

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

DOCKET NUMBER 7970

PETITION OF VERMONT GAS SYSTEMS, INC.,
REQUESTING A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD,
PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A. SECTION 248,
AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE "ADDISON
NATURAL GAS PROJECT" CONSISTING OF
APPROXIMATELY 43 MILES OF NEW NATURAL GAS
TRANSMISSION PIPELINE IN CHITTENDEN AND
ADDISON COUNTIES, APPROXIMATELY 5 MILES
OF NEW DISTRIBUTION MAINLINES IN ADDISON
COUNTY, TOGETHER WITH THREE NEW GATE
STATIONS IN WILLISTON, NEW HAVEN AND
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT --

March 21, 2013
7 p.m.

369 CVU Road
Hinesburg, Vermont

Public hearing held before the Vermont
Public Service Board, at the CVU Theater, Champlain Valley
Union High School, 369 CVU Road, Hinesburg, Vermont, on
March 21, 2013, beginning at 7 p.m.

P R E S E N T

BOARD MEMBERS: James Volz, Chairman
David C. Coen
John D. Burke

STAFF: George E. Young
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S P E A K E R S

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | <u>Page</u> |
| | Al Gobeille | 9 |
| 3 | Jeffrey Messina | 11 |
| | Lisa Ventriss | 12 |
| 4 | Tom Donahue | 14 |
| | Sam Koplinka-Loehr | 16 |
| 5 | Anna Shireman-Grabowski | 18 |
| | Ken Perine | 19 |
| 6 | Scudder Parker | 21 |
| | Bob Wellington | 24 |
| 7 | Bob Foster | 26 |
| | Jamie Stewart | 28 |
| 8 | Leslie Reagan-Caer | 31 |
| | Thelma Oxholm | 34 |
| 9 | Wayne Cota | 35 |
| | Ivor Hughes | 36 |
| 10 | Lisa Marchetti | 38 |
| | Jennifer Baker | 39 |
| 11 | Colin Kriwox | 42 |
| | Renee McGuinness | 44 |
| 12 | Julie Mitchell | 46 |
| | Ken Wheeling | 48 |
| 13 | Marshall Paulsen | 51 |
| | Garry Douglas | 53 |
| 14 | Chris Mallon | 56 |
| | Jim O'Brian | 58 |
| 15 | Greg Mayes | 61 |
| | Dean Messner | 63 |
| 16 | Anita van Tubergen | 66 |
| | Will Bennington | 67 |
| 17 | Chris Von Trapp | 70 |
| | Sarah Murray | 72 |
| 18 | Charlie Baker | 74 |
| | Bill Fifield | 75 |
| 19 | Kevin Burget | 77 |
| | Rebecca Foster | 79 |
| 20 | Peter Vanderhoof | 81 |
| | Chris Louras | 84 |
| 21 | Dean George | 86 |
| | Nick Artim | 88 |
| 22 | James Ramey | 91 |
| | Arnold Ross | 93 |
| 23 | Ray Mainer | 95 |
| | Stephen Pilcher | 98 |
| 24 | Deborah Gaynor | 100 |
| | Rob Korobkin | 102 |
| 25 | Sara Mehalick | 106 |

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

SPEAKERS CONTINUED

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Lauriana Capone | 107 |
| Keith Brunner | 109 |
| Roger Sturtevant | 112 |
| Jennifer Vyhnak | 114 |
| Alice Eckles | 116 |
| Jono Chapin | 118 |
| Tim Searles | 120 |
| Glenn Symon | 123 |
| Ross Conrad | 124 |
| John Madden | 126 |
| Jason Kaye | 129 |
| Jane Palmer | 131 |
| Matt Baldwin | 134 |
| Nancy Menard | 135 |
| Hugh Dunkley | 136 |
| Michael Hurlburt | 138 |
| Tim Smith | 141 |
| Bill Mraz | 143 |
| Ben Wilson | 146 |
| Jan Demers | 148 |
| Patrick Norton | 150 |
| Bill Townsend | 153 |
| Robin Scheu | 155 |
| Avery Pittman | 156 |
| Fred Dunnington | 159 |
| Frank Cioffi | 161 |
| Tom Torti | 163 |
| Aldo Speroni | 164 |
| Richard Nessen | 166 |
| Laura Farrell | 168 |
| Maurice Bissonnette | 169 |

1 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I would like to start
2 the hearing. Could I have your attention
3 please. If I could get your attention
4 please, I would like to start.

5 I would like to welcome you all here
6 tonight. I would like to thank you for
7 being here. This is a Public Service Board
8 public hearing, Docket Number 7970, in which
9 the Board is considering a request from
10 Vermont Gas Systems to construct the Addison
11 Natural Gas Project, a 43-mile gas
12 transmission line in Chittenden and Addison
13 County with certain additional distribution
14 and gate station facilities.

15 My name is Jim Volz. I'm the Chair of
16 the Public Service Board. With me this
17 evening are Board members; on my right is
18 David Coen; on my left is John Burke. We
19 also have four staff members here, and they
20 are around with information if you need to
21 learn -- if you have any questions about
22 logistics, you could ask them.

23 The purpose of the hearing is to provide
24 an opportunity for the Public Service Board
25 to hear input regarding the construction of

1 the Addison pipeline project. What I mean
2 by that is we are here to hear from you
3 folks. This is not a question and answer
4 session. This is not an informational
5 meeting about the project. It's to take
6 comments from the public about the project.

7 It will be -- tonight's public hearing
8 will be transcribed by a court reporter.
9 The transcript along with other comments
10 received by the Board at the public hearings
11 and in writing become part of the case's
12 public file so that Board members, staff and
13 the participants in the case can consider
14 the comments. These comments are especially
15 helpful in raising new issues or
16 perspectives that the Board should consider.
17 So we look forward to hearing your input.

18 In particular, the public frequently
19 raises questions that aren't being addressed
20 specifically by the parties in the case, and
21 when that happens, we become aware of those
22 issues, and then we pursue them ourselves in
23 the hearing room. So that's the kind of
24 information we are looking for.

25 I would like to also mention that it is

1 not the only opportunity for input. The
2 Board has scheduled a second public hearing
3 in this case to be held on September 11 in
4 Middlebury. You can also provide input to
5 the Board by E-mail and regular mail. Our
6 E-mail address is PSB.clerk@state.vt.us.
7 The mailing address is Vermont Public
8 Service Board, 112 State Street, Drawer 20,
9 Montpelier, Vermont, 05620. Additional
10 information about this docket is available
11 on the Board's Web site which you can get to
12 through the state's Web site or the actual
13 address is www.state.vt.us/psb.

14 Finally I want to make sure parties
15 understand the Board's function. The Board
16 is a quasi-judicial agency charged with
17 making decisions in cases regarding
18 utilities. Under Vermont structure there is
19 a separate state organization, the
20 Department of Public Service, charged with
21 representing the interests of the people of
22 the state in proceedings before the Board.
23 They probably have a representative here
24 tonight who I didn't notice.

25 (Ms. Porter and Mr. Duggan raising

1 hands.)

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Down front here. Feel
3 free to talk to them also about your
4 concerns because they are the ones who are
5 actually representing you.

6 The format of the hearing is if you want
7 to speak and you signed up on the sign-up
8 sheet, we are going -- because of the large
9 number of people who have signed up, we are
10 going to have to limit your comments to a
11 couple of minutes each. And we will give
12 you a heads up when you start to run out of
13 time. You can -- if you have written
14 comments it's very helpful if you turn them
15 in to us tonight. That will help the court
16 reporter as well.

17 You can also comment, as I said,
18 additionally by sending us regular mail or
19 E-mail, and we read all of those. If we get
20 through listening to everybody and there is
21 still more time, then we can consider having
22 people come back and add some more comments.
23 We are hoping to spend about three hours,
24 from 7 to 10, doing this. And around 10 we
25 will sort of see where we are on the list,

1 and if we haven't heard from everyone, we
2 will try to get everyone in, but we may have
3 to defer you until the next hearing.

4 So the way this will work is I will call
5 out the people who have signed up. I'll
6 call out three names at a time. If you just
7 go the closest microphone we have got one
8 down here, and one over here.

9 The purpose of this hearing, as I said
10 early, is for us to hear from you. You need
11 to face us and the court reporter and speak
12 to us. This isn't an opportunity for you to
13 speak to the crowd. It's an opportunity for
14 you to speak to us. That's the point of
15 this.

16 So what I'll do is I'll call out three
17 names at a time. If you would go to the
18 nearest mike in the order that I called you
19 up, then that probably will be the most
20 efficient way to do it. Maybe I'll call
21 four names at a time. And state your name
22 for the court reporter. And if it's
23 something that's difficult, you may -- she
24 may ask you to spell it, or you need to
25 spell it.

1 Okay, so the first people that signed up
2 are Al Gobeille, Jeffrey Messina, Lisa
3 Ventriss and Tom Donahue. If you would
4 please go to the nearest microphones, I'd
5 appreciate it. Also if other Board members
6 want to add something to this --

7 MR. BURKE: I'm going to be keeping the
8 time here, and what I'll do is when you have
9 15 seconds left, I'll tell you 15 seconds.
10 I would ask you to try to do the best you
11 can to finish up quickly. There is a lot of
12 you that want to speak tonight. All of you
13 are neighbors. A lot of you have respect
14 for each other, no matter whether you agree
15 on this. So I would ask you to kind of keep
16 our rules and try to move along so we hear
17 from as many of you as possible. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Okay. Al Gobeille.

19 MR. GOBEILLE: How are you? My name is
20 actually Al Gobeille. I'm a restaurant
21 owner from Burlington. I own the Shanty,
22 Breakwaters and Burlington Bay Market and
23 Cafe. I chair the Burlington Business
24 Association, and I wear several other hats.
25 One of which is a football coach at this

1 great school which is probably my best hat.
2 And I also, in case you think I'm just a pro
3 business guy, I'm a member of the Green
4 Mountain Care Board, and we work hard every
5 day to try to bring universal health care to
6 Vermont. So I'm kind of a diverse guy.

7 But when I look at this issue, I do not
8 mean to disrespect the homeowners or the
9 environment, but I have to look at this
10 issue through the lens of my business and my
11 family and my employees. In my company I
12 currently use 29 thousand dollars a year of
13 natural gas. If I was to purchase the same
14 amount of propane it would cost 81 thousand
15 dollars a year. The difference is over one
16 percent of my sales, which means in an
17 industry where one to two percent is the
18 margin we make in a year we don't flood, or
19 in a year that's a good year, switching to
20 propane or partial oil and partial propane
21 would almost take away all of my profit.
22 And I think that the lens of economic
23 development that you have to look at this
24 through has to be a consideration.

25 That doesn't mean everyone that is going

1 to speak after me doesn't have other good
2 considerations, but I could not operate my
3 company on propane. And that's just -- it's
4 just the truth. I'm currently working to
5 put solar on the roof of one of my
6 restaurants. It's going to be able to run a
7 three-door cooler and not even a blender in
8 our creamy window. It just can't get me
9 over the top of what I need.

10 And so I hope you will consider the
11 business side of this, because I know there
12 is going to be a lot of people with a lot of
13 other viewpoints, and I'm not disrespecting
14 them. But as a small business guy trying to
15 pay my bills, natural gas is my friend.

16 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

17 MR. GOBEILLE: And thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jeffrey
19 Messina.

20 MR. MESSINA: Jeffrey Messina. M as in
21 Michael, E-S-S as in Sam, I-N-A. Messina.
22 Spelling bee.

23 I'm an attorney with Bergeron, Paradis &
24 Fitzpatrick. I'm here to represent a
25 landowner. It's a little confusing. We

1 think at first the pipeline was supposed to
2 go through their property. Now it seemed
3 that it may be abutting their property, but
4 we are not actually sure which one that is.
5 But regardless of that, we have a concern
6 for the land valuation, what will actually
7 happen. They have been offered an amount
8 for an easement. And we are curious as to
9 the amount of, how that number was derived,
10 what happens with property waste, and the
11 safety of the installation and the
12 maintenance of the line.

13 Those are the concerns that we have.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Lisa Ventriss.

16 MS. VENTRISS: Good evening. Lisa
17 Ventriss. V-E-N-T-R-I-S-S. I'm President
18 of Vermont Business Round Table, which is an
19 organization designed as a civic welfare
20 organization looking at long-range policy
21 issues that benefit all Vermonters. On
22 behalf of our 120 CEO members, I speak
23 tonight in support of construction of the
24 Addison Natural Gas Project. This
25 initiative is an important infrastructure

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project, worthy of discussion and support for several reasons. Its most positive attributes support the state's overall policy goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide Vermonters with lower cost, cleaner and efficient sources for heating homes and businesses, and reduced truck traffic along our highways and to our picturesque villages.

When completed it will promote the vitality of Addison County's economy. The region is home to a variety of enterprises all of which could benefit from this expansion plan. A blend of traditional and new-age agricultural businesses, an internationally renowned academic community that fosters world-class learning and competitive entrepreneurship, and thriving communities and villages that provide residents with modern high-tech conveniences while living in a rural area that is home to over 300 buildings placed on the National Historic Register.

The project will benefit municipal, corporate and family budgets as well by

1 providing tax payments of roughly \$40,000
2 per mile to towns that host the pipeline
3 serving 3,000 Vermont customers and offering
4 consumer savings and reduced energy costs of
5 over 200 million dollars over 20 years,
6 monies that can be redirected into the
7 economy by business and residents alike.

8 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

9 MS. VENTRISS: Thank you for your
10 consideration.

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Tom Donahue.
12 Before you start, I would like to call four
13 more people. Sam -- I can't read it,
14 Koplinka-Loehr. And Anna
15 Shireman-Grabowski, Ken Perine and Scudder
16 Parker. Thank you.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 My name is Tom Donahue. I'm on the Rutland
19 Regional Chamber of Commerce. I'm here this
20 evening to support my colleagues to the
21 north who are advocates for the Addison
22 Natural Gas Pipeline Project.

23 We believe the western corridor of the
24 State of Vermont is at a disadvantage on a
25 number of fronts. We have been trying for

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years to support infrastructure investment and such things as air, rail and now natural gas. Our rail in the western corridor is deficient, and when we talk about things like that, and natural gas coming to the western side of the State of Vermont, it doesn't necessarily give us an advantage in business, and in fact, we are at a distinct disadvantage without it when trying to compete nationally to not only attract business but to retain the business and the jobs that we have currently. So we believe very strongly that this type of infrastructure investment is important to Vermonters on the western side of the State of Vermont. And from the Rutland perspective not only supporting our colleagues in Addison for extension to Middlebury, but it will get 17 miles closer to Rutland which we would someday hope would be connected.

Lastly I just want to mention as a homeowner this is something that as a secondary benefit the homeowners in our region would be able to enjoy because of the

1 demand for the gas that would be commanded
2 by our businesses that would desire to use
3 it. We really advocate for your
4 consideration for this extension, and we
5 appreciate your time this evening. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Sam.

8 MR. KOPLINKA-LOEHR: My name is Sam
9 Koplinka-Loehr. K-O-P-L-I-N-K-A hyphen L-O-
10 E-H-R.

11 Half my family lives in Vermont; half my
12 family lives in upstate New York. I'm
13 currently a Middlebury College student.
14 You'll hear later from the treasurer of
15 Middlebury College who has submitted on
16 behalf of Middlebury College in support of
17 the pipeline. I come tonight to say that
18 Middlebury College students stand against
19 the pipeline in its support and solidarity
20 with communities that are resisting the
21 eminent domain of the pipeline owner.

22 This is an issue primarily of
23 governance. While I'm a white male, I think
24 white males have a lot to offer, having
25 three white men decide the future for an

1 entire community is entirely
2 unrepresentative of governance, so rather
3 than issuing a Certificate of Public Good
4 where this company can pursue eminent domain
5 against wishes of the communities, I
6 encourage you to put this up to a vote and
7 have people decide for themselves.

8 Secondly, I personally grew up in
9 upstate New York. Right now we are facing a
10 battle with fracking. While it's great that
11 here in Vermont there is a ban on fracking,
12 communities around the northeast and in
13 Canada have faced hydrofracking which is
14 polluting our water and all the landowners
15 around my land where I grow up, have leases
16 on their land for hydrofracking, which means
17 that as soon as that goes forward, my water
18 will be polluted. And I will have to have
19 water trucked in so that I can have safe
20 drinking water.

21 It's great again that Vermont has a ban
22 on hydro fracking, but understanding that by
23 creating a demand here, we are creating a
24 supply of polluted water elsewhere. So I
25 come here tonight to ask you to stand

1 against the pipeline and ask you to give
2 governance over to the communities that will
3 be directly affected.

4 (Applause).

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: We would appreciate it
6 if people wouldn't clap or call out. That's
7 not the purpose of this. We are -- we would
8 like to hear from the people speaking.

9 Thank you. Anna.

10 MS. SHIREMAN-GRABOWSKI: Anna.

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Spell your last name.

12 MS. SHIREMAN-GRABOWSKI: Anna

13 S-H-I-R-E-M-A-N hyphen G-R-A-B-O-W-S-K -I.

14 And I just want to briefly take this chance
15 to talk to the Public Service Board to
16 consider who they are making decisions for
17 when they are making a decision about this
18 new pipeline. And I want to give a shout
19 out to young people and say that, you know,
20 these pipelines and these decisions don't
21 just affect Vermonters and don't just affect
22 us here, they are going to lock us into
23 pretty serious irreversible climate change,
24 and I want to make sure that you all are
25 considering what kind of effects that will

1 have on those who don't necessarily have a
2 way to weigh in on this decision.

3 And I want to echo Sam in saying I'm
4 also a Middlebury College student, and the
5 students are standing with the communities
6 that don't want this going through their
7 homes and their farms and upsetting their
8 livelihoods, and several professors are as
9 well, and we are working really hard to
10 encourage our college to withdraw their
11 support of the project.

12 And we had a really good meeting with
13 the Chief Officer of Sustainability
14 Integration yesterday, and I just want to
15 let everyone know, because I know it's part
16 of the filing, Middlebury's letter of
17 support, that that's not something that we
18 are necessarily certain that it's going to
19 stay the way it is. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Ken Perine.

21 MR. PERINE: Name is Ken Perine, it's
22 spelled P as in Peter, E-R-I-N-E. I'm here
23 representing the Middlebury Business
24 Development Fund Advisory Board. Middlebury
25 Business Development Fund is a long-term

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economic development initiative which will focus on creating good jobs close to home through business development, with an emphasis on recruiting new business to the Town of Middlebury.

As the Middlebury Business Development Advisory Board we are writing to reinforce and expand on Middlebury Select Board's letter of December 18, 2012 supporting the extension of natural gas to Middlebury. We believe that the extension of natural gas to Middlebury is essential to our business development effort.

Natural gas service to Middlebury is important to one, help high users of energy operate with lower overhead that will allow them to stay here in Middlebury and/or provide services at reduced costs. Two, provide an alternative energy source as we develop our renewable thermal energy capacity. And three, lower the cost of thermal energy in our region as the cost of energy is a significant hurdle to economic development and business recruitment.

With reference to the Middlebury

1 Planning Commission's letter of support
2 dated December 13, 2012, we strongly
3 encourage Vermont Gas to engage the
4 communities and households through which the
5 pipeline will travel prior to any
6 engineering. We look forward to the
7 availability of natural gas as an important
8 addition to our economic development.
9 Sincerely, Nick Artim, Patrick Norton, John
10 Tenney, David Donahue, Connie Leach, Ken
11 Perine and Amy McGlashin (phoenetic) and the
12 Area Business Development Advisory Board.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next is
15 Scudder Parker. I would like to call up Bob
16 Wellington, Bob Foster, Jamie Stewart and
17 Leslie Reagan-Caer.

