavalier type
17 attitude that we've seen from Adelphia is not
18 acceptable. And I think we're meeting to understand
19 that.

20 The bottom line, we must come together
21 and address this matter in - in a respectful,
22 thorough manner. And we - we have - unfortunately
23 have not seen that happen thus far. So I ask you to
24 please incorporate these comments, which I'll give
25 you a copy of, and everybody's questions and

1 responses. And have them answered as you said you
2 were going to do.

3 All right.

4 Thank you for the opportunity and
5 thank you for coming and listening.

6 MR. REBARCHAK: Jay Keyser.

7 MR. KEYSER: Thank you.

8 The first issue on my list here is,
9 what will this operation do to the health, safety
10 and welfare of our community and who will be
11 responsible for those issues that may arise from our
12 lack of air quality or the - the effects of what
13 this may cause?

14 The second issue that I have here for
15 the residents is what part does Adelphia share in
16 the decrease in property values of the surrounding
17 properties when no one wants to buy a house or the
18 property owners that currently - under our current
19 zoning and subdivide? And sell houses that will not
20 be able to do this once this - if this building gets
21 built?

22 And next, why would Adelphia be
23 allowed to build such a small building - such a
24 large building on such a small piece of property? I
25 think that needs to be taken in consideration

1 considering how - how tiny this is and what the
2 buffers - what kind of buffers you could actually
3 put behind it.

4 Next on my list here is, we would like
5 to have better communication throughout this process
6 as it does go forward. I know that it has been
7 echoed by Mr. Duvall already but I'm just sharing
8 that concern. We have heard from residents in over
9 months of meetings in the Township that there has
10 not been proper communication. And I believe that
11 as a fact, not made up.

12 Next on my list here is, how often are
13 you going to test the air quality and provide
14 reports once this building is built and if it is
15 built?

16 And the next - the last thing I have
17 here for a concern is, was any consideration given
18 to the development that was proposed just behind
19 this site, which is I believe approximately 275
20 homes? And that is in - mostly in Richland
21 Township. The rest of it is in West Rockhill
22 Township. I think that development needs to be
23 considered because that was proposed before this
24 proposal came across.

25 Okay?

1 And I will submit my comments to the
2 stenographer. Thank you for your time.

3 MR. REBARCHAK: Thank you.

4 Rose Merrigan.

5 MS. MERRIGAN: Thank you for having
6 us. My concerns about the Quakertown compressor
7 station as a resident who lives only 500 feet from
8 the proposed site, which is a mere 10 feet from the
9 property line, are number one, too small of a site
10 like the gentleman just said.

11 A FERC, which is the Federal Energy
12 Regulatory Commission who is the primary authority
13 over this at the end of the day - after DEP decides
14 what they're going to do. They're own brochure for
15 landowners regarding gas facilities states usually
16 the natural gas company purchases between 10 to 40
17 acres for a compressor station, 5 acres of which are
18 actually used for construction. This site is
19 dangerously small at only one a half acres total
20 with already existing equipment on it.

21 Okay?

22 So number two. Safety buffers as
23 stated above. This site is too small to contain any
24 safety buffers to shield the surrounding residents
25 and community from dangerous gas emissions such as

1 the possible 200 tons of methane yearly, which could
2 be admitted during the pigging operations for
3 pipeline cleaning as stated in Adelphia's own
4 report. Other gases include benzene, formaldehyde,
5 carbon monoxide and radon just to name a few.

6 It has been noted on record by
7 citizen's groups that thousands of residents
8 throughout Pennsylvania who live within feet - a
9 thousand of feet, from these types of facilities
10 have experienced many health issues such as skin
11 rashes, throat and eye irritations, as well stomach
12 and intestinal problems.

13 Okay?

14 Number three. Emergency management.
15 To date no emergency or disaster management report
16 or community disaster training program has been
17 created for or discussed with the effective
18 neighboring communities should a so-called event
19 occur.

20 All right?

21 This information should have been
22 placed as a very high priority by all authorities
23 involved with this project for the safety of the
24 community.

25 Alternative site reports. The

1 effected residents and community have never received
2 any communication or reports regarding the
3 alternative sites recommended by FERC, which as I
4 said had the final say in this and oversee these
5 projects down in Washington, D.C. And these
6 alternative sites were turned down by Adelphia.
7 Resident's concerns are why is FERC allowing
8 Adelphia to refuse a safer site for this compressor
9 station? It would seem that Adelphia's complaint
10 about having to lay extra piping would supersede the
11 residents' health and safety.

12 Suggestions. I and many residents
13 feel that DEP should have conducted an EIS, which is
14 environmental impact study, for this facility and
15 would still like one to be conducted. As I have
16 stated many times over the past several months to
17 every agency involved, please choose a safer site
18 with enough safety caution so as to not to endanger
19 the safety, health and welfare of this surrounding
20 community.

21 DEP, you should be aware that this is
22 an unacceptable site for such a large facility with
23 no safety buffer for these citizens. We request
24 that you, as a permanent authority in this matter,
25 do the right thing for this community and future

1 residents. And as indicated in your agency title,
2 protect us from this unsafe compressor station.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. REBARCHAK: John DeSimone.

5 MR. DESIMONE: Good evening. My name
6 is John DeSimone. I'm here tonight speaking for Tom
7 Cuce, who is my father-in-law and a property owner
8 that will have the proposed compressor station built
9 approximately a few feet from his property line.
10 Obviously, he knows and understands some benefits of
11 natural gas being provided to the community, but why
12 is Adelphia trying to wedge such a large compressor
13 station on a smaller than normal property?

14 Of this 1.5 residential conservation
15 site, one half is wetland, the other is preexisting
16 infrastructure with current pipeline. So this means
17 the whole site is going to be built on little over a
18 half an acre with no setbacks and no buffers. It's
19 not even zone industrial.

20 Some of his safety concerns are water
21 pollutions. Mr. Cuce was informed that the
22 compressor station will emit pollutants such as 25
23 times of nitrogen oxide and volatile organic
24 compounds. This will go out and settle on his soil
25 then eventually into his private well. Adelphia is

1 not even obligated to come over and test his water
2 well. We ask the DEP, should Adelphia have enough
3 acres of land around this facility to prevent this?
4 And are the regulations going to be put into place
5 by the DEP to monitor this?

6 Air pollution. We understand that
7 Adelphia is going to be using a pigging operation to
8 clean the pipeline by sweeping liquid out of the
9 line to improve the gas flow. According to Adelphia
10 application, they would do this process once year
11 yet they will conduct a pipeline inspections only
12 once every five to seven years.

13 This is alarming since compressors
14 will be running 24/7. They state emissions from the
15 pigging process will not exceed the following 12
16 month limits. Just methane alone we're talking 200
17 times of pollutants a year. This states the minimum
18 allowed but it doesn't state anything about this
19 being in the middle of a residential neighborhood.
20 These numbers may be okay if they have 20 to 40
21 acres of forest to help dissipate the pollutants,
22 but we're talking 1.5 acres.

23 Noise pollution. Adelphia will say
24 Mr. Cuce's property is 50 feet - 500 feet away
25 therefore they'll come and measure the noise level

1 and say - it's within the 55 decibel reading. But
2 what about the rest of his land? Does the property
3 become a buffer or a setback? And what about
4 vibrations? What happens if they are constant
5 vibrations? They can't even sleep at night? Who's
6 going to guarantee this will not happen?