18 Mr. Parker.

19 MR. PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 My name is Scudder Parker, and I'm the
21 Policy Director for Vermont Energy
22 Investment Corporation. In 2011 VEIC
23 submitted a letter in Docket 7712 that
24 created a System Expansion and Reliability
25 Fund supporting that creation of that fund.

1 I understand this is the project enabled in
2 part by that fund. And we are consistent in
3 supporting the -- this expansion.

4 We are not commenting on the issues
5 about location and siting, but we had
6 several issues that I think it bears on all
7 of us to consider. We are the implementer
8 of Efficiency Vermont. We partner closely
9 with Vermont Gas where they are serving
10 their customers because they are mandated to
11 deliver efficiency services. They do that
12 well. We do that in a coordinated way with
13 them and give customers integrated
14 efficiency services. That includes thermal
15 efficiency to make their buildings more
16 efficient and combustion efficiency in the
17 systems that use the gas.

18 There is an opportunity through this
19 expansion to add a new site for fueling
20 fleet vehicles, which would displace fossil
21 fuel that is more -- far more polluting. It
22 is important to note that the fuels that gas
23 would be displacing do not -- if they are
24 delivered -- fossil fuels do not offer
25 efficiency services to their customers

1 comparable to this.

2 Efficiency Vermont tries to help with
3 those, but the funds to do that are very
4 limited. We believe there are potential
5 benefits in terms of land use planning and
6 siting, in that gas tends to create in-fill
7 opportunities for new construction. So that
8 in the long run the siting and planning of
9 location of buildings reduces the total
10 amount of energy that's needed.

11 Price has already been mentioned.
12 Variability and fluctuation in price is
13 another concern, and it is less with natural
14 gas.

15 But we also want to make it clear that
16 we don't think natural gas is the long-term
17 solution. We think it's an interim
18 solution. It is preferable to the
19 alternatives that Vermonters have available
20 to them now. As we develop a more efficient
21 infrastructure and economy, and as we
22 develop renewable fuels to meet more and
23 more of our energy needs --

24 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

25 MR. PARKER: To be realistic I think

1 it's important to recognize that this does
2 create an economic opportunity and an
3 environmental benefit for Vermonters. Thank
4 you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Mr.
6 Wellington.

7 MR. WELLINGTON: Good evening. My name
8 is Bob Wellington. I'm with Agri-Mark Dairy
9 Co-op. I have a two-page statement I'll
10 E-mail to the Board. I'll hit on some of
11 the key points.

12 Agri-Mark is a farmer-owned cooperative
13 with 1,200 members in Vermont, New York and
14 New England. We own the Cabot Dairy
15 Products business. We operate five
16 manufacturing facilities in and near Vermont
17 including our largest cheese producing plant
18 in Middlebury. The Middlebury plant uses
19 the milk of more than 200 local family dairy
20 farms each day and approximately 115
21 employees that produce over 50 million
22 pounds of award-winning cheddar cheese each
23 year. It is sold throughout Vermont and the
24 nation.

25 In addition, the cheese-making process

1 strives to produce one of 8 million pounds
2 of whey protein concentrate and 40 million
3 pounds of dry processed solids. Dry Milk
4 products that are sold nationally and
5 internationally.

6 It takes a huge amount of energy to
7 produce the cheese and whey products,
8 particularly so because the whey must be
9 condensed and dried. The plant usually uses
10 about a tanker full of number 6 fuel oil
11 each day. This oil must be trucked into
12 Vermont across its roads and streets at a
13 high cost to Agri-Mark and its farmer
14 owners.

15 Using natural gas in place of fuel oil
16 provides significant cost savings and will
17 be a large factor in keeping that plant
18 operating over time. We expect to have
19 savings close to \$3 million a year, and
20 those savings are really reduced costs,
21 because our costs are so high right now,
22 this will help keep our plant open and
23 competitive.

24 In addition to the economic savings to
25 our plants and the communities and other

1 businesses, the use of natural gas in place
2 of fuel oil has substantial environmental
3 benefits. It burns much cleaner and reduce
4 our carbon footprint significantly.

5 Sustainability is very important to our
6 business and farmer owners as well as the
7 communities in which we operate.

8 The availability of natural gas is a
9 win/win for the Vermont farm owners of our
10 Cooperative and for the communities in the
11 State of Vermont.

12 Thank you for allowing me to testify.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Bob Foster.

14 MR. FOSTER: My name is Bob Foster. I
15 farm with my family on a fifth generation
16 farm and composting operation in Middlebury,
17 Vermont.

18 For full disclosure I serve as Director
19 of Region 8 of Agri-Mark Cabot Cooperative
20 which has 65 members, member owners, in this
21 region alone.

22 The proposed gas line lies entirely
23 within the region that I'm director of. The
24 proposed route in fact goes through our farm
25 property. Probably in the second phase, it

1 might in the first phase, following either
2 the VELCO route or Green Mountain Power
3 right of way to its final location.

4 I would like to address the project from
5 several levels. The first is the economic
6 impact on the region. Most of the economic
7 activity in this region is driven by
8 entrepreneurial, locally grown businesses,
9 as well as our service economy, all of which
10 use energy. In an ever-growing global
11 economy, energy plays an important role in
12 the sustainability of those businesses and
13 jobs that they provide.

14 The extension of the gas lines in
15 Ticonderoga mill in the second phase helps
16 to ensure the jobs at that plant and the
17 supporting forest resource community. More
18 specifically, the current market prices
19 switching from number 6 as Mr. Wellington
20 indicated, results in a saving of
21 approximately \$3 million per year. This
22 savings substantially helps the bottom line
23 of the Cooperative. Profits from the
24 Cooperative are then distributed to the
25 farmer members in forms of patronage, both

1 in cash and allocation, and shoring up our
2 agricultural sector.

3 It is also important to remember the
4 fact that our current dairy infrastructure
5 is the foundation for efforts to diversify
6 our agricultural base.

7 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

8 MR. FOSTER: From an impacted dairy
9 farmer's perspective, I believe the
10 advantages outweigh the disadvantages. And
11 I have a number of comments and I'll share
12 those with you.

13 I look forward to a future that allows
14 me to use natural gas to power my equipment
15 and heat my homes and buildings as well as
16 the future economy that is broader based,
17 built on Vermont's entrepreneurial spirit
18 providing good jobs and healthy communities.
19 The gas line is a positive step in that
20 direction.

21 I would be happy to answer any questions
22 or you can E-mail. I've included it.

23 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jamie
24 Stewart.

25 MR. STEWART: Good evening. My name is

1 Jamie Stewart, S-T-E-W-A-R-T. I'm the
2 Executive Director of Rutland Economic
3 Development Corporation. Our organization
4 strongly supports Vermont Gas company's
5 application to the PSB, for approval to
6 provide natural gas service to communities
7 south of Chittenden County. We view this
8 project as a major step toward achieving our
9 goal in securing natural gas service to
10 Rutland County.

11 The primary reason for supporting this
12 application are first, the health of our
13 existing industry. Businesses in our region
14 currently operate at a disadvantage to the
15 competition located in regions of Vermont or
16 other states that currently have natural gas
17 available. For industry to continue to grow
18 in Rutland County, access to a sufficient
19 fuel source is critical from a cost basis
20 and from an environmental. Bottom line is
21 that these guys are using a large amount of
22 number two and number six fuel oil that
23 would be displaced by the natural gas as
24 well as propane.

25 Secondly, the lack of natural gas as an

1 option negatively impacts our ability to
2 recruit new businesses to the region. In
3 the fall of 2011 REDC hosted a visit by
4 several national site consultants in the
5 effort to market the region's strengths.
6 One of the consultants, Donnie Pozlowski,
7 (phoenetic) was focused on the specialty
8 food industry. As he explained, their job
9 was to eliminate sites from consideration,
10 to limit the options as part of the site
11 search. Our lack of natural gas service
12 meant we would be eliminated in the first
13 round of consideration for specialty food
14 industries.

15 As part of my job at REDC I spent a lot
16 of time meeting and talking with business
17 owners and managers. The high cost of
18 energy is increasingly becoming a burden on
19 their ability to operate in Vermont. We
20 have a large number of industries located in
21 the county that would derive major benefit
22 from access to low-cost natural gas, and
23 they express their support of the extension.

24 We urge the Public Service Board to
25 approve this project without costly

1 conditions that would delay future expansion
2 to Rutland. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Leslie Reagan-Caer. I
4 would like at this time to call Thelma
5 (Kitty) Oxholm, Wayne Cota, Ivor Hughes, and
6 Lisa Marchetti.

7 MS. REAGAN-CAER: Leslie Reagan-Caer, R-
8 E-A-G-A-N hyphen C-A-E-R from Middlebury.
9 Thank you.

10 There are two unarguable truths I put
11 before you. Life cannot survive without
12 water. Two, the practice of hydraulic
13 fracturing has and continues to cause
14 irreparable damage to our drinking water
15 supply on this planet.

16 I don't believe anyone here today could
17 possibly tell me that Vermonters are only
18 concerned with drinking water supplies
19 inside our own borders. We, the citizens of
20 Vermont, are neither that unethical or that
21 unintelligent.

22 Vermonters understand how an ecosystem
23 works, that water is the most basic law of
24 all life. And that while life on the planet
25 can and will survive without fossil fuels,

1 none of us can survive without clean
2 drinking water. It is therefore our
3 responsibility to ensure that our actions
4 protect the water supply on the planet.

5 Vermonters understand that toxins travel
6 not only through an ecosystem but through
7 the food chain. Crops grown and animals
8 raised on water and land contaminated by
9 nearly 600 chemicals from fracked water and
10 vapors, including known human carcinogens,
11 voc's and heavy metals are highly toxic.

12 Though we in Vermont are leaders in the
13 local food movement, we still transport the
14 majority of our food from outside our
15 borders. It is therefore our responsibility
16 to ensure that our actions protect the food
17 supply coming from outside of Vermont.

18 In 2005 the natural gas industry along
19 with the oil industry became exempt from
20 obeying the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water
21 Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Gas
22 and oil companies have denied the public and
23 governmental regulatory bodies such as the
24 EPA access to information about the many
25 hundreds of fracking chemicals they use.

1 Were it not for the independent studies, we
2 would not know the names of the chemicals to
3 which humans, animals and plant life are
4 being exposed and which we are now learning,
5 far exceed public safety levels.

6 As Vermonters it is our responsibility
7 to make sure our actions are not complicit
8 with unregulated practices of fracking that
9 have already emitted astonishing and unsafe
10 levels of toxins into the air, land and
11 water we depend upon.

12 Vermont Gas's plan to import fracked gas
13 through Vermont would be an action that
14 contributes to destroying the water supply,
15 poisoning the food supply, and exposing life
16 and the environment to unsafe levels of
17 toxicity.

18 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

19 MS. REAGAN-CAER: Is it in the public
20 good to allow fracking chemicals to pose a
21 known and definite risk to public health and
22 the ecosystem in exchange for the
23 questionable and short-term economic benefit
24 of extending the Vermont Gas pipeline
25 through Vermont to International Paper and

1 the National Grid? If so, I would request
2 to see the risk benefit analysis that bears
3 that to be true.

4 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Ms. Oxholm.

5 MS. OXHOLM: I am Thelma (Kitty) Oxholm,
6 O-X-H-O-L-M. I'm former Mayor of Vergennes
7 and a former state legislator, and a retired
8 school administrator.

9 And today I speak in support of Vermont
10 Gas System's plan to extend their
11 distribution system into Addison County.
12 And I encourage the Public Service Board to
13 approve this expansion. As a resident of
14 Vergennes, I of course, recognize the
15 benefits to individuals and families.
16 Having the availability of this alternative
17 energy source is estimated to save the
18 average homeowner between 1,500 and 1,900
19 dollars per year. This certainly will help
20 my retirement budget, and natural gas will
21 be cleaner to use than other available
22 fuels.

23 My experience in municipal and state
24 government tells me though that the benefits
25 will be far more expansive than saving on my

1 heating bill. Having the availability of
2 natural gas in Addison County's more densely
3 developed business centers will support
4 greatly the economic strength of our county.
5 Current businesses and industries which have
6 struggled with energy bills even more as the
7 economy has shifted will have some relief.

8 In addition, this availability will help
9 to make the playing field more level for
10 Addison County to attract desirable new
11 businesses and industry that otherwise might
12 go to Chittenden County or even to another
13 state.

14 We need this expansion, and I urge you
15 to approve it. Thank you for your
16 attention.

17 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Wayne Cota.

18 MR. COTA: I'm Wayne Cota. C-O-T-A.
19 I'm President and owner of Weston Pulpwood
20 Sales in Essex, Vermont. I'm the third
21 generation to operate this business.

22 Our company has been contracted to
23 supply wood to International Paper since the
24 1930s. 15 percent of International Paper
25 fiber come from Vermont. We have a lot of

1 local professional loggers, farmers and
2 sugar makers in the Addison, Chittenden and
3 surrounding counties that depend on
4 International Paper and the forest industry.

5 When there is good business, economy
6 thrives. We commend International Paper and
7 Vermont Gas for turning to alternative
8 energy, and we need this pipeline to go
9 through. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Ivor Hughes.

11 MR. HUGHES: Ivor Hughes from Monkton.
12 The Addison Natural Gas Pipeline has been a
13 disaster for Monkton. It has resulted
14 already in the town having to implement a
15 tax increase. This has been brought about
16 by the appalling treatment and the total
17 disregard for the town, its residents,
18 affected landowners by Vermont Gas.

19 Monkton was blind-sided by the ANGP when
20 it was learned that a high-pressure gas
21 transmission pipeline corridor was routed
22 through the middle of our town and close to
23 the school. Residents were dismayed. The
24 route made no logical sense, was an
25 ecological and safety disaster in the

1 making.

2 Due to the outpouring of protests, this
3 pipeline has been moved. The brush with
4 Vermont Gas made the town cautious and
5 distrustful of how the company conducted
6 itself. Consequently Monkton voted to raise
7 its taxes at town meeting in order to come
8 up with money for a legal defense fund to
9 protect them from the commandeering nature
10 of Vermont Gas.

11 As far as Monkton is concerned, there
12 has been no and will be no public good. We
13 have had to raise our taxes. We will not
14 receive natural gas, there is no gate
15 station to the town. While Vermont Gas
16 cherry picks customers from the surrounding
17 towns, those of us who are reliant on truck
18 fuel will see our fuel costs rise as this
19 market and number of dealers decline.

20 Financial reimbursement alluded to by
21 Vermont Gas is not even likely to cover our
22 legal representation. In these tough, tough
23 economic times when many people are
24 struggling financially, residents are having
25 to dig deeper in the pockets for a project

1 which they will receive no tangible benefit.
2 This process needs to be fixed. Innocent
3 bystanders should not have to help finance
4 this project. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next is Lisa
6 Marchetti. And I would like to call at this
7 time Jennifer Baker, Colin Kriwox, I can't
8 read that, Renee McGuinness and Julie
9 Mitchell.

10 MS. MARCHETTI: Hi. I'm Lisa Marchetti
11 from Monkton. My comments are to Vermont
12 Gas's economic filing by J. Carr. There are
13 three areas of concern that should be
14 rectified.

15 First, Vermont Gas is in a privileged
16 position of being able to use Chittenden,
17 Franklin County consumers' money to fund the
18 ANGP. This amounts to 10.5 million dollars
19 in 2013. While this is accounted for as an
20 ANGP gain, it fails to account for
21 Chittenden and Franklin County loss of 10.5
22 million dollars in disposable income. As
23 disposable income is often considered to be
24 respent many times over, its apparent worth
25 could be as high as 20 million dollars.

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This is a significant amount of money to withdraw from the local economy. Its impact should be assessed and accounted for.

Secondly, the analysis fails to account for the major expenses faced by towns from legal defense funds. Monkton has found this out through bitter experience and has already had to increase its town taxes.

There are six towns on the pipeline with a possibility of nine total. Each town can expect to have to dig into their pockets for 50,000 to \$100,000; a total of from three hundred thousand to nine hundred thousand dollars. This is dead money as it buys no tangible goods and is a loss of disposable income and a disservice to Addison County residents.

Thirdly, Vermont Gas will subcontract the ANGP to pipeline construction specialists. It is therefore likely that a high percentage of the 800 construction jobs predicted will actually go to out-of-state workers as will the money. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jennifer Baker.

1 MS. BAKER: I'm here today to talk about
2 the process by which this pipeline landed in
3 my town, which is Monkton. The filing for
4 this proposal is 2,592 pages long.
5 Landowners get a three-page notification
6 that doesn't really notify them of anything.
7 All it says is if you want more information,
8 go read this filing.

9 Supposedly all the stakeholders in this
10 process were consulted in advance, but the
11 biggest stakeholders of all are the
12 landowners who are being compelled to host
13 this pipeline without their consent. They
14 were deliberately excluded, and due to lack
15 of an access to a very expensive, very
16 highly legalistic process, will continue to
17 be left out because the way the system is
18 set up right now, it's a pay-to-play system.
19 And without legal representation it's nearly
20 impossible to participate.

21 So what we have here is a very severe
22 asymmetry of time and information, and
23 Vermont Gas has had two years to prepare
24 this filing. They have put together this
25 huge pile of information, landowners get

1 less than a month to dig through it all to
2 figure out how they are affected. And there
3 is another giant imbalance, and that's
4 money. And Vermont Gas can spend millions
5 on making their case, but there is no
6 resources available to impacted landowners
7 to formulate any kind of response.

8 So you, as the PSB, could make a ruling
9 that will require the Vermont Gas will bear
10 as part of the overall project cost the
11 ability for landowners to have some sort of
12 meaningful representation in this process.

13 This is not like an energy generation
14 siting or even a VELCO project where the
15 property rights have already been secured in
16 advance. They are trying to build this
17 project with other people's money,
18 ratepayers' money. Ratepayers are
19 represented by the Public Service
20 Department, and then they are building it on
21 other people's land, and those people do not
22 have any representation in the process.

23 So --

24 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

25 MS. BAKER: -- I'm asking you today to

1 give some sort of representation to the
2 landowners in Monkton and in the other
3 towns. This is really important because
4 Vermont Gas has already been going around
5 town asking people to sign documents that
6 would amend their deeds, and these are
7 people's largest assets without any benefit
8 of counsel.

9 And I just don't think that's the way we
10 should be doing business here in Vermont.

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your time is up.

12 MR. BURKE: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Colin -- couldn't say
14 your last name.

15 MR. KRIWOX: It's K-R-I-W-O-X. Kriwox.
16 I am here today to discuss the public safety
17 aspect of the Addison Natural Gas Pipeline.
18 It appears that Vermont Gas has been
19 locating their pipeline with no
20 consideration for people whatsoever. Some
21 examples include Monkton placing a pipeline
22 right down the street, right next to schools
23 and people's homes.

24 You received a letter from the Select
25 Board from New Haven. And they were

1 requesting the pipe be moved from the east
2 side of Route 74 to the west side of Route
3 74 so it wouldn't go through the parking lot
4 of the Hospice. And now the proposed option
5 is to run it right through Cornwall, right
6 through the center of town.

7 Vermont Gas has claimed that the
8 pipeline will be safe. However, there is
9 strong evidence that accidents happen every
10 year. In fact, according to the Pipeline
11 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
12 looking at 10-year average, there are 56
13 significant pipeline incidences every year
14 on average. There are on average two
15 fatalities. On average there are 11 people
16 who have to receive inpatient
17 hospitalization, and the property damage
18 averages 103 million.

19 The proposed 12-inch pipeline at a
20 maximum allowed operating pressure, which is
21 1,440 PSI, could have a significant impact
22 on people and/or property if it was within
23 314 feet. And that's according to the Code
24 of Federal Regulations, Title 49 CFR 192.9.

25 The distance is defined as the potential

1 impact radius and is calculated based on the
2 size and pressure of the pipe. It is
3 unconscionable to locate a pipe so as to
4 involuntarily make Vermont citizens in their
5 homes permanent residents inside the
6 potential impact radius.

7 I respectfully ask the Public Service
8 Board to require Vermont Gas to take into
9 account the human lives along this pipeline.
10 I ask that you consider the significance of
11 safety and how a pipeline failure could have
12 unintended consequences. Although a
13 single-family home in Vermont does not
14 qualify as a high consequence area according
15 to federal regulations --

16 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

17 MR. KRIWOX: -- please consider the
18 lives of innocent residents just as valuable
19 as the lives of people in community centers,
20 general stores, and prisons.

21 Please require Vermont Gas to relocate
22 this pipeline outside the potential impact
23 radius to help protect town buildings, homes
24 and wells. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Renee

1 McGuinness.

2 MS. MCGUINNESS: Renee McGuinness. M-C
3 -G-U-I-N-N-E-S-S. The math according to
4 Vermont Gas. The Addison Natural Gas
5 Project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions
6 by three hundred thousand tons over a 20-
7 year period. That's from the prefiled
8 testimony of Eileen Simollardes. Three
9 hundred thousand tons over 20 years is
10 15,000 tons per year. But just what are
11 Vermont Gas's Vermont greenhouse gas
12 emissions anyway? According to the Agency
13 of Natural Resources' Vermont Greenhouse Gas
14 Emissions Inventory Update from 1990 to 2008
15 Vermont's total greenhouse gas emissions in
16 2008 were 8.37 million metric tons.

17 So first a little conversion. One ton
18 equals 0.9072 metric tons. So 15,000 tons
19 actually is 13,608 metric tons. So the
20 greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by
21 13,608 metric tons annually. That 13,608
22 metric tons as a portion of 8.37 million
23 metric tons is point 00162 or 0.16 percent.

24 The cost of the Addison Natural Gas
25 Project for phase one is 86.6 million

1 dollars minus the 20 million paid for by
2 International Paper resulting in an end cost
3 of 66.6 million for the ratepayers.

4 In conclusion, the Addison Natural Gas
5 Project will cost ratepayers 66.6 million
6 but will only reduce annual greenhouse gas
7 emissions by 0.16 percent. Do the benefits
8 outweigh the costs? The answers suggest no.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Julie
10 Mitchell.

11 MS. MITCHELL: Julie Mitchell.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I want to call four more
13 people. Ken Wheeling, Marshall Paulsen,
14 Garry Douglas and Chris Mallon or Mallum.

15 MS. MITCHELL: Julie Mitchell, Monkton,
16 Vermont.

17 The Addison Natural Gas Project is not
18 being paid for by Vermont Gas. It is being
19 largely funded by the ratepayers of
20 Chittenden and Franklin Counties. It is up
21 to the Public Service Board to see that this
22 expenditure is in the public good. Is this
23 the best use of their dollars?

24 In January the Public Service Department
25 released their Thermal Efficiency Task Force

1 Report to the legislature, and the numbers
2 on this chart shows you their numbers.
3 Funding the recommendations in this report
4 has been a key challenge of this legislative
5 session. What if instead of a System
6 Expansion and Reliability Fund we had a
7 thermal efficiency fund. What if the 66.6
8 million dollars was spent on weatherization
9 instead. 66.6 million dollars divided
10 amongst the 14,159 houses in Addison County
11 would allow every single house 47 hundred
12 dollars for energy audits, air sealing,
13 insulation upgrades. Instead of helping
14 just 21 percent of the households, that's
15 what's being projected for this project in
16 Addison County, savings would be spread
17 among a hundred percent households in the
18 county.

19 The average Vermont home burning fuel
20 oil uses 850 gallons a year. Weatherization
21 can cut this amount by 30 percent. Instead
22 of just converting from one fossil fuel oil
23 to another, gas, we would be using far fewer
24 fossil fuels overall. And the greenhouse
25 gas reductions would be over 30 percent

1 higher. And there would be no expensive
2 furnace conversions for homeowners.

3 It is the responsibility of the Public
4 Service Board and the Public Service
5 Department to use hard numbers to decide
6 what is in the public good and not let these
7 important policy choices be made by a large
8 corporation that is only interested in its
9 bottom line, and not what is truly good for
10 Vermonters.

11 If they were paying for it with their
12 own money it would be different. But they
13 are using ratepayer dollars and Vermonters'
14 land for a plan that is clearly not the best
15 use of either. There is not nearly enough
16 public good here to merit the Certificate of
17 Public Good, nor does the power of eminent
18 domain to seize private property speak to
19 the merit of the well-being or the benefit
20 of the public. Thank you for the
21 opportunity to talk.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Ken
24 Wheeling.

25 MR. WHEELING: Ken Wheeling. W-H-E-E-L

1 -I-N-G. From Monkton.

2 Good evening. I appreciate this
3 opportunity to speak to you. And claim the
4 right to do so as an abutter to a property
5 over which the proposed pipeline will pass.

6 This filing raises again a corollary
7 issue which I think you three gentlemen
8 should specifically address.

9 I would like to begin by reminding you
10 of an oft quoted sentence from Cisero's
11 Oration against Catiline which I learned in
12 third-year Latin, Quo usque tandem abutere,
13 patientia nostra, translated that means how
14 long will you abuse our patience.

15 I rise to speak about the long and
16 consistent practice of the utilities playing
17 foot loose and fancy free with the property
18 rights of individual landowners, and walking
19 wholesale into towns to threaten them,
20 cajole them, and instill worry, fright and
21 real terror among the populous.

22 From the Champlain oil pipeline, VELCO
23 and now to Vermont Gas, the modus operandi
24 has been all the same, and it is wholly
25 intolerable.

1 The Public Service Board by its
2 complacency, its compliance, and its silence
3 has allowed the public utilities to continue
4 this habit of trespassing properties,
5 heckling people and threatening the
6 landowners over whose lands they want
7 control. By your silence, you're in
8 collusion with these companies and
9 contribute to the belief that the government
10 does not really concern itself with the
11 rights of citizens.

12 I call upon you now to set the proper
13 guidelines and procedures to guide these
14 companies in their dealings with Vermont
15 property owners and impose a code of
16 behavior that befits a democratic process.

17 I would like to remind you of a basic
18 tenet embodied in the Declaration of
19 Independence. Governments are instituted to
20 protect the rights of people. And I quote;
21 when the government does not protect those
22 rights, it is the right of the people to
23 alter or abolish it. End quote. Perhaps it
24 is time to think about such drastic choices.

25 In conclusion, I ask you again with the

1 words that have been handed down for 2000
2 years now, Que usque tandem abutere
3 patientia nostra. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Marshall
5 Paulsen.

6 MR. PAULSEN: My name is Marshall
7 Paulsen. I live in Richmond. And we are
8 told at public speaking to talk about what
9 we know, but equally important is to not
10 talk about what we don't know. So I will
11 not be speaking on the specifics of the gas
12 piping or pressures or locations.

13 What I can speak of is the relationship
14 that I have had with the people who make up
15 Vermont Gas. I may be unique in this room
16 in that I have been involved in Vermont Gas
17 for 30 years and yet I don't work there. I
18 work with a mechanical contracting company
19 called Vermont Energy. We are primarily
20 residential and light commercial heating
21 contractors, and we focus on a high level of
22 customer service.

23 For these three decades I've worked with
24 the office people, the support staff and
25 field technicians from Vermont Gas, and they

1 have been, in my experience, without
2 exception, dedicated, helpful and decent
3 people. As a mechanical contractor we rely
4 on a dependable supply of fuel for our
5 customers, and Vermont Gas delivers. And
6 for 30 years I have had a parade of very
7 satisfied customers who spend a lot less
8 money for their heating needs and put a lot
9 less toxic material into the environment.

10 I can also speak of my experience not as
11 a contractor, but as a community member in
12 the village of Richmond. Last summer
13 Vermont Gas installed piping down Route 2
14 from the interstate and throughout much of
15 our village. What I hadn't previously had
16 experience with were the crews that were
17 responsible for the installation of the
18 piping. It surprised me how accommodating
19 they were. They did an excellent job of
20 minimizing as much as they could the impact
21 on our town and village. They kept traffic
22 moving as they worked.

23 In our neighborhoods they were friendly
24 and they were respectful. And the crew that
25 was responsible for landscaping their work

1 once the piping was installed were great.
2 They did a meticulous job of grading,
3 seeding and putting straw down and were very
4 responsive to follow up and ensure that they
5 got it right.

6 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

7 MR. PAULSEN: Thank you for your time.

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Garry
9 Douglas.

10 MR. DOUGLAS: Thank you. I'm from the
11 Adirondack side of our common Lake Champlain
12 region. I have the pleasure of Co-chairing
13 Governor Andrew Cuomo's Regional Economic
14 Development Council for the northern New
15 York, North Country region.

16 As we share a lake and share many other
17 activities and much of our history and many
18 of our opportunities on both sides of that
19 lake, we have historic opportunity now to
20 share in extending access to an abundant,
21 lower cost, cleaner, entirely North American
22 source fuel; natural gas, and I hope that we
23 will grasp that opportunity.

24 I know that this is just a one phase of
25 what will be followed on with other phases.

1 But every journey requires every step be
2 taken or you don't get to the final step in
3 the final destination. In our mind one of
4 those great destinations is Ticonderoga, New
5 York. It is International Paper. The
6 situation, the opportunity inherent in that
7 extension to Ticonderoga eventually is
8 emblematic of a great shift in economic
9 development today.

10 Traditionally economic development is
11 thought of as attracting new investment, new
12 jobs, new companies to an area, or perhaps
13 assisting with a major expansion of an
14 existing employer, but increasingly going
15 forward economic development needs to
16 consist largely of recognizing the current
17 or predictable challenges of our existing
18 manufacturers and companies and businesses
19 so that we help them fix those challenges
20 and take care of those challenges before
21 they become a threat to the sustainability
22 of those employers.

23 That is the opportunity we have with IP.
24 There is no current threat, but we know that
25 they have very high energy costs within

1 their industry and within their own company.
2 There will ultimately at some point or
3 another become a question mark over that
4 facility, but we have an immense opportunity
5 to address it by helping them to access
6 natural gas.

7 The Governor and our Council have
8 declared this to be a top priority for
9 economic development and our part of the
10 Lake Champlain region as we also work to
11 extend natural gas through our region in
12 other ways and in other places creating what
13 ultimately can be an exciting network on
14 both sides of this lake.

15 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

16 MR. DOUGLAS: Natural gas access is a
17 public good. It's been proven throughout
18 the North Country wherever it has been
19 extended over the last 20 years. Let's
20 continue to grasp the opportunities on both
21 sides of Lake Champlain inherent in that
22 access. We encourage your approval.

23 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Before I
24 call Chris Mallon, I'd like Jim O'Brian,
25 Greg Mayes, Dean Messner, and Anita van

1 Tubergen. Come up to the mike.

2 MR. MALLON: Hello. I suppose that
3 isn't the best opening. Is this still
4 working?

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: State your name please.

6 MR. MALLON: Chris Mallon. M-A-L-L-O-N.
7 I'm a manager of the International Paper
8 mill over in Ticonderoga, New York.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Hold it closer.

10 MR. MALLON: I'm here, of course, to
11 strongly support the installation of Addison
12 Natural Gas Pipeline. Others this evening
13 have and will speak to the significant
14 economic and environmental benefits of this
15 pipeline. I'm going to spend my time
16 tonight to speak on behalf of the people
17 that are associated with the Ticonderoga
18 mill, both employees and others.

19 International Paper has been producing
20 high-quality paper products in this region
21 for over a hundred years, 88 years in
22 Ticonderoga. Paper mill directly employs
23 616 people. They are machine operators,
24 mill rights, electricians, engineers,
25 accountants, heavy equipment operators and

1 the list goes on. These are good, high
2 paying, safe jobs.

3 These same people are also mothers and
4 fathers, grandparents, Sunday school
5 teachers, coaches, mentors and scout leaders
6 and that list also goes on and on. An
7 additional 600 to 700 independent loggers
8 and truckers make a living providing wood to
9 the mill from sustainably managed forests.
10 Many of these people, particularly the
11 loggers and truckers, live and work in the
12 State of Vermont. They represent not only
13 International Paper and the forest products
14 industry, they also represent families,
15 friends, communities, schools, churches, et
16 cetera.

17 Generations of good, hard-working people
18 have made a good living in jobs at or
19 associated with Ticonderoga mill. We are a
20 long-term part of the fabric of the
21 Adirondack Park, and also the two-state
22 region.

23 The mill team works hard to keep the
24 mill viable and prosperous during extremely
25 challenging times, times when manufacturing

1 jobs have left this country by the tens of
2 thousands. So far we have been successful
3 despite some tough odds.

4 Approval of this project will greatly
5 improve our chances of a long-term future.
6 Among our team when we talk about this
7 project we often use the term game changing.
8 Because that's really true with regard to
9 the impact on the mill, our employees, these
10 jobs, et cetera. We continue to provide a
11 livelihood for many hundreds of people who
12 call this area home. We strongly urge your
13 support of this project. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jim O'Brian.

15 MR. O'BRIAN: Good evening. My name's
16 James O'Brian. I'm the Manager of General
17 Operating Services for International Paper
18 Ticonderoga mill, and a senior justice in
19 the Town of Ticonderoga.

20 I come here tonight not as a member of
21 International Paper or a civic leader, but
22 rather as a life-long resident of
23 Ticonderoga who has long-standing family
24 members on both sides of Lake Champlain.

25 I come here as a citizen, who like all

1 of us here, is concerned about our
2 communities, the safety of our families in
3 this beautiful environment we live in. I
4 come here to share what I learned about
5 International Paper and the part that they
6 play in our lives, something I don't take
7 lightly.

8 In 1907 an Italian immigrant named
9 Conjesio Marinelli (phoenetic) came to
10 America with his cousin to begin a new life
11 for himself and his wife. Conjesio came to
12 Ellis Island and was sent to work in the ore
13 mines in Mineville, New York while his
14 cousin was sent to work at Ticonderoga Pulp
15 and Paper. Confused and alone, unable to
16 understand the culture and speak the
17 language, Conjesio made his way to
18 Ticonderoga where he began a career with
19 Ticonderoga Pulp and Paper. Conjesio
20 Marinelli was my grandfather, and he was the
21 beginning of my family's three generations
22 making paper at Ticonderoga Pulp and Paper
23 and later International Paper.

24 Throughout my life I have had an
25 opportunity to view not only the outer

1 workings, but also the inner workings of
2 International Paper. I grew up in close
3 proximity to the mill. After serving in the
4 military and completing college I found
5 myself wondering what opportunities lied
6 ahead for my family and me.

7 After considering all options I went to
8 work for International Paper, following in
9 the footsteps of my father and grandfather.
10 Over the past 28 years I've spent the
11 majority of my career working in the field
12 of health and safety while assisting in
13 environmental compliance.

14 I've watched as we have progressed from
15 being a reactionary system to a system which
16 is extremely proactive and forward thinking
17 with regard to how we protect our workers
18 and the environment.

19 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

20 MR. O'BRIAN: I have seen first hand the
21 good which goes on in all sectors of
22 International Paper and the resources and
23 support being applied, and I've come to know
24 that the greatest value of our company is
25 not what we own and what we produce, rather

1 its greatest value lies in the strength,
2 intelligence and drive of 70,000 people who
3 operate the company.

4 We can make pros and cons of running a
5 gas pipeline and agree to disagree on
6 subject matter, but we cannot let this
7 opportunity to improve our future for our
8 community to slip away, if we cannot find
9 common ground for protecting ourselves and
10 natural resources with our department.

11 In the Champlain Valley opportunities
12 like the natural gas pipeline come so
13 infrequently, and we owe it to ourselves and
14 future generations to do whatever we can to
15 bring cleaner and cheaper fuels to our
16 region, so we can remain competitive and
17 ensure the health and prosperity for all of
18 our communities. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Greg Mayes.

20 MR. MAYES: Greg Mayes. My last name is
21 M-A-Y-E-S. I'm the Fiber Supply Manager for
22 the Ticonderoga mill.

23 It's going to be very short and simple.
24 But realization of this natural gas pipeline
25 would benefit homes and businesses in

1 Vermont. But it will also, as was
2 previously mentioned, allow the Ticonderoga
3 mill to operate on a level playing field.
4 You might ask what does Ticonderoga mill
5 operating on a level playing field mean to
6 Vermont? It's Vermont. Well let me read
7 you just a few numbers that will lead you to
8 the conclusion that Ticonderoga mill
9 providing a stable market for sustainably
10 produced forest products including the
11 forest products from Vermont is very
12 important.

13 Here's just a few numbers, and this --
14 these numbers that I'm going to read you are
15 what has been delivered to the Ticonderoga
16 mill since January of 2012. 90 truckloads
17 of fiber fuel. 800 truckloads of hardwood
18 round wood. 190 truckloads of hardwood
19 chips, either produced at residual sawmills
20 within Vermont, or in-woods chipping
21 operations in Vermont. 1,000 truckloads of
22 softwood, round wood. 750 truckloads of
23 softwood chips either produced from Vermont
24 sawmills or in-woods chipping operations.

25 The environmental impact of all of these

1 products just since the beginning of 2012
2 for the State of Vermont is three and-a-half
3 million dollars. It's a significant number,
4 and we consider Vermont a very significant
5 part of how we source raw materials to the
6 Ticonderoga mill.

7 We appreciate your consideration. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Dean
10 Messner.

11 MR. MESSNER: Good evening. My name is
12 Dean Messner. Last name spelled M-E-S-S-N-E
13 -R. I'm a proud employee of International
14 Paper, and I serve as the Environmental
15 Health and Safety Manager of the Ticonderoga
16 mill. I'm also an active member of the
17 Middlebury community. My family and I have
18 lived in Middlebury for over a decade, and a
19 majority of each of my four children's lives
20 have been spent enjoying all the great
21 things Vermont has to offer.

22 Just this morning as I have done every
23 morning for the past four months, I loaded
24 my wood stove to heat my home for the day.
25 However, this will be the last morning for

1 many months that I will do that. At 6 a.m.
2 this morning, I put the last seasoned piece
3 of wood that I had for this winter in the
4 stove. I will now be forced to heat my home
5 with heating oil for the remainder of the
6 cold season. I dread seeing the heating oil
7 delivery truck pull up my driveway, uncoil
8 the fill hose, and then listening to the
9 meter click on the fuel truck because I know
10 following that activity I will have an
11 enormous bill to soon pay. Fortunately for
12 my family, we believe we have enough in our
13 savings account to pay for that expense
14 before the next delivery comes.

15 Unfortunately, I don't believe that is the
16 case for many residents who will be served
17 by the proposed pipeline.

18 For many Vermonters the availability of
19 lower cost natural gas for their home
20 heating needs will truly make a difference.
21 I'm unaware that I will benefit at my
22 residence in Middlebury from the natural gas
23 pipeline. However, I fully support the
24 project which will make natural gas an
25 available fuel for other residents and local

1 businesses in the Middlebury area and the
2 International Paper facility.