7 And the last point I want to make.
8 Adelphia should pick a site where they have enough
9 land to implant the safety requirements and not be
10 encroaching on other people's property. It's not
11 like the site in Marcus Hook in Delaware County
12 where it's heavily industrial or other rural sites
13 in Pennsylvania where they have many acres.

14 In addition PHMSA, which regulates the
15 pipeline safety, states that you should not be using
16 other people's property as a buffer. For example,
17 my father-in-law, if he had a fire and he has a
18 hayfield which is only a few feet from the proposed
19 building, Adelphia has no control over the emergency
20 situation. Fire trucks can't even freely move
21 around the building to this site being too small.
22 Were fire marshals ever consulted and did they get
23 their approval?

24 In closing, we know the proposed
25 compressor station is an extremely dangerous site.

1 Why? Because the land is too small. Adelphia
2 cannot address Mr. Cuce's safety and health concerns
3 even if they want to because they do not have the
4 room to do it.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. REBARCHAK: Shirley Mann.

7 COURT REPORTER: Mark it lower.

8 MS. MANN: Thank you. Thank you.

9 Shirley Mann, Rich Hill Road. This
10 land is zoned RC, residential conservation. This
11 should never - that compressor station should never
12 be allowed to be there. I'm very concerned about
13 the toxic pollutants. We know that they cause
14 health problems, cancer and so forth. There are
15 children in this neighborhood.

16 There's a school two miles away by car
17 and much less by the way the crow flies. What will
18 happen to those children ten years down the road
19 after they breathe in these toxic pollutants? And
20 if they do get cancer how do you prove it's from the
21 station? There's no way to prove it.

22 And you have your older people like
23 me, who are more susceptible to these adverse
24 conditions. They rate - this compressor would
25 normally emit pollutants and then they have the blow

1 downs where they really shove pollutants into our
2 homes. We won't be able to keep our windows open.
3 It's terrible.

4 Then about inspections, which somebody
5 else mentioned. So they get inspected. What
6 happens in-between the inspections? Is Adelphia
7 going to adhere to the rules? Question mark.

8 Then we have the safety gas explosion
9 in Massachusetts in September. Many houses, like
10 80, many were injured, like 28 and there was a
11 death. This is too close to home just - if this
12 thing would ever have a catastrophe we'd be in
13 trouble.

14 And they're not even any lines on the
15 road from 309 to Whaland Road. There's no lines on
16 the road. These are little back country roads,
17 winding roads. It's not ideal for emergency
18 vehicles.

19 About 20 years ago the neighbors and I
20 experienced a gas leak. We were eating supper, my
21 husband and I. Knocking at the door. My husband
22 answered the door. The man said, leave your house
23 immediately. Don't use the telephone. Don't start
24 your vehicle. Nothing that could cause an ignition.
25 So we walked over to my in-laws across the field.

1 A couple hours later we were permitted to go back
2 into our homes. And the funny part is, we didn't
3 know and smell any gas. Cars that were driving past
4 smelled it and they reported it.

5 Then there's the loud noise. I live
6 almost directly across the road from this thing. I
7 have a quiet country lifestyle. I lived in my home
8 for 55 years or more. I like the freedom to live a
9 lifestyle of my choosing. We live in a democracy
10 not a dictatorship. It seems like Adelphia wants to
11 come in and dictate how I have to live.

12 I enjoy the birds, the deer, the
13 rabbits and the other wildlife and they will
14 disappear from this noise. And I know that for a
15 fact because August of 2017, they were working at
16 the little meter station. There was a deafening
17 noise for 24 to 48 hours around the clock. People
18 from a mile or two away came and wanted to know what
19 was happening. I had phone calls asking me what's
20 that noise. So I'm familiar with the noise and it
21 did chase all the animals away.

22 Then there's the vibrations. On page
23 21 of the FERC handbook it says, this is similar to
24 what happens when noise from a speaker causes the
25 floor to shake or when a helicopter flying overhead

1 causes the windows to rattle. Nobody should have to
2 put up with that. It's just not right. That is not
3 the environment that I would like to live in. They
4 need to find an alternative site.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. REBARCHAK: Sheila McCarthy.

7 MS. MERRIGAN: She's not here. She's
8 in Florida.

9 MR. REBARCHAK: Rose - .

10 MS. MERRIGAN: She said she's going to
11 send a letter.

12 MR. REBARCHAK: She's going to send a
13 letter.

14 All right. Thank you.

15 Next, Tammy Springer.

16 MS. SPRINGER: Good evening. My name
17 is Tammy Springer. My husband Matthew and I are
18 currently residents at 650 Roseann Lane in
19 Sellersville. And our current home is 1.5 miles
20 from the proposed site of the Adelpia gas
21 compressor station. But we're actually in the
22 process of purchasing a home and make settlement
23 next month, a - a home on Ridge Hill Road.

24 Our new home is - approximately a five
25 minute walk from the proposed site. We heard of

1 Adelphia's proposal via a flyer that was passed
2 around our development and we were immediately
3 concerned. My husband and I are a young couple just
4 starting out. We've been saving up and looking for
5 years for the perfect home to have a family in.

6 I would like to present my concerns
7 about having and raising children in a home where
8 they could be potentially put at risk by harmful
9 toxins in the air.

10 I am also concerned about the safety
11 for myself and my husband. I have congenital heart
12 disease and I - I had open heart surgery when I was
13 two days old. I worry about some of these toxins
14 could further aggravate my condition.

15 I would also like to present to the
16 DEP that this area, although it may seem rural, it
17 is most definitely a residential area where people
18 are looking to live and raise families without the
19 concern of putting their families at risk.

20 I would also like to address my
21 concerns over the potential noise pollution a
22 facility like this could produce. One of the best
23 things about this area and one of the reasons that
24 we picked it to move to is that it's surrounded by
25 quiet farmland and that's something that is

1 unfortunately becoming more and more scarce in Bucks
2 County.

3 I feel my husband and I have worked
4 very hard to save for our dream home and start a
5 family here. It is every hard working American's
6 right to be able to live out that dream without a
7 threat like this looming over them. Thank you for
8 this time and this opportunity to present my
9 concerns.

10 MR. REBARCHAK: Arianne Elinich.

11 MS. ELINICH: Good evening. My name
12 is Arianne Elinich and I'm a directly impacted
13 resident from Springfield Township, Bucks County.
14 The Department of Environmental Protection
15 Commission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land
16 and water from pollution and to provide for the
17 health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner
18 environment. However, the proposed Adelphia Gateway
19 project would undoubtedly result immeasurable harm
20 to our clean hair, pure water and the natural,
21 scenic, historic and aesthetic value to our
22 environment for generations to come.

23 To even consider granting Adelphia
24 Gateway the permits that are necessary to repurpose
25 the Interstate Energy Company pipeline, which during

1 its lifetime has already resulted in substantial
2 harms to the very resources it is your mission is
3 protect, is fossil foolishness. And evidence is the
4 rubberstamp nature of the agencies that are
5 currently overseeing the review of this project.