3 While many private residents will
4 benefit from the availability of natural gas
5 to them in the form of lower heating bills
6 --

7 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

8 MR. MESSNER: -- there is an added
9 benefit to all Vermonters. The conversion
10 to natural gas as a fuel for the
11 International Paper Ticonderoga mill will
12 significantly reduce greenhouse gas
13 generation. The natural gas will replace
14 number six fuel oil currently used as a fuel
15 to generate steam for the paper making
16 process. Utilizing an EPA-generated
17 calculation factor for number six fuel and
18 natural gas the reduction of greenhouse gas
19 generation of over 20 percent can be
20 realized when comparing on the same million
21 BTU basis.

22 We are in the beginning stages of
23 understanding the full benefit,
24 environmental benefit, of natural gas as a
25 fuel for the mill. We have secured the

1 services of an outside environmental
2 consultant --

3 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Sir, you've run out of
4 time. I appreciate your comments. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. MESSNER: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Anita van Tubergen.

8 MS. VAN TUBERGEN: It's V-A-N T as in
9 Tom, U-B as in boy, E-R-G-E-N.

10 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: If I could interrupt for
11 one second, I'd like to call Will
12 Bennington, Chris von Trapp, Sarah Murray
13 and Charlie Baker. Go ahead.

14 MS. van TUBERGEN: As a young adult, I
15 am concerned. I'm also a mother. I'm very
16 concerned about the environmental effects of
17 fracking, is not any more safe than
18 petroleum. And I urge you guys to think
19 about what it means for future generations
20 and for our climate. It's not safe, and
21 it's really not an alternative for a long
22 time. It's only a temporary solution. And
23 I just urge you guys to really think about
24 how it's going to affect other people and
25 affect future generations and affect our

1 climate.

2 And the spills that we worry about and
3 how can it affect Lake Champlain and all of
4 that stuff. I encourage you guys to really,
5 really think about the long-term effects
6 that it poses. Thank you for your time.

7 (Ms. van Tubergen holding a child.)

8 MR. BURKE: You two like each other;
9 don't you?

10 MS. van Tubergen: Huh?

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Will Bennington.

12 MR. BENNINGTON: Good evening. My name
13 is Will Bennington. Will, W-I-L-L,
14 Bennington like the town. No relation.
15 Wrong side. Don't need to go there.

16 As a young person and an apprenticing
17 farmer I have a lot of concerns about this
18 project. As a young person I'm looking at
19 inheriting this world that I was born into,
20 and that weighs on me significantly
21 considering the ecological, economic and
22 social disasters that our world is facing
23 right now.

24 In terms of my relationship to farming,
25 2011 I worked on a farm along the Winooski

1 River. It's the last farm before you get to
2 Lake Champlain, and for six weeks in the
3 spring we had water backed up, about three
4 to four feet of water, on our farm, and then
5 in the fall Hurricane Irene happened, and we
6 were flooded. And I watched my bosses'
7 lives fall apart as they watched their
8 tomatoes and squash float away down the
9 river into the lake.

10 And got me thinking a lot about climate
11 change and how we really need to get serious
12 about implementing real solutions to climate
13 change as soon as possible. I know that
14 this pipeline has been presented as one of
15 those such solutions. And I would just like
16 to bring up a couple ideas that counter that
17 notion.

18 So first of all, Vermont Gas is trying
19 to claim greenhouse gas benefits for a
20 fossil fuel expansion project. Fossil fuels
21 would be those fuels that we extract from
22 the ground that have been there for
23 millions, hundreds of millions of years, and
24 they emit greenhouse gases, and we burn
25 them. And growing consensus right now is

1 that to avoid even a two-degree celsius
2 increase in global temperatures, the first
3 and foremost thing we must do is leave all
4 remaining fossil fuels in the ground. That
5 means, among other things, all the gas
6 reserves in North America; including the gas
7 reserves in Alberta, Canada; including the
8 gas reserves in New York; including the gas
9 reserves in Pennsylvania; Oklahoma; Texas;
10 Colorado; everywhere. That means we
11 shouldn't count on using them in Vermont to
12 reach our emissions reductions goals.
13 Secondly, --

14 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

15 MR. BENNINGTON: I'm concerned Vermont
16 Gas is inflating the numbers. According to
17 their carbon emissions reductions numbers,
18 they have only used a burner tip estimate.
19 They are not considering the methane leakage
20 that happens from extraction through
21 transport up to the burner tip. You need to
22 use a cradle-to-grave analysis if you want
23 to have a meaningful analysis of the
24 greenhouse gas emissions' reductions of this
25 project.

1 According to the EPA over a hundred year
2 period methane has a climate change impact
3 that is 20 times greater than CO2. Up to
4 7.9 of the methane in natural gas is lost
5 during the fracking extraction process.

6 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Sorry. Going to have to
7 cut you off. I hate to do this. But
8 everybody who runs over is eating into
9 somebody else's time, and we have to take
10 that into account. Thank you.

11 I would like to call Chris von Trapp,
12 Sarah Murray, Charlie Baker, Paul Steiner.

13 What's your name, sir?

14 MR. von TRAPP: Chris von Trapp.
15 Spelled von Trapp.

16 I'm here to represent myself, but also
17 to talk a little bit about how I think that
18 the implementation of the natural gas
19 pipeline would impact the homeowner folks
20 that I represent every day.

21 I live in Waltham, Vermont. When I
22 heard about the pipeline that was coming to
23 town, I was very excited about that. I soon
24 learned at the first informational meeting
25 that it's going to come within two miles of

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my house, so I may never personally benefit or enjoy being able to use it. However, I think that it is extremely important to the Addison County business community as has been testified before all of us, to have that pipeline.

That pipeline is going to ensure that the jobs that we have here stay here. And it very well -- very likely will increase the jobs that we have here. How does that impact the homeowner? Property values and sales volumes are all about jobs. If you have a job, you can pay a mortgage. If you can pay a mortgage, you can buy a house.

What I've seen in the past five years with the downturn in the economy the Addison County area has suffered the most. The area that's really suffered the most is Middlebury north to the Chittenden County line which includes the town of Monkton, Bristol, Ferrisburgh, property values have dropped the most. Property transactions have dropped dramatically.

Last year we saw an upturn. Chittenden County sales increased not by -- by volume,

1 not by price, 17 percent. Unfortunately
2 Addison County only increased by two
3 percent. We need -- we just need more jobs
4 here. And we have had a net loss of jobs
5 over the last 10 years in Addison County,
6 and I see this pipeline as a way to reverse
7 that. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Sarah
9 Murray.

10 MS. MURRAY: The original phase one
11 route submitted by Vermont Gas would have
12 gone to the center of Monkton in extreme
13 close proximity to several homes. The
14 residents of Monkton expressed great concern
15 over this route, citing among other things,
16 the dangers of its location. As a result,
17 Vermont Gas changed the route to move it
18 farther away from many homes.

19 In a February 28 Burlington Free Press
20 article Steve Wark of Vermont Gas said it
21 became clear the original route did not work
22 for the community, leading one to believe
23 that Vermont Gas had learned a lesson.
24 However, it is evident that no lesson has
25 been learned. In a Shoreham community

1 presentation on February 18 Vermont Gas
2 presented three proposed routes for phase
3 two of this project; the first and preferred
4 route appeared to go through Cornwall's
5 historic center and historic West Cornwall
6 Village in very close proximity to homes,
7 wells and town buildings.

8 Vermont Gas seems to want to move
9 forward with this project with little to no
10 regard to the welfare of the people affected
11 by this project. It should not be left to
12 the towns and individuals to defend
13 themselves against this project. Now is the
14 time for the Public Service Board to set the
15 standards for this project and do it right.

16 I urge you to require Vermont Gas to
17 meet minimum federal safety standards in its
18 siting of this transmission pipeline by
19 treating all people as if they lived in a
20 high consequence area, because one life is
21 as important as 20. And I would challenge
22 you to go even further by not only meeting
23 but exceeding minimum safety standards.
24 Let's set a fine example for the rest of the
25 country as we, as a state, have done in so

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many other ways. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Like to call Bill Fifield, Kevin Burget, Rebecca Foster and Peter Vanderhoof. Go ahead.

MR. BAKER: Charlie Baker. B-A-K-E-R. Executive Director of the Chittenden Regional Planning Commission. I'm reading from a letter that we submitted to the Board on January 17. And I'll also provide some commentary as to my understanding of how the project has evolved since then.

In general we support the project and the benefits that will result. The first comment is that the project runs through multiple planning areas in our Regional Plan in Chittenden County. And we find the project is in conformance with our 2006 Chittenden County Regional Plan.

The second comment is to evaluate and look to provide service in the Town of St. George Village Center. I'm understanding that that is going to happen now. So that comment has been addressed.

Third comment was to look at providing service in high density neighborhoods off of

1 Richmond Road in Hinesburg. I also
2 understand that that is proposed to happen.

3 The fourth one was to work with
4 Hinesburg and the property owners on
5 developing the best route through Hinesburg.
6 In particular the concern was using town
7 road rights of way. I understand that they
8 are now using the VELCO. I'm not sure
9 what's the best, but preferable to the town
10 roads.

11 Finally the fifth comment is to look at
12 using the right of way for the
13 circumferential highway as a possible
14 pedestrian or path, and if we can at least
15 preserve that option through this process,
16 that would be appreciated.

17 Those are our comments. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Paul
19 Steiner, Bill Fifield.

20 MR. FIFIELD: Thank you. Bill Fifield.
21 F-I-F-I-E-L-D from Middlebury. Scudder
22 Parker earlier talked about the gas pipeline
23 as allowing us to transition to clean
24 renewable energy, and if I really thought
25 this was part of the grand plan, I would

1 probably feel differently about this.

2 A number of speakers have talked about
3 jobs and the economy, and I certainly can
4 understand the importance of those issues,
5 but I guess I would like to ask everyone in
6 this room to do something that our
7 representatives in Washington are unable to
8 do, and that is to look two or three
9 generations in the future, 50 to 75 years.
10 10 or 15 years ago it was thought with
11 continued business as usual, continued
12 burning of fossil fuels, that by 2040 or
13 2050 the earth's temperature would increase
14 by two degrees centigrade triggering run
15 away, impossible to stop, climate change.
16 Now climate change is happening so rapidly
17 that it is felt that with continued burning
18 of fossil fuels, which we look like we are
19 going to do, the earth's temperature will
20 increase by two degrees centigrade within 15
21 years.

22 So I would just like to suggest that if
23 we continue on this pathway in building a
24 gas pipeline is facilitating continued use
25 of fossil fuels, a continued burning of

1 fossil fuels can and may very well result in
2 a collapse of our society within 50 to 75
3 years. Thank you.

4 (Applause).

5 MR. BURGET: I'm Kevin Burget. B-U-R-G
6 -E-T. I own land in Hinesburg near the
7 proposed route of this pipeline. This past
8 January Vermont Gas assured a group of us in
9 Hinesburg that its pipeline will last 100
10 years. What will Vermont look like in 100
11 years? On our present course the children
12 of people here today will inherit a state
13 with the climate of North Carolina; no maple
14 trees; no spruce; instead of snowfall,
15 eroding winter rains; ravaging storms and
16 droughts. This will be our children's
17 experience. This is not conjecture but as
18 close to certain as can be, as solid as the
19 table at which you sit. It cannot be evaded
20 by inaction, only made worse.

21 The climate record shows unequivocally
22 that since 1970 Vermont is the fourth most
23 rapidly heating state of the lower 48. The
24 cradle-to-grave carbon load of natural gas
25 is finally being outed by study after study

1 across the U.S. The results show that even
2 conventional gas, let alone fracked, which
3 this pipeline will carry, leaks perpetually
4 in the field, up to nine percent in Colorado
5 and Utah. These findings by the National
6 Oceanic and Atmospheric Association are
7 corroborated by the American Geophysical
8 Union which I submit along with my speaking.

9 Leakage greater than 3.2 percent,
10 according to a Princeton University study,
11 makes natural gas as bad or worse than oil
12 or coal, and we are talking nine percent.
13 Similar findings across the country are now
14 coming to light in studies being conducted
15 by the University of Texas in Austin.

16 The rationale for Vermont's including
17 natural gas in its energy plan is sinking
18 fast, hopefully fast enough to give this
19 Board pause. We know methane natural gas
20 leaks are up to a hundred times more heat
21 trapping than CO2 over time. Vermont Gas
22 representatives told me last week they will
23 adhere to a zero percent leakage standard in
24 their transmission lines in Vermont, but can
25 the state monitor and enforce zero percent

1 leakage or any percent leakage.

2 Is VGS self-policing on this crucial
3 matter? Vermont Gas itself will run a pig
4 as they call it through the pipelines only
5 once every seven years to monitor the
6 condition of the pipe.

7 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

8 MR. BURGET: Natural gas is not a stop
9 gap fuel to sustainability. Laying a brand
10 new network of fossil fuel through our state
11 and New York radically postpones that day
12 for another hundred years and hopefully long
13 past too late.

14 What it comes of our hearing today, what
15 the Public Service Board decides on this
16 pipeline will either be a gift to our
17 children to help them create Vermont's
18 sustainable next 100 years or an
19 unforgivable sacrifice of that future.

20 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Rebecca
21 Foster.

22 MS. FOSTER: I'm Rebecca Foster. I live
23 in Charlotte. We have an ethical conundrum.
24 I thought I was going to have to establish
25 that there was fracked gas in the line, but

1 everyone is very open about it, even
2 President Don Gilbert talked about it on VPR
3 last month, so everybody understands fracked
4 gas is already coming into Vermont and plan
5 to increase that.

6 This state has banned hydrofracking, and
7 we know if we frack inside this state our
8 aquifers, watersheds and health would all
9 suffer. That's why we did that. It turns
10 out there is an even more insidious problem
11 than water pollution. The National Oceanic
12 and Atmospheric Administration says high
13 rates of methane, which is a greenhouse gas
14 of one hundred times as potent as CO₂, are
15 released during the extraction of natural
16 gas, whether or not that's fracked or
17 conventionally extracted.

18 The extraction of natural gas increases
19 greenhouse gases negating any benefit of
20 fuel efficiency at the user end. A 2011
21 study by the National Center for Atmospheric
22 Research concludes that substituting gas for
23 coal is not an effective means for reducing
24 the magnitudes of climate change. That's
25 compared to coal, once thought to be the

1 worst greenhouse gas offender.

2 So it is right for Vermont to ban
3 fracking for the sake of our watersheds, our
4 health, and to reduce greenhouse gas
5 emissions. But should then, here comes the
6 moral dilemma, should then Vermonters accept
7 fracking anywhere on its behalf? Should
8 Vermonters use natural gas whose extraction
9 devastates someone else's aquifers and
10 rivers and sends potent methane releases up
11 into the atmosphere and around the world?
12 If we use the gas, then we are responsible
13 for the consequences, and cannot delude
14 ourselves that we are building a clean
15 energy future. That would be a lie.

16 You have the power to choose. Will
17 Vermont be complicit in deepening its carbon
18 footprint while posing as a green state with
19 green objectives and a green conscience?
20 Please say no.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you.

22 (Applause).

23 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Peter Vanderhoof.

24 MR. VANDERHOOF: Peter Vanderhoof.

25 V-A-N-D -E-R-H-O-O-F. I'm a fleet manager

1 with Casella Waste Systems, and I have come
2 to show my support for this project.

3 Casella currently operates 35 natural gas
4 fueled heavy-duty vehicles in two states.
5 And I would like to expand the use of these
6 vehicles in Middlebury and Rutland.

7 The environmental benefits of converting
8 as much of our fleet as possible are
9 significant. The reduction in carbon
10 dioxide equivalents for these 35 vehicles
11 when compared to diesel fuel vehicles is
12 almost 800 tons annually. As we and others
13 increase the usage of natural-gas-fueled
14 vehicles, there will be an incremental and
15 observable decrease in diesel emissions.

16 Should we be able to convert our Rutland
17 and Middlebury locations to natural-gas-
18 powered vehicles? We will reduce the amount
19 of greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont
20 another 340 tons yearly. Additionally, as
21 the conversion of natural gas homes and
22 businesses accelerates, it will reduce the
23 number of diesel and propane vehicles
24 delivering these fuels, and therefore
25 reducing emissions further.

1 Also it is a domestic, North American
2 produced fuel, immune to disruptions and
3 manipulations of foreign cartels and
4 political instability. The development of
5 this infrastructure in Vermont puts us
6 closer to energy independence and allows us
7 to keep pace with the rest of our global
8 economy.

9 Natural gas vehicle fueling stations are
10 common in Europe, South America and the Far
11 East. In fact, 50 percent of the vehicles
12 in Iran are powered by natural gas. The
13 U.S. has less than one percent of the global
14 number of natural gas vehicles despite
15 natural gas reserves of at least a hundred
16 years. With 400 billion a year deploying
17 overseas to import energy to the U.S. it is
18 time to wean ourselves off foreign oil and
19 start using clean, abundant, domestic
20 natural gas. This pipeline extension will
21 play a role in sparking these economic and
22 environmental incentives. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. I would like
24 to call Chris Louras, Dean George, Nick
25 Artim and James Rainey or Ramey. I remind

1 you, if you're reading something if you
2 could leave the written transcript behind,
3 that would be very helpful for the court
4 reporter. Dean George. I'm sorry.

5 MR. LOURAS: Christopher Louras, Rutland
6 City Mayor. What I hope to provide the
7 Board is a perspective that is broad rather
8 than local, and to speak to the public good
9 and public interest of this project within a
10 more global context.

11 Clearly I understand that this hearing
12 concerns the Addison expansion, but a focus
13 on regional and statewide benefits of
14 natural gas beyond Franklin and Chittenden
15 Counties is where we truly discern and
16 define the public good in Vermont.

17 Project approval is requisite to Vermont
18 Gas's long-term commitment to serve southern
19 Vermont, and it is essential if Vermont
20 hopes to realize environmental, economic and
21 societal benefits associated with the clean,
22 inexpensive fuel source currently available
23 to only a small corner of the state. The
24 clean energy opportunities resulting from
25 service to Addison, Ticonderoga and Rutland

1 markets will include a 1.8 million ton
2 reduction in greenhouse gases and savings of
3 720 million dollars for over 16,500
4 customers over 20 years.

5 As Mayor, I fully appreciate the Board's
6 role in determining the public good. By
7 example, the recent GMP-CVPS merger resulted
8 in an order that some characterized as not
9 in my city's best interest. However, I
10 contend that the overarching benefit to
11 Vermont as a whole serve Vermont's best
12 interest through that merger. I view the
13 Addison expansion similarly. The Addison
14 and Rutland -- the Addison and Rutland
15 regions simply wish to be treated fairly and
16 equitably and be afforded the same
17 opportunities to improve both our
18 environment and our economies that is given
19 our neighbors in Franklin and Chittenden
20 Counties.

21 Rutland has embraced the Board's GMP
22 order, and has been working to take
23 advantage of clean energy opportunities
24 through the Energy Innovation Center and our
25 own solar capital initiative.

1 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

2 MR. LOURAS: Support of the Addison
3 expansion is the logical evolution of
4 Rutland and the state's dedication to
5 cheaper, cleaner fuel sources resulting in a
6 more sustainable future and economic
7 opportunity, energy use and stewardship of
8 our environment.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Dean George?

10 MR. GEORGE: Thank you. Dean George.
11 I'm Chairman of the Middlebury Select Board.
12 Since early 2011 when we first learned about
13 the possibility of Vermont Gas expanding its
14 service to Middlebury with the goal of
15 eventually reaching Rutland, Middlebury
16 Select Board has expressed its support for
17 the project both formally in May of 2011 and
18 again in December 2012.