6 The Adelphia Gateway pipeline project
7 would do little to benefit our communities, if there
8 would be any benefit at all. And yet presents
9 catastrophic risks to both our environment and the
10 health and welfare of our communities. As a matter
11 of fact, the public need for this project has yet to
12 be demonstrated and it seems to me that this is a
13 clear case of corporate greed trumping over its
14 private citizens.

15 Additionally, there is great public
16 concern that this project is not generally intended
17 to serve our domestic energy need and that Adelphia
18 Gateway, LLC is not being transparent about their
19 end use customers.

20 A few months ago, I met with several
21 representatives at Adelphia Gateway and questioned
22 them if any of the gas transmitted in this line
23 might end up for export. Not only did they not
24 reassure me that it would not end up for export,
25 they told me that once the gas leaves their

1 transmission line it is no longer their
2 responsibility.

3 Moreover, it is now clear when the
4 existing Interstate Energy Company pipeline that was
5 first installed in the 1970s, the Department of
6 Environmental Resources, their review of the
7 proposed project at that time was inadequate and
8 failed to address significant concerns regarding
9 public safety, the environmental impacts and
10 integrity management of this pipeline.

11 At present, our community and our
12 environment are - are already suffering from the
13 substantial harm to over three decades of negative
14 environmental impacts, all as a result of the - all
15 as the result of the Department of Environmental
16 Resources inadequate review of this pipeline as it
17 was first proposed and installed in the 1970s.

18 I am here this evening to present you
19 with a number of historical records regarding the
20 legal challenges to the Interstate Energy Company
21 pipeline project. These legal challenges transpired
22 when this project was first proposed and under the
23 review of the Department of Environmental Resources.

24 A number of entities inclusive of the Bucks County
25 commissioners in Springfield Township, Bucks County,

1 of which where I reside and I'm a resident of,
2 intervened and aggressively challenged the
3 Interstate Energy Company pipeline project at that
4 time.

5 A special personal concern to me is
6 the fact that a number of specially sensitive stream
7 crossings were added to the project's permits after
8 the project was approved. Due diligence was never
9 done by the DER to review the environmental impacts
10 of these sensitive stream crossings, which have
11 resulted in substantial derogation to our
12 exceptional value watershed in the present day. The
13 evident environmental harm to these appeals, which
14 came before the Environmental Hearing Board at that
15 time, went unheeded and we are now forced to reckon
16 with the cumulative negative impacts which are the
17 byproduct of this pipeline's legacy.

18 Furthermore, as a result of the many
19 negative impacts that have come to fruition over the
20 years, it is now clear that the PA DEP section 401
21 water quality certifications, chapter 1 of 5
22 permits, erosion attendant control permits, air
23 quality approvals and operating permits necessary
24 for this project to proceed should not be granted.
25 And the long standing harm to our resources that are

1 duly protected by our Commonwealth under article 1,
2 section 27 of Pennsylvania State Constitution should
3 be remediated.

4 Additionally, the down stream -
5 MR. REBARCHAK: Could you please wrap
6 it up please?

7 MS. ELINICH: I'm sorry?

8 MR. REBARCHAK: If you could please
9 wrap up

10 MS. ELINICH: I'm wrapping it up.

11 MR. REBARCHAK: Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. ELINICH: Additionally the down
13 stream green - greenhouse gas and climate change
14 impacts of the proposed Adelpia Gateway pipeline
15 project must not compromise the integrity of our
16 breathable air. And the true cost of the carbon
17 impact should be thoroughly evaluated and integrated
18 into any cost benefit analysis of this proposed
19 project.

20 I can assure you that we will hold the
21 PA DEP responsible for the public safety risks and
22 environmental harms that will be wrought upon our
23 communities for generations to come if the permits
24 for this project are granted in a way that does not
25 protect the health and welfare or communities over

1 the interests of a limited liability corporation.

2 Lastly and significantly, this is my
3 official request for a new hearing as the last
4 minute change of tonight's hearing to a new location
5 was disenfranchised into the general public and
6 prohibited to the public's mediation during this
7 review process.

8 My name is Arianne Elinich. I'm from
9 Springfield Township. I'm here speaking on behalf
10 of the Elinich family trust and I'm a directly
11 impacted resident of Springfield Township,
12 Pennsylvania. I will be providing you with the
13 historical account of my concerns, as well as the
14 petition that's been signed by numerous residents in
15 our community requesting that you adequately review
16 this project from its origin as the Interstate
17 Energy Company Pipeline.

18 MR. REBARCHAK: Rupika Ketu.

19 MS. KETU: Good evening everyone. My
20 name is Rupika Ketu and I'm here tonight on behalf
21 of the Clean Air Council based out of Philadelphia.
22 The Council is a nonprofit environmental
23 organization that has been working to protect
24 everyone's right to breathe clean air for over 50
25 years. Clean Air Council has 7,000 paying

1 individual contributors and almost 30,000 advocates
2 including many here in Bucks County.

3 The Council wishes to address air
4 quality concerns associated with Adelpia's current
5 application 23-0225 for the West Rock Hill
6 compressor station in Quakertown.

7 First, compressors stations generate
8 emissions of volatile organic compounds, also known
9 VOCs, nitrogen oxide, as known as NOx, hazardous air
10 pollutants, carbon monoxide and methane. These
11 emissions are produced through a - combination of
12 combustion, leaks and venting. NOx and VOCs form
13 ground level ozone, the main constituent in smog,
14 and can lead to symptoms including coughing, chest
15 pain and throat irritation and worsen respiratory
16 conditions which is bronchitis, emphysema and
17 asthma.

18 NOx also contributes to the formation
19 of fine particulate matter which has been linked
20 to - an increase in heart attacks, aggravated
21 asthma, decreased lung function and for those that
22 are already suffering hear or lung disease,
23 premature death.

24 Some of NOx has been documented in
25 residents of living up to two miles from compressor

1 stations and many homes in West Rock Hill Township
2 are also located within two miles of the proposed
3 compressor station along with two - two schools and
4 preserved natural areas. There's an active quarry
5 near the compressor station - station which is under
6 scrutiny because of the air pollution it can also
7 cause.

8 Adelphia could mitigate some of the
9 risks to residents in West Rock Hill and neighboring
10 townships by either relocating the compressor
11 station or installing an electric compressor station
12 rather than a gas powered one.

13 There are many benefits associated
14 with the electric alternative including reducing
15 combustion emissions and improving local air
16 quality, reducing the - the potential for methane
17 leaks and curbing greenhouse gas emissions and
18 reducing overall emissions as the grid incorporates
19 more renewable energy.

20 Giving the urgency of addressing
21 climate change concerns highlighted by the recent
22 Intergovernmental Panel in Climate Change report at
23 the Fourth National Climate Assessment, all efforts
24 should be made to reduce methane emissions
25 associated with gas powered compressor station. The

1 facility could do more to incorporate natural gas
2 STAR emission reduction recommendations as well.

3 Finally, fenceline monitoring for
4 hazardous air pollutants and VOCs should be
5 considered as a measure to protect public health and
6 to detect leaks in a more timely manner. Pipeline
7 integrity inspection should take place more
8 frequently than five to seven years. These
9 integrity concerns are especially important as the
10 Quakertown compressor station pipeline is located
11 adjacent to an active quarry as stated earlier. The
12 Clean Air Council urges DEP to - to deny the
13 application in its current state and until these
14 issues are addressed.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. REBARCHAK: Marilyn Vogel.