19 As our community works to provide an
20 opportunity for local businesses to continue
21 to be competitive and provide good jobs for
22 Middlebury and surrounding community
23 residents, having the option to use clean-
24 burning natural gas rather than more
25 expensive oil or propane to provide its

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thermal energy needs is very important.

It has been extremely challenging the past several years to maintain the level of services provided by the Town of Middlebury with little growth in our grand list and ever increasing costs each year. Middlebury struggles with one of the highest Vermont property tax rates, and a higher than the Vermont average of people living below the poverty line, more than 15 percent not including Middlebury College students.

With Vermont Gas expanding to Middlebury we have an opportunity to include as part of the Vermont Gas pipeline, renewable natural gas produced at a dairy farm in Salisbury when that pipeline is completed. As we move to the future, adding renewable natural gas from other sources in Addison County and even our own waste water treatment plant become viable. The savings to our schools, municipal buildings, businesses and residents is significant and important to the economic vitality of our community and region.

Vermont Gas has been supplying natural

1 gas to customers in Chittenden County and
2 Franklin Counties since 1965. It has an
3 excellent track record for safety and
4 reliability.

5 We know the Public Service Board review
6 process is rigorous, and we are confident
7 that the plans will be finalized with
8 concerns for environmental issues, safety
9 and the region's economic benefit. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Nick Artim.

12 MR. ARTIM: Thank you. Artim is Alpha
13 Roger Tango India Mike. My name is Nick
14 Artim, and I'm here in multiple roles. I'm
15 a long-time resident of Middlebury. I'm
16 also a member of the Middlebury Select
17 Board. And in my day job I'm one of the few
18 licensed fire protection professional
19 engineers in the State of Vermont. Let me
20 start off with my professional role. I've
21 worked throughout the U.S., Canada and
22 Europe on a number of premier cultural
23 landmarks including several National Park
24 Service historic buildings, and President
25 Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. As an

1 engineer my job is to identify as to how a
2 fire may occur and how the threat may be
3 reduced.

4 The first step is to identify specific
5 risk factors including evaluating the risks
6 from utilities. I've never worked on a
7 project with Vermont Gas, but I know they
8 are safe, and the reason I know this is
9 because I worked with many gas companies
10 through the U.S. and Canada and find them to
11 be incredibly professionally run. They
12 operate with some of the highest safety
13 standards, engineering standards, training
14 and maintenance standards of any utility,
15 and when I find a building supplied with
16 natural gas, to me the risk is significantly
17 reduced. I've heard some who fear the
18 pipeline, but if they want to be afraid of
19 something that does pose a significant risk,
20 they should look at the 10,000 gallon
21 propane or gasoline tank trucks that run up
22 and down our roads and deliver fuels to our
23 residences and businesses. These trucks are
24 safely engineered and operated by highly
25 skilled drivers, but it's the other drivers

1 on the roads that cause me concern.

2 Returning from Albany airport yesterday I
3 was behind a gasoline tank truck that was
4 safely operating in the right lane of the
5 Adirondack Northway. Passing the truck was
6 a car that was veering in and out of the
7 center lane, and at one point almost hit
8 the trailer's wheels. My thought was a
9 drunk driver, but it turned out to be a
10 young woman texting.

11 My point is that a professional utility
12 can manage all of its risks better than
13 other fuel delivery systems which have
14 variables beyond our control and such as
15 other drivers. This makes for a safer
16 system.

17 My role as a Selectman, myself and my
18 six other board members and our Town Manager
19 and departments have responsibility for
20 providing our citizens with important
21 services. This has been very difficult over
22 the last several years as our grand list has
23 been flat. We have heard from Mr.
24 Wellington and Mr. Foster about the
25 significance of this project to Agri-Mark.

1 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

2 MR. ARTIM: A couple things. 115 jobs,
3 200 family farms supplied by that. If we
4 lose that, that's going to be a loss.
5 Porter Hospital has also indicated they use
6 a million gallons or a million dollars worth
7 of fuel every year. And they are solidly
8 behind this, which is very important for our
9 community as well. We support this project.

10 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Call James
11 Ramey. I want to also call Arnold Rosen,
12 Ray Mainer, Stephen Pilcher and Deborah
13 Gaynor.

14 MR. RAMEY: My name is Jim Ramey, R-A-M
15 as in Mary, E-Y. I want to say I agree with
16 the speakers that say that we need jobs and
17 we need to get back to helping our economy
18 out in this region. I've not heard an
19 example of how this pipeline is going to do
20 that. I've heard a lot of somewhat
21 terroristic threats about jobs leaving the
22 area if the pipeline doesn't come, but they
23 are not talking about a real -- that will
24 increase jobs in the area. What would do
25 that is efficiency, and shoring up the

1 drafty homes and the drafty businesses in
2 the state. And making sure that we can --
3 that we have sustainable, real good union
4 jobs, and that's what we really need to be
5 looking at when we look at the economic
6 impact of this.

7 I think that the other really important
8 thing is, and people have spoken to yet, the
9 idea that we are in a situation right now
10 where we are on a razor's edge between
11 whether or not we actually can save the
12 planet or not. We need to be very clear
13 about this.

14 The U.N. Report on Climate Change that
15 came out the end of February predicts that
16 the temperature will go up four degrees
17 celsius by 2100. That will be devastating
18 to whole swaths of our country, the state as
19 well. It can't be overstated, the
20 importance of this. We need to get off
21 fossil fuels immediately.

22 The energy plan that the state has
23 proposed for 2050 being an entirely
24 renewable, that's a good start. I don't
25 think it's aggressive enough. We need to

1 not leave the infrastructure for fossil
2 fuels, and non-renewable energy needs to
3 come here. We need to leave the gas under
4 the rocks, and you know, start showing off
5 the drafty state.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Mr. Rosen?

8 MR. ROSS: Arnold Ross. R-O-S-S. Thank
9 you. I believe I heard this gentleman right
10 say that we need to keep good union jobs.
11 I'm the President of Local 497 United Steel
12 Workers for International Paper Ticonderoga
13 mill. I have been employed there for 20
14 years. My father worked there for 43 years,
15 and my brother works there also. It makes
16 us both second generation paper makers.

17 I want to thank you gentlemen for the
18 opportunity to speak tonight to you, and I
19 know what you're going through because one
20 of the greatest demands placed on me as the
21 President of the Union is to address
22 everybody's issues equally. How do I do
23 this? Well I don't pass any judgment, and I
24 don't minimize the importance of every
25 individual's interest.

1 And tonight speaking to the people who
2 do oppose the pipeline, as a union official
3 I do see your solidarity, and I appreciate
4 that. I appreciate people unified together
5 as a community who seek satisfactory
6 solutions for everyone. Your desires to
7 ensure the safety and the prosperity of your
8 neighborhood is also something that's very
9 significant and relates directly to the
10 unionized man such as myself.

11 Unequivocally, probably the greatest
12 feature that we have in common is our need
13 to protect our environment. Safety,
14 prosperity and environment are the top three
15 issues I hear tonight, and I assure you that
16 International Paper Company spends millions
17 of dollars every year looking into the
18 safety and the prosperity and the
19 environment in which my unionized work force
20 is employed.

21 When I took the pledge to office one of
22 the objectives in our Constitution directs
23 me to advance and safeguard the economic
24 security and the social welfare of my union
25 brothers and sisters. Natural gas will

1 deliver this objective to the hundreds of
2 people who earn a decent living working for
3 International Paper.

4 This source of energy would reduce our
5 greenhouse gas emissions immensely. When I
6 speak about that from what I listened to
7 tonight, it gives us an alternative energy
8 source where we, as a company, will
9 contribute to our environment and you, as
10 Vermonters, can help us do that.

11 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

12 MR. ROSS: Okay. So before I close I
13 would like to say we are a humble working-
14 class people. We hunt, we fish, we garden,
15 we camp, we operate farms, and we appreciate
16 our jobs at IP. Our jobs make it easy to
17 cross the bridge, eat at restaurants, and
18 spend money in your shops, and I know this
19 because my wife just reminded me that I owed
20 her a furniture set. So we will be going to
21 Burlington pretty soon.

22 Listen, I appreciate your time. Thank
23 you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Mr. Mainer.

25 MR. MAINER: My name is Ray Mainer. I

1 live off Baldwin Road in Hinesburg. Like
2 the state of Maine with an R on the end.

3 I would like to address some of the
4 environmental concerns about this project.
5 Many people have spoken that this -- that we
6 need to reduce carbon dioxide, that we need
7 to stop this project because it is adding to
8 carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, global
9 warming and other things, but nobody here
10 tonight has suggested a viable alternative.
11 The only alternative available to us right
12 now to heat our homes, to heat our
13 businesses, is oil.

14 And in view of that, methane natural gas
15 is a far superior product and a far safer
16 product, more environmentally benign. It
17 produces less carbon dioxide per unit of
18 energy than burning oil does. Somebody here
19 says it doesn't amount to a hill of beans.
20 I disagree. I think every pound that we
21 keep out of the environment is a victory.
22 Burning fuel oil produces sulfuric acid.
23 Every 12 or so gallons of fuel oil we burn
24 produces approximately 3 pounds of sulfuric
25 acid. Businesses in this area produce in

1 that case thousands and thousands and
2 thousands of pounds of sulfuric acid which
3 contributes to acid rain.

4 Burning fuel oil also produces sulfur
5 dioxide, about two pounds for every 12
6 gallons. Sulfur dioxide has been implicated
7 in chronic lung diseases. Our oil's
8 delivered by oil trucks. And every winter
9 we read about an oil truck accident, oil
10 truck has slid off a slippery road or been
11 -- tried to avoid a collision with another
12 car, rolls over into the river, dumps its
13 contents into that river. The oil then runs
14 into the lakes and streams and ponds and
15 Lake Champlain. And so on. Occasionally
16 the driver is killed. Occasionally another
17 innocent person is killed in these
18 accidents.

19 Burning oil emits toxic metals, heavy
20 metals. Vanadium, for example, is one of
21 the common ones. Natural gas is non toxic.
22 You cannot kill a fish with natural gas.
23 You cannot kill anybody with natural gas.
24 It is non toxic. You can displace oxygen,
25 but it is not toxic.

1 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

2 MR. MAINER: Thank you. We have never
3 gone to war for natural gas. We have been
4 to war for oil. Natural gas does not come
5 from tar sands.

6 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Stephen
7 Pilcher.

8 MR. PILCHER: Thank you very much. My
9 name's Stephen Pilcher. Last name is P-I-L
10 -C-H-E-R. Thank you for taking my comments.

11 I'm a member of the Monkton Select
12 Board, although in this case I'm not
13 authorized to speak for the Town of Monkton,
14 so I'm simply speaking as a citizen of
15 Monkton.

16 I am concerned that the landowners do
17 not have access to enough resources to make
18 informed decisions with regard to the
19 easements that Vermont Gas is asking them to
20 sign. In particular, many landowners cannot
21 afford legal counsel and are misinformed
22 both about their rights and negotiating with
23 Vermont Gas and how the condemnation process
24 will proceed, if they cannot reach a
25 settlement with Vermont Gas, and if Vermont

1 Gas is granted a Certificate of Public Good.

2 I believe that this lack of information
3 combined with the basically coercive nature
4 of the relative bargaining positions is not
5 helpful to either party. I suggest the
6 following solution. Vermont Gas should
7 create an independent fund that will cover
8 reasonable legal costs of landowners up to a
9 relatively modest limit. I would suggest
10 something in the neighborhood of two to
11 three thousand dollars per landowner. This
12 fund would be administered by an independent
13 entity, perhaps Addison County Regional
14 Planning Commission. While it may seem
15 counter intuitive that Vermont Gas should
16 pay for lawyers to fight against its
17 interests, I would claim this is not the
18 case. If Vermont Gas believes it is
19 offering a fair price for the easements that
20 it's purchasing, it would seem that the more
21 knowledge that the other parties to the
22 transaction has, the better.

23 It is clear that a negotiated settlement
24 is a preferred solution by both parties than
25 a seizure but eminent domain. This would

1 seem to be a win/win solution, and I would
2 encourage the Public Service Board to
3 encourage Vermont Gas to fund such a
4 project. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Deborah
6 Gaynor. Also like to call Rob Korobkin,
7 Sarah Mehalick, Lauriana Capone and Keith
8 Brunner.

9 MS. GAYNOR: Deb Gaynor, G-A-Y-N-O-R.
10 Thank you for the opportunity to address
11 you, and you will find that these are paired
12 remarks from the previous speaker.

13 I am an environmental chemist by
14 training and education. I am Monkton's
15 representative to the Addison County Solid
16 Waste Management District, and I'm a member
17 of the Monkton Agricultural and Natural
18 Areas Committee.

19 Neither my training or education or
20 experience or community service are what
21 bring me before you today. However, they
22 all inform my remarks. Monkton is in a
23 unique position of having some very
24 sensitive wetlands. We are often talked
25 about as being the swamp that is Monkton.

1 And we have town centers that are built
2 around those wetlands on the only bits of
3 high ground that exist.

4 In the early experiences of the
5 subcontractors that Vermont Gas sent into
6 Monkton to do its surveys, you have heard
7 tonight that many landowners have been
8 terrified I believe is one of the words we
9 have heard. The subcontractors, contrary to
10 the experience described in Richmond, did
11 not behave with courtesy or respect. And it
12 has been a very bad start to what may be a
13 long relationship.

14 During construction, if you issue a
15 Certificate of Public Good, Vermont Gas will
16 hire subcontractors to perform the entire
17 construction project. We are asking that,
18 as we understand it, during construction
19 there will be a Clerk of the Works,
20 essentially an oversight engineer to ensure
21 that the construction process goes according
22 to standards. This engineer represents the
23 interest of the state, of the people of the
24 state, and Vermont Gas will have an engineer
25 on-site during construction to ensure that

1 the pipeline is built according to their
2 specifications. They don't want failure
3 either. We understand that.

4 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

5 MS. GAYNOR: My concern is that the
6 landowners in the Town of Monkton should
7 also have representation during the
8 construction process, and that Vermont Gas
9 would be -- that we would ask that the
10 Public Service Board make it a condition of
11 the Certificate of Public Good if one is
12 issued that Vermont Gas should fund the
13 services, the professional services of
14 specialists who can make sure that our
15 wetlands are kept pristine.

16 We do not want invasive species brought
17 in on the equipment, and that the
18 construction process be respectful of wells
19 and the other interests of the town. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Rob
22 Korobkin.

23 MR. KOROBKIN: Hi. This was great to
24 hear.

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Can you spell your last

1 name?

2 MR. KOROBKIN: K-O-R-O-B as in boy, K-I
3 -N. It was great to hear the folks --

4 MR. COEN: Can you speak to us please?

5 MR. KOROBKIN: Absolutely. No. I want
6 to address --

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Sorry, but you're here
8 to speak to us, not to address the crowd.
9 If you just face the mike and speak to us
10 please.

11 MR. KOROBKIN: Excuse me?

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: This isn't a rally or
13 anything. This is for us to hear from you
14 folks.

15 MR. KOROBKIN: Okay. So I would like to
16 tell you a little bit about International
17 Paper and what they did in Maine where I
18 come from. So up until about the late 1980s
19 the jobs at International Paper mill in Jay,
20 Maine, they were good jobs. Decent wages,
21 people could afford to send their kids to
22 university. Decent health care. They
23 didn't have to work on Christmas.

24 About the late '80s International Paper
25 noticed they could get really cheap labor in

1 China and Brazil, so they broke the
2 paperworker union and replaced them all with
3 poor folks from out of state, who can't
4 manage -- who were willing to work for
5 subhuman wages. They didn't necessarily
6 want to work on Christmas, but that was the
7 opportunity that was available, so they took
8 it.

9 I think looking around this room these
10 folks didn't wake up this morning just dying
11 to poison the groundwater in Canada, to
12 permanently desecrate indigenous land. To
13 have a pipeline running through their back
14 yard it's a pretty good chance it's going to
15 explode. They didn't wake up this morning
16 looking at billions of pounds of toxic fumes
17 to our atmosphere. That's not what's going
18 on here.

19 What is happening is these people are
20 being held hostage by International Paper
21 that says, you know, if we don't get what we
22 want, we are going to leave. Right? And
23 that's not fair. That's not fair to us, and
24 that's not fair to our future, to our kids,
25 to our grand kids, and to everybody who is,

1 you know, who is sharing about the costs of
2 not doing this, there is a real cost to
3 doing this. It's permanent. It's not going
4 to go away. It's not going to go away.

5 You know, and it just makes me sad to
6 see people with their back up against the
7 wall. You know, it makes me sad to see
8 people who feel that they need to acquiesce
9 to something beyond their control, beyond
10 their interest. It has nothing to do with
11 security. It has to do with having food and
12 shelter, and everything to do with keeping
13 rich people happy so they can keep making
14 money at our expense. So if that's what
15 you're interested in, I suppose this is a
16 great project, but if you're interested in
17 us and our well-being and the future of this
18 planet, I strongly strongly encourage you to
19 do everything in your power to stop this
20 pipeline. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Sara
23 Mehalick.

24 MS. MEHALICK: Hi.

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Before you start, I

1 would like to also call Lauriana Capone,
2 Keith Brunner and Roger Sturtevant. Go
3 ahead.

4 MS. MEHALICK: My name is Sara Mehalick,
5 M-E-H-A-L-I-C-K. And I'm an organizer with
6 Rising Tide Vermont, a climate justice
7 organization that works with communities to
8 find real solutions that address the root
9 causes of climate change. And I'm here
10 today with a group of landowners and
11 residents of Addison County as well as
12 climate organizers from around the state.

13 I live in Plainfield, Vermont near
14 Montpelier. We are here today to tell the
15 Public Service Board that Vermonters say no
16 to the Vermont Gas pipeline. This pipeline
17 does not serve the public good. Natural gas
18 is not clean energy. It's a false solution
19 to climate change, from greenhouse gas
20 emissions during extraction, distribution
21 and burning, to air and water pollution
22 caused by fracking, gas is a dirty fossil
23 fuel that harms communities and contributes
24 to climate change.

25 Recent studies have shown that over a

1 20-year period fracked gas emissions may be
2 higher than of coal and oil, and I found it
3 outrageous that Vermont would ban fracking
4 as a practice too dirty and destructive for
5 Vermont communities, yet allow this pipeline
6 that would bring more fracked gas from
7 Canada into Vermont.

8 This pipeline has no place in an energy
9 future that supports human communities and
10 our human right to a healthy environment and
11 livable planet. And for anyone who wants
12 more information about how to get involved
13 in the growing campaign to stop the Vermont
14 Gas pipeline, you can visit Rising Tide
15 Vermont.org for updates on community
16 meetings and additional information.

17 Thank you for your consideration.

18 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Lauriana
19 Capone.

20 MS. CAPONE: Hi. My name is Lauriana
21 Capone, C-A-P-O-N-E. I'm from Middlesex,
22 Vermont. I'm a mother of two children and
23 Director of Good Beginnings in Central
24 Vermont.

25 (Singing): Now you transition lines all

1 through our lake and farms. Don't let them
2 build a pipeline anywhere. It's just
3 another tool to keep us hooked on fossil
4 fuels, worsening climate crisis everywhere.
5 Vermont Gas wants to drill, pipelines are
6 known to spill. Spewing gas and whatever
7 ends up in the pipe. Oil? Who knows. The
8 gas may want to sell, it's a fracking living
9 hell, for our communities in Canada, oh my
10 soul. We banned fracking here. Could we
11 really dare? To say frack up there, we can
12 burn it cheap. Let's do the opposite, we
13 will not be hypocrites. Stop the Vermont
14 Gas pipeline rigamarole.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you.