17 MS. VOGEL: Thank you for this
18 opportunity. Marilyn Vogel Finland Road, West Rock
19 Hill. You've heard that this is a residential
20 community with children, elderly residents, farm
21 animals, nature preserve, the Quakertown swamp,
22 wetlands, amphibians, creeks, ponds. West Rock Hill
23 is a Township which promotes clean - promotes land
24 conservation for clean air and clean water.
25 Residents move here to get away from industrial

1 zone, which reduce the value of their home. They -
2 we drive through this area every day to go shopping
3 in Quakertown.

4 Next, the facility is next to route
5 309, a major highway in the Trumbauersville School
6 and township. The natural gas production results in
7 an increase in emissions of methane which has been
8 identified by the US EPA as the second most
9 prevalent greenhouse gas emitted in the U.S. from
10 human activity.

11 We have Pennsylvania laws, which the
12 DEP is well aware of, to prevent new construction
13 which would emit all this methane and other
14 pollutants with new construction. Bucks County
15 already has a failing grade for air quality.
16 Pennsylvania is the third largest amount of air
17 pollution state in the United States. A new
18 compressor station will only exacerbate this
19 problem.

20 And in the PA Constitution, article 1,
21 section 27, residents have a right to clean air and
22 clean water. There's a correlation between
23 proximity to gas facilities and the prevalence of
24 health symptoms such as asthma, cancer, high blood
25 pressure and other respiratory, cardiovascular,

1 kidney, pulmonary, thyroid conditions. Many
2 residents already have health problems such as
3 cancer and would adversely affected by increase in
4 emissions of methane, benzene, formaldehyde,
5 acetaldehyde and acrolein from the proposed
6 compressor station.

7 According American Lung Association
8 even low amounts of pollutants emitted have a
9 particularly harsh effect on children because of
10 their weaker respiratory systems. Particle
11 pollution can kill. Particle pollution can -
12 increased the risk of heart disease, lung cancer,
13 asthma attacks and interfere with the growth and
14 work of lungs and can shorten your life.

15 Even low level of particles can be
16 deadly. A 2016 study found that people age 65 and
17 older in New England faced a higher risk of
18 premature death from particle pollution, even in
19 places that met current standards for short term
20 particle pollution. Another study, 2017 looked more
21 closely at Boston - found a similar higher risk of
22 premature death from particle pollution in a city
23 that meets current limits on short term particle
24 pollution.

25 2017 study, researchers found more

1 evidence of older adults faced a higher risk of
2 premature death even when levels at short term
3 particle pollution remained well below the current
4 national standards. This was consistent whether the
5 older adults lived in cities, suburbs or rural
6 areas. In late 2013, the International Agency for
7 Research on Cancer, part of the World Health
8 Organization, included that particle pollution
9 causes lung cancer.

10 Building a compressor station on Ridge
11 Hill is not just about money. It's taking
12 advantages - advantage of residents and landowners.

13 It would cause psychological trauma, stress and
14 depression as well as ill health effects. In
15 addition, what does the plan address - where does
16 the plan address construction, the noise, fire,
17 drainage, lighting, use of trucks? The building
18 which is 45 to 55 feet high would dwarf the
19 neighboring residence and be a eyesore.

20 Buffering with vegetation would be
21 needed. The site does not appear to have water and
22 sewage. How would Adelphia Gateway prevent
23 potential adverse impacts on accidents or acts of
24 nature? What are the cumulative and long term
25 impacts to air quality and the environment? What

1 would be the staffing? What would constitute an
2 emergency? How would residents be informed? What
3 are specific remedies if there is an emergency?

4 Our legacy to future generations must
5 be a decrease in pollution in order to protect
6 health and safety of all citizens. The DEP needs to
7 strongly enforce current state legislation and
8 evaluate the cumulative impact how this compressor
9 station affects future changes to the environment
10 and impact radius. The potential economic gain from
11 natural gas development should not come at the
12 expense of local residents and visitors. The
13 industrial impact and landowner -

14 MR. REBARCHAK: Can - can you wrap it
15 up?

16 MS. VOGEL: - undermines public trust
17 - yeah. And land rights for future generations.
18 The potential harm to Pennsylvania residents
19 outweighs the short term economic benefits of the
20 few. It's not in the public interest.

21 MR. REBARCHAK: Thank you.

22 Anthony Boegner.

23 MR. BOEGNER: Hello, I'm Anthony
24 Boegner, West Rock Hill. I question the integrity
25 of that pipe, being a 30 inch pipe, reverse flow in

1 it and what - what the blast area is to that pipe.
2 The pipe has crude oil going through it. Very
3 abrasive. You're increasing the pressure and what
4 happens? Who - what fire company can take care of
5 that?

6 The other thing I have a concern with
7 is that, you know, - DEP is always an organization
8 was defending the people. But in the air quality
9 program you have to have a GFI permit, general
10 information permit. Adelpia came to our Township
11 and strong-armed our planning commission and then
12 comes DEP and want to do the same thing.

13 And in that general information permit
14 if they would have filed it would it - there would
15 have been land use in there. That land use is - is
16 not within the parameters of our zoning RC. It's on
17 an acre and a half of property. The - the noise
18 level is not 60 dB during the day, 55 at night. You
19 know the compressor runs more than that.

20 And in your permits you say, in your
21 own writing, nothing in the general permit relieves
22 the permittee from its obligations to comply with all
23 applicable federal, state and local laws. Why
24 wouldn't you follow that? I don't get it. And if I
25 didn't know no better, I'd figure Adelpia is in

1 your pocket somehow because a second group of
2 people - there's not one person in this - in this
3 room that wants this pipeline.

4 That's all I have to say.

5 MR. REBARCHAK: Stewart Fulong.

6 Christine Shelly.

7 MS. SHELLY: Thank you. I'm Christine
8 Shelly. I live on Whaland Road, perpendicular to
9 Ridge Hill Road. Two minute walk from the proposed
10 compressor station. My husband's family has lived
11 at our home for six generations. My son's the
12 sixth. We uprooted ourselves after 18 years in
13 another community because this house and this land
14 is my son's legacy. Article 1, section 27 of our PA
15 State Constitution states plainly that quote, the
16 people have a right to clean air, pure water and to
17 the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic
18 and aesthetic values of the environment.

19 Pennsylvania's public natural
20 resources are the common property of all the people
21 including generations yet to come. As trustees of
22 this - of these resources, the Commonwealth shall
23 conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all
24 the people. End quote.

25 This section claims that our heritage

1 is for all the people. Not for all of the
2 corporations and energy giants. How can we mortgage
3 the legacy of the generations yet to come, of our
4 grandchildren and of our great grandchildren for the
5 benefit of a quick gain of a few bucks for these
6 business owners who offer us nothing in return? Who
7 cannot even bother to set into place minimal safety
8 precautions for those of us living in the resulting
9 stink of the toxins from blow offs and any
10 accidents.

11 They say this pipeline is for the
12 benefit of Pennsylvanians, but I do not believe that
13 it is. This line goes to Marcus Hook for export.
14 Adelphia is looking to squeeze the last drops of a
15 dying energy source out of our ground, oblivious to
16 the cries of the people who live here who plead for
17 protection as our air, ground and water become
18 fouled.

19 Whoever these owners are would reap
20 all the benefit of exploiting our natural resources,
21 which belong to all of us so that they can profit.
22 A faceless corporation should not have rights
23 greater than the human beings who live here. If we
24 follow money, they say that it's cheaper for them to
25 quote, use an existing infrastructure rather than to

1 start a new one and plan it out from scratch.

2 Well I say that I have no concern that
3 it costs them more when we see no benefit only to
4 have to suffer the consequence of their misguided
5 actions. I know in unison with my neighbors
6 protestations it is our right as citizens of this
7 Commonwealth to the benefits of the clean land and
8 air that we currently share. It is our right and
9 our children's right and our great grandchildren's
10 right. Our PA Constitution guarantees this right to
11 our progeny. Shame on our governments if they allow
12 Adelphia to destroy what has been guaranteed to us
13 by our forefathers.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. REBARCHAK: Elizabeth Herrington.

16 MS. HERRINGTON: I'm Elizabeth
17 Herrington. We live at 1200 and we also have a - a
18 lot in the back at 1220 Allentown Road.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.
20 We can't hear you.

21 MS. HERRINGTON: Can you hear me now?
22 Okay.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

25 MS. HERRINGTON: Okay. Annesa

1 (phonetic) Franklin's family lives at 1200 and 1220
2 Allentown Road. One thing I just want to say really
3 quickly is that I'm concerned about if this
4 compressor station does goes in, what the
5 environmental impact actually will be on the air and
6 that water, of course we mentioned.

7 However, our land borders a beautiful
8 birthing spring. Our land has protected bog
9 minerals, our land has a historic creek running
10 through it, a special species of certain types of
11 plants that only grow in very, very pristine fresh
12 air. I mean our air is, and it's West Rock Hill's
13 air too, is very fresh.

14 I mean the thought of this going in
15 makes me want to cry. I mean, I'm back there, I
16 walk around. We have fox dens, I don't know if that
17 matters, but we have so many wonderful creatures
18 back there and we love it. And I just want to make
19 sure - I don't know if you guys are going to do an
20 environmental impact study on how that will affect
21 all those little combinations of species there.

22 And again, we also have preserved the
23 acres next to Butter Creek and into the Manafort
24 preserve because we want to protect it. We care
25 about it just as much as we care about this

1 Township. It's a wonderful Township. And you're
2 really invading a very beautiful space. And I do
3 feel this is an invasion. I just want to do
4 something really quickly.

5 We kind of look at the future of
6 what's going to happen, but I kind of want to look
7 back on what happened in Pennsylvania and Ohio when
8 the U.S. pipelines that were put in racked up 800
9 violations. Now, our land as well as many people's
10 land in West Rock Hill have a lot of wetland.
11 Wetland should be the top protected. They should
12 protect that at all costs because that effects our
13 drinking water, everything, wells.

14 And if these problems come out of this
15 plant and they go into soil and then they kind of
16 like go into the water and then where does that
17 water go? Well it's going to flow downwards. And
18 it's going to flow down into West Rock Hill and
19 pollute all these wonderful streams.

20 But I just want to say real quickly -
21 I just want to say real quickly. In April of 2017,
22 I'm looking back because I know you have been
23 looking at future on what could happen, what did
24 happen was Energy Management Partners were cited two
25 violations by the Ohio EPA for spilling over two

1 million of gallons of drilling fluid into the Ohio
2 wetland. Destroyed it. I mean absolutely destroyed
3 the wetland. They've had 15 - over 15 grand fines.
4 They were fined by Ohio and Pennsylvania.

5 And - and State Senator Andy - I think
6 his name is Dinnimann. He's a democrat. But he
7 said that any pipeline going through area is going
8 to face resistance, which it would not have faced
9 before. And he saw the destruction, which I think
10 is amazing that he stated that. That the
11 destruction from these plants and pipelines are
12 pretty extensive in developing sinkholes. I mean
13 people don't want sinkholes in their sinkholes in
14 the backyard. But this is like what happens. I'm
15 not pretending. This is really what happens. So
16 I'm just concerned that - I don't want our land to -
17 this is something really, really upsetting.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. REBARCHAK: Greg Harrington.

20 MR. G.HERRINGTON: Okay.

21 Well, my wife already introduced us so
22 it's 1200 and 1220 Allentown Road. My name is Gregg
23 Herrington. I've been living in this area since
24 1985. It's been an area I came to for the air
25 quality and the purity in the water and the fishing

1 and things like that. I'm totally against this
2 pipeline. I mean there's just, I don't - I don't
3 even have a question on my mind at this point.
4 Didn't find out about it until very recently because
5 of Adelphia's really quiet operation to get this
6 thing underway.

7 I think they need to be honest about
8 what they're really - their true intentions and
9 motivations are for doing this. Because this is not
10 about feeding the local residents gas. This is
11 about pumping large amounts of gas, natural gas,
12 down to Marcus Hook generating - reconditioning it
13 for shipping overseas into liquid gas to sell to
14 Europe.

15 I think the people - the residents of
16 this Township need to know it's dangerous. And I
17 think DEP should be able to provide us with some
18 of - not just environmental but the risks, the like.

19 And I don't think a whole lot's been spoken of this
20 but there is some history here like my wife said.
21 And she didn't mention some of the other things that
22 have happened, as in the blowup in - in California
23 and some other places. I mean this - this is like
24 planting a bomb in our environment.

25 Noise pollution.

1 Okay.

2 The effected blow downs of the air
3 quality. A lot of these people give you numbers for
4 the effect of the air pollution. The impact that
5 they really don't really talk, what happens when
6 they a do a blow down? They pump the stuff straight
7 up into the atmosphere. And they need to do that to
8 do maintenance. They need to do it to re-pressurize
9 the pipeline when the pipeline becomes too
10 pressurized.

11 Another thing, this - this thing is
12 not far from 309. I mean I could throw a baseball
13 to 309. Now what happens when you have that kind of
14 methane gas escaping and something happens on 309?
15 I mean, you get some kind of ignition.

16 Then there's the pipe leakage. I mean
17 this pipe goes all the way through - it goes right
18 across Allentown Road about a quarter mile from us.

19 And these pipes, who knows the - the quality of
20 those pipes are. What you're doing is repurposing
21 an oil pipeline into a gas pipeline. It's a
22 difference - a whole big difference in the - in the
23 kind of pressure. And - and the reason for this
24 whole compression station is that pressure.

25 So I have questions about explosions,

1 what's going to happen? How far when a third of the
2 pipe - with the effect if it blows. And the other
3 thing is, what about alternative installations,
4 alternative locations and also maybe electric
5 instead of gas turbines. It seems to me, you know,
6 it's cheaper to do the gas turbines. Three big, you
7 know, 18 horsepower engines running the gas that's
8 coming through the pipeline, but you know, you have
9 a substation nearby. And like I said, I'm totally
10 against it, but some of these things need to be
11 considered. And just my last comment is pick a
12 better site.