17 MS. MEHALICK: I have a few other things
18 to say. In a book called the Vermont Papers
19 by Vermonters Frank Bryan and John
20 McClaughry, A Call for Rediscovering
21 Homeland. The authors define community in
22 this way; a bond between past and present
23 which extends into the future. For people
24 interact on a personal level, have shared
25 identity, values and traditions, sense an

1 organic bond to each other, have best of
2 power to make decisions about their common
3 lives and feel responsibility for the young
4 within them.

5 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

6 MS. MEHALICK: As a mother who loves her
7 children, I urge you to deny Vermont Gas's
8 Certificate of Public Good and reject any
9 proposed energy plan that runs even a small
10 risk of future climactic disaster. Thank
11 you very much for your time tonight.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Keith
13 Brunner.

14 MR. BRUNNER: Hello. Hello. My name's
15 Keith Brunner, B as in boy, R as in R, U-N
16 -N-E-R. I'm here as a Vermont Gas
17 ratepayer. I'm an organizer with Rising
18 Tide Vermont. But most of all, I'm a young
19 person who works with other young people.
20 So I wanted to address something that I've
21 heard talked about a lot is that natural gas
22 is a bridge fuel, and a little bit confusing
23 to me, that is a bridge fuel to renewables,
24 which is completely odd in my understanding.

25 So I wanted to explore the idea of a

1 bridge. A bridge according to the
2 definition is a structure spanning and
3 providing passage over a gap or barrier such
4 as a river or roadway. And we indeed are at
5 a gap or barrier. Many people are
6 experiencing a profound crisis in our
7 communities, many of our needs are not being
8 met, people are struggling to afford health
9 care, to afford adequate and safe housing,
10 to afford and have the opportunity to have
11 dignified work. And most of all, we are
12 dealing with runaway climate change and the
13 lack of our right to a healthy environment
14 and a livable planet.

15 So we have this crisis, but many of us
16 also have a vision that things can be
17 different. And we look for this bridge that
18 can bring us across to this vision. We see
19 a world in which we have dignified work. We
20 have work that is not met at the expense of
21 other people. It's not met at the expense
22 of the living ecosystems which we are a
23 part. And it's a world in which the air,
24 water and soil is not toxified. It is
25 healthy, and it will continue that way for

1 our children and their children. Also it is
2 safe for the other folks who are out there.

3 And I'm talking about not only humans
4 but the birds who fly in the air, the fish
5 that swim in our rivers, the beavers that
6 play in the rivers as well, and the bears
7 that walk along the ridge tops. So these
8 rights are universal. They are universal
9 here in Vermont. They are universal in the
10 fracked fields of Alberta.

11 Also in this vision is a world in which
12 the government is accountable to our needs.
13 It is transparent, it is a participatory
14 institution. So we ask this question; is
15 this a bridge? Is this a bridge to that
16 vision that so many of us share? And when
17 we hear the stories about the flaming
18 faucets that are so common, we don't hear
19 the stories yet about the children, the mal-
20 formed children that will be born in the
21 frack fields, what will the next generations
22 look like.

23 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

24 MR. BRUNNER: We also heard earlier from
25 people, this is three times worse than coal.

1 I would like for people to say it three
2 times, worse than coal, because of the leaks
3 from methane, from natural gas.

4 So is it a bridge fuel? I think it's
5 more a cul-de-sac. A cul-de-sac is defined
6 as a dead end street, an impasse. Natural
7 gas is an impasse. It is a cul-de-sac. It
8 is a dead end street. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Peter Sturtevant. I'd
10 like to call Jennifer Vyhna, Alice Eckles,
11 Jono Chapin, and Tim Searles.

12 MR. STURTEVANT: Roger Sturtevant, S-T-U
13 -R-T-E-V-A-N-T. I'm a third generation
14 property owner on the Hunt Road in New
15 Haven, and they have contacted me a couple
16 times. I haven't let them on my property
17 yet. But we seem to have a little problem.

18 2007 I built a house there. I was there
19 when the first poles went in years ago.
20 Probably 10. So we have given up property
21 to the electrical twice now. And I built a
22 house in 2007. And the property -- and I
23 had to put a mound system in.

24 Seems to me they don't want to stay in
25 the right of way. They want 50 feet, and

1 they want to go 25 feet out of the right of
2 way, west towards my house. I told them
3 hey, you're going to go right through my
4 mound system, that was state built, by a
5 state engineer. I said that's protected as
6 far as I know.

7 And I said there is other places you can
8 go across. And he said they've got to cross
9 an easement, there is already another
10 easement there we haven't contacted the
11 people about yet.

12 I'm concerned about environment, the
13 water and everything. We have already had
14 two spills down there in New Haven off Route
15 7. Valley gas, and church, supposedly they
16 cleaned it all up, but it contaminated my
17 water and the value of my property. And
18 they are buying water for these people down
19 the road because their water is contaminated
20 with that gas.

21 So my question is how safe is the gas
22 going to be, with these big tractors going
23 over it. They say well we will go deeper.
24 Well frost, water, you've got to go through
25 the swamp down there. That's an

1 environmentally protected area. They have
2 got to go through the swamp in New Haven.
3 So I'm very concerned that this is good for
4 Vermont.

5 Now I've heard a lot from people from
6 Ticonderoga. Well I was at a meeting in New
7 Haven. I stood up and asked Mr. Wark, your
8 intention getting from Colchester to
9 Ticonderoga is all you care about. You
10 don't care about the people in between. His
11 answer was I quote; yes, you're right he
12 says.

13 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

14 MR. STURTEVANT: Huh? I ask you to say
15 no on this proposal. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jennifer
17 VyhnaK.

18 MS. VYHNAK: Thank you. That's V as in
19 Victor, Y-H-N-A-K. And I'm from Bristol.
20 Hydraulic fracking is a process of pumping
21 fluids composed of water, sand, and over 600
22 chemicals deep under the surface of the
23 ground to create fractures in the shale
24 which releases the natural gas that is then
25 collected. There has been an industry-wide

1 push to develop hydraulic fracking wells
2 across the United States. Dick Cheney was
3 CEO of Haliburton, one of the largest
4 natural gas companies in the world, and
5 during his time as Vice President
6 legislation was enacted in Congress to
7 exempt hydraulic fracking from the Clean Air
8 Act, the Safe Water Drinking -- the Safe
9 Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the
10 National Environmental Policy Act, and the
11 Emergency Planning and Community Right to
12 Know Act.

13 People across the country are being
14 harassed when they complain of contaminated,
15 even flammable drinking water, massive open
16 pits full of toxic waste water and chemical
17 spills. These chemicals and heavy metals
18 are being found in their blood samples.
19 Recent newspaper reports have pointed to
20 collusion between the Pennsylvania
21 Department of Environmental Protection and
22 the natural gas industry in the required
23 federal reporting.

24 According to the Division Director of
25 DEP's Bureau of Laboratories, and a DEP

1 Water Quality Specialist, the Pennsylvania
2 DEP purposefully created incomplete lab
3 reports. As a result, the Pennsylvania DEP
4 is under investigation for misconduct and
5 fraud.

6 Let us not approve of a process begun
7 with deception, acting with deception and
8 reporting with deception. This pipeline
9 only delays our urgent need to develop
10 renewable, honest, accountable energy
11 resources for the common good of the people.
12 Please vote to deny the Certificate of
13 Public Good for this natural gas
14 transmission line. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Alice
16 Eckles.

17 MS. ECKLES: Alice Eckles, E-C-K-L-E-S.
18 We need a word that expresses real consent
19 for projects we embrace on our land, in our
20 state, and in our towns. I propose the word
21 clouch. I cannot, I will not, I do not
22 clouch the proposed pipeline by Vermont Gas
23 owned by Canada and Gaz Metro. It's a
24 foreign country. To clouch is to agree,
25 understand, and be willing in regards to a

1 proposed project. This word allows for
2 expression of a deep participatory consent
3 to the governmental go ahead of projects and
4 allows for the expression of a lack of that
5 consent.

6 All projects should require a full
7 sounding, Aye Clouch, from the full
8 community in order to proceed. Most of our
9 community was not aware of the Vermont Gas
10 proposal until it was already supported by
11 the Middlebury Select Board and written into
12 the Town Plan. I wish the lawyer
13 representing Middlebury were on the side of
14 Middlebury residents here today speaking out
15 against the harm that will be caused by
16 fracking in Alberta because of the new
17 pipelines that will cause an increased
18 demand for fracked gas.

19 In Monkton the pipeline is a net loss
20 economically, even if the promise of cheap
21 fuel were bankable, which it is not, in the
22 long term. The people of Monkton are not
23 the only ones who won't benefit from the gas
24 line. What if the only projects granted the
25 Certificate of Public Good were ones the

1 whole community said aye clouch to. There
2 is an imbalance of power in the system,
3 similar to the woman's struggle for
4 equality, and it needs to be addressed.

5 Vermonters identify closely with nature
6 and the land, and when we say no to
7 something that affects the environment, no
8 means no.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jono Chapin.

10 MR. CHAPIN: Jono Chapin, C-H-A-P-I-N.
11 It seems to me we have got a debate that's
12 going on back and forth. You know, equal
13 amount of time roughly, both sides. And
14 really where we are is at an intersection of
15 economics and the environment.

16 We need to find a way forward to have it
17 be sustainable for both. And the challenge
18 that we keep coming up against is that
19 conflict. And this is happening, you know,
20 as a microcosm in the State of Vermont and
21 to the nation as a whole, and around the
22 world.

23 So here we are. The balance keeps
24 tilting in favor of economics. But I think
25 what concerns me is that really with the

1 moratorium on fracking in Vermont, excuse
2 me, a ban on fracking in Vermont, we are
3 accepting fracked gas which has all sorts of
4 health and safety concerns. You know, we
5 don't want to do it here, but we need to
6 accept it. That seems to me to be a grave
7 contradiction, and I think in good
8 conscience. I don't really envy the three
9 of you guys up there. And I can imagine
10 you've got to have a lot of more help that
11 you wish you had. Because that's a great
12 burden to weigh on your conscience to go
13 ahead and make a determination. So how do
14 you weigh that?

15 And I leave you with this question.
16 Where it says will the project result in an
17 economic benefit to the state and its
18 residents? Again that's weighted towards
19 economics. And we have to factor in the
20 origin of this gas. It's just
21 interconnected, it's inescapable. And so
22 what are those risks? Negative impacts of
23 this gas production.

24 We can't just accept it on a pipeline
25 and move on. We need to understand about

1 the source of that gas and weigh that
2 against what the supposed benefits are, but
3 as we go on in history, we are going to keep
4 butting up against this issue of economics,
5 and the environment, health and safety for
6 individuals, and the natural world. And if
7 we keep weighing in, in the balance, in
8 deciding in favor of economics --

9 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

10 MR. CHAPIN: We are really going to be,
11 you know, at a crossroads, which is just not
12 going to be able to get us to the future.

13 So I hope you have a very good sense of
14 conscience, and if your conscience doesn't
15 say it's all about jobs, but your conscience
16 really weighs in about understanding the
17 environment and the health for everyone in
18 the future. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Tim Searles.

20 MR. SEARLES: Thank you. Tim Searles,
21 S-E-A-R-L-E-S. And I'm a long-time advocate
22 for low-income Vermonters, and administrator
23 of and developer of energy assistance
24 programs for working Vermonters.

25 And I just wanted to comment on this

1 whole issue from an affordability
2 standpoint. And low-income Vermonters pay
3 the largest percentage of their income for
4 their energy bills, a higher percentage of
5 their income than people in any other state
6 in the union. This is based on a recent
7 national survey by the National Consumer Law
8 Center, so the bite out of people's income,
9 especially low-income people here in
10 Vermont, is unmatched anywhere across the
11 rest of the country.

12 Having said that, most affordable form
13 of home heating energy available in the
14 State of Vermont right now is Vermont Gas
15 systems. The people that live in Vermont
16 Gas territory do not fall into that same
17 category with the rest of Vermonters who are
18 paying the highest percentage of their
19 income. So I can think of no better thing
20 for low-income Vermonters across Vermont
21 than to be Vermont Gas customers. It's not
22 just about affordability. It's also about
23 regulation and the fact that heating fuel
24 source like Vermont Gas is not subject to
25 the price spikes and instability of other

1 forms of deliverable fuels. So there is a
2 certain stability there.

3 There is also an ability to provide a
4 level of customer service and reliability
5 through Vermont Gas that they are not going
6 to receive through any other type of
7 deliverable fuel. Getting back to
8 affordability, I used to say that Vermont
9 Gas was the most affordable form of home
10 heating energy in the State of Vermont with
11 the exception of wood. I don't think I can
12 say that any more. Wood is up to two and a
13 quarter a cord. Now that makes it
14 absolutely slightly higher in the BTU range
15 than Vermont Gas product is. So
16 affordability is extremely important to low
17 income Vermonters or all Vermonters.

18 Customer service, you have the ability,
19 if somebody gets in arrears, if they are a
20 Vermont Gas customer, they can't pay their
21 bill, they are put on repayment agreements
22 that spans months. I don't know of any
23 other deliverable heating fuel provider that
24 does that. So from many different
25 standpoints and many different angles, low-

1 income Vermonters are much better off if
2 they are customers of Vermont Gas Systems.
3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. I would like
5 to call Glenn Symon. Ross Conrad, John
6 Madden and Jason Kaye.

7 MR. SYMON: My name is Glenn Symon.
8 S-Y-M-O-N. I'm a resident of the Town of
9 Shoreham. I have been on the Planning
10 Commission for 17 years and the Chair for
11 the last five. We as a Planning Commission
12 fully support this application to the Town
13 of Shoreham. We recognize that the town is
14 too small to bring gas into the village and
15 be a viable customer for Vermont Gas, but we
16 do recognize that this line going from
17 Middlebury area to Ticonderoga will pass
18 through our town. We encourage Vermont to
19 utilize a portion of the town as the
20 easement area which is owned by the town and
21 this line just north of our village.

22 At that juncture we would ask that at
23 least a tap be installed, and preferably a
24 gate valve, so that when, you know, gas is
25 then -- or the demand is economically

1 feasible, they would be able to supply the
2 town. Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Ross Conrad.

4 MR. CONRAD: Hi. Good evening. Ross
5 Conrad, Middlebury, Vermont. I'm a bee
6 keeper and -- C-O-N-R-A-D. I would like you
7 to consider the idea of cumulative impact of
8 this project. This describes the impact of
9 actions that seem insignificant when
10 performed on an individual level but become
11 a force of global significance when millions
12 or now billions of people do them.

13 Similarly, the impact of this pipeline
14 proposed may seem insignificant when viewed
15 in isolation, but when considered in the
16 context of it being just one of many similar
17 projects being proposed in communities all
18 over the world, well this increase in
19 greenhouse gas emissions through the power
20 of cumulative impacts ends up having an
21 undue adverse effect on the natural
22 environment, public health and safety.
23 Cumulative impacts.

24 Now we Americans have long accepted
25 atrocities committed in the name of

1 progress, ever since Columbus arrived on our
2 shores. At the time the atrocities are
3 committed, they are considered normal,
4 acceptable, even necessary. It's only long
5 afterwards when we look back on such actions
6 we find them appalling. Such atrocities
7 have occurred all throughout American
8 history, and therefore it's highly likely
9 that today we are committing acts that
10 future generations will view with revulsion.

11 Our construction of additional
12 infrastructure to allow for the burning of
13 more fossil fuels after the harm this causes
14 has become abundantly clear, is such an
15 atrocity. Research has shown methane leaks,
16 as has been mentioned, that occurs during
17 the drilling, transport, delivery, the use
18 of gas combined with, you know, the
19 greenhouse gas emissions from the vehicles
20 and equipment used in the process, cancels
21 out most, if not all, of the direct emission
22 reduction benefits of gas use. Thus natural
23 gas is not a bridge fuel. It's a hedge fuel
24 for politicians who are unwilling to deal
25 effectively with climate change.

1 But don't take my word for it. Please
2 invite testimony from the many researchers
3 who have published studies on natural gas
4 and climate, that I have listed on this
5 reference sheet, and I'm going to submit it
6 for your view. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. John Madden.

8 MR. MADDEN: Good evening. My name is
9 John Madden. I retired from football. I've
10 also grown a beard, but anyway I would like
11 to read from Title 30 Section 248(b)(5). It
12 says; before the Public Service Board issues
13 a Certificate of Public Good it shall find
14 that the construction will not have an undue
15 adverse effect on public health and safety.

16 I gave your staff member a copy of a
17 written testimony.

18 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: We have it.

19 MR. MADDEN: I would like to read from
20 that. In that is a report by Dr. Charles
21 Rhodes on natural gas pipeline rupture and
22 fire. Apparently he's a national expert on
23 the subject.

24 It says; from time to time major natural
25 gas pipelines do rupture. And when they do,

1 the result is often spectacular. If a hole
2 in a high-pressure natural gas pipe has
3 axial length that exceeds about four times
4 the pipe wall thickness, in other words
5 that's about something you could stick your
6 hand through, the pipe will immediately rip
7 down its axis and bend back to form a
8 rupture that has an open area several times
9 a cross sectional open area of the pipe.
10 The escaping gas will explosively blow away
11 all the soil cover close to the rupture
12 causing a large crater in the ground. The
13 noise made by the escaping gas will be
14 comparable to a sound made by a major jet
15 aircraft on takeoff. The rupture will be
16 fed with high-pressure natural gas from both
17 the upstream and the downstream pipes. This
18 natural gas will mix with the surrounding
19 air and will form a large cloud of
20 concentrated natural gas at its center and
21 dilute natural gas at its edges. When the
22 edge of this cloud comes in contact --
23 excuse me, I'm sorry. When the edge of this
24 cloud with a local natural gas concentration
25 in a range of 5 percent to 15 percent

1 encounters a source of ignition such as a
2 spark made by an electrical switch, there
3 will be a huge delayed ignition explosion
4 followed by ongoing fire. The size of the
5 delayed ignition explosion depends on the
6 distance between the pipe rupture and the
7 point of ignition. The larger the distance,
8 the larger the delayed ignition explosion.
9 If the distance is large, the pressure wave
10 from the delayed ignition explosion may be
11 comparable to the blast from a small
12 tactical nuclear weapon.

13 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

14 MR. MADDEN: The subsequent fire will
15 emit so much heat and thermal radiation that
16 the only practical means of dealing with it
17 is to valve off the gas pipe on both sides
18 of the rupture and then wait for the fire to
19 burn itself out.

20 I would like to also add an observation
21 that the proposed pipeline will pass under
22 and over the side of many roads between
23 Colchester and Middlebury, with the high
24 volume of traffic during morning and
25 afternoon rush hours. If a pipeline

1 ruptures next to the roadway, the rupturing
2 part would be an undue adverse effect on
3 public health and safety. And I just have a
4 photograph of what that would look like.

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next is
6 Jason Kaye. And Jane Palmer, Matt Baldwin,
7 Nancy Menard and Hugh Dunkley.