13 MR. REBARCHAK: Doug Herrington.

14 MR. D.HERRINGTON: Hi my name is Doug
15 Herrington. I live on 1200 Allentown Road. I've
16 lived in this area my entire life. I was born and
17 raised here with the clean land, the clean water.
18 From what I've - I've done a lot of research on this
19 compressor station and many others like it. And
20 from what I understand there's going to be many
21 toxic chemicals emitted by it that threaten our way
22 of life and threaten our health. They can give us
23 cancer and it will eventually kill people.

24 So some of the - some of the toxins
25 emitted are formaldehyde, benzene, ethylbenzene,

1 xylene, hydrogen dilsulfide, carbon monoxide, carbon
2 dioxide, sulfur dioxide, methane. The - these -
3 these chemicals are so bad for your health if you
4 breathe them in and they're being emitted directly
5 into the air.

6 Another thing is, I live on 1200
7 Allentown Road and in our property has lots of
8 wetlands. Butter Creek has lots of wetlands. And
9 personally I have seen bog turtles, which is a very
10 protected species on my land. I've spent a lot of
11 time out there. And I know for a fact that this
12 compressor station will threaten their lives as well
13 and threaten the lives of bog turtles, an endangered
14 species. The wetlands that are so important for our
15 ecosystem.

16 Not only that, our well water is going
17 to contaminated and polluted and we drink that. I
18 mean, we drink that every day and it's just -
19 there's so many horrible things that could result
20 from this. I'm - I'm totally against it and I'm
21 sickened by it.

22 MR. REBARCHAK: Jamee Pemberton.

23 MS. PEMBERTON: Good evening. Thank
24 you for letting us speak. My name is Jamee
25 Pemberton. I live on Camp Rock Hill Road, a mile

1 away from the site. I've been living here for 20
2 years and I did move here because of it being a
3 residential conservative - conservation community.

4 For the record I have great concerns.
5 I'm a retired chemical engineer. So I know a
6 little bit about design practices. And I --- I have
7 a great concern that Adelphia is choosing a very
8 unconservative, non-best practice design of their
9 compressor station in an - a residential
10 conservation neighborhood as opposed to an
11 industrial complex, where there is no need for such
12 buffers and address - address as safety.

13 Okay.

14 I oppose and have great concern for
15 the safety of our neighbors and ourselves for the
16 flammable, toxic and noise pollution concerns that
17 will be put on our residential community. Our
18 community doesn't even have gas in it. Not that I
19 want it, but you know, it's - it's not going to
20 serve our community. It appears that you are
21 choosing higher risk, less responsible designs in an
22 area where you should be taking extra precautions
23 for the safety of our community first.

24 I also have a concern for the ability
25 of the emergency response - responsibility. I want

1 responsible designs. I and we do not appreciate
2 putting extra risk on our community who has to trust
3 industry to be safe, responsible, conservative and
4 uncomplacent. I feel your priorities are over
5 desiring fees and convenience of design for less
6 cost rather than making a safe design for a
7 community that's a little more conservative and
8 probably costs more. But it's not an industrial
9 complex. We don't have the type of rules protecting
10 us. Risk analysis, take a look, think about risk
11 analysis.

12 Okay.

13 Also, the late notice of this location
14 change for the hearing makes me suspect and
15 distrustful. Do the right thing and thank you for
16 your consideration.

17 MR. REBARCHAK: Kathy Weirbach.

18 MS. WEIRBACH: I'm Kathy Weirbach and -
19 loud enough? I live on Ridge Hill road. We are
20 across the street from where the proposed compressor
21 station site is. And we're about - it's a mirror
22 image from where my house is to where the compressor
23 station will be. So it's about 500 feet from the
24 corner of my property to my home. We bought this
25 farm to have a better life for our children so they

1 can play outside, learn what it's like to work hard
2 and enjoy the benefits of this community, like
3 raising sheep, chickens and so on and so forth.

4 We feel that Adelphia was very sneaky
5 in how they informed the community and - about what
6 was going to be happening here. And I think if we
7 would have been a little bit more wide-eyed about
8 their plans, you would see triple, quadruple the
9 amount of people that you see here tonight to oppose
10 this. But, as I was informed just a few months
11 because of our neighbors that this compressor
12 station was going to be put in, we tried to knock on
13 doors to inform people. You know, do you understand
14 what this could mean to our communities?

15 We had a home that was build in 1850.
16 Our well is not more than 100 feet deep, so you're
17 saying that you're going to monitor and the
18 operations and things like that. What about how
19 many times it's going to fall into my ground and
20 it's going to rain and over time the concentration
21 of those emissions are going to go in my well.

22 Who is going to come and make sure
23 that my children aren't going to end up with cancer
24 or anything like that as - even our farm animals and
25 everything that we grow on our farm. We feel that

1 people should be the first priority to this proposed
2 site being however you're billing it. From right
3 here at the moment we refer to our very - some very
4 well informed, you know. I don't think that it's
5 anywhere to our best interest.

6 It's all about costs, saving money and
7 it should be put somewhere where they're going to
8 have to put a little money out of pocket. They're
9 going to make a ton of money on this and it
10 shouldn't be to our expense of our way of life.

11 MR. REBARCHAK: Emily Marshall.

12 MS. MARSHALL: Hello, my name's Emily.

13 I live 700 feet away from where the compressor
14 station will be built, so very close. I'd like to
15 say that I drove hours home from nursing school to
16 be here so - so I'm very against this. I could
17 stand here and tell you that I'm worried about the
18 noise pollution and everything else that everyone
19 else had mentioned through our little impasse.

20 I am worried about all that, however,
21 my main concern is - so my parents are over there.
22 They built the - my dad designed the house, built
23 it, had it brought and everything. We build a barn
24 on our property. We're building an addition. We
25 built this on our property because we want to - we

1 want to live on this property forever. I have a - a
2 one year old nephew and another one on the way.
3 They visit almost daily so - and since you guys have
4 kids would you like to subject your kids to this
5 noise and this pollution without - like we're just
6 beginning things basically. We don't really know if
7 this air will cause us to get cancer or anything.
8 And again, since you can't prove it then that's
9 just - it won't prove anything.

10 I also find it a little ironic that
11 Adelphia isn't really here today to - so what their
12 plans are. But thank you. Thank you guys for being
13 here. I appreciate it and having the opportunity to
14 talk.

15 If the Adelphia employees were here
16 I'd like to ask them, can you admit honestly that
17 you would be fine living with this 11,000 square
18 foot building, in your backyard, 700 feet away from
19 your child's playground? Breathing in the air that
20 is clean even though compressor stations emit carbon
21 monoxide, formaldehyde that supposedly will fall
22 under the levels that are acceptable, which I kind
23 of find hard to believe.

24 Also to the Adelphia employees, would
25 you be willing to play outside with your kids while

1 there's a kind of dishwasher sound going on? Which
2 according to studies done by the University of
3 Maryland, exceed 55 decibels which is the maximum
4 level allowed in Richland Township.

5 Also, if there's going to be
6 vibrations constantly, is that really 55 decibels,
7 I'd like to know. In fact, would you want to wake
8 up in the middle of night to what people compare to
9 a jet engine taking off. These are people who live
10 near compressor station. Doing what that compressor
11 stations need, that typically occur in the middle
12 night.

13 I ask that you please consider this
14 construction of the compressor station with a little
15 more empathy and a lot less greed. And I as just
16 found out, quite frankly, this whole project is
17 about money. Which I get we live in a capitalist
18 nation. However, Adelphia is a New Jersey company.
19 New Jersey Resources Corporation. This is like the
20 child company of it.

21 New Jersey Resources Corporation is a
22 Fortune 1000 company, which is great. However,
23 since the fourth quarter of 2017, their profit
24 margin has significantly decreased by 20%. And you
25 can look it up. It's all public record. And

1 basically this is a hail mary just to find a
2 community where the two pipelines connect and to
3 override our community, our small community and to
4 make money.

5 So I'd just like for you to maybe
6 think about it on a more personal level not just
7 with money. Like we're people.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. REBARCHAK: Robert Linden.

10 MR. LINDEN: You're in for it now.

11 Robert Linden, 60 Reagan Drive, West Rock Hill
12 Township. My concern tonight is you. And according
13 to the research that I've made, the proposal made by
14 Adelphia, which is really New Jersey Energy is
15 obsolete equipment. They're proposing stuff that
16 the EPA says you should switch from. In other
17 words, you - you must be ignorant of what the EPA is
18 requesting, because you should have rejected this
19 thing when - when it crossed your desk.

20 I'm not disregarding all the other
21 comments. They're all valid. But there is better
22 technology and you should be aware of it. And you
23 should demand the only newest technology when it
24 comes to proposals, not old technology. And that's
25 what they proposed. And that's why you have

1 pollution. And that's why the EPA is recommending
2 that all the gas compressors - and there's thousands
3 of gas compressor stations across the United States
4 and across the world. And they're all being
5 switched to electric driven compressors. That's the
6 proposal of the EPA, so why would you even consider
7 this proposal from Adelphia. You should have
8 rejected it. You should reject it tonight. We
9 shouldn't even here.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. REBARCHAK: Alexander Ulmers.

12 MR. ULMER: Alexander Ulmer, 6050 Deer
13 Road, West Rock Hill Township. I have no doubt that
14 Adelphia submitted an application that meets all the
15 regulatory requirements. Just curious as to what
16 kind, if any, alternative analysis was done, not
17 just to alternative sites but alternative technology
18 that may have been considered during this.

19 Kind of following up on the last
20 comment, like there's a lot of other options that
21 could have been considered that I don't think were.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. REBARCHAK: Tammy Murphy.

24 MS. MURPHY: I'd like to send written
25 comments, actually. But mostly, health perspective

1 and environmental issues that have been covered
2 adequately by everybody. And I just want to thank
3 all of you for coming out because you're doing the
4 right thing.

5 MR. REBARCHAK: Cliff Cole.

6 MR. COLE: Thank you. My name is
7 Cliff Cole. I live on Shoecraft Road, a little more
8 than a mile from where the compressor would be. I
9 have no prepared comments. I can't add anything
10 better than what my neighbors have well - well
11 researched comments, which I really learned a lot
12 about today.

13 Which is really interesting because I
14 don't believe that people like you, the DEP and my
15 elected officials, have adequately explained this
16 whole compressor to me and - and to my - and to my
17 wife and everybody in this community. It's as if
18 Adelpia and perhaps even you have come in like a
19 thief in the night and tried to ramrod this into us.

20 And, you know, I'm just going to
21 reiterate what other people have said. My wife
22 Pamela and I moved to this community about 15 years
23 ago. And we have wild turkey, we have fox, the
24 occasional bear, plenty of deer. But, you know,
25 that's - the environment is fragile and the DEP is

1 supposed to be there to protect us. So is that
2 really true or is the fox running the henhouse?

3 MR. REBARCHAK: Sean Devan.

4 MR. DEVAN: Good evening. Hi
5 neighbors. I just found out about this two weeks
6 ago. I'm supposed to be up with my three kids who
7 are having their soccer banquet right now.

8 I'm so upset that I even have to talk
9 to you folks about this. I learned so much in ten
10 minutes in this room. I just wanted to play this
11 for you, but of course my props are failing. But
12 more people are more important. Let me take it off
13 mute. I've eaten up like three minutes. This is
14 not planned, but it's worth waiting.

15 ---

16 (WHEREUPON, AUDIO WAS PLAYED.)

17 ---

18 MR. DEVAN: Shame, shame, shame. I
19 live on Ridge Hill Road by the way, like a quarter
20 mile away with six kids. And I have no money.

21 MR. REBARCHAK: There's one more name
22 here and I'm not sure if they signed up to comment.
23 Nancy Flack. She did.

24 MS. FLACK: I agree with absolutely
25 everything everyone said before me. And we already

1 covered all the topics that I wanted to talk about.

2 Thank you so much. I live on Ridge Hill Road in
3 Richland Township. I'm sorry, I live in Camp Rock
4 Hill Road, Richland Township, a mile and a third or
5 so from the site. And I too value the peace and
6 quiet. I didn't even like when wind blows to the
7 west and you can hear the turnpike. So I don't need
8 - we don't need, my husband and I, both don't want
9 any more noise.

10 But that biggest thing that really
11 concerns me is the pollution and these horrible
12 agents, chemicals, that are being emitted into the
13 air. And we need fresh air to breathe and stay
14 healthy. It's obvious. It's common sense. And so
15 do our beautiful wildlife. And as you know we have
16 deer, foxes, and coyotes at times. And they're all
17 beautiful. Fox and all the different birds.

18 They're going to be breathing it,
19 they're going to be drinking the water and they're
20 already subjected to everything as it is. 50
21 percent of the world species has already
22 disappeared. So - because of what man does.

23 And I really care about that and I
24 care about my kids and grandkids and my nieces and
25 my nephews and ourselves and the elderly. I worked

1 for - I worked to help the elderly. And when you
2 have conditions that don't need this and we don't
3 need more created health conditions. There's enough
4 cancer already - we're experiencing. We don't need
5 anymore - anymore. We don't need anymore of that.

6 And lots of us have gardens that we
7 eat from. And as hunters that parse the deer that
8 eat the meat, and it's going to be contaminated. So
9 I just want to say and just repeat, I guess, all the
10 main points.

11 I also think about the ozone layer
12 too. What's going on with that? We ought to throw
13 some stuff up there and it's not going to be helpful.
14 And I just want to say I really resent this being
15 shoved down our throats. The people all resent
16 that. Terribly - it's a terrible thing. It's not
17 right at all. And that's it.

18 MR. REBARCHAK: All right.

19 We have a little more time. We've
20 gone through everybody that's signed up to comment.

21 Is there anybody else that would like to make a
22 comment here publicly? Please come on up.

23 Again, please state your name for the
24 record.

25 MR. POLIER: Hi, my name's John

1 Polier. I live on Shoecraft Road and my wife and I
2 moved up here. I'm from Upper Darby. And we didn't
3 really have to hear this stuff in Upper Darby, we
4 had rats. That's the extent of it.

5 The three questions I came up with
6 just now, the first is when, where is the next
7 meeting? When - when are getting together again?
8 When is this happening again? Who's - is there
9 anybody here that's in charge of this? Is there
10 going to be another meeting? No there's not going
11 to be another meeting? So - so is this a done deal?

12 MR. REBARCHAK: Again, as I stated
13 earlier in my opening statement, this is a public
14 hearing to accept the comments before the Department
15 makes the decision on the application for plan
16 approval. We're here to listen to your comments.
17 Any questions that are raised will be responded to
18 in a comment and response document when a decision
19 has been made on the application.