8 MR. KAYE: My name is Jason Kaye, K-A
9 -Y-E. And I live in Middlebury. The
10 prefiled testimony by Vermont Gas states
11 this project will result in net fuel bill
12 savings of over 100 million dollars over 20
13 years for customers in Addison County. To
14 make a cause for the project's economic
15 benefit to the state and its residents
16 these cost savings are cited again and again
17 in the prefiled testimonies of Mr. Gilbert,
18 Mr. Lyons and Ms. Simollardes. The repeated
19 claims in the testimonies and exhibits are
20 based on one piece of information, Vermont
21 Fuel Price Report from November 2012. The
22 critical omission is the context of these
23 claims of cheap natural gas.

24 According to the most recent Vermont
25 Fuel Price Report for February 2013 the U.S.

1 Energy Information Administration is
2 forecasting the Henry hub natural gas spot
3 price average for this year -- for this year
4 to increase 28 percent over last year.
5 Projecting into 2014 the report forecasts an
6 increase of 40 percent from 2012, just two
7 years.

8 Now from what I understand it's a
9 complicated calculation to arrive at the end
10 user price from Henry hub price, but both
11 are coupled to the same trends. The claim
12 of cheap natural gas is pulled from a moment
13 in time when natural gas is at its cheapest
14 ignoring the forecast of the price to
15 increase dramatically. Since natural gas
16 service is not slated until 2014 for the
17 industrial sector, and not until 2015 for
18 residential service, it is wholly inaccurate
19 to base cost comparisons on this
20 historically anomalous price.

21 For the sake of the public good I urge
22 the Board to ask for an independent report
23 on the current and future trends of the
24 price of natural gas. It is absolutely
25 imperative to the integrity of this project

1 to do so. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jane Palmer.

3 MS. PALMER: As you know, Vermont Gas
4 Systems is applying for a Certificate of
5 Public Good from the Vermont Public Service
6 Board. This document will make it legal for
7 Vermont Gas to condemn land using eminent
8 domain and force landowners to accept an
9 easement for a 12-inch industrial, high
10 pressure, transmission line through
11 Williston, St. George, Hinesburg, Monkton
12 and New Haven with an interim destination of
13 Middlebury and Vergennes.

14 The company is supposedly going to bring
15 natural gas service to over 3,000 homes and
16 businesses in Addison County. This project
17 will cost upwards of 80 million dollars. 80
18 million divided by 3,000. That means they
19 are spending over 26 thousand dollars per
20 hookup. That's a lot of gas they expect the
21 folks in Addison County to use. So what is
22 really going on here? Is it really an
23 attempt to do public good and provide
24 Addison County residents and businesses with
25 cheap, clean energy? We think not.

1 We are landowners who find ourselves in
2 the path of this pipeline, and we are not
3 buying any of it. The gas that will be
4 pulsing through this pipeline to parts
5 unknown is fracked gas from over 3,000 miles
6 away in Alberta, Canada. This pipeline once
7 it connects with the rest of the varicose
8 vein-like web now spidering across the
9 United States mean our pastures, crop lands,
10 hay fields and wetlands will soon be no more
11 than a conduit for foreign gas flowing to
12 more populated areas in other states.

13 So this pipeline is not for us. Vermont
14 Gas is going to hook up just enough
15 businesses and residents to make it look
16 like it is, but natural gas just does not
17 fit the geographic and demographic place
18 that is Vermont. The only places gas
19 distribution makes sense are in densely
20 populated areas, and yes, the greater
21 Burlington metropolitan area is already
22 hooked up. So even if we don't discuss the
23 true environmental cost of natural gas or
24 the fact that it will probably not be cheap
25 for long, as I write this gas companies are

1 striving to increase profits by controlling
2 production and expanding demand by building
3 pipeline, therefore driving the price up.
4 We need to see this project for what it
5 really is. Vermont landowners being forced
6 to subsidize a gas train carved through our
7 towns, fields, swamps, marsh, and yards that
8 will bring large profits to gas companies
9 and save a couple of other large companies
10 some money. This is wrong.

11 Contrary to what the Governor says, this
12 is not going to quote; expand and diversify
13 our renewable energy portfolio to reduce our
14 reliance on foreign oil, encourage increased
15 energy and efficiency, and safeguard our
16 environment in preparation for a climate
17 change future. Unquote. This pipeline will
18 just shift our energy customers to yet
19 another foreign fossil fuel and will not
20 decrease our dependency.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I'm sorry. Your time is
22 up.

23 MS. PALMER: It is just like switching
24 from heroin to crack cocaine, just because
25 it is cheaper and we can get it delivered.

1 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Matt
2 Baldwin.

3 MR. BURKE: We have just a limited
4 amount of time, and if you go beyond it,
5 you're just cutting into those of your
6 friends and neighbors that won't be able to
7 speak tonight. So please don't do that.

8 MR. BALDWIN: Hello. I'm Matt Baldwin.
9 I'm a farmer and landowner in Hinesburg.
10 Proposed pipeline runs through my farm and
11 farms that I rent and use for my business of
12 growing crops; hay and corn and other
13 things.

14 This pipeline has been sort of forced
15 upon us. We have been threatened all along
16 the way that we don't sign their easements,
17 they will take it through eminent domain.
18 And they just try to put fear in us to take
19 our land.

20 The adverse impact on the crops and the
21 land values alone will no where -- the
22 amount that they will pay us will no where
23 near cover that. So we are just going to be
24 losers in all this. We are just going to
25 lose. It's not fair.

1 And I think when you guys see, you know,
2 if you issue this Certificate of Public
3 Good, there is going to be miles and miles
4 of farmers and landowners in Hinesburg that
5 are going to have their land taken through
6 eminent domain.

7 We did not get a fair deal during this
8 process. They did not negotiate fairly with
9 us. They just want to take from us. We do
10 not get service. We just lose. So please,
11 you need to know this. You're going to hurt
12 us. You're going to hurt our families.
13 You're going to hurt our futures. We don't
14 get anything from it. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Nancy
16 Menard.

17 MS. MENARD: M-E-N-A-R-D. I live in
18 Monkton. I don't live in Monkton. I have a
19 house in Monkton with my husband. But I
20 also own a house, and I have had very little
21 contact with the gas company. I've called
22 them several times because I know they want
23 to set up a meeting with the two of us. And
24 it's taken weeks for them to get back to me.

25 The other day I got ahold of the right

1 of way agent and I got some rough figures on
2 amount away from our house, it's 75 feet to
3 our house, 50 feet to our garage and
4 approximately 40 feet to our well.

5 When we built our house VELCO lines were
6 there. And we were told that we could -- it
7 had to be so many feet away from the VELCO
8 line which is a lot further away than that.
9 So I'm really concerned about the safety,
10 the value of the property, and taxes going
11 up and property values going down. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Hugh
14 Dunkley.

15 MR. DUNKLEY: Yes. Hi.

16 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Before you start, I
17 would like to call Madeline Sharrow --
18 Shannon? I'm having trouble reading it.
19 Michael Hurlburt, Tim Smith, Bill Mraz,
20 M-R-A-Z. Thanks. Go ahead.

21 MR. DUNKLEY: Yes, good evening. My
22 name's Hugh Dunkley. I'm the General
23 Manager of UTC Aerospace Systems, business
24 in Vergennes. Thanks for giving me the
25 opportunity to speak tonight on behalf of

1 the company regarding natural gas expansion
2 project.

3 Our company has a lineage in Vermont
4 that goes back over a century. We were
5 formally known as Goodrich, and prior to
6 that Simmonds Precision, before being
7 acquired by Med Technologies last year.
8 Today we employ over 800 people across a
9 broad range of jobs, high value jobs.

10 In addition, the approximately one third
11 of what we spend annually to operate our
12 company is with Vermont-based suppliers. I
13 speak for our entire work force when I say
14 we are very proud of the work we do, which
15 is designing and producing flight critical
16 products and systems to the highest safety
17 and quality standards demanded by the
18 aerospace industry and the traveling public.

19 Our business competes globally. To
20 retain our competitive position as a viable
21 aerospace business we must provide cost
22 effective solutions by continuously
23 investing in our people, our processes, and
24 our infrastructure. I and the vast majority
25 of our employee base are Vermonters, those

1 that aren't are coming across the bridge
2 from New York, and we are committed to
3 operating our business in harmony with the
4 best interest of the community and the
5 environment.

6 Our company supports the natural gas
7 expansion project for our 210,000 square
8 foot facility in Vergennes. Natural gas is
9 a more cost effective solution for the
10 energy needs of our business. Natural gas
11 eliminates safety and environmental risks
12 associated with heating oil, which requires
13 special storage, transportation, and
14 handling considerations.

15 Many of our employees reside in Addison
16 County, and natural gas would provide them
17 with similar benefits for their homes and
18 local businesses that they frequent.

19 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

20 MR. DUNKLEY: That's all I have. Thank
21 you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Madeline Sharrow.
23 Michael Hurlburt.

24 MR. HURLBURT: Hello. My name is
25 Michael Hurlburt, H-U-R-L-B-U-R-T. I'm an

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affected property whose property is being invaded by Vermont Gas, owned by Gaz Metro, the wolf disguised in sheep's clothing. This proposed gas pipeline is like a poisonous snake slithering across our home State of Vermont. It is the duty of Vermont Public Service Board to behead the snake before it bites and kills innocent people.

Vermont Gas's representatives have spoken with forked-tongue saying one thing and doing another. Yes, we have been lied to. Property owners in the Town of Monkton are being asked to host this pipeline without any benefits of lower gas prices or gas services to them.

We property owners are being offered tokens compared to the current value of our properties. And the proposed contract is totally unacceptable. The current deeded easement is -- not only gives the right to construct the proposed gas pipeline, but also to reconstruct, move, relocate, remove, change the size of, and abandon in place pipelines, in plural.

Not only is Vermont Gas seeking the

1 right to transport gas, but also petroleum
2 products and/or energy substances
3 transportable by pipelines. Probably this
4 would include tar sand oil and gas produced
5 by fracking, things that people of Vermont
6 are against.

7 This proposed deeded easement also gives
8 Vermont Gas the right to install conducters
9 for the transmission of intelligence, being
10 surface and subsurface appurtenances and
11 facilities that are convenient for Vermont
12 Gas to operate and maintain.

13 It's time to send Vermont Gas back to
14 the drawing board. The current proposal is
15 totally unacceptable. If a gas pipeline is
16 to go across a person's property, then gas
17 service needs to be provided to them even if
18 it means a social investment by Vermont Gas.

19 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

20 MR. HURLBURT: Secondly, a purchase
21 sales agreement must be agreeable by both
22 parties. The use of eminent domain should
23 not be an option. This would be like a
24 declaration of war against the people of
25 Vermont. And for your eyes, I'll give you a

1 copy of the Vermont Gas proposed deed of
2 easement. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Tim Smith. And Bill
6 Mraz and Chris Knapp.

7 MR. SMITH: Hello. My name is Tim
8 Smith. Smith with an I. I'm the Executive
9 Director of Franklin County Development
10 Corporation in St. Albans, Vermont. I
11 served in this capacity for 12 years. I
12 would like to thank you for the opportunity
13 to speak this evening.

14 I would like to say that a portion of
15 Franklin County has been fortunate enough to
16 have had access to natural gas for almost
17 five decades now. Franklin County economy
18 continues to be strong, and actually remains
19 strong during the most recent recession, one
20 of the worst in anyone's memory.

21 Here are some of the statistics that
22 support that claim. Franklin County
23 unemployment rates were and have been
24 significantly lower than the national
25 average. Currently we offer in the 4.7 to 5

1 percent range compared to a national average
2 of 7.9 percent. During the recession
3 Franklin County experienced a 1.9 percent
4 job loss. This percentage was the lowest of
5 all of Vermont counties. Franklin County's
6 population grew over the last census period
7 unlike some other Vermont counties that have
8 lost population. The median household
9 income has also risen within the county.

10 Manufacturing base in Franklin County is
11 strong and diverse. And even though home
12 values dropped at an average of five percent
13 over the recession, this is minimal compared
14 to a number of other areas in the state and
15 in the country.

16 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

17 MR. SMITH: It's my belief that having
18 access to Vermont Gas has played a key role
19 in Franklin County's economic strength.
20 Natural gas provides a significant savings
21 to homeowners, and in my case savings have
22 exceeded 15 hundred dollars a year. These
23 savings allow for me discretionary spending
24 which in turn can be spent at the grocery
25 store, on health care, restaurants, and for

1 recreation activities, just to name a few.

2 As for businesses, one of the first
3 questions in a site selection process is
4 whether or not there is natural gas.

5 Businesses that use natural gas can reinvest
6 their savings in their employees and upgrade
7 machinery in order to be more competitive in
8 this global market. Vermont Gas has chosen
9 to extend their service to Enosburg Falls
10 this year and residents are excited to now
11 have a choice. Not only will Enosburg
12 generate additional tax revenue to the tune
13 of \$40,000 per mile, but they will now be
14 able to heat their schools, emergency
15 services building, and their historic opera
16 house for less, thus reducing budgets and
17 hopefully tax rates. Just to reinforce the
18 position --

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your time's up pretty
20 much.

21 MR. SMITH: It's up?

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your time is up. We
23 gave you a 15-second warning 30 seconds ago.

24 Bill Mraz, M-R-A-Z.

25 MR. MRAZ: This is kind of an

1 unintentional follow up to a previous
2 speaker. My name is Bill Mraz, M-R-A-Z. I
3 presently am a resident of Middlebury.
4 However, in the 1960s, '70s, I was a
5 resident of Georgia, Vermont in Franklin
6 County, where I still have property.

7 I have no affiliation with Vermont Gas.
8 My first awareness of them occurred in the
9 mid to late '60s when they ran a natural gas
10 pipeline through Franklin County in Georgia.
11 At that time I was also a member of the
12 Franklin County Regional Planning and
13 Development Commission. The very first one.
14 At that time, Franklin County was a rural
15 area, with little economic development and a
16 severely depressed economy. Through those
17 -- though the Planning and Development
18 Commission was aware of the pipeline, its
19 installation was essentially a non event.
20 Opposition was almost non existent, no
21 environmental issues were ever brought to
22 our attention, affected property owners
23 appeared to be generally pleased with their
24 negotiations with Vermont Gas.

25 Land use for the pipeline right of way

1 remains pretty much as it was, and for the
2 most part is still in agriculture,
3 agriculture use, and virtually invisible to
4 most observers.

5 The present opposition to the pipeline
6 through Addison County comes to me as a
7 complete surprise and is quite
8 disconcerting. Being a senior citizen I
9 have the advantage of looking back over 40
10 years of changes that occurred in Franklin
11 County. Part of our planning consisted of
12 selecting sites for potential industrial
13 parks based on highway access, rail access,
14 types of soil, availability of power, et
15 cetera. For the most part these areas
16 consisted of marginal agricultural lands,
17 some virtually unused.

18 At that time I remember distinctly
19 looking at some of these sites thinking it
20 will be a miracle if we ever get any
21 industry to move into this spot. 40 years
22 later these industrial parks are full, and
23 more locations are being sought. The
24 economic development did not occur solely
25 because of the availability of natural gas.

1 At the time of our planning oil and
2 electricity were relatively inexpensive and
3 available. With time, energy costs and
4 availability change. Natural gas is now a
5 significant factor in the county's
6 development and with some industries
7 locating there solely because of its
8 availability.

9 As an energy source the effect of a gas
10 pipeline on the environment, aesthetics and
11 property values is minimal when compared to
12 electric transmission lines, windmills,
13 solar panels and hydro dams. I hope the
14 residents of Addison County will try and
15 look well into their children's future --

16 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

17 MR. MRAZ: -- and their future, and that
18 a natural gas pipeline will be a long-term
19 benefit to the area and the State of
20 Vermont. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Chris Knapp.
22 Mary Martin. Ben Wilson. And Jan Demers,
23 Patrick Norton, Pika Morgan.

24 MR. WILSON: I'm Ben Wilson. I'm
25 President of the Better Middlebury

1 Partnership, a business group dedicated to
2 making greater Middlebury community a better
3 place to live, work and play. Many
4 statistics, terms and catch phrases have
5 been thrown around tonight.

6 In fact you have been urged to rely
7 solely on hard statistics, but I think this
8 misses a key element of the discussion,
9 namely this project's effect upon our
10 community, our families, and our neighbors.

11 Since the great recession Middlebury has
12 lost 500 manufacturing jobs, many to plant
13 relocation. Hundreds of local families lost
14 their primary bread winners. Many of these
15 workers have been unable to find comparable
16 employment. While Middlebury's downtown has
17 fortunately remained vibrant, these families
18 have suffered quietly for nearly half a
19 decade.

20 I've seen this first hand. As an
21 attorney I saw how the stress of these job
22 losses tore families apart with divorces,
23 foreclosures and other family strife. I
24 support the project because it will help
25 these families. First, it will help

1 Middlebury keep its existing businesses and
2 attract new ones.

3 Second, it will support key pillars of
4 our town including Porter Hospital and
5 Middlebury College.

6 Third, the project will lower property
7 taxes, not only for Middlebury residents,
8 but the surrounding communities by lowering
9 municipal costs and school costs.

10 I would echo the many other speakers
11 tonight regarding pipeline installation.
12 The pipeline needs to be installed in a safe
13 and responsible manner, but this project
14 should absolutely go forward.

15 So please do consider statistics, but
16 please don't forget that ultimately this
17 project is about the welfare of our local
18 families. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jan Demers.

20 MS. DEMERS: Jan Demers. D-E-M-E-R-S.
21 I'm the Executive Director of the Champlain
22 Valley Office of Economic Opportunity.
23 Offering natural gas in Addison County will
24 benefit low-income Vermonters in their
25 ability to keep their homes warm next winter

1 and for winters to come.

2 We have seen the difference that that
3 makes in Chittenden County. The federal
4 LIHEAP or the Low-Income Home Energy
5 Assistant Program allocation has been cut
6 drastically in the last two years. Last
7 year the State of Vermont added 6.1 million
8 dollars to the LIHEAP amount to bring an
9 average seasonal fuel benefit to nine
10 hundred dollars. This year \$8.8 million has
11 been added again by the State of Vermont to
12 the LIHEAP allocation to keep that average
13 seasonal benefit at the same level.

14 There are 1,581 households that receive
15 the seasonal benefit in Addison County this
16 season, heating season. In addition to the
17 seasonal benefit as of Friday, CVOEO had
18 given out \$117,299 in crisis fuel benefits
19 just in Addison County to 252 households.

20 In addition to that, we have distributed
21 \$5,131 to 100 households through the WARMTH
22 support program donations again in Addison
23 County. The last day to apply for seasonal
24 fuel benefits was February 28. We have from
25 a week to two weeks of crisis fuel funding

1 left. WARMTH donations are down from last
2 year. Low-income weatherization services
3 are a long-term solution. Currently they
4 are still not enough.

5 Having the option of a lower cost of
6 natural gas to keep families warmer longer
7 is a great advantage.

8 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

9 MS. DEMERS: The low-income discount
10 program through Vermont Gas with a 20-
11 percent discount for those eligible low-
12 income Vermonters. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Patrick
14 Norton.

15 MR. NORTON: Yeah, Patrick Norton. N-O
16 -R-T-O-N. And I'm the Vice President for
17 Finance and Treasury at Middlebury College,
18 and I'm here speaking in support of the
19 Addison Natural Gas Expansion Project, the
20 project that's expected to bring cleaner,
21 more affordable fuel to homes and businesses
22 in Addison County.

23 There are three distinct and important
24 reasons why Middlebury College is supporting
25 this project. First, as a large employer in

1 Middlebury we are -- one in every 10 jobs is
2 a college job. We are mindful of the burden
3 high fuel costs place on our employees who
4 live in Middlebury and throughout Addison
5 County as well as all Addison County
6 residents. Replacing fuel oil with natural
7 gas from this pipeline would significantly
8 reduce fuel costs and customers up to almost
9 50 percent.