20 MR. POLIER: You mean after the
21 decision is made, we're going to be told about it.
22 Is that what I'm hearing?

23 MR. REBARCHAK: Yes.

24 MR. POLIER: So we - this is - is this
25 for show? Is this to placate us? This is what I

1 heard, that the feds already got this all wrapped
2 up. That you have no say in it. It's a federal
3 thing not a local thing. Is that true? So what is
4 this, a show?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's like all these
6 - from Philly.

7 MR. POLIER: Huh?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I haven't heard a
9 damn court date.

10 MR. POLIER: Yeah, we got a saying in
11 Upper Darby. Don't let them eat shit and call it
12 shinola.

13 So - so where do we go? So - so is
14 this it?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yep.

16 MR. POLIER: Because I don't want that
17 thing in my backyard.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Congressmen,
19 senators? We need to call our representatives.

20 MR. POLIER: We're going to - I - I
21 know there's a Reddit site and that's the only way I
22 found out about this. Somebody in this room was
23 very active and I want to thank you. But - I'm on
24 FaceBook, John Polier, P-O-L-I-E-R. Anybody that
25 wants to contact me, let's have another meeting.

1 You know, I - I don't know what else to do but it
2 seems there is the wealthy and there's the rest of
3 us. And that does not sit well with me. That's all
4 I got.

5 MR. REBARCHAK: Thank you.

6 MS. FURLONG: Sue. Should I turn the
7 mic?

8 MR. REBARCHAK: No, you're good there.

9 MS. FURLONG: Okay.

10 MR. REBARCHAK: Closer.

11 MS. FURLONG: Closer? Okay. Sue
12 Furlong, West Rock Hill Township. This is almost to
13 the day, December the 2nd, 34 year anniversary of
14 Bhopal in India. I don't how many of you all
15 remember it was Union Carbide. And 15,000 people -
16 3,000 people were killed immediately by gas
17 emissions, 15,000 estimated over the next few
18 months. Today people are still giving birth to
19 babies with twisted limbs.

20 The contamination is in wells that are
21 250 feet deep. The government has not come in and
22 cleaned it up. Little children are playing on the
23 piles of contaminated soil. And I don't hear any
24 promises here, that if this goes bad who's going to
25 fix it? I don't hear any promises here that not

1 only for the short term fix you made, but for the
2 long term fix were being placed. And that's not
3 right.

4 These people own this land. It has a
5 value emotionally as well as financially and you're
6 destroying all of that. They're afraid to put their
7 children - what if they're asleep at night and a gas
8 emission goes off, a pipe erupts, nobody knows and
9 they're breathing that stuff in. None of that
10 sounded like it was very good stuff to breathe in.
11 I think that in your using an acre and a half as a
12 buffer on something that dangerous, you're just
13 asking for trouble.

14 And it might not happen this year, but
15 I always thought when I read about Bhopal - I had an
16 uncle that worked for Union Carbide, so I paid
17 attention to it. I always thought, well thank god I
18 don't live in India because things like that don't
19 happen here in America. We take safety precautions.

20 We don't ask people to live next door to these
21 industrial, terrible sites.

22 So I think that we need to act like
23 we're in America, not some third world country and
24 treat our citizens appropriately.

25 MR. REBARCHAK: Is there anybody else

1 that would like to make a comment and we'll - like
2 the other woman that has her hand raised.

3 MS. BEDICS: Karen Bedics, Springfield
4 Township Supervisor. I noticed our hearing here
5 tonight is for the compressor station. And I truly
6 sympathize with all the residents that are here and
7 how they are going to be impacted.

8 I wanted to reiterate to the DEP
9 representatives about Springfield Township, that we
10 have very sensitive carbonate geology that is in the
11 Spring Town area that's very volatile. And that you
12 truly need to take that in - into consideration of
13 this pipeline and look into any anomalies that have
14 happened in the past with this pipeline that would
15 have belonged to Interstate Energy Company.

16 The documents that were referred to
17 earlier, the court documents that we came across,
18 with the litigation that happened with Interstate
19 Energy Company and the inception of this project
20 back in 1970s. Most recently I went through these
21 papers again. And apparently there was an
22 environmental impact study that was required in the
23 1970s.

24 Interstate Energy pipeline, they got
25 the company to do the environmental impact statement

1 and it was - it was called the Pace report. And
2 also this environmental impact study was supposed to
3 be submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission
4 and the pipeline was to be included in the Delaware
5 River Basin's comprehensive plan.

6 What alarmed me in saying this was
7 that the Delaware River Basin Commission used
8 Interstate Energy's environmental impact statement
9 when incorporating their own. So basically they
10 were following the lead, in my mind, of Interstate
11 Energy pipeline. And I was hoping that the DEP can
12 investigate that and look into it. And now we have
13 an opportunity to commission an independent
14 environment impact study.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. MERRIGAN: I just wanted to
17 clarify a - a statement that you stated that the -
18 the size of the site. This compressor unit
19 station - compressor station is actually be located
20 on - situated and constructed on a mere one half
21 acre. The entire facility is one and a half acres.

22 Okay?

23 With already existing metering
24 stations, piping, lighting, a lot of things are
25 already on there.

1 Okay?

2 And have been for a number of years.
3 And - and people that have said about the pipes,
4 themselves, and the - and the - and then amazing
5 amount of pressure. Those pipes are very old pipes
6 to begin with, decades. So that's another concept
7 to think about. When it's going to be cranking out
8 125 million cubic feet per day, which is a lot of
9 pressure, 24/7 days a week.

10 Okay?

11 So - there's a lot to take in but
12 it's - it's very scary to the surrounding community
13 to process these figures. And I know this a small
14 picture but this is sort of like - Adelphia gave
15 this to me. They came to our home and gave this us
16 to us. And it's like a large target store.

17 Okay?

18 But they thought this was really nice
19 because they painted it barn red, okay, so we put it
20 in with our barn. So - so - so they - they are
21 somewhat human.

22 So - okay.

23 And these are my things. I forgot to
24 give them - okay.

25 Thank you. Thanks.

1 MR. REBARCHAK: All right.

2 So anybody else that would like to
3 provide comments?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just have one
5 question.

6 MR. REBARCHAK: Yeah.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Why isn't Adelphia
8 here?

9 MR. REBARCHAK: This is the
10 Department's public hearing -

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I understand that.

12 MR. REBARCHAK: - on the application
13 and they have no obligation to attend. You can't
14 force them to attend so ---.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do they have any
16 obligations to answer to the residents of - of the
17 Township?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Again, we're here
19 for the public hearing to accept the comments.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You still didn't
21 answer my question.

22 MR. REBARCHAK: I'm - I'm going to
23 close the hearing now. This will conclude the
24 public hearing. As a reminder the public comment
25 period will close on December 14th. If you wish to

1 submit comments between now and then, please feel
2 free to use the resources and information found on
3 the sign-in table when you came into tonight.

4 Thank you for being here and have a
5 safe trip home.

6 * * * * *

7 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:43 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before James Rebarchek, Moderator, was reported by me on 12-04-18 and that I, Kimberly Chatburn, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 18th day of December, 2018



Kimberly Chatburn,
Court Reporter