10 Secondly, in addition to lower fuel
11 costs to homes, natural gas will mean lower
12 fuel cost for business, especially at a time
13 when businesses are seeking to recover or
14 beginning to recover access to a less
15 expensive and more reliable source of fuel
16 with the system retaining existing
17 businesses, spur economic development
18 generally, and including attracting new
19 business to Middlebury and Addison County.

20 And lastly like an biomass woodchip
21 gasification plant that went on line at
22 Middlebury College in 2009, the use of
23 natural gas as well as the pipeline
24 infrastructure to assist in the development
25 of renewable natural gas project would

1 significantly reduce the college's carbon
2 emissions moving us another step closer to
3 realizing our pledge to become a carbon
4 neutral campus by 2016.

5 The Addison Natural Gas Expansion
6 Project dovetails nicely with our renewable
7 natural gas project that I just mentioned,
8 with construction of a farm-based plant for
9 the reduction of biomethane renewable
10 natural gas from cow manure and food waste.
11 This renewable natural gas project would
12 allow the reduction of renewable natural
13 fuel source while and also providing another
14 revenue stream to dairy farmers.

15 The expectation is that this pipeline --
16 renewable natural gas would be directly fed
17 into a new pipeline system for the plant.
18 This would give a significant boost to small
19 biomethane projects eliminating the need for
20 storage tanks and gas trucks and enabling
21 the creation of new, sustainable, farm-based
22 industry in Vermont.

23 So many thanks for allowing me to speak
24 in support of this project.

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Pika Morgan.

1 Amanda Franz. Bill Townsend. Robin Scheu.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: Hi. My name is Bill
3 Townsend. T-O-W-N-S-E-N-D. And I'm here to
4 speak on behalf of two entities. First
5 would be my employer, J.P. Currier and Sons.
6 We are a concrete company with facilities in
7 both Middlebury and Rutland. And while we
8 do not stand to benefit directly from this
9 project, based on our location which is
10 outside of the proposed service area, we do
11 have a number of commercial properties in
12 both Middlebury and Vergennes, and are
13 fortunate enough to have as tenants some of
14 the significant employers in the region.
15 And while I cannot speak on their behalf to
16 the possible impacts that this project would
17 have on their ability to retain jobs as well
18 as grow their work force, I can speak to the
19 fact that when we are seeking new businesses
20 to move to the area, specifically as
21 tenants, for us one of the most critical
22 factors in their decision is energy costs.

23 And unfortunately, we tend to not be
24 very competitive in that sense. And to the
25 extent that this project makes us more

1 competitive and make it more likely that we
2 can bring good business and good jobs to our
3 community, I would be in favor of that.

4 Secondly, I would like to speak on
5 behalf of Porter Hospital. As current Chair
6 of the Porter Medical Center Board of
7 Directors, I'm all too familiar with the
8 financial challenges that face our health
9 care providers both in the state and
10 specifically our small community hospital in
11 Middlebury. To the extent that -- well with
12 the uncertainty of payment reform and the
13 certainty of downward pressure on
14 reimbursements to providers namely --

15 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: -- Medicaid and Medicare,
17 it's clear that managing expenses is the
18 only way the hospital is going to ensure its
19 viability, continue to provide care for the
20 community, and continue to employ over 600
21 people. Thank you for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Robin.
23 Sorry about your last name.

24 MS. SCHEU: Thanks. Nobody ever
25 pronounces it correctly. So I appreciate

1 it.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: It was hard to read.
3 Could you spell it?

4 MS. SCHEU: Robin Scheu, S-C-H-E-U.
5 Thanks. So my name is Robin Scheu, and I'm
6 the Executive Director of the Addison County
7 Economic Development Corporation. And I'm
8 also a resident of the Town of Middlebury.

9 Like others who have already spoken, I
10 too have a civic background. I have been a
11 member of Vermont Land Trust Board and
12 interim Executive Director of Middlebury
13 Land Trust, among other things.

14 I'm here speaking for my organization,
15 Addison County Economic Development, and
16 many member business owners in support of
17 this project. As other business owners have
18 said, this project will ultimately benefit
19 our small businesses by saving them
20 thousands of dollars in fuel costs each
21 year. This money can be reinvested in the
22 economy in a number of ways including in the
23 creation of jobs which is badly needed in
24 Addison County and elsewhere. And these
25 jobs may be going to our friends and family

1 members.

2 I personally believe that we also need
3 to continue to look at investing in
4 renewable energy, but we can't wait for that
5 to be a viable economic option for
6 businesses. I believe we can do both, bring
7 natural gas to businesses and communities
8 now, help homeowners save money, and help
9 our local small businesses remain viable and
10 grow and continue to research and invest in
11 renewables for the long-term. Having
12 natural gas is an important next step.

13 Thanks very much for your time.

14 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Avery
15 Pittman, Fred Dunnington. Martha Waterman,
16 Frank Cioffi and Tom Torti.

17 MS. PITTMAN: Hi. I'm Avery Pittman, P-
18 I-T-T-M-A-N. I live partly in Burlington
19 and partly in Vergennes right now. I'm a
20 young person. I'm a union member. I work
21 with the Vermont Worker's Center, and I
22 organize with Rising Tide Vermont. And I
23 have a statement here, a letter of unity on
24 Vermont's energy future that's been signed
25 by Rising Tide Vermont, by the Vermont

1 Worker's Center, by Global Justice Ecology
2 Project and 350 Vermont.

3 It says; we are many organizations that
4 stand together advocating a visionary shift
5 for Vermont's energy future. We work with
6 Vermonters from all over the state who are
7 increasingly impacted by climate change, and
8 we understand the necessity for a just and
9 inclusive energy framework.

10 The State of Vermont has already made a
11 commitment to move beyond fossil fuels, and
12 in 2012 we banned the highly polluting
13 extraction method of hydraulic fracturing
14 also known as fracking. Addison County
15 Natural Gas Project will transport natural
16 gas from Alberta and continue our state's
17 dependency on fossil fuels for the next half
18 century. Our use of gas extracted through
19 this process contradicts last year's
20 statewide ban on fracking.

21 We stand together united by a vision of
22 an equitable and sustainable energy future
23 achieved through a just transition that
24 focuses on creating skilled, long-term jobs
25 through energy efficiency services and

1 weatherization which will reduce energy
2 consumption overall.

3 This project is not the path forward
4 into a sustainable and equitable energy
5 future. We are in solidarity with
6 communities elsewhere that are impacted by
7 the damage and irreversible effects of
8 fracking and with communities here in
9 Vermont that will be impacted by a new
10 pipeline project. This fossil fuel pipeline
11 will impose on the farm land, wetland and
12 residential properties.

13 Many Vermonters and communities along
14 the route who come here tonight have been
15 voicing their concerns about the impact of
16 construction on their property, their water
17 supplies, the local ecology, and the
18 climate.

19 Further, the easements proposed by
20 Vermont Gas open the way for other
21 unspecified future uses of the pipeline and
22 for its abandonment in the soil when it is
23 no longer useful to the company. We believe
24 that Vermont can lead the way to a new and
25 just energy future focused on reducing our

1 energy consumption and innovating new
2 equitable and sustainable energy sources for
3 our communities to create jobs --

4 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

5 MS. PITTMAN: -- and resiliency, and to
6 serve as an example for the country. This
7 future does not include new fossil fuel
8 infrastructure. Therefore, together we
9 demand the Public Service Board and State of
10 Vermont say no to the Addison County Natural
11 Gas Pipeline. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Fred Dunnington.

13 MR. DUNNINGTON: That's D-U-N-N-I-N-G-T
14 -O-N. I'm Town Planner in Middlebury. And
15 I would state first on behalf of Middlebury
16 Planning Commission, the Planning Commission
17 has adopted the new town plan in 2012. It
18 came through an extensive process of three
19 years' work, many, many public hearings and
20 meetings.

21 One of the first forums we had was on
22 the topic of energy. And in 2010 we invited
23 representatives of Vermont Gas down to meet.
24 So this process had been talked about
25 beginning as long ago as that. And that

1 initial forum was on public television, so
2 subsequently there have been many public
3 forums in Middlebury about this. So the
4 community is well aware of it.

5 The service area that's proposed aligns
6 well with our plan and growth areas, and we
7 feel it supports orderly development which
8 is one of your criteria in the statute. On
9 behalf of the Planning Commission I visited
10 on my own, went up to see the St. Albans'
11 gate station just to investigate areas and
12 look at the local impact of this. We were
13 concerned initially from the letter that was
14 originally filed about the siting of this.
15 And the photographs and the information
16 brought back was helpful to the Planning
17 Commission.

18 We asked the location be moved to a site
19 where it would have less impact, and we
20 found that we were pleased that Vermont Gas
21 is cooperative in this, and we found the
22 representatives to be very responsive and of
23 high integrity.

24 I would just say a couple other things
25 about the process of this line being

1 planned. I participated in the siting
2 process and advisory group that worked in
3 January 2012 through the spring, and
4 originally they thought of coming just down
5 U.S. Route 7.

6 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

7 MR. DUNNINGTON: Through that process a
8 line was chosen that would benefit both
9 Vergennes and Bristol and was supported by
10 the Regional Planning Commission for that
11 reason.

12 Energy coordinator quickly I would say
13 that the houses that are served by fuel oil
14 do not have the benefit of energy efficiency
15 that Vermont Gas will afford, and this is an
16 important goal for Middlebury as well as the
17 goal of providing compressed natural gas for
18 fleet vehicles. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Martha
20 Waterman. Frank Cioffi.

21 MR. CIOFFI: Thank you. Spelling of my
22 last name is C-I-O-F-F-I. I'm here
23 representing the Greater Burlington
24 Industrial Corporation. We are the non-
25 profit economic development corporation

1 serving Chittenden County, and we strongly
2 support the Vermont Gas proposal to extend
3 service to Addison County.

4 We think that this will provide very
5 significant economic benefits to the people
6 and employers of Addison County, and
7 hopefully this will lead to future
8 expansions of service to Rutland County and
9 southern Vermont.

10 As it was said by one of my peers, Tim
11 Smith tonight, and former speaker Mr. Mraz,
12 who I didn't know was speaking here, I'm a
13 native of St. Albans and actually live
14 there. We have had natural gas service from
15 Vermont Gas for decades. It has gone
16 through farms and communities, neighborhoods
17 in our region. The company has been a very
18 good corporate citizen. The farms are still
19 operating. And it has provided very
20 significant economic benefit to the people
21 and employers of our region.

22 My employer also owns an industrial park
23 where natural gas -- the main line runs
24 through from Canada. That has enabled the
25 creation of about 2,000 jobs in that park in

1 the Town of Milton.

2 So in closing, we hope that the Public
3 Service Board swiftly approves this
4 Certificate of Public Good. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Tom Torti.
6 And then Aldo Speroni.

7 MR. TORTI: Hi. Spelling of the last
8 name is T-O-R-T-I.

9 There is not a lot that I can add to
10 what's already been said by my colleagues
11 here this evening. I'm here representing
12 the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of
13 Commerce. The Chamber represents 2,700
14 businesses and over 60,000 working
15 Vermonters.

16 We advocate for on a daily basis an
17 expanding and thriving private sector
18 economy. We believe that as the economy
19 expands, it brings with it job growth. And
20 that job growth allows people to create
21 wealth, to spend money in their communities,
22 and importantly, it creates tax revenue for
23 communities in the state that allows the
24 State of Vermont to support the types of
25 social programs that have come to identify

1 our state.

2 We hear from businesses every day as we
3 continue to retain and bring in new value-
4 added businesses that what they want and
5 what they want most are predictable and
6 reasonably cost utility -- reasonably priced
7 utility costs.

8 Vermont Gas has shown over the years
9 that their prices are stable, that the fuel
10 that they bring from the north is clean,
11 that it's sustainable over time, and that it
12 is predictable. So as we work to bring
13 these businesses here and create jobs, the
14 important aspects of economic development
15 are really embodied in the types of fuel
16 that Vermont Gas brings.

17 And we would urge you along with our
18 colleagues for swift approval of the
19 Certificate of Public Good.

20 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Aldo Speroni
21 and Richard Nessen, Laura Farrell and
22 Maurice Bissonnette to be ready. Thanks.

23 MR. SPERONI: Hello. My name is Aldo
24 Speroni, S-P-E-R-O-N-I, A-L-D-O. I'm a
25 landowner in Williston, Vermont, and I have

1 the VELCO corridor that goes through my
2 property now, and that's a 150-foot wide
3 corridor. And since then I have had Vermont
4 Natural Gas come and claim that they wanted
5 another 50 feet or 50 feet. It wasn't even
6 next to it. So in my mind I thought it
7 wasn't a decision of the VELCO or Vermont
8 Natural Gas to determine where that corridor
9 went, because they were going two different
10 locations. So that was a problem as far as
11 I was concerned because they are taking
12 pieces of property that made no sense.

13 When I had an engineer that came to my
14 property and that walked the line with me
15 and he claimed that he could not go into the
16 VELCO line because VELCO felt they owned the
17 line, and I thought I owned the line, this
18 was a little bit of a problem as far as I'm
19 concerned. 150-foot line should be
20 sufficient for VELCO and for the natural gas
21 line to go through, if they were going to go
22 through.

23 Now I don't know if it's going to ever
24 happen. But meanwhile they obviously think
25 that it will go through. And maybe it's

1 beneficial for certain other parts of the
2 state, and that's fine.

3 Now the other -- the question that I've
4 also heard since then is what they would do
5 with the line once the gas was gone, the
6 fracked gas they were importing into the
7 state. And I heard statements that they
8 would determine what they would do with it
9 after they were done with the gas, meaning
10 tar sand oil or whatever. This was
11 something that I was -- I would like to see
12 an ending to it.

13 I would like, if they ever did go
14 through with the gas, when they were done,
15 it should be finished. It shouldn't be
16 something that they determine what they want
17 to do with it after that point.

18 MR. BURKE: 15 seconds.

19 MR. SPERONI: That's about it. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Richard
22 Nessen.

23 MR. NESSEN: Richard Nessen, N-E-S-S-E
24 -N. I'm a resident of Lincoln, but I'm
25 speaking here because I'm one of the

1 founders of the Bridge School in Middlebury,
2 Vermont, and really just recently found out
3 that the -- that the distribution line is
4 going to run on two sides of our school,
5 within a hundred yards of the school.

6 I hadn't gotten assurance yet that they
7 can -- in fact will not, in fact, take land
8 from us. I need that assurance. I really
9 am speaking in the self interest of the
10 school.

11 The debate tonight has been rigorous and
12 sometimes difficult to decide, but my school
13 is at risk; 38 kids, a bunch of families.
14 Please remember our name when the time comes
15 to make a decision.

16 If that distribution line in any way is
17 in your estimation unsafe, is the threat
18 that the gas company taking our property,
19 please keep us in mind. We need to be
20 assured that this thing is safe for our
21 kids. Thanks a lot.

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Laura
23 Barrett.

24 MS. FARRELL: Sorry, I think that's my
25 bad handwriting. My name is Laura Farrell.

1 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I'm sorry.

2 MS. FARRELL: It's my handwriting. F-A
3 -R-R-E-L-L is my last name. And I'm here on
4 behalf of Monkton Conservation Commission
5 who are still reviewing extensive materials
6 that have been submitted to you all and to
7 us.

8 And we have identified one major concern
9 so far, specifically having to do with the
10 larger portion of Monkton known as the
11 swamp. It was mentioned earlier. The
12 Monkton Conservation Commission would like
13 to see conditions put into any environmental
14 permits, if the pipeline does go through,
15 that require washing of the contractors'
16 equipment before going into wetlands or
17 adjacent areas.

18 Number two, environmental compliance
19 monitoring during construction by an
20 independent party.

21 And three, post-construction monitoring
22 of wetlands for a number of years
23 afterwards. Invasive species can stick
24 around and rear their ugly heads for years
25 after an area has been impacted, so we are

1 worried that they would be introduced into
2 the swamp. There is a very high potential
3 that contractors can bring in invasives on
4 equipment, and basically as of now nothing
5 really goes into the Hysinga (phoenetic)
6 swamp, which is the portion that they are
7 proposing to drive through, except really
8 ducks and some salamanders. If equipment is
9 brought into the wetlands we are worried
10 that it will bring seeds, roots and invasive
11 species that are of great concern.

12 The USDA is having a hard time fighting
13 them in the Champlain Valley, and the swamp
14 is pretty pristine right now. We would like
15 to keep it that way. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Maurice
17 Bissonnette.

18 MR. BISSONNETTE: My last name is B-I-S
19 -S-O-N-N-E-T-T-E. I'm partly speaking on
20 behalf of the Walden Project which is an
21 outdoor school that works in Monkton,
22 pretty close to where the pipeline is
23 suggested to go through.

24 My concerns -- a lot of -- we have had a
25 lot of discussion at the school, it's a high

1 school program, about fracking and about
2 natural gas and about pipes and about
3 eminent domain. And I guess I have a lot of
4 concerns about how quickly it's going.

5 A lot of natural gas -- there is a lot
6 of excitement about natural gas and not a
7 lot of regulation yet. A paper I just read
8 said they are just starting to regulate what
9 fracking does this year, and the problem I
10 see for me as someone who is looking at the
11 environment, is that my response is like no,
12 no, no. Don't do that. And the response of
13 a gas company or a business is very
14 positive, it seems like a very positive one,
15 let's move forward, and mine is no. And I
16 don't have a very good answer as to what the
17 alternative would be.

18 But basically, what I'm asking is that
19 we just keep asking questions, and I think
20 this is a wonderful forum for it. I think
21 the guys out there are really answering
22 questions really well, and I appreciate
23 that. But the thing is that a question I
24 asked is how long is this pipe going to
25 last. And they said a hundred to

1 indefinitely. And I said well how much is
2 natural gas going to last? And they said,
3 oh, a hundred years. That's it. We know
4 that. It can only be a hundred years. And
5 is it worth it? Is it -- what damage we do
6 -- is the effect of the damage we do, is
7 that worth the hundred years? I guess
8 that's my thought and question. And yeah.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. All right.
11 We have heard from everybody that signed up.
12 I want to thank everybody for coming out,
13 and I appreciate all your comments. And as
14 I said, we are happy to continue to receive
15 comments. You can E-mail us. I think you
16 can file them on the web page, and you can
17 also mail them to us.

18 We also have some booklets that if
19 you're interested in intervening in the
20 process and becoming a formal party, which
21 is a fairly substantial undertaking, we have
22 a booklet called The 248 Guide, The Citizens
23 Participation. We have a bunch of those up
24 here. It's also on our web page as well.

25 And again I thank everybody. I don't

1 know if my members have anything they want
2 to add. I guess we are done. Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
4 adjourned at 10:15 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 I, Kim U. Sears, do hereby certify that I
4 recorded by stenographic means the public hearing re:
5 Docket Number 7970, at the CVU Theater, Champlain Valley
6 Union High School, 369 CVU Road, Hinesburg, Vermont, on
7 March 21, 2013, beginning at 7 p.m.

8 I further certify that the foregoing
9 testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter
10 reduced to typewriting and the foregoing 172 pages are a
11 transcript of the stenograph notes taken by me of the
12 evidence and the proceedings to the best of my ability.

13 I further certify that I am not related to
14 any of the parties thereto or their counsel, and I am in
15 no way interested in the outcome of said cause.

16 Dated at Williston, Vermont, this 25th day
17 of March, 2013.

18 _____
19 Kim U. Sears, RPR
